

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, Nov. 16, 1895.

The grain movement has kept up fairly large this week, but the amount of Manitoba wheat shipped east of our two ports is still considerably under last year to date, for the season. There has been practically no movement in other grains yet and the crop of oats and barley may be said to be unbroken. Considerable flax seed, however, has been shipped out. Two weeks more will about wind up grain shipments by the lakes, and after that grain will have to accumulate in store here, or be shipped out all rail at higher freight rates. With prices sagging in the markets the past two weeks the outlook for values is not very hopeful after the close of navigation, unless in the meantime wheat should take a spurt in outside markets. Business in general wholesale lines is fairly satisfactory, taken all around. The export live stock trade is about wound up for this season and the returns show a large increase over last year. Exports of cattle will aggregate about 45,000 head, as compared with 30,000 last year, which shows a heavy percentage of increase. The labor market is active. There is a good demand for men for the woods, to get out saw logs, cordwood, railway timber and ties, etc. The supply of men is not equal to the demand. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week, though not as large as the previous week, show an increase of 83 per cent. over the corresponding week of last year.

Business failures in Canada this week number 85, as compared with 39 last week, 83 in the week one year ago, and 85 two years ago.

Bradstreet reports the situation in the United States this week as follows: The condition of general trade is without material change. There is a distinct falling off in demand for iron and steel, with perhaps the heaviest reaction in quotations in those lines reported in any week since the late boom in those metals reached its climax. Then there is the long list of decreases in quotations for merchandise, wheat, corn, oats, pork, lard and coffee, among food products; cotton and print cloths, and lumber, at Boston, as well as various grades of iron and steel, copper, lead and weaker quotations for tin plates being lower. The converse includes an unexpected improvement in woolen goods, increased orders for manufactures, and higher prices for several qualities of goods. Leather manufacturers are curtailing outputs which tends to strengthen the market for shoes, notwithstanding that mild weather has delayed sales. At Duluth the lumber cut of 450,000,000 feet is said to be the largest on record there.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Nov. 16.

[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.—Glycerine holds firm, but cream tartar is off considerably from the top price recently attained. Cod liver oil is firm. Following prices are for small parcels, and will be shaded considerably for full package orders: Allum per pound, 8½ to 4½; alcohol, \$1.75; bleaching powder, per pound, 6 to 8c; bluestone, 4½ to 5c; blue vitrol, 5 to 8c; borax, 11 to 13c; bromide potash, 55 to 75c; camphor, 75 to 85c; camphor, ounces 80 to 90c; carbolic acid, 40 to 55c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chloride potash, 28 to 85c; citric acid, 55 to 65c; copperas 24 to 4c; cocaine, per oz., \$7.50 to \$8.00; cream

tartar, per pound, 28 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; epsom salts, 8½ to 4c; extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 12c; do., boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 80 to 40c; glycerine, per pound, 20 to 25c; ginger, Jamaica, 25 to 40c; do., African, 20 to 25c; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 85 to 45c; iodine, \$5.50 to \$6.00; insect powder, 35 to 40c; morphia sul., \$1.90 to \$2.25; Opium, \$1.50 to \$5.00; oil, olive, \$1.25 to \$1.40; oil, U. S. salad, \$1.25 to 1.10; oil, lemon, super \$2.25 to 2.75; oil, pepper-mint, \$1.00 to \$1.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.25 to 2.75 per gallon; oxalic acid, 18 to 16c; potash iodide, \$1.25 to 1.50; paris green, 17 to 18c lb; saltpetre, 10 to 12c; sal rocnello, 30 to 85c; shellac, 45 to 50c; sulphur flowers, 8½ to 5c; sulphur roll, per keg, 8½ to 5c; soda bicarb, per keg of 112 pounds, \$3.75 to \$1.25; sal soda, \$2 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55c.

CORDWOOD.—Good tamarac is held firm at \$1 per cord. We quote the following prices for car lots on track here: Tamarac \$3.75 to \$1 per cord; pine \$3.25 to \$3.50 per cord; spruce \$3 and poplar \$2.25 to \$2.50 per cord, as to quality, ash and oak, \$3.25.

DRY GOODS.—Some of the early travellers will start out the first of next week with spring samples, but spring samples are a long way from complete yet, and, except in certain lines and specialties, travellers are not ready to begin the canvass for spring orders. The situation favors the early buyers this year, as the outlook favors higher prices. The wholesale houses have large stocks bought some time ago for the spring trade, but many lines of goods, both in domestic and imported lines, could not be bought now, except at an advance of from 15 to 30 per cent., according to the class of goods. The trade is not taking advantage of this advance, but lines which have to be replenished will have to be sold at the advance. Late buyers this year are, therefore, liable to get caught on some goods. There is no doubt as to the firm position of dry goods prices. It is only necessary to look at the sharp advance in raw material, such as wools, cotton, etc., to see that goods turned out from the factories now must cost much higher than when the spring trade purchases were first made by the wholesale houses. The latest advance reported is in underwear.

FLUID BEEF, ETC.—Following are prices of the goods put up by the Johnston Fluid Beef Company of Montreal:—Johnstons Fluid Beef—No. 1, 2-oz. tins, per dozen, \$2.70; No. 2 4oz., \$1.50; No. 3, 8oz., \$7.88; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.83; No. 5, 2 lb., \$24.30. Staminal—2oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do, 4oz., \$5.10; do, 8 oz., \$7.65; do, 16oz., \$12.75. Fluid Beef Cordial—20oz. bottles, \$10. Milk Granules—In cases of 4 dozen, \$5.10. Milk Granules with Cereals—In cases of 4 dozen, \$4.25.

