

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Saturday, Nov. 15.

Business continues active throughout the west. The weather has very appearance of being settled as to winter conditions, and the cessation of field work on the part of farmers has turned attention to the marketing of grain, which goes out more extensively than ever. The railways and many country elevators appear to be about buried in wheat, and handling facilities are taxed to their utmost. Only three more weeks of navigation remain, and these are likely to be about the busiest our railways and elevators have ever had. The season still proceeds in districts where there is any to do. The weather is not yet too cold for outdoor work, and there is no let up in this. Railway construction is about over for the season, and the men are being moved to the business. Wholesale trade is quite active in the city. There is a good sorting demand for winter lines, and spring orders still come in freely. The holiday trade promises to be the largest on record. Collections are abundant, and there is much about which we hear grumbling in wholesale circles. These are not so good as they were expected to be at this time. Bank clearings at Winnipeg, while somewhat smaller than last week, are very much larger than in any previous year.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS

Winnipeg, Nov. 15.

(All quotations unless otherwise specified, are wholesale for such quantities as are usually taken by retail buyers, and are subject to the usual reductions on large quantities, and to cash discounts.)

## CURED MEATS.

Cured meats and lard are still in demand at the present prices. Hams, sugar cured, 15½ lb.; breakfast bacon, 15½ lb.; backs, 14½ lb.; spiced rolls, short, 12½ lb.; long, 13½ lb.; corned beef, 12½ lb.; corned ham, 12½ lb.; smoked long clear, 13½ lb.; corned ham, 12½ lb.; dry salt hams, 12½ lb.; Canada, 11½ lb.; 10 lb. tubs, \$6.00; 20-lb. tubs, \$2.50; 10-lb. tins in cases, 47¢; pork, 3½ lb. tins, \$7.50; 3-lb. tins, 47¢. Barrel pork heavy mess, \$7.00; ham, 8¢; Bologna, 7½¢; pickled pigs feet, in kits, 11½¢; sausage casings, 6¢.

## DRY GOODS.

The feature at present is decidedly trade in winter goods. This is decidedly good. Traders are looking good orders along all routes, and mail orders are also coming in freely. The prospects are for an active holiday trade. Values hold firm, especially in woollens, which show a tendency to advance. Collections are good, somewhat on the United States side of the line, owing to increased output of crop, but so far Canadian markets show very little disposition to follow. Collections are good with the dry goods trade.

## CLOTHING.

Clothing trade is now on a purely sorting basis. This demand is good for the season, and keeps shipping departments mostly busy. Winter lines are in most request, especially fur lines and workmen's clothing. Values hold steady.

## FISH.

There is a good demand for fish of all kinds at the market. Holds steady. We quote as follows: Whitefish, 1½¢ per lb.; pickled, 4½¢ per lb.; cod, 1½¢; salmon, 10¢; halibut, 11¢; cod, 7¢ per lb.; haddock, 7¢; mackerel, 10¢; herrings, 16¢; winter. Winter herring, per barrel, \$4.25; salt mackerel, \$1.80 per kit; Holland herring, \$1.10; Digo, pickled, 10¢ per lb.; boneless fish, 5½¢ lb.; oysters, \$2 and \$2.25 per gallon.

## FUEL.

The fuel situation displays much less tension than was the case a few weeks ago, and is not the pressure from consumers for stocks that

there was up to the time of the settlement of the Pennsylvania strike. There is, however, but very little increase in the actual amount of either coal or wood on the snap might find the market considerably short of what it needs. Pennsylvania coal is being shipped in limited quantities, and it is doubtful if the usual quantity will arrive there before the close of navigation. In the case of shortage Duluth could possibly help this market out. It is probable that the demand for coal here for this coal will not be so large as here this winter as many people have been using heating apparatus that will suit soft coal or wood. Wood should be plentiful after another snowfall.

## GREEN FRUITS.

Apples have firmed up a little and are 25¢ per barrel dearer, making the price now \$4. Grapes are about over, a few red Rogers being all that are left of the Ontario varieties. These sell at 40¢ per basket; for example: Winter apples, \$2.25 to \$4 per barrel (o.b. here); snow apples, \$5 per barrel, and for ten barrel lots, \$4.50. Oranges allowed; box apples, \$1.50 to \$1.75; Turkey grapes, \$3 per case; Malaga grapes, \$3.00 per case; lemons, \$1.10 per barrel; lemons, \$6.00 per case; bananas \$3 to \$5.00 per case. Vegetables: Spanish onions, 10¢ per bushel; 11½¢ per crate; common onions, 1¼¢ bushel; celery, at 40¢ per dozen; fanny white celery, in 1 lb. bins, \$5.50. Dried fruit: Raisins are selling at \$1.50 per box of 12 one pound crates, dates at 10¢ per lb.; Cal. apricots at 8½¢, and fancy white apricots at 10¢. Honey is worth \$1.50 per case of fancy white clover, in 1 lb. bins, \$2.40 for white clover, and \$2.50 for dark honey in case lots; and 12¢ per pound of several kinds in 40-lb. tins. Select oysters are quoted at \$2.25 per gallon. New Ontario apple cider, per gallon, 35¢.

