

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Saturday, January 6, 1900.

Business is much quieter now that the holidays are over and most local houses are busy sizing up the results of last year's trade. Stock-taking is general in some lines. The last month of the year was much the best with the retail trade and an unusually large Christmas demand was experienced. Stocks of some kinds of goods were almost exhausted Christmas week. A period of comparative dullness may now be expected, which will be all the more acute if snow enough for sleighing does not come soon. A good fall of snow would stimulate business very much. The wood fuel shortage is becoming serious as a result of the prolonged unfavorable weather. Farmers trade in the country towns is also much affected by the absence of sleighing. Rush work of all kinds is being seriously interfered with. What promised to be one of the best sleigh and cutter seasons with the vehicle men has been turned into one of the worst. Railway traffic has become much lighter as the excursion season is now over. Bank clearings at Winnipeg continue to expand, the week ending Thursday showing an increase of over \$800,000 as compared with the same week last year. Monthly and yearly clearings to Dec. 30 are shown in our financial column.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS

Saturday, Jan. 6, 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.)

## DRUGS.

There has been no change in drug prices here this week, and business remains good for the season. Dealers are speculating as to the possibility of further rises in lines affected by the war. Camphor which enters largely into the manufacture of explosives, is one line which is likely to be seriously affected as the supply is limited and cannot be increased on short notice. Quinine is being taken in large quantities by the Imperial government for medicinal purposes and will likely be very firm and perhaps higher in consequence. Sulphur and carbolic acid may be made scarce and higher by the war demand. Deliveries of drugs from English markets are very uncertain owing to scarcity of ocean space. Collections in Manitoba are slow and trade adversely affected by the limited country traffic. For prices see page 567.

## DRY GOODS.

There is a lull in the activity in dry goods preceding the renewal of activity on spring business. There is also a lull in regard to price changes and practically no advices of this kind have been received from manufacturers this week.

## FUEL.

Coal is in good demand and prices

remain firm. The city is practically passing through a wood famine and consumers find it very difficult to secure even a hand to mouth supply. Some poplar and jackpine is obtainable, but oak, birch, maple and tamarac are very scarce. (Note: States hard woods are not obtainable except in a small way. A good fall of snow to make sleighing possible is all that is needed to relieve the situation. For quotations see page 567.)

## GREEN FRUITS.

Local houses are now having a breathing spell, the holiday demand being over and business quieter all around. Apples are meeting with better sale and prices for good stock hold firm at \$4.00 per barrel. Quotations remain unchanged as follows: California navel oranges, \$4 per case for regular sizes, California seedlings, \$3.50; California lemons per box, \$4.75 to \$5; Messina lemons \$5; apples winter, \$4. per barrel: sweet potatoes, \$5.00 to \$5.25 per barrel; Cape Cod cranberries per barrel \$7.00; coconuts per dozen, 50c; Grenobles walnuts 14c; Marbols 12 1/2c; Tarragona almonds, 15c; filberts, 12c; peanuts, green, 9 to 10c; roasted, 11 to 12c; pecan nuts, 13c per lb, maple sugar, per lb., 11c; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels; fruit cider put up in 20 and 30 gallon kegs, per gallon, 40c; figs, in boxes, 7c lb.; new California layer figs in 10-pound boxes, \$1.30, new Smyrnas in glove boxes, \$2.00 per dozen; 10-lb. boxes, \$1.75 per box, and 30-pound boxes, \$6.00; dates 7c per lb. in 1-lb. cartons 9c; honey in 1-lb. glass jars, per dozen jars, \$2.50; Spanish onions, \$1.25 per crate; American red onions, 2c per lb.; celery, per dozen, 45 to 50c.

## GROCERIES.

The demand for groceries both staple and fancy has fallen off and there have been no features of special interest in the market this week. Prices remain unchanged here but there is a continued hardening in some lines, notably dried apples and further advances may transpire any day. Coffee and teas remain firm, also canned vegetable. Local jobbers have not followed the rise in salmon prices noted last week as they are well stocked with these goods bought before the rise. For Winnipeg quotations see page 567.

