

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, April 2.
This week for the first time in a number of months bank clearings at Winnipeg show a decline as compared with the corresponding week of last year, but they show considerably larger than two years ago. Business has been rather quieter this week, due partially to the rough weather which has been cold for the season. An early spring is now out of the question. New settlers are arriving freely from the east and south and railway traffic is heavy for the season. Land sales are large. The building season is starting in, though delayed by the rough weather.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Winnipeg, Saturday, April 2
DAY GOODS.

Business has been rather quieter in this branch. Spring shipments are now nearly all out, and sorting trade has not opened yet.

FISH.

Spring salmon is now arriving and is quoted higher at 15c. Other lines unchanged. See quotations on another page.

GREEN FRUITS.

Business has improved somewhat in this branch. There is a firmer tendency for oranges and lemons, but prices are the same. It is said that though the recent frosts in California covered a large area of country, the oranges and lemons escaped. A light crop of prunes, plums, apricots, etc., is expected, however, as a result of the frost. Prices are: Mexican oranges, \$3 to \$3.50; navel oranges, \$3.75 to \$4.00 California seedling oranges, \$3.25; bitter oranges, \$6 per case, bananas, per bunch, \$2.50 to \$3.50; California lemons, \$3.75 to \$4.00 per box; apples, Ontario stock, \$4 to \$4.50 per barrel for good to choice; southern apples \$4 per bbl.; off quality, \$2.00 to \$3.50 per bbl. as to condition; cranberries, unfrozen, \$8.50 to \$9 a barrel; frozen stock, \$4 to \$7 per barrel, as to quality, which varies widely; sweet potatoes, \$5.00 per barrel; Malaga grapes \$7 to \$10 per keg; Ontario black walnuts, 8c lb.; coconuts, \$1 per doz.; Shelly filberts, large, 11 to 12c per lb.; Grenoble walnuts, 14c; figs, fancy clemes, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per 10 lb. box, 30 lb. boxes, 18c; 50 lb. boxes, 17c per lb.; dates, 7c per lb.; shelled walnuts, 25 to 27c per lb.; imported celery, 60 to 75c per doz.; strained honey, 7 1-2 to 10c.

HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.

There is still a liberal movement of hardware, and local houses have had a large season's trade. Binder twine has sold freely for later delivery. A great many orders for twine have now been placed. Prices are steady. Refined petroleum is 1-2 to 1c higher east, but locally there is no change. Lubricating oils have been reduced 4 to 6c per gallon.

LUMBER.

The new Winnipeg list has not been issued yet, but it will be out early next week. The changes in prices, as previously mentioned, will be mainly

ly to correspond with the recent advances in British Columbia lumber and shingles.

RAW FURS.

See reports of London fur sales in another column, and Winnipeg quotations on another page.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—Wheat prices have been somewhat irregular, but values are not much changed from a week ago. Argentine has been shipping heavily recently, that country sending out 2,400,000 bushels last week. On the other hand Argentine advices said the surplus would be less than earlier estimates. From California it was reported that the crop was so poor on account of the drouth, that only a half crop was counted upon. American exports last week were 3,900,000 bushels.

Locally the situation has been very dull. In the country the delivery season is now over and the elevators are being closed up until after seeding is finished. Business was also very dull in this market. Holders seem inclined to hang on, and buyers are not anxious for the grain. Prices here ranged from 95 1-2 to 97c during the week, for No. 1 hard, afloat Fort William. Yesterday 96 to 96 1-2c was the quotation for spot and 97 1-2c for May delivery. About 83c was paid in the country markets, to farmers.

FLOUR—The market is steady and prices unchanged. We quote: Patent, \$2.50; best bakers \$2.30; second bakers \$1.90; XXX, \$1.40 per sack of 98 lbs, with discount of 5c net.

MILLEFEED—Prices are firm, the demand is very large, and the supply scarce. The mills are shipping westward to country points. We quote bran at \$12 and shorts \$14 per ton in bulk. Large lots \$1 per ton less.

GROUND FEED—Pure grain feed is quoted at \$22 to \$24 for rolled oat feed. Inferior mixed mill feed, \$18 to \$20 per ton. Ground corn feed is higher and now quoted at \$17 to \$18 per ton. Oil cake \$22 per ton.

OATMEAL—The market is firm. The Manitoba mills have very little to offer. Dealers are selling to the trade at \$2 for sacks of rolled.

