

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, August 11.

Business in the city is for the most part very quiet owing to the absence of many business men on vacations. Fruit men are the only really busy people. Values hold steady for most lines. In country produce there is a good business doing and eggs are 1c lower. The strike of the C. P. R. shop hands has extended throughout the week but at time of writing appears to be in a fair way to be settled. The weather has been hot and sultry, with the exception of Thursday when it rained for the greater part of the day. Harvest is now more general in the country and the government crop bulletin given elsewhere in this issue makes opportune reading in consequence. Bank clearings at Winnipeg maintain the recent rate of increase.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Saturday, Aug. 11, 1900.

(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.)

BINDER TWINE.

Twine orders are becoming smaller and much less numerous as the harvest advances. One leading house announces that it has cleaned up its twine business for the season, having no more to sell. Prices are hard to quote as the market is now practically an open one, but at least two large concerns are quoting $3\frac{1}{2}$ c for sisal, $11\frac{1}{2}$ c for manilla and $13\frac{1}{2}$ c for pure manilla, f.o.b. Winnipeg.

DRUGS.

Business keeps good and prices for the most part are steady. Cocaine is now quoted at a higher level here in sympathy with other markets, while Paris green is 3 to 5c lower. At New York American quinine is 2c higher, but there has been no change here. Glucose is 20c lower at New York. Menthol 5c lower and anise 5c lower.

DRY GOODS.

Business continues quiet amongst city jobbing houses and the situation is largely a waiting one. Fall orders are being shipped but the volume of goods going out on these is much smaller than it would have been had the full quantities on the original orders been taken. Values at manufacturing centres both in America and Europe are holding firm on most lines.

FISH.

Fresh fish are in good demand and firm at last week's prices. We quote Whitefish, fresh caught, 5c per lb.; pickerel, 4c; pike, 3c; trout, 10c; salmon, $12\frac{1}{2}$ c; halibut, $12\frac{1}{2}$ c; mackerel, 15c; salt cod, 7c; Labrador herring, half barrel, \$1.

FUEL.

Wood dealers say their trade was never lighter at this time of the year, which is saying a good deal. Some yards report absolute stagnation. The number of people who are away, or camping, or using coal oil and gas stoves accounts for this. These latter cooking utensils are coming into use to a surprising extent. Coal is quiet and unchanged. Quotations at Winnipeg for both coal and wood will be found on page 1572.

GREEN FRUITS.

Business is very active. Peaches are 10c per case lower. Apples are

now in the market at \$4.50 per barrel. Plums are a little lower. Crab-apples to arrive are quoted at \$5.50, and it is said that these may be scarce this year. We quote: Late Valencia oranges, \$1.50 to \$5.50; California lemons, \$6.50 per box; bananas, \$2.75 to \$3. per bunch, as to size; peaches, \$1.35 to \$1.40 per case; plums, \$1.50 to \$1.60 per case; green plums, \$1.75 per case; pears, \$2.50 per case; blueberries, 5 cents per lb.; apples, per barrel, \$4.50; water-melons, \$5.00 per dozen; cocoanuts, per sack, \$5.50; Grenoble walnuts, 15c; Tarragona almonds, 15c; filberts, 12c; peanuts, green, 9c; roasted, 12c; pecan nuts, 15c per lb.; maple sugar per pound, 11 to 15c; maple syrup $\$6.75$ per case of 1 dozen $\frac{1}{2}$ gal. tins; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels; fruit cider put in 20 and 30 gallon kegs, per gallon 30c; California layer figs in 10 lb. boxes, \$1.40; new Smyrnas in glove boxes, \$2 per dozen; 10 lb. boxes, \$1.50 per box; dates, 7c per lb. in 1 lb. cartons, 10c; honey in 1 lb. glass jars, per dozen jars, \$2.50.

GROCERIES.

