

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Saturday, Sept. 30, 1899.

(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.)

DRY GOODS.

The fine warm weather of this month has been detrimental to fall trade, and not so much of this has been come by the retail trade throughout the country as would have been the case with less summer-like weather. Cooler weather set in the middle of this week and already the stimulating effect on trade is quite noticeable. Business is in sound condition now and the final three months of this year will bring great activity to the dry goods trade. Winnipeg jobbing houses have shipped their final placing orders for fall trade this week, and are now having a chance to get straightened up again. That the demand for fall goods has been heavy is evidenced by the fact that warehouses which four weeks ago were full to the ceilings are now down to a much lower point than usual on many lines. Repeat orders have been rendered necessary by the big demand for some lines. Travelers are now out with samples for spring business. Buyers are in the old country purchasing for spring trade.

GREEN FRUITS.

The market is still an active one. Further shipments of Washington plums have been in this week. Plums and peaches are also offering. One commission house had its last car of peaches in this week. Cranberries are offering freely. Sweet potatoes are also plentiful. The supply of grapes is not equal to the demand and cars coming in are sold almost as rapidly as they arrive. Prices are now as follows:

Lemons, new, \$1 per case; apples, Ontario, 25 to \$3.50 in barrels; crabs, 60c per basket in barrels, \$5.00; Washington pears per case, \$2.25, basket pears 80c per basket; California peaches \$1.25 per case; Washington plums \$1.10 to \$1.25; California grapes in twenty-pound cases, \$2.00; Ontario grapes in 10 lb. baskets, 25 to 40c; California prunes, \$1.60 per case; Washington prunes, \$1.30 per case; cranberries per barrel, \$7.50; coconuts in sacks of 100, \$5 to \$6; Grenoble walnuts, 15c; Tarragona almonds, 15c; peanuts, green, 9c; roasted, 12c; pecan nuts, 15c per lb; comb honey, \$2 per dozen sections, strained honey, \$1.2c per pound; 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 per lb; layer figs in 10 lb boxes, \$1.75, dates 7c per lb; onions, 3c per lb; celery, per dozen, 20c; cucumbers, 15c per dozen; tomatoes per basket, 50c; sweet potatoes, per barrel, \$3.

GROCERIES.

The situation in canned vegetables excites the most interest at present, and it looks as if Winnipeg houses will be obliged to pay high prices for these goods. Although canned corn is considerably cheaper than last year it is still very high and firm. No new canned peaches are in yet, nor now peaches. Canned turkey, duck and chicken have advanced in the east, but as none have been brought in at the higher prices the price here is unchanged. White

beans have gone up and the price will now be \$1.50 or more to jobbers. This is an advance of 30c per bushel over old prices. Rolled oats have dropped slightly since the new crop of oats began to appear in the market. Standard and granulated are now worth \$2.25. Currants are firm in primary markets, but the change has not affected them here. When new stocks arrive these will show an advance. New Valencia raisins have arrived and show very fine quality. The price for these to the retail trade is \$2 to \$2.10 per case. Old muscatel raisins are practically out of the market and what few still remain in primary hands at the coast have been advanced 1c per pound. No change has been made here. New raisins will, however, arrive in the course of a few weeks for which prices are not yet fixed. Evaporated apples have eased off considerably and prices are now 9 1/2 to 10c. The first car of new prunes came in this week and show good quality. Old prunes are scarce and jobbers in the city quote the new ones at about the same figure as the old so that they will not be in demand. A stiff advance has been made in the price of sulphur matches as will be seen by reference to our "prices current" page. The rise amounts to 30c all around. This was announced to the trade on Monday.

HARDWARE.

As noted in The Commercial last week the market situation continues firm and an upward tendency is manifested all along the line. Sheet boiler plate has advanced \$1.25. Cut nails advanced yesterday (Friday) another 25c per keg, making the base price now \$3.00 with a corresponding advance on all other sizes. The general opinion is that cut nails to-day, even at the advance, are lower than any other line of heavy hardware that is offered and it would not be surprising to see another advance take place in the near future. Bar iron made a new record this morning by advancing another 10c, making the base price now \$2.90 per 100 pounds. The demand for all classes of shelf and heavy hardware is simply unprecedented. Both Canadian and United States mills are unable to fill orders. Some of the mills absolutely refuse to undertake orders at present prices unless they are allowed several months time to execute them. The days of low priced hardware are apparently over for some years at least.

