

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

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

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, October 15.

Considerably more goods have been arriving this week than have been going out, as merchants are now filling their warehouses before the close of navigation. Railway traffic inwards has therefore been heavy, while there has also been a large outgo of wheat. There was a sharp falling off in the eastern movement of wheat, due probably to the scarcity of cars. The movement reached 200 cars per day last week, but fell to barely 100 cars on some days this week. The steadily fine, dry and mild weather has hindered an early demand for textile goods, but there is plenty of time yet. On the other hand, the farmers have been enabled to make splendid progress with their fall work, threshing and plowing being well advanced. The rains toward the latter part of this week were needed to soften the ground for continuation of plowing. To this extent the situation is very different from what it was last year, when winter set in with very little plowing done, and fall work generally backward. The outlook now is for a large increase in the crop area next year, as an unusually large area will be ready for crop in the spring. The season for exporting cattle is drawing to a close, and few if any more lots will go forward. Exports of cattle have been much lighter than last year, due partly no doubt to unfavorable markets. There appears to be a large increase in the supply of hogs this fall, as compared with recent years. The fishing industry on Lake Winnipeg, now closed for the season as the close time according to law is in force, has had a most successful year. Whitefish have been abundant, and the catch has been the largest heretofore recorded. The alarmist reports about the depletion of the lake, appear to have had no foundation in fact. Labor is still fully employed, and men for any kind of work appear to be as scarce as ever, offers of high wages failing to bring men when required. Continued evidence comes to hand that all grain crops are turning out rather disappointing in yield. Threshing returns continue to show a sharp shrinkage in actual yield, as compared with earlier estimates. While wheat is averaging splendid quality, the yield is not coming up to expectations formed earlier. Coarse grains are also disappointing in yield, perhaps even more so than wheat. The idea among business men east seems to be somewhat astray concerning Manitoba's crop this year. They seem to confound quality with quantity. It has never been claimed that the crop this year would turn out a very heavy one, but it has been claimed that there would be a large proportion of choice quality of wheat, as compared with last year. This claim has somehow or other been taken to mean that the crop was an extra large and fine one. This is shown by letters from the east, which as a rule are altogether too sanguine as to the trade outlook here. The crop is not a very heavy one, but it would be a very satisfactory one if prices were up to a good average. With the very low prices ruling for

wheat, however, and the yield turning out lower than expected, there is no reason to feel optimistic over the trade outlook. Unless there is a sharp advance in grain prices soon, the best that can be expected is a moderate trade, and a not particularly flush financial condition. If farmers have to sell their grain at present values, the majority of them will have all they can do to fairly hold their own. Instead of having a large surplus of money to spend, as some seem to think they will, they will have to economize, in order to meet present obligations and provide for the immediate future.

DRY GOODS AND CLOTHING.—Clothing houses have cleaned out the last of their fall orders, and travellers are all on the road with spring samples. There is absolutely no move in the sorting trade yet, and none to be expected with such fine, summer-like weather weather continuously prevailing. Colored cotton lines in spring goods are said to be held by manufacturers at 15 to 20 per cent. advance.

DRIED FRUITS.—Valencia raisins have tumbled in the east, following the arrival at Montreal of a cargo of new fruit and some very low prices are mentioned at that port. We quote: Dried apples 5½ to 6c; evaporated, 8 to 9c; figs, layers, 10 to 14c; figs, cooking, 3 to 5c; dates, 6 to 8½c. Valencia raisins, \$1.25 to \$1.60 per box; new Valencias, \$2.40; Sultanias, 10 to 11c per pound. Currants, 6 to 6½c; prunes, 6 to 9c. Evaporated fruits are quoted: apricots, new, 19 to 20c; peeled peaches, 17½ to 18c; unpeeled peaches, 12 to 12½c; pitted plums, 11 to 11½; cherries, 13 to 13½c; pears, 12½ to 13c; nectarines, 11½ to 12c.

FUEL.—The coal situation remains unchanged, and no quantities of the product from the new Souris mines now being opened, have arrived yet. Wood is unchanged. Considerable has been brought in from Minnesota over the Northern Pacific, including tamarac, maple and oak, tamarac selling retail at \$6.50, and maple and oak at \$7.50 per cord, delivered to buyers in the city. Dealers complain of a difficulty of long standing of getting cars to bring in supplies.

FISH.—The catch of fish on Lake Winnipeg for the season now closed (close season being now in force) is the largest on record, amounting it is said to fully 3,000,000 pounds. Fresh fish are quoted: Salmon 14c; lake trout 9c; whitefish 6 to 6½c. Oysters \$2 to \$2.50 per gallon. Boneless codfish 8 to 8½c per lb; smoked herrings 22 to 25c per box.

