

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Friday, June 30.

Owing to the holiday to-morrow, we close our report this week one day earlier than usual, and the week is consequently a short one, though the volume of business has been up to the average. Reports from the country regarding the crops are generally favorable. From some sections we have heard complaints of too much rain, but with a few exceptions of this nature the reports are good. There has certainly been abundance of rain and the weather has been warm and forcing, so that the crops should be making great headway. Some "tall wheat" stories are already coming to hand. A few farmers, as previously noted, sowed damp seed, which would not germinate and they have been obliged to re-seed the land or go without a crop entirely. If the former, their crops will of course be very late. With all the warnings sent out, it seems strange that even a few were caught in this way. There are some who will not take advice, but they will get the experience at any rate.

Business in the city is seasonably active. The lumber trade and building supplies particularly so. Prices are firm. Several staple lines of goods are being sold here at less than present cost to lay down, which indicates further advances in the future. A permanent era of higher prices seems to have set in, in metals, textiles, etc., and the outlook seems to indicate a strong market for some time in the future. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week show a large volume, compared with previous years.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Winnipeg, Friday, June 30.

(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.)

FOOTS AND SHOES.

The month of June has now closed and boot and shoe jobbers are reviewing the trade and sizing up the prospects for the future. This is evidently going to be a prosperous year in this as well as every other line of trade. Sales are averaging larger right along week after week. Letter orders are more numerous and travellers' sales have also been larger. The only disturbing element is the unsettled state of the trade in rubbers. Prices have not been so firmly held as some have wished and reports of cutting are frequently made. Competition in this branch is very keen and prices now being quoted by manufacturers are close owing to the high price of raw material.

DRY GOODS, ETC.

Steady expansion is the noticeable feature of the dry goods market. The month just closed has been an active one in every way and there is every prospect of this continuing throughout the season. Retailers have ordered

freely for the fall trade, which shows that confidence is felt in regard to this future. Those who have not yet placed their orders take considerable risk of having to pay higher prices as the whole feeling of the market at present is in the direction of higher prices. Reference to a news item in another column from an eastern exchange on the cotton situation will show that this line is very firm in price. Wholesalers buying for the fall trade have had to pay much higher prices this year for most lines than heretofore.

DRUGS.

Locally the drug market is unchanged. Trading is fairly active and the feeling of the market is one of buoyancy. Mail advices from the east indicate that nitrate of soda is in short supply and likely to advance. Sal soda is firm. Tin crystals are higher at Montreal. Castor oil is showing a firmer tone in primary markets. As noted in these columns a short time ago, citric acid is higher east and may go still higher. Camphor has advanced slightly, but as the heavy demand is now about over, this does not mean so much to the trade as it would earlier in the year. A recent review of the English chemical market gives the following interesting information: "Saltcake for the moment is more plentiful and buyers of bulky parcels for prompt delivery can secure concessions. Soda crystals are dearer, as stocks are low and crystallization slower. Chlorate of soda is advancing. Prussiates of soda and potash seem to have touched the maximum for the present, and there is less pressure for supplies. Sulphate of ammonia continues scarce and strong. Tar products are in a most unsatisfactory position, some of the principal articles are at unprecedented figures. Chlorate of potash begins to experience the effects of continued enforced decrease of production. Sulphate of copper has for the moment fell about £1 per ton. Sugars of lead are neglected and prices are nominal. Arsenic is again quoted higher but orders are very scarce."

GREEN FRUITS.

The first straight car of California fruit is expected to arrive here Monday. Washington cherries are now coming forward by express. Hood River strawberry is out of the market. Wisconsin berries are expected in next week. Bananas have been scarce and hard to get this week on account of the demand in the United States for 4th of July trade. Oranges are about out of the market. A few St. Michael's and late Valencias are still to be had at prices quoted below. The expected advance in lemons has not yet materialized, and we quote same prices as last week. Quotations are as follows: St. Michael's, \$5.50 to \$6.00; late Valencias, \$5.50 to \$6; bananas per bunch, \$2.00 to \$2.50 as to size and quantity; Messina lemons, fancy November cuts, long-keeping stock, \$4 to \$5 per case and 5-case lots 25c less; pineapples, \$2.50 per dozen according to size; strawberries per case of 16 boxes, \$2; cherries, \$2 per box; California peaches, \$1.50 per case, plums \$2.75 to \$3; apricots \$2.75 to \$3 per case; watermelons, \$4.50 to \$5 per doz.; coconuts, per doz., 80c; Sicily filberts, large, 12c per lb.; Grenoble walnuts, 14c; new shelled walnuts, 25c; Tarragona almonds, 15c; peanuts, green, 9 to \$1.2c; roasted, 12c; pecan nuts, 12c per lb.; comb honey, \$2 per dozen sections; strained honey, 8 1-2 per pound; orange marmalade in 7 lb. pails, 60c; maple sugar,

11 to 13c; maple syrup in gallon cans, \$1.25; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels; fruit cider, put up in 10, 20 and 30 gallon kegs, per gallon, 40c; California figs, fancy Smyrna, glove boxes per dozen, \$2.50; dates 7c per pound; native lettuce, radish, water cress, etc., per dozen bunches, 35c; Minnesota cabbage 31.2c per pound; pieplant per lb. 1c; onions, 23.4c per pound; cucumbers 90c per dozen; tomatoes, 4-basket crates, \$2.

GROCERIES.

The situation as regards grocery prices here remains almost unchanged. Canned meats are easier and prices of potted ham and tongue have declined from 75c to 65 to 70c for 1.40 and from \$1.50 to \$1.30 to \$1.40 for 1-2s. Rolled oatmeal has advanced 10c per sack and is now quoted at \$1.95 to \$2.00. Japan rice is 7-8c lower than last week at 43-8 to 43-4c. Other lines remain unchanged. Jobbers report a very unsatisfactory state of affairs as regards canned goods. The newly formed association of eastern canners has fixed the prices for this year's pack in rather an arbitrary manner which prices jobbers are not willing to pay, as they feel that there is a possibility of the combine not holding out and in the event of it not doing so the present scale of prices might be materially reduced. Until a feeling of certainty prevades the market there will not be much buying on western account. Dried apples continue very scarce and firm. New pick Japan teas are now in the market and show much better quality than in other years. New apricots are offering at a price which would permit of their being sold here at 16c. Domestic canned goods are being offered by packers at from 20 to 50c higher than last season's opening prices. Owing to the high price of metals, the tin cans used by packers will cost them 5 to 8c more per case than formerly.

HARDWARE AND PAINTS.

The hardware trade remains steady and displays no remarkable features. Prices continue to advance, each week bringing advances in one or more lines. This week tin plate has shown further strength, the inside price on each size being stricken out of the list. Terno plates are also higher at \$9.50 instead of \$9.00 as heretofore. The discounts on carriage bolts have been reduced 21-2 per cent which is an advance to that extent in the price. Wire nails have been advanced 15c per cwt. on all sizes in sympathy with recent advances in other markets as noted last week. Rope has advanced 1-2c on sisal and 1c on manila. Wire screen cloth has been advanced 25c per 100 square feet and is now quoted at \$1.90. The paint and oil market is sharing in the general activity of the present season. There have been no changes in prices this week, but everything seems to point to higher prices for window glass. Quotations for glass at Montreal and in both England and Belgium continue very firm, and as a matter of fact glass cannot be obtained from producing countries for early delivery at any price. One prominent Montreal importing concern stated recently that not a single shipment had been received at their warehouses from the producers this season, notwithstanding the fact that orders had been placed in good time for their requirements. The principal difficulty in Belgium