

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, Jan. 28.

The rough weather this week checked deliveries of wheat by farmers at country points. Prices have advanced sharply and with favorable weather a much larger movement at country points may be looked for if prices hold. Regarding damp wheat, nearly all the buyers are now taking damp wheat freely, where it is offered by farmers, at 5 to 8c under dry wheat of the same grade, as to degree of dampness. There are a number of drying plants now in operation, and if the farmers market their damp grain in time it will be got into keeping condition before the weather turns warm. Any damp grain held after the weather turns warm, will quickly spoil and become a total loss, so that farmers should be warned against holding it too long. This applies to coarse grains as well as wheat.

Business generally shows a good volume for the season. Bank clearings at Winnipeg continue to show a good percentage of gain over the corresponding weeks in previous years, as will be seen by the report on another page. Building prospects for the coming season are good. A number of proposed new business blocks for the city have already been announced. Interest rates are easy, at 6 to 7 per cent on city property, and 7 to 8 per cent on farm property for ordinary loans. The shipment of spring stocks is now going on with some of the jobbing houses, in such lines as clothing, boots and shoes, etc.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS

Winnipeg, Saturday, Jan. 28.

(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.)

### BLUESTONE.

The strong market for bluestone, as reported last week, continues, and further advances have been made on this commodity by manufacturers. Bluestone was recently offered in the Winnipeg market as low as 1c per lb., which is fully 11-12c under cost laid down here, on the basis of current prices at New York. It is understood that jobbers are now firm in their views at 41-2c for barrel lots, but even at this figure the price is ridiculously low compared with the cost to bring in new stock at current values at factories. Advances from New York this week quote 43-4 to 51-4c at that place for round lots, which means a cost of 51-2 to 6c laid down here. The present quotation of 41-2c here is therefore remarkably low, and a sharp advance may be looked for. The advance in bluestone is owing to the sharp advance in copper. It is said that bluestone has been selling as a by-product of copper at really less than cost of manufacture. On a basis of the present cost of the

commodity, the price here should be at least 51-2 to 6c.

### COAL AND WOOD.

The drop in the temperature this week largely increased the movement of coal. There has been decidedly an easier tendency in prices of wood fuel of late. This is owing to the opening up of a new source of supply by the construction of the Southeastern railway. This source of supply is also nearer to the city than other principal wood districts, consequently the fuel can be laid down here at a less cost for freight. The quantity of cordwood offering is large, and quoted prices are sometimes cut in order to make sales. We have made a further reduction all around on quotations, which will be found on another page. J. G. Hargrave, Winnipeg, has been awarded the contract for the supply of poplar wood for city relief purposes the figure being \$3.24 per cord, delivered.

### CLOTHING.

Some jobbers have begun to ship out spring stocks quite freely. Sorting traps is of course practically nil at present.

### GREEN FRUITS.

Apples are firmer. Spies are scarce and any good fruit of that variety is now held at \$5 per barrel. Winter pears are out. A few Malaga grapes are still obtainable. Catawba grapes are about out. Bananas are coming forward more freely, but the rough weather this week makes it difficult to handle this fruit. Lemons are unchanged. Oranges are 25c lower. Prices are: California naval oranges \$3.75 to \$4, as to size; Mexican oranges, \$3 to \$3.25 per box; California seedling oranges \$3 to \$3.25 a box; bananas, per bunch, \$3 to \$3.50, as to size, Messina lemons, \$4.50 per box; California lemons, \$4.50 per box; Ontario apples, good ordinary stock \$1; fancy spies \$5 per bbl. Almeria grapes \$8 per keg. Frozen cranberries, \$0.75 to \$7 per bbl; cranberries, unfrozen, \$3 per barrel; sweet potatoes, \$5 per barrel; cocoanuts, \$1 a dozen; Sicily filberts, large 11 to 12c per pound; Grenoble walnuts, 15c; Tarragona almonds, 14c; peanuts, green, 10c; roasted, 12c; pecan nuts, 12c lb.; shell-ed walnuts, 24-1-2 to 26c per pound; strained honey, 81-2 to 9c per pound; maple sugar, 11 to 12c; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels; California figs, in boxes of ten bricks, \$2 per box; dates, 71-2c per pound; celery, 40c per dozen bunches.

### GROCERIES.

The market is quiet this week and without much change. The decline in sulphur matches is noted in another column, under the head of "Grocery Trade Notes." Vancouver refinery sugars are quoted 1-8c higher for everything but granulated, delivered prices at all points except Winnipeg. A sharp advance in brooms at the factories is reported, on account of the corner on broom corn.

### HARDWARE.

Heavy hardware and metals are very firm, as will be noted by items published from time to time under the head of "Hardware Trade Notes." This market has not responded to the upward tendency on many lines, but when the spring movement sets in, higher prices may be looked for on several lines. Wire, wire nails, zinc, copper, etc., are among the strongest lines.

### RAW FURS.

One error occurred in the cable report of Lampson's London fur sales, given last week. According to our report it appeared that there were two sales of lynx, the first day showing an advance of 20 per cent, and the later sale an advance of 35 per cent. In the latter case, however, the word lynx had been accidentally substituted for mink. The corrected report of Lampson's sales shows the following report:

Red fox advanced 15 per cent.  
White fox advanced 30 per cent.  
Lynx advanced 20 per cent.  
Martin advanced 40 per cent.  
Skunk same as a year ago.  
Otter same as a year ago.  
Wolverine advanced 25 per cent.  
Mink advanced 35 per cent.  
Black bear declined 15 per cent.  
Brown bear declined 10 per cent.  
Grizzly bear declined 10 per cent.  
Raccoon advanced 15 per cent.  
Wolf advanced 20 per cent.

In the Winnipeg market the offerings of furs continue light, from which it would appear that the number of furs taken this year has been less than usual. Of course it is difficult to form an opinion as to the catch in the more distant regions. Advances so far received indicate a light catch, but any information from remote points so far covers only the beginning of the fur season. The moderate snow fall and moderate temperature should have been favorable for trappers, but against this it is stated that swamps in the woods were not frozen as early as usual, which made it difficult for trappers to get about. The tendency of prices is firm, and higher figures are being paid here for beaver, mink, martin, red fox, lynx and wolf. Rat is easy. See quotations on another page.

### GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—The wheat markets on the American continent have this week been on the rampage. Speculative

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