Jobbing trade is steady and fairly active. Oatmeals are quoted by United States manufacturers at $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 5c per sack less in carlots, but in view of the poor oat crop outlook this decline is looked upon as hardly likely to go further and it has not affected the price to the retail trade. The canned goods situation is apparently unchanged so far as vegetables are concerned. It is now known that peas are a short crop, as packing operations are already practically over. Beans are also a short crop. All small fruits are more or less dearer and this coupled with the high price of sugar has caused canners to advance their prices from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 5c per dozen. This on top of a former advance in strawberries of 10c per dozen makes these cost considerably more than ordinarily. Canned meats still maintain their strength and although Canadian canners have not followed the United States canners to the full extent this must necessarily come very soon. Green lilo coffee still maintains its strength and the indications are that present prices will be at least maintained. Reports from Ontario indicate that large quantities of white beans have been bought for the United States market and higher prices are looked for in consequence. In California dried fruits there has been a fair trade doing, but a good many are disappointed at the turn that apricots have taken. Early reports indicated a very large crop, but in this they have been mistaken as it will scarcely be up to the average. In consequence of which prices on all grades have advanced from $\frac{1}{2}$ to 1c per pound, and there appears to be but little doubt that this advance will hold. Peaches are a fair crop and prices quoted are somewhat lower than last season. This also applies to nectarines. Winnipeg jobbing prices will be found on page 1572.

HARDWARE.

Business is quiet and there are no changes in prices to report. The feeling in the market is still weak, however, and there are many dealers who believe that further declines on some lines which have suffered reductions in the near past are quite within the range of possibility. The poor crop outlook in Manitoba, coupled with this weaker feeling in regard to prices, makes buyers very cautious and such orders as are being received are mostly for small quantities. Prices at Winnipeg are given on another page.

IMPLEMENTS.

Harvesting machinery is going out

freely on old orders, and some new business is being done. Binders have been selling this week fairly well with some houses and the only difficulty apparently is to get the machines to deliver. Factories are behind with some shipments. Mowers and rakes are about over. Plows have not commenced to move again yet. Threshers have been selling a great deal better than was expected. Wagons are selling fairly well. Altogether the trade in implements has been much better than was expected six weeks ago, and besides there has been a good trade in repairs.

LEATHER.

There is a fair volume of trade doing and prices remain as quoted last week. It may be said, however, that sole leather has become weaker in outside markets and a decline here in the early future is not at all improbable. For Winnipeg prices see page 1572.

PAINTS, OILS AND GLASS.

The local market is steady on all staple lines and business is only moderately good. With regard to linseed oil we may say that while the price of Manitoba oil remains firm at 32 and 35c per gallon for raw and boiled respectively, there has been some oil in the market this week which sold for less money, but as this imported article contains about 10 per cent of adulteration it will easily be seen how the cut in price is made possible. Glass has advanced again in the manufacturing centres of Belgium to the extent of about 10 per cent., but as stocks here were bought before the rise there has been no change locally. See prices elsewhere in this issue.

SCRAP.

We quote: No. 1 cast iron, free from wrought and malleable, \$13 to \$14 per ton; No. 2, \$5 ton; wrought iron scrap, \$5 ton; heavy copper, 10c per pound; red brass, 8c per pound; yellow brass, heavy, 7c per pound; light brass, $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5c per pound; lead pipe or tea lead, 2 to $2\frac{1}{2}$ c; rags, country mixed, 50c per 100 pounds; rubbers, free from rivets, buckles and articles, $5\frac{1}{2}$ c per pound; zinc scrap 1c per lb; bones, clean, dry and bleached, \$6 per ton.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—The wheat markets during the past week have not shown any material change from the previous week. It has been a narrow market, but between the ups and downs from day to day, there have been some signs of a more confident and firmer feeling, and prices on the whole closed yesterday at about $\frac{1}{2}$ c advance on the week. In the American speculative markets trading has been on a very conservative scale. In Kansas and the southwest, and also in the southern portion of the spring wheat country the primary receipts of new wheat are very large and daily overrun the receipts for corresponding days a year ago, and although the demand for this wheat has been good, and it is being absorbed without difficulty, the large figures reported daily deter speculative buyers from buying freely. At the same time there is still a wide difference in estimates of the probable yield of the spring wheat crop. The United States government's report for August was issued yesterday afternoon and gives the condition of the spring wheat on Aug. 1, as 56.1 against 55.2 on July 1. This condition indicates a yield of around 80,000,000 bushels for the three hard spring wheat states, but many commercial estimates put it at 100,000,000 bushels to 110,000,000 bus.