## GROCERIES.

Since our last issue canned corn has advanced 10¢. The market is still, although local prices are unchanged at from \$2 to \$2.10. It is doubtful if a further advance will be made, as low as the latter figure, and is now down at the factory is confidently expected to be some more long. There are apparently none left in the land and apparently packers have none to offer. Tomatoes are still quoted at \$3.75 and \$4.00 per bushel of several brands, cases having been bought in the United States side for this market. As the duty about 10¢ per bushel, they will not have the effect of reducing prices. Figures quoted here for limited quantities are now \$2.75, but apparently wholesalers have very few to offer even at this price. New figs are now in and prices are given in our list. New table raisins are not in yet. Dates are somewhat higher, and new Hawaiian raisins have arrived and prices are unchanged from old figures. Valencia raisins have been offered. Dried apples, which have been quoted at 7½¢ to 8¢, are lower, and good old stock is now being bought at 4½¢ to 5¢. No new ones have arrived, and prices are higher and choice are now quoted at 10½¢, 10½¢, and standards, 9½¢ to 10¢. The market for walnuts is a steady outward movement of goods, especially for the Christmas trade. Other lines at Winnipeg are given on another page.

## HARDWARE.

The feature of the hardware market is a drop of 1½¢ in price to 15¢ per pound here. Sisal is quoted at 13¢. Other lines are unchanged. There is a steady outward movement of goods, especially for the Christmas trade. Other lines at Winnipeg are given on another page.

## IMPLEMENTS.

About the most interesting feature of this trade is collections. Money is not coming as freely as it was expected to, and there is some grumbling on the part of managers here.

Country agents are being instructed to handle the trucks as well as the trucks will, perhaps have the best effect. In the meantime there is disappointment.

## LUMBER.

Trade has slackened off considerably and it is regarded as a significant feature that many agents are beginning to limit their orders. They have not yet to any extent for some months. This would indicate that they have been buying in large orders and are ready for more. There is some talk in local circles of a drop in prices but no actual reduction has yet been made.

## PAINTS, OILS AND GLASS.

Turpentine is 4¢ per gallon higher here, making the price 81¢ for barrel (Lansell oil is unchanged). Coal oil has advanced ½¢ all around. Makers of brushes have withdrawn their quotations and an advance is expected. Business is fairly good. Prices will be found on another page.

## GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT — General situation. — Wheat has held firm this week and the grain trade has been active, but without any exciting feature. The markets, while firm, have been gradually improving. There have been gradual prices showing a gain at the close of yesterday of ½¢ to 1¢, depending on the variety. Receipts in United States primary markets, which have been heavy of late, have been smaller this week. There has also been a sharp decline in exports from American ports. Crop reports from Argentina and the United States are favorable. Australian reports are not good, and from the winter wheat districts of Europe they are only fair. The Russian crop, which is always a difficult one to estimate, owing to unreliable reports, is now estimated at fifty to sixty million bushels greater than last year. The American visible supply increased last week 2,888,000 bushels, against an increase the previous week of 2,282,000 bushels, and an increase last year of 767,000 bushels. The total shipments were 10,855,000 bushels, against 13,123,000 bushels the week previous and 5,000,000 bushels last year. The world's visible supply, according to British streets, increased 3,510,000 bushels against an increase the previous week of 2,899,000 bushels, and an increase last year of 3,084,000 bushels.

