

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, July 4, 1896.

There has not been any material improvement in business since elections, and the general report of local houses is that trade is dull. There is also a growing disposition to talk about money stringency of late. It was expected that there would be a brisk grain movement about this time, to relieve the monetary situation, but the low prices ruling for wheat and other agricultural products is a very depressing feature. The weather has continued favorable for the crops, and the outlook in this respect is very good. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week show a decrease of 8.2 per cent as compared with the corresponding week of 1895, but the large increase of about 85 per cent over the like week of 1894. All Canadian cities show a heavy decrease in bank clearing this week, ranging from 25 to 30 per cent. Winnipeg therefore shows a much smaller decrease than any other place. The corresponding week last year, however, included the 4th of the month, which would make a big difference.

The total number of business failures in the Dominion of Canada for six months ended June 30, as reported by Bradstreet's is 1,181 for 1896, compared with 934 in 1895, an increase of nearly 27 per cent. Business failures were more numerous in the past six months than in the like portion of 1895, in each of the provinces except Manitoba and British Columbia. Total liabilities this year, \$9,231,000, against \$6,629,000 last year, a gain of 24 per cent. Aggregate liabilities were smaller this year than last in Ontario, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Northwest Territory. Only eight failures for six months are reported from Newfoundland, compared with 38 in 1895. Total liabilities there were \$114,000 in the first half of 1895 and are only \$25,766 this year.

Business failures in the United States for six months number 7,602, the largest six months' total since records have been compiled. The increase, compared with 1895 and 1894 is more than 1,000 in each instance, 15 and 16 per cent respectively. Compared with 1896, (including two months of the panic), the increase this year is about 1,340, or 22 per cent. Total liabilities of 7,602 failing individuals, firms and corporations are \$105,535,000. This has been exceeded only twice before in like periods, in the panic years of 1884 and 1893. The ratio of total assets to liabilities has been exceptionally heavy this year, more than 57 per cent, which is a characteristic of periods of abnormal business embarrassments.

Regarding the situation in the United States this week, Bradstreet's says: "Comparatively few changes are noted, but most of them are decreases in either prices or demand, quotations for wheat, corn, cotton, iron and steel are lower. Sugar has reacted after the decline last week, leather remains conspicuously firm, with shoe factories busily employed, and petroleum and anthracite coal are higher. The general industrial situation shows no renewal of activity. The apparent improvement in wool has disappeared. Manufacturers refuse to buy material simply because it is cheap. Excessive dullness marks dry goods, although this is the usual period for stock taking. Cotton mill treasurers controlling four million spindles have agreed to curtail production. A large amount of woolen machinery remains idle, and the iron and steel industries are as flat as heretofore."

There was considerable excitement in stocks this week and prices had a sharp decline at New York, but European buying supported

the market some. Money on call at New York yesterday was at 2 to 2½; prime mercantile paper 4 to 5½ per cent.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, July 4.

[All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are wholesale for such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reduction on large quantities and to cash discounts.]

COAL.—Coal prices are very strong, the advance of 25c in Pennsylvania anthracite being the first only of an expected series of advances, under the new agreement of the producers. Dear coal for next winter is the outlook. The nominal price here now is \$9.50 retail.

DRUGS.—Glycerine maintains the firm tone abroad at recent advance. Cream of tartar is reported 2s higher abroad. Following prices are for parcels and will be shaded for full package orders: Alum per pound, 3½ to 4½c; alcohol, \$5.25 gal; bleaching powder, per pound, 6 to 8c; bluestone, 5 to 7c; borax 11 to 18 cents; bromide potash, 65 to 75c; camphor, 85 to 95c; camphor, ounces 90 to 1.00; carbolic acid, 40 to 65c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chlorate potash, 28 to 35c; citric acid, 55 to 65c; copperas 3½ to 4c; cocaine, per oz., \$6.50 to \$7.00; cream tartar, per pound, 28 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; epsom salts, 3½ to 4c; extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 18c; do., boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 40 to 50c; glycerine, per pound, 30 to 35c; ginger, Jamaica, 30 to 35c; do., African, 20 to 25c; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 45 to 55c; iodine, \$5.50 to 6.00; insect powder, 35 to 40c; morphia sul., \$1.90 to \$2.25; Opium, \$1.50 to \$5.00; oil, olive, \$1.25 to \$1.40; oil, U. S. salad, \$1.25 to \$1.40; oil, lemon, super \$2.75 to 3.25; oil, peppermint, \$1.00 to \$1.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.50 to \$4 per gallon as to brand; oxalic acid, 18 to 16c; potash iodide, \$1.25 to 1.50; paris green, 18 to 20c lb; saltpetre, 10 to 12c; sal rochelle, 80 to 35c; shellac, 45 to 50c; sulphur flowers, 3½ to 5c; sulphur roll, per keg, 3½ to 5c; soda bicarb, per keg of 112 pounds, \$3.75 to \$4.25; sal soda, \$2 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55c; strychnine, pure crystals 80c to \$1.00 per oz.

DRIED FRUITS AND NUTS.—Grenoble Walnuts, 14c; Tarragona almonds, 15c; princess paper shell almonds, 20c; Sicily filberts, large, 12c; Brazil nuts, 14c; peanuts, roasted, 13c; peanuts greens, 11c; Ontario black walnuts, 8c; butternuts, 9c; hickory nuts, 10c per pound; cocoanuts, \$1.00 per dozen; figs, new, 9 lb. boxes, 14c; figs, superior, 35 lb. boxes, 19c; figs, fancy imperial, 55 lb. boxes, 22c per lb; dates, new, 6 and 7c per lb., apricots, 13½ to 14c; dried apples, 5½ to 6c; evaporated apples 7½ to 8c per lb.