GREEN FRUITS.—Lemons are easier. Bananas are very scarce and higher especially good fruit. Winter apples have now arrived, and recent receipts of fall apples are of better keeping quality. Ontario crabs have arrived in poor condition, but some choice crabs have come in from the States, and the demand is now being supplied with imported stock. California peaches are away up, though the quality of the fruit now obtainable is not choice. Eastern grapes plentiful at about the same prices. Do California grapes. Large quantities of local tomatoes offering, in consequence of which dealers have to clear out stocks of Ontario tomatoes at low prices. Prices are: Louisiana oranges, \$6.25 to \$6.50 box; Messina lemons, \$3 to \$9 box; bananas, \$3.25 to \$3.75 bunch; tomatoes, 25 to 40c per 20-lb basket; green tomatoes, 25c per basket. California peaches, \$2.00 to \$2.50 per box; California winter pears, \$4.50 per 40 lb box; California Tokay grapes, \$6.50 to \$7 per 40 lb crate as to quality; Ontario apples, early varieties, \$3.25 to \$3.50 per barrel, for good fruit; winter stock, \$3.50 to \$4; Ontario pears, 40c to \$1 per basket; Ontario grapes, 25 to 60c per 10 lb basket; crabs, \$7 to \$7.50 barrel.

GROCERIES.—Sugars were slightly lower east, refiners offering ¾c lower. At New York prices declined ½ to 3-16, due probably to the importation of foreign sugars. About 10,000 barrels Canadian refined found a market in the States

during the rule of comparatively higher prices there, and British refined were also imported. Willett & Grey, of New York, in their last circular say: "While the conditions of supplies of raw sugars for some time may prevent a further decline, there is no reason to look for another advance in granulated, but rather a firm and steady market for some time to come." Quoted here: Granulated 5½ to 5½c, yellows 4½ to 4½c, powdered 7½ to 8c, lumps 6 to 6½c, syrups 2½ to 3½c.

NUTS.—Fancy stock is quoted: Almonds per pound, 16 to 17c; walnuts, per pound, 15 to 16c; pecans, 17c to 18c; filberts, 13 to 14c; Brazils, 10 to 13c; peanuts, 1 to 15c; Coconuts, \$9 to \$10 per 100.

GENERAL WHEAT.—The visible supply statement on Monday showed an increase of 3,355,000 bushels in stocks at principal points in the United States and Canada, east of the mountains, making the total 51,256,000 bushels as compared with 29,428,000 bushels a year ago. Duluth increased 499,000 bushels and Chicago 805,000 bushels for the week, which were the largest points of increase. The principal feature on Tuesday was the official crop report of the United States government. This was disappointing to the bulls, being more favorable than was expected. The report estimated 13 bushel to the acre and indicated a crop of about 519,000,000 bu against 495,000,000 bu, as estimated in last monthly report and a yield of 611,000,000 bu a year ago. Many operators had expected a crop of less than 500,000,000 bu. The report induced heavy selling in United States markets and led to a considerable break in prices. *Crutcher's* reported an increase of 4,757,000 bu in stocks, east and west of the Rockies, in United States and Canada. The English visible supply increased 350,000. On Wednesday wheat recovered in United States markets some, with unfavorable news concerning growing winter wheat crop, and the belief that the crop this year will be light in weight, and will not therefore yield as heavily as indicated by the official report. The markets were inactive and rather weak on Thursday and Friday. The London *Times* estimates the English wheat crop 82½, against 92 last year, or about 10,000,000 bushels less than the yield of 1891. Exports of wheat this week (flour included as wheat) equals 3,625,000 bushels from the United States seaports on both coasts, compared with 4,017,000 bushels last week, and 5,093,000 bushels in the second week in October, 1891.

A very strong feature in the wheat outlook is the fact that supplies in store in Europe and afloat were only about 400,000 bushels larger on October 1 than a month ago, and 20,000,000 bushels less than a year ago. The aggregate supplies in the United States and Canada, in Europe and on passage October 1 last were about 166,331,000 bushels, against 145,737,000 bushels one month ago—an increase of 20,594,000 bushels. The aggregate supplies on hand on October 1, 1891, were 155,790,000 bushels, against 112,773,000 bushels on September 1, of that year. This gives an increase of 10,540,000 bushels in world's stocks during September this year, while the increase for the corresponding month last year was over 43,000,000 bushels.

LOCAL WHEAT.—A heavy movement has kept up in deliveries of wheat at Manitoba points, but there was a sharp falling off in shipments eastward, due to scarcity of cars. Cars arriving at Winnipeg last week reached up to 200 per day, but dropped to barely 100 cars on some days this week. There is a big push to get as much grain as possible out before the close of navigation. The fine weather has been very favorable for threshing, and in some districts threshing is nearly completed already. The long spell of fine weather was broken by rains latter part of this week, but the rain was wanted for fall plowing. The sample continues to average very good, though there is considerable musty stuff offering and the yield is all around decidedly lighter than earlier estimates predicted. A considerable portion of the wheat moving, is