Wheat—Local situation.—The most important feature of the wheat situation this week is the advance in wheat prices of 6 cents per bushel to 20¢. This advance is due to the fact that the Canadian Northern Railway points in Manitoba, which went into effect on Tuesday last. The reason given for this advance is alleged to be that the Canadian Northern Railway Company had given the grain dealers assurance that the wheat would be moved out through the route of navigation. The Canadian Northern Railway has been short of cars for some time, and a number of points on that company's lines have been blocked for some time. The Canadian Northern Company is said to have arranged for a sufficient supply of cars to relieve the situation. The grain before the close of navigation. Grain that can be got out before the close of navigation is worth more than that which will have to be held over. The freight rate is 2 cents lower than that from Canadian Pacific points, but previously the farmer did not get much advantage of this. It is understood, however, that it is understood, has arranged for cars from the Northern Pacific and Great Northern. Grain loaded into these cars will probably go to Duluth. The situation has not been very promising regarding the movement of grain. With the advent of colder weather, and the consequent closing of shipping and other work at the farm, a large increase in wheat deliveries is expected, with the possibility of a serious blockade resulting. The situation is becoming uncertain at country points for some weeks, and the railways recently have not been handling as much grain as has been expected of them. A large increase in deliveries, would, therefore, be a relief to the situation, unless a much larger movement by rail can be made. Stocks at Fort William also continue to accumulate,

the shipments by water being less than receipts at that port. If navigation is closed, it is possible these stocks at lake ports there would be a complete blockade soon after the close of navigation. It is possible these stocks will be greatly reduced before the close of navigation. Manitoba wheat has been in demand here, and yesterday the market became quite strong. Prices at close of last week were 11½¢ for the best northern spot or delivery first half November. These prices were advanced 1½¢ to 2½¢ to 3½¢. It is reported that about that until Thursday afternoon when 7½¢ was paid for 1 hard and 7½¢ for 2½ hard, or delivery up to 22nd inst. Yesterday a further advance of ¼¢ took place early and in the forenoon 7½¢ hard became the price and held high at that all day. This price and the highest figure reached this week were: 1 hard, 11½¢; 2½ hard, 7½¢; 2 northern, 10¢; 3 northern, 10¢; No. 4, 10¢; all in store, 8½¢. Flour for Fort Arthur or Fort William sold at same price as Fort William for the high grades, but the low grades have been in demand. Little business is being attempted in December delivery. There are sellers of 70,000 bushels of wheat, 100,000 bushels at over 60¢ in store at lake ports.

FLOUR—Best Hungarian Patent is selling at 11½¢; best 11½¢; 11½¢, delivered to the trade; Glenora patent, 11½¢; Strong Bakers, 11½¢; and XXX, 11½¢.

MILLED FEED—Prices have advanced for both bran and shorts. Bran is selling at 11½¢ in sacks and shorts at 8½¢ per ton.

GROUND FEED—Prices are steady about 11½¢. There is a demand for \$19.50 per ton, delivered to the trade; barley chop, \$16.50; mixed barley and shorts, \$12.00; screenings, 11¢; oil cake, 12¢ per ton.

ROLLED OATS—The market is steady, and we quote now 11½¢ per sack of 80-lbs. for best brands. Standard rolled oats in bulk is worth \$2.50 per sack of 108-lbs.

WINTER WHEAT—Farmers' deliveries are very light this week, although the country roads are not in very bad shape for hauling. A heavy frost is expected to be coming and then deliveries would be freer. Probably the railway companies will be able to get a large amount of wheat to the market. It is pleased to have the roads bad as they are unable to take care of all the wheat being offered. The market has improved as compared with a week ago and the average price to farmers is about 10¢ higher. The action of the grain trade in advancing prices at Canadian Northern points over those of the corresponding Canadian Pacific points is creating a disparity in prices to farmers. At C. P. R. 16¢ freight rate points the ruling price is best wheat in 65 to 66¢ per bushel, while at similar C. N. R. points the price is 50 to 60¢ per bushel for farmers' loads.

OATS—Car shortage is interfering with trade to a considerable extent. The local market is very quiet, fairly well and a few cars are moving, but the shipping trade is largely held up. The farmer as compared with a week ago is worth 2½¢ per bushel, and 2½¢ higher. On track here No. 2 white oats are worth 25½¢ per bushel, and about 25½¢ is the price to farmers. At country points the price is 25¢ per bushel, and at central points. On the street here 25¢ is being offered to farmers.

BARLEY—There is no movement in barley, and the business is at a standstill on account. Maltine is 20¢ per bushel, and 25¢ per bushel on track, Winnipeg, and feed grades are 15¢.

FLAXSEED—Receipts are moderate, and the market steady at \$1.00 per bushel for car lots at country points.

SPELTZ—The market holds steady at 30¢ per bushel of 20 pounds, delivered here.

HAY—The market is easier at a decline of 10¢ to 11¢. There has been and is yet holding out supplies, but street deliveries are improving, and as the weather is not so bad of hay in sight, the market is easier. Dealers are paying \$0 to \$0.50 per ton for carrying on the street. The price is worth about \$5 to \$6.

VEGETABLES—There has been some movement of potatoes to ship east, and if cars could be had there would be more of