FLUID BEEF, ETC.—Following are prices of the goods put up by the Johnston Fluid Beef Company of Montreal:—Johnstons Fluid Beef—No. 1, 2-oz. tins, per dozen, \$2.70; No. 2 4oz., \$1.50; No. 3, 8oz., \$1.83; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.83; No. 5, 2 lb., \$24.30. Staminol—2oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do, 4oz., \$5.10; do, 8

FISH.—There is the usual good supply of fresh fish in the market. Jobbing prices here for fresh fish are: Whitefish, 6 to 6½c; Lake Superior trout, 9c; pickerel, 4c; sturgeon, 8c; salmon, 14c; halibut, 14c lb; cod, 10c per lb; mackerel, 12½c per lb; smoked gold-eyes, 30c dozen; smoked salmon, 15c lb. Cured fish are quoted: Boneless codfish, 40lb boxes 7c, do crates 7½c; boneless fish, 40lb boxes, 5c; smoked herrings, 15 to 20c box; bloaters, large, \$1.35 per box; bloaters, small, \$1.00 per box; dry cod \$6 per box of 100 lbs.; salt whitefish, \$5.50 per barrel of 100 pounds; salt lake trout, \$6.50 per barrel; salt herring, 2-barrel \$4; salt salmon, 10c lb.

GROCERIES.—Sugars appear to have recovered from the recent depression and are on

the up grade. The demand is reported better and refiners are firmer. Granulated made a sharp advance of ½c at New York on Monday and yellows advanced ½c, and yellows advanced ½c more on Tuesday. With the fruit season now on, one would naturally look for a strong market in sugars.

GREEN FRUITS.—Oranges hold very firm for what are now obtainable. Lemons are also very firm, with a good demand. California peaches, apricots and plums are in good supply. A few new southern apples have been in. British Columbia strawberries were received this week and were in fairly good shape, though on the soft side. Also some British Columbia gooseberries were received, which sold at \$1 per 10 lb basket. Native wild strawberries and gooseberries are offering on the street market. Prices are: Lemons, Messina, \$1.50 to \$5 per box as to quality; California oranges, late Valencias, \$5.50 to \$6.00 per box; Bananas, fancy, Port Limon, \$2 to \$3 per bunch as to size; strawberries, 24 quart cases, \$5.00 per case; pineapples, \$2.50 to \$3 per dozen as to size; California cherries, none; California peaches, \$2.00 per box; California apricots, \$2.00 box; California plums, \$3 to \$1 box as to quality and variety; Watermelons, \$5 per dozen; Tomatoes, \$1.75 per crate of 4 baskets, cucumbers, 90c doz. Apple cider, 35c per gallon, in 30 gal. barrels; maple sugar 12c per lb; maple syrup, \$1.10 per wine gallon, in gallon tins; pie plant, \$1.75 per 100 pounds; Egyptian onions, \$3.50 per 100 pounds.

HARDWARE.—Prices are as follows:

Tin, lamb and 56 and 58 lb. ingots, per lb, 19 to 20c.

TIN PLATES.—Charcoal plates, I. C., 10 by 14, 12 by 12 and 14 by 20, per box, \$1.50 to \$1.75; I. X., same sizes, per box, \$5.75 to \$6; I. C., charcoal, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$8.50 to 9.00; I. X., per box, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$10.50 to 11.00.

TERNE PLATES.—I. C., 20 by 28, \$3.00 to 3.50.

IRON AND STEEL.—Bar iron, per 100 lbs. base price, \$2.35 to \$2.50; band iron, per 100 lbs., \$2.85 to 3.00; Swedish iron, per 100 lbs., \$5.25 to 6; sleigh shoe steel, \$3.00 to 3.25; best cast tool steel, per lb, 11 to 12c; Russian sheet, per lb, 12 to 13c.

SHEET IRON.—10 to 20 gauge, \$3.00; 22 to 24 and 26 gauge, \$3.25; 28 gauge, \$3.50.

CANADA PLATES.—Garth and Blaina, \$3.00 to 3.10.

GALVANIZED IRON.—Queen's Head, 22 to 24 gauge, per lb., 4½c; 26 gauge, per lb., 5c; 28 gauge, per lb., 5½c.

IRON PIPE.—50 to per 60 cent. off list.

LEAD.—Pig, per lb., 4½c.

SHEET ZINC.—In casks, 5.75 lb., broken lots, 7.25.

SOLDER.—Half and half (guar) per lb, 14 to 16c.

AMMUNITION.—Cartridges—Rim fire pistol, American, discount, 40 per cent.; rim fire cartridges, Dominion, 50 and 5; rim fire military, American, net list; central fire pistol and rifle, American, 12 per cent.; central fire cartridge, Dominion, 30 per cent.; shot shells, 12 gauge, \$6 to 7.50; shot, Canadian, soft, 5½c; shot, Canadian, chilled, 6c.

WIRE.—Galvanized barb wire, plain twisted wire and staples, \$3.25 per 100 lbs. Closer prices have been made for large lots.

ROPE.—Sisal, per lb., 7½ to 8c base; manilla, per lb., 9½ to 10½c base; cotton, ½ to ¾ inch and 1 larger, 15c lb.

AXES.—Per box, \$6.50 to 15.50.

NAILS.—Cut, per keg, base price, \$3.21 for 60 d. with usual extras; common steel wire nails, 5 to 6 inch, \$3.90 per keg; 3 to 4 inch, \$1.22 keg; 2 inch, \$1.50 keg.