BARLEY—Nominal in the absence of business, at about 40c for feed and 45 to 50c for seed samples.

OATS—Prices are very firm. Feed oats are held stiff at 39 to 40c and seed at 41 to 43c per bushel for car lots on track, Winnipeg, equal to 35 to 36c in the country for good samples.

CORN—We quote 40c per bush. of 56 lbs. for cars on track here.

BUTTER, creamery—A little fall creamery is still held, which is selling at 23 to 23 1-2c.

BUTTER—Dairy—Good butter is very scarce, as for choice there is practically none. What is called good is nothing extra. Stocks of held goods have been culled over and over until what remains is pretty poor stuff. But even poor stuff called cooking butter is bringing 13 to 15c per lb. and so-called good 16 to 18, which are high prices in comparison with the quality of the goods. For really good fresh butter, 19 to 20c can be had in small way, but of course there is very little which will come up to the mark.

CHEESE—Dealers are selling at 10 to 10 1-2c. Stocks limited.

EGGS—Prices have been somewhat firmer this week, owing to cold weather, but the market is irregular and

very unsettled. Prices opened at 12 1-2 to 12c on Monday, but later in the week advanced to 13c, and then to 14c and yesterday commission dealers were selling at 13 to 14c, from which freight and commission would be deducted. Some retail stores in the city, however, were selling at 12 1-2 to 12c all the week, evidently from supplies sent them from the country. The immediate future is unsettled, though prices may hold up until after Easter.

DRESSED POULTRY—Poultry is scarce and prices firm. Good chickens will bring 9c dressed, or 60 to 75c per pair live, and turkeys 11c per lb. live weight.

DRESSED MEATS—The season is well over for handling dressed hogs in quantities, though packers are still buying. Fresh beef is mostly selling at 6c. No fresh mutton has been offered yet. Veal is scarce. We quote hogs 6 1-2 to 6 3-4c, and a few fancy may bring 7c in a small way. Beef 6 to 6 1-2c for city dressed. Some frozen beef is still selling at 4 to 5c, for good to choice. Mutton 6 1-2 to 7c, and generally held at 7c. Veal 7 to 9c, as to quality.

CURED MEATS AND LARD—Prices are firm. See quotations on another page.

HIDES—Our telegraphic reports a week ago to-day reported hides 1-2c lower at three different markets, which with previous declines, would make a total reduction of 1 to 1 1-2c within a short time at different points. This shows that the decline in hides is general, and it is a usual thing at this season of the year for hides to decline, mainly owing to the inferior quality of spring hides where they are affected with grubs. A few frozen hides are still coming in. Any holders of frozen stock should ship at once, as we are liable to have a few warm days any time now, which would damage hides long in transit, and they are always liable to delay in transit. The local market is weak. Some buyers are not offering above 6c for frozen stock. We quote green frozen hides 6 1-2 to 6 3-4c flat, 5 lbs. tares; kip, 6 to 7c; calf, 7 to 9c per lb.; deacon skins, 15 to 25c each; sheep pelts nominal at 75c each for fresh skins; horse hides, 75c to \$1.75 each; colts, 25c each.

WOOL—Nominal at 8 to 10c here for unwashed fleece.

TALLOW—Quoted at 3 1-2c for No. 1, and No. 2 to 2 1-2c for other grades as to quality.

SENECA ROOT—Nominal at 16c.

VEGETABLES—Potatoes were easier. Carrots are very scarce. Prices are as follows: Potatoes, 35 to 40c per bushel; carrots, \$1 to \$1.20 per bushel; onions, native, 2 to 2 1-2c per lb; imported, 3c; celery, 80 to 75c per dozen bunches; cabbage, 40c to \$1 per dozen; beans, 30 to 40c per bushel; turnips, 20c per bushel; parsnips, 11-2 to 2c.

HAY—A considerable demand has set in for hay, car lots being wanted to ship to some country points where the supply is short. Baled is now held at \$7 to \$8 per ton on track at point of shipment, or \$9 to \$10 on cars here. It is risky now to ship hay, as much of the hay baled in the winter has snow mixed, which will soon thaw out and moulder on the hay, causing it to spoil.

LIVE STOCK.

CATTLE—Cattle reports on cattle were better this week. There is still brisk buying of stockers to ship to the United States. Even more calves are being plucked up. One car sent out