SCRAP.

All kinds of old material are in good demand at firm prices. We quote as follows: No. 1 cast iron, free from wrought and malleable, \$10 per ton, No. 2 do., \$4.50 per ton; No. 1 stove plate, \$3.50 to \$4 per ton; wrought iron scrap, \$3.50 to \$4 per ton, heavy copper, 8 1/2 to 9c per pound, copper bottoms, 8c per pound; red brass, 8 to 8 1/2c per pound; yellow brass, heavy, 7 1/2c per pound; light brass, 4 1/2 to 5c per pound; lead pipe or tea lead, 2c per pound; zinc scrap, 1c per pound; rags, country mixed, 50c per cwt; clean, dry bones, 30c per cwt; rubber boots and shoes free from arctics and rivets, 6c per lb. Good quart beer bottles are worth 25 to 30c per dozen; pints 10c per dozen; square glass bottles, 30 to 35c per dozen.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—The wheat markets have ruled strong during the past week, with a moderate amount of activity in trading, and there has been a gain in

prices on the week of 1-2c to 3-4c per bushel in the American speculative markets. The gain in value of actual wheat has been about double the advance in the option markets, and the stronger tendency in trading has been very pronounced. In the States, and also in Europe, this is emphasized by farmers slackening in their deliveries to market, and in the desire on the part of persons outside of the trade to buy wheat for investment, and also by the better demand from millers for wheat to grind. The sentiment created by the political situation between England and the Transvaal, is responsible to a very large extent for the strong tone in wheat, and it is in a great measure this influence which is causing the farmer to hold or market slowly, and prompts the desire in others to invest in wheat, in hope of a quick and substantial advance in values. Were the Transvaal difficulty out of the way, there is a good probability that wheat would quickly decline some cents per bushel. The visible reserve stocks are increasing week by week, and are now beginning to assume considerable proportions. The current supply of wheat as shown by the primary receipts and shipments, and the amount on ocean passage, assures consumers a provision for weeks to come, and that supply is likely to be well kept up till new crops are again ready for market. The farmers of the winter wheat country in the States are at present busy seeding for next year's crop, and they are getting the seed in under very favorable conditions. Fine rains have fallen, bringing away the early seeded fields in good shape and many of these are already green. The rains have also helped to put the ground for the later seeding in fine condition, so that there is every prospect that the acreage under winter wheat will be as large as was planted last season. In Argentina splendid rains have fallen, and crop prospects are excellent, and from Australia favorable reports come, saying that the outlook there is considered very promising. In India also, the prospect has greatly improved, there having been a general fall of from two to three inches of rain, and the weather conditions indicate further rainfall. Last week the American visible supply increased 410,000 bushels and now stands at 30,556,000 bushels against 9,368,000 bushels at same date last year. The world's visible supply increased 3,351,000 bushels on the week.

The local market has been very strong, and on some days very active, with excellent demand from shippers. The last two days, however, the demand has slackened off, and yesterday, although prices were well kept up, trading was extremely quiet. Last week 1 hard in store Fort William closed at 69 1/2c, and on Monday it was at 70c, Tuesday 70 1/2c, and on Wednesday 71c. The price has stood at 71c the last two days, although a little better than that was paid in some instances on Thursday, some trades being made at 71 1/4c and 71 3/8c, but the quantity changing hands at these figures was quite unimportant. 2 hard and 1 northern are worth 3 1/2c per bushel under 1 hard, and 3 hard and 2 northern, 8c under 1 hard. A little new 1 frosted wheat is showing up and sells at 57c in store Fort William. Old 1 and 2 hard have sold at 1c under the price of new wheat of same grades.

FLOUR—Prices are 10c higher today than a week ago. Millers put up