FISH.—British Columbia salmon 12 to 14c; B.C. halibut, 12½c; Lake Superior trout, 9c; whitefish, 6c; pickerel, 3c; sturgeon, 7c; finnan haddies, 11c; kippered goldeyes, 30c doz.; oysters. \$2 for standards and \$2.25 selects, per gallon, some brands quoted 25c higher. Cans 55 and 65c. Shell oysters, \$7.50 per barrel.

GROCERIES.—Sugars sagged off a little in price at the end of last week and refiners were offering a shade lower. Quotations were the same as we reported a week ago at the refineries, but for good sized orders refiners were shading 1-16c at 4 3-16c. Refiners quoted yellows at 3 3-16 to 3½c at the refineries. Dried fruits hold firm, particularly for currants and raisins which are very strong. A cable received yesterday said the crop of currants was exhausted in first hands and a telegram from Montreal reported that market cleaned up in both currants and raisins.

GREEN FRUITS.—Fancy varieties of early winter apples are scarce, and all good fruit is held firm. Catawba grapes are still in the market, but they are offering lower. New dried fruits are now on the way to this mar-

ket, and next week now dates and figs will be offering. Old fruit in figs and dates are offering lower. Old figs in 14-ounce boxes have been reduced to \$1 per dozen. Prices are: Lemons \$9 per box; Jamaica oranges \$6.50 per box; bananas \$3 to \$1 per bunch as to size; apples, fancy varieties, such as snows, kings, etc., \$5 per barrel, ordinary winter apples firm at \$3.75 to \$4, as to variety; Catawba grapes 65c per basket, large lots 55c per basket; Malaga grapes \$7.50 per keg; canberries \$11 per barrel; figs, 14 ounce boxes, \$1.00 per dozen; dates, 7 to 7½c a lb; sweet potatoes \$5.50 per barrel Spanish onions \$1 2½ per crate.

NUTS.—A few lines of new nuts have been in, but there has been no general supply. Some fancy paper shell almonds have been in and are selling at 23c per lb. Stocks of new walnuts, filberts and Brazil nuts will be here next week. The following varieties of new nuts from Ontario are offering: Black walnuts 8c; butternuts 9c; hickory nuts 10c.

TIN, lamb and 56 and 28 lb. ingots, per lb, 20 to 21c.

TIN PLATES.—Charcoal plates, I. C., 10 by 14, 12 by 12 and 14 by 20, per box, \$4.50 to \$4.75; I. X., same sizes, per box, \$5.75 to \$6. C., charcoal, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$8.50 to 9.00; I. X., per box, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$10.50 to 11.00.

TERNE PLATES.—I. C., 20 by 28, \$8.50 to 9.00.

IRON AND STEEL.—Bar iron, per 100 lbs. base price, \$2.50 to \$2.65, band iron, per 100 lbs., \$3.00 to \$3.15; Swedish iron, per 100 lbs., \$5.25 to 6; sleigh shoe steel, \$3.25 to 3.50; best cast tool steel, per lb, 12 to 13c; Russian sheet, per lb, 12 to 13c.

SHEET IRON.—10 to 20 gauge, \$3.00; 22 to 24 and 26 gauge, \$3.25; 28 gauge, \$3.50.

CANADA PLATES.—Garth and Blain, \$3.00 to \$3.10.

GALVANIZED IRON.—Queen's Head, 22 to 24 gauge, per lb., 5c; 26 gauge, per lb., 5½c; 28 gauge, per lb., 5½c.

IRON PIPE.—5c to per 60 cent. off list.

CHAIN.—Best proof coil, 3-16 inch, per lb. 6½ to 6¾c; ¼ inch, per lb, 6 to 6¾c; 5-16 inch, per lb., 5½ to 6c; ¾ inch, per lb., 5½ to 5¾c; 7-16 inch, per lb., 4¾ to 5c; 1 inch, per lb., 4¾ to 5c.

SHEET ZINC.—In casks, 5½c lb., broken lots, 6c.

LEAD.—Pig, per lb., 4½c.

SOLDER.—Half and half (guar) per lb, 14 to 16c.

AMMUNITION.—Cartridges—Rim fire pistol, American, discount, 35 per cent.; rim fire cartridges, Dominion, 50 per cent.; rim fire military, American, 5 per cent. advance; central fire pistol and rifle, American, 12 per cent.; central fire cartridge, Dominion, 30 per cent.; shot shells, 12 gauge, \$6 to 7.50; shot, Canadian, soft, 5½c; shot, Canadian, chilled, 6c.

AXES.—Per box, \$6.50 to 15.50.

WIRE.—Galvanized barb wire, plain twist-ed wire and staples, \$3.50 per 100 lbs.

ROPE.—Sisal, per lb., 8 to 8½c base; manilla, per lb., 11 to 11½c base; cotton, ¼ to ½ inch and larger, 16c lb.

NAILS.—Cut, per keg, base price, \$2.85 to \$3; common steel wire nails, 5 to 6 inch, \$3.50 per keg; 3 to 4 inch, \$3.80 keg; 2½ inch, \$4.09 keg; 2 inch, \$4.38 keg.

HORSE NAILS.—Pointed and finished, oval heads. List prices as follows: No. 5, \$7.50 box; No. 6, \$6.75 box; No. 7, \$5 box; No. 8, \$5.75 box; No. 9, 10 and 11, \$5.50 box. Discount off above list prices, 50 to 50 and 10 per cent.

HORSE SHOES.—Per keg, \$4.50 to \$4.75; snow pattern horse shoes, \$4.75 to \$5.