

THE SITUATION.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, January 6.

The dullest season of the year is now being passed through. In about all lines quietness is the prevailing feature in January and February, so far as now business is concerned, though in dry goods, boots and shoes, clothing, etc., spring stocks are being sent out to customers to fill orders taken previously. Up to date, little or no shipping of stocks has been done, and there will probably be some tendency to hold later than usual. Indeed, it is questionable if it is any advantage to the retailers to have their spring stocks in so early in the season. As soon as wholesalers have the goods in stock to make up orders, they are of course anxious to get them out of the way as quickly as possible. This year there is the tariff question which is an important factor, and which will naturally lead both importers and dealers in domestic manufacturers, as well as retailers, to exercise caution in stocking up, as there may be changes in a number of lines which will tend to reduce prices. Of course at this season of the year, orders have been mostly placed some time ago, but the prudent course would appear to be to place as few additional orders as possible until after the tariff changes are known.

In the United States general commercial reports are unsatisfactory. Prices of staples are depressed, consumption is curtailed and factories are closed or running on short time.

Winnipeg Markets.

[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.]

There have been very few changes in prices. In paints, oils, glass, hardware and metals, drugs and chemicals and leather, there had been no changes in prices, and quotations given in our last issue stand unchanged.

RAW FURS.—Interest is now looking forward to the London sales, which, however, do not appear to give promise of high prices. The year 1893 has been a very poor one in the fur trade in England, and the United States has been no better. Bear, mink, fox and musquash have not done well, though a good deal was expected of mink at the beginning of the season. Marten and skunk have been more favored. It is said that the collection of furs in most districts will be large this season, though the district tributary to Winnipeg in the early part of the season appears to be an exception. Furs from the more remote districts, which are shipped here, do not arrive until spring or summer, and it is impossible to say what the result will be. Lynx and foxes are said to be numerous this season in Western Alberta. Quotations below will about cover the range of prices now paid in Winnipeg. The value of a skin varies as to size, color and condition of fur. The top price is for large skins, of prime quality. Occasionally an extra large, fine skin is received which will bring even more than the top quotation:—

Badger, per skin	\$ 05 to \$ 80
Bear, black	50 to 25 00
Bear, brown	50 to 25 00
Bear, grizzly	1 00 to 16 00
Beaver	2 00 to 7 00
Beaver castors, per pound	2 50 to 4 00
Ermiones, per skin	01 to 02
Fisher	50 to 7 00
Fox, cross	75 to 6 00
Fox, kit	10 to .45
Fox, red .....	.25 to 1.50
Fox, silver	5.00 to 70.00
Lynx .....	.25 to 3.50
Marten .....	.75 to 2.50
Mink .....	.25 to 1.60
Musquash .....	.02 to .10
Otter	1.50 to 10.00

Raccoon .....	.50 to .85
Skunk .....	.05 to .60
Timber wolf .....	.25 to 3.00
Prairie wolf, large .....	.25 to .75
" small .....	.25 to .55
Wolverine .....	.50 to 3.50

DRY GOODS.—No shipping business of spring stocks to amount to anything has been done yet, and wholesale houses have not received their full stocks from which to make up large orders, but stocks are coming to hand. Some lines of domestics are not coming to hand as fast as is desired. It is said that the Canadian colored cotton company will not pay a dividend this year, owing to the great fall in the price of its shares. During the beginning of the present year, shares were selling as high as 115, whereas now they are quoted at 45c. The last year in the United States in textiles has been an unfortunate one. Print cloths at Fall River opened the year at 4c, but declined in the summer to 2 3/4c, and closed the year at 3c, with the industry depressed and many of the mills closed. In woolens the mills have suffered severely from cancellation of orders, and immense quantities of goods have been thrown back on their hands, causing a general closing of mills. The spring trade orders are said to be only about 30 per cent. of full business expectations. The tariff situation is no doubt the cause very largely of light spring orders, as the general disposition is to wait till congress has decided the issue.

DRUGS.—There is considerable business doing in small parcel orders, but not much in the way of heavy stocking up. Stock taking is going on in the wholesale houses. Following prices are for parcels, and will be shaded for full package orders:—Alum, per pound, 3 1/2 to 4 1/2 etc., alcohol, \$4.75; bleaching powder, per pound, 6 to 8c; 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 65c; castor oil, 1 1/2 to 15c; chlorate potash, 28 to 35c; citric acid, 60 to 75c; copperas, 3 1/2 to 4c; cocaine, per oz, \$8.50 to \$9.00; cream tartar, per pound, 28 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; epsom salts, 3 1/2 to 4c; extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 18c; do., boxes, 18 to 30c; German quinine, 30 to 40c; glycerin, per pound, 20 to 25c; ginger, Jamaica, 25 to 40c; do., African, 20 to 25c; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 50 to 60c; iodine, \$5.50 to 6.00; insect powder, 35 to 40c; morphia sul, \$1 90 to 2 25; Opium, \$4.50 to 5.00; oil, olive, \$1.25 to 1.40; oil, U. S. salad, \$1.25 to 1.40; oil, lemon, super, \$2.75 to 3.30; oil, peppermint, \$3.75 to 4.25; oxalic acid, 13 to 16c; potash iodide, \$4.25 to 4 50; saltpetre, 10 to 12c; sal rochele, 20 to 35c; shellac, 50 to 55c; sulphur flowers, 3 1/2 to 5c; sulphur roll, per keg, 3 1/2 to 5c; soda bicarb, per keg of 112 lbs, \$3.75 to 4 25; sal soda, \$2.00 to 3.00; tartaric acid, per lb, 45 to 55c.