## HARDWARE.

Following the advanced prices in 1 generally stronger tendency at manufacturers local hardware jobbers have made several advances in their list taking effect to-day. Horseshoes are up 20c per keg, bar iron 10c per 100 pounds and Canada plates 25c. Manila rope is 2c per pound dearer and steel 11-2c dearer. Other advances may be looked for here next week, as according to our Toronto telegram which will be found on another page, there have been several important advances in prices there.

## LEATHER AND FINDINGS.

The feature of this market has been the rush on an order for saddles for the Imperial government for use in South Africa. The order which was received by a local factory will be completed early next week. Further business of this kind is in sight. Leather prices remain very firm with an upward tendency. This is also the case with harness and saddlery hardware. Shoe leather is firm and half-soles hold stiff at the recent 10c advance, which makes No. 5 soles worth \$3.60, No. 6, \$3.30 and No. 7, \$2.90 at factories.

## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

Some of the local dealers in pianos and organs have received notice from factories that dating from the first of the year there will be advances in the price of both these lines amounting roughly to five per cent. This is due to the increased cost of metal and hardwoods which enter largely into the manufacture of these instruments. It is not expected that these advances will make any appreciable difference in the selling price, of either pianos or organs, but it may be expected hereafter that dealers will adhere more closely to their regular quotations. In passing it may be said that Winnipeg dealers have never experienced such a good demand for all kinds of musical instruments. The sale of pianos has been particularly large during the closing months of 1899, some placing the total business at double that of last year. Sewing machine business has also been unusually good.

## PAINTS, OIL AND GLASS.

The advance in prepared paint prices noted last week is now in effect, and the list now ranges from \$1.30 to \$1.70 per gallon as to shade and quality. Refined petroleum has been sharply advanced, Silver Star being now quoted at 13-4c per gallon above the oil price, oleophene 11-2c higher and Sunlight and Eocene 1c higher. White lead is becoming firmer in eastern markets and is expected to advance here almost any day. No orders would be booked for future delivery excepting subject to price changes. The demand for goods in this line is very light as is usual at this season and local dealers are busy stock-taking.

## RAW FURS.

Furs are moving more freely and quite a few parcels, some being of good size, have been received this week. The market should be active from now on and buyers are keen. Prices current here remain as follows:

	Each	Each.
Badgers, prime ... ..	\$ .25	\$ .50
Bears, black, yearlings 5.00		8.00
Bears, black, small ... ..	5.00	12.00
Bears, black, medium ... ..	10.00	15.00
Bears, black, large ... ..	15.00	25.00
Bears, brown, yearlings 4.00		6.00
Bears, brown, small ... ..	5.00	10.00
Bears, brown, medium ... ..	10.00	15.00
Bears, brown, large ... ..	15.00	22.00
Beaver, small ... ..	1.50	3.00
Beaver, medium ... ..	3.00	5.00
Beaver, large ... ..	5.00	7.00
Fishers, dark ... ..	8.00	9.00
Fishers, pale ... ..	3.00	6.00
Fox, silver dark, large 50.00		125.00
Fox, cross ... ..	5.00	15.00
Fox, red ... ..	1.00	3.00
Lynx, large ... ..	1.50	3.50
Lynx, middling ... ..	1.00	2.25
Lynx, small ... ..	.50	1.50
Marten, large, dark ... ..	4.00	12.00
Marten, large, pale or brown ... ..	3.50	8.00
Marten, large, light pale ... ..	2.50	5.00
Mink, large, dark ... ..	1.50	2.25
Mink, small, dark ... ..	1.00	1.50
Mink, large, light ... ..	1.00	1.25
Mink, small, light ... ..	.75	1.00
Musquash, winter ... ..	.02	.10
Otter, large dark ... ..	6.00	12.00
Otter, large, pale ... ..	5.00	8.00
Skunk, large ... ..	.50	1.00
Wolf, timber, large ... ..	2.00	3.00
Wolf, prairie ... ..	.40	.75
Wolverine, large, dark 3.00		8.50
Wolverine, large, pale 1.25		2.00