

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, Feb. 18.

The cold wave passed over the first of the week and all this week the temperature has been quite mild. As a consequence the grain movement at country points has increased somewhat and an active movement is looked for, for the balance of the winter. Travellers in dry goods, clothing, boots and shoes, etc., have now completed their work for spring business and they report their sales about equal to last year. The spring immigration movement is about beginning, a few early parties having arrived. A large number of new settlers are looked for this year. Sales of farm lands have begun to improve somewhat, though it is too early yet to look for much business in land sales. Bank clearings at Winnipeg continue larger than in previous years.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Winnipeg, Saturday, Feb. 18.

(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.

Quinine has been advanced by the manufacturers about three cents an ounce, and there is a probability of still higher prices. Camphor is stiffening in price. Cocaine, bromide and its preparations are higher. Blue vitrol and Paris green are firm in price at the advance in the east, but there is no change in the local market, bluestone still being offered here at 4 1/2-2c in barrel lots, which is much below a parity with manufacturers' prices since the recent advances.

DRY GOODS.

Quite a number of travellers have completed their trips on spring business during the past two weeks, in dry goods and clothing, and practically all the travellers are now in. The general report is, that spring orders are quite up to the business done a year ago. There are very few orders that have not been placed. Collections have not been good, though perhaps equal to expectations.

FISH.

Oysters are advanced 30c per gallon in the east, owing to the recent severe weather which prevented operations along the Atlantic coast. The advance will likely be only temporary, however. Haddies are now offering more freely. Lake trout are out of the market at present. With the Lenten season now on, a brisk trade is doing.

GROCERIES.

Business is quiet. There are a few changes in prices. Sugars are unchanged, but New Orleans molasses is quoted 3 to 5c lower. In dried fruits the only change is a decline of 1 1/2c on Sultan raisins. Japan rice is 1-8 to 1-4c lower. Granulated and standard oatmeal have declined 5c per sack. Rolled meal is unchanged at the recent decline. Several lots of meal

have been brought in from the United States recently, though it was thought that no more meal would be brought in after the new Manitoba crop came to market. The poor quality of the last Manitoba oat crop, however, has been a drawback to the home mills. Canned herring have been reduced in price. Canned tomatoes are also being sold at closer prices, the inside price being now \$2.15 per case. Tomatoes are being sold at very fine prices in the local market, T. & B. and Prince of Wales selling at practically cost, owing to a little local tiff among jobbers.

GREEN FRUITS.

Apples are scarce, stocks having been reduced very much. One house had nothing but a new shipment of Ontario spies in, and another house was reduced to Ontario Ben Davis only. Prices are firm. Shipments of lemons on the way here were held up by the recent severe weather, but with the mild weather now prevailing supplies of Messinas are expected at once. Bananas are arriving irregularly. There is no demand for seedling oranges. The prices are: California naval oranges \$5.75 to \$1.25 as to size, Mexican oranges, \$3 to \$3.25 per box; bananas, per bunch, large \$3 to \$3.50; medium, \$2.25 to \$2.50. Messina lemons nominal, California lemons, scarce at \$1.25 to 45c per box; Ontario apples Ben Davis \$1 to \$1.50; spies \$5.50 to \$6 per bbl.; Almeria grapes, nominal; frozen cranberries, \$6.00 per barrel; cranberries, unfrozen, \$5 barrel, coconuts, \$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; comb honey, \$2.15 per dozen sections; strained honey, \$1.2 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, 7 1/2-2c per pound; celery, 40c per dozen bunches.

HARDWARE AND PAINTS.

The market is very firm on almost every staple line, in sympathy with the continuous upward tendency of prices east, where there has been almost a "boom" in prices of staple lines of metals, and many advances have been made as reported in our weekly telegraphic report from Toronto and Montreal. Tin, copper and lead are all very strong commodities, as shown by the frequent advances in prices of late. This affects various manufactured lines into which these commodities largely enter. Iron is also firm. Locally barbed wire, cut and wire nails, solder, sheet zinc, bar iron and galvanized iron have been advanced. Rope is 1c lower. In paints dry red lead is up 1-4c and turpentine is 3c higher and very firm. Glass is also very firm, owing to advances by manufacturers. An advance in varnishes is expected, owing to the high price of turpentine.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

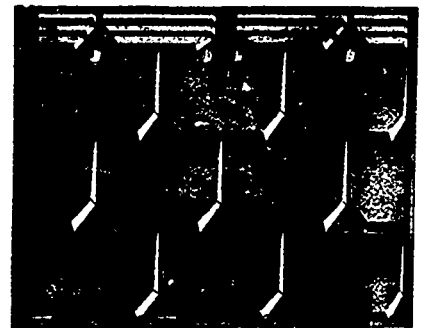
WHEAT—The wheat markets close this week at practically the same figure as last. In the interval the daily fluctuations have been of sufficient variety to excite the interest of those who follow the markets with a speculative bent, almost every day showing a range of from 1c to 1 1/2-2c in the American markets. People who have viewed the situation in a bullish

light, have had some slight ground for their anticipations, in the crop damage rumors that have circulated in reference to the winter wheat crop in several important sections in the United States. At the end of this week, however, the best information goes to show that the probability of serious damage is small, so far as can be judged at present. With snow storms and excessive cold over the eastern part of the States, the movement of merchandise has been greatly restricted during the week, in consequence of which, the clearances of wheat from the Atlantic seaboard have been very small. This may imply another increase in the American visible supply for the current week, when as a rule a decrease is in the native order of things at this time of year. Last week there was an increase of 1,176,000 bushels, against a decrease of 388,000 same week last year. At the same time the international movement of wheat (the western states having been free from storms) has been at least 50 per cent larger than for same time last year, which suggests no lack of wheat in the country. The world's shipments from exporting countries last week were 8,332,000 bushels, which quantity is considerably more than a week's requirements of importing countries. The world's visible supply increased 1,878,000 bushels, compared with a decrease last year of 500,000 bushels. The shipments from Argentina this week are reported as 1,256,000 bushels. Growing crops of winter wheat continue to be favorably reported of. The severe cold spell over the winter wheat belt of the American continent has probably done some injury, but to what extent cannot be definitely known until mild weather starts growth. At present the general estimate is that not much injury has been sustained. In Europe the weather for the most part has continued unseasonably mild, yet the wheat crops are reported all looking well. The local market is

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