LEATHER.—Trade is quiet in this branch as usual at this time of year and there has been no further change in prices. Quotations are:—Spanish sole, best No. 1, per lb, 28 to 30c; Spanish sole, No. 1, per lb, 26 to 28c; Spanish sole, No. 2, 24c; slaughter sole, heavy, 30c, slaughter sole, light, 27c; harness, heavy, best, 28 to 30c; harness, light, best, 28 to 30c; harness, No. 1, 26 to 28c; upper, heavy, best, 35 to 45c; upper, light, 50; kip skins, French, \$1 to 1.10; kip skins, domestic, 75 to 85c; calf skins, French, premier choice, \$1.25 to 1.50; calf skins, domestic, 75 to 85c; splits, senior, 25 to 35c; splits, junior, 30; cowhide, 35 to 45c; cordovan, per foot, 17 to 21c; pebble, cow, 17 to 21c; buff, 17 to 21c; russets, saddlers, per doz., \$12.50; linings, colored, per foot, 12c.

FISH.—Fresh Lake Winnipeg fish, including pike, perch, mullet, etc., are offering abundantly at 2 to 3c per pound and pickerel at 4c and sturgeon at 5c lb; White fish, 6 to 6 1/2c; Lake Superior trout, 9 to 10c per lb, and lake herrings 30c per doz.; B.C. salmon 15c; B. C. herring 12 1/2c; halibut, 14 to 15c; smelts, 12 1/2c; haddock, 11c; cod, 11c per lb. Smoked finnan haddies are quoted at 9c and smoked salmon at 12 1/2c per lb. Pickled salmon, 9

to 10c lb; salt herrings, \$4.50 per 1/2 barrel. Oysters, \$1.00 for standards up to \$2.25 for ordinary selects. Shell oysters, \$7 per barrel.

GROCERIES.—Coffee are very firm, partly owing to the troubles in Brazil. Sugars are weak. Prices at New York declined again, and are 1/2 to 3/4 lower in refined. Canadian refiners were quoting 4 1/2c for granulated and 3 1/2 to 3 3/4c for date up to 1/2 for best bright.

FLUID BEEF, ETC.—Following are prices of the goods put up by the Johnston Fluid Beef Company of Montreal:—Johnston's Fluid Beef—No. 1, 2-oz. tins, per dozen, \$2.70; No. 2, 4 oz., \$4 50; No. 3, 8-oz., \$7.88; No. 4, 1-lb., \$12 83; No. 5, 2-lb., \$24.30. Staminol—2 oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do, 4 oz., \$5.10; do, 8 oz., \$7.05; do, 16-oz., \$12.75. Fluid Beef Cordial—20-oz. bottles, \$10. Milk Granules—In cases of 4 dozen, \$5.10. Milk Granules with Cereals—In cases of 4 dozen, \$4.25.

CANNED MEATS:—

Corned Beef	1 lb tins, per case of 1 dozen	\$ 65
Roast Beef	" " " 1 "	2 90
Brawn	" " " 1 "	2 65
Pigs Feet	" " " 1 "	2 00
Lunch Tongue	" " " 1 "	7 00
" " "	" " " 2 "	7 60
Ox Tongue	" " " 1 "	7 50
Chipped Dried Beef	" " " 2 "	5 00
Compressed Ham	" " " 2 "	6 60

WOOD FUEL.—Cordwood is offering largely, though good tamarac is not so plentiful, the nearest tamarac districts being culled over. There is plenty of jack pine and spruce, which is offering at \$3.75 to \$4 per cord, car lots on track, as to quality, a good deal being of rather inferior quality. Some of this contains a small percentage of tamarac, but usually very small. Dealers will talk about their wood being mixed tamarac, but the quantity of tamarac may not be more than 5 per cent. A few sticks of tamarac are put in, just to admit of the claim that the wood is a mixture of tamarac. Good tamarac is worth \$1.50 on track here per cord. There is a little birch, but scarce, at about the same price. Oak is offering at a wide range, from \$3.30 to 4.25, with much variation in quality. Poplar, \$2.25 to 2.75, the lower price for very poor stuff, on cars here.

COAL.—City dealers are feeling the effects of the increased number in the trade. Business now being divided up among more dealers than formerly. Prices are not changed from last week, and are quoted at \$10.50 for Pennsylvania anthracite, \$9 for western anthracite and \$8.00 per ton for Lethbridge bituminous. These are retail prices, delivered to consumers in the city. Souris coal sells at \$4.25 retail and \$3.75 on track for the Estevan mines. Roche Perce mine Souris coal is quoted 25c higher per ton than from the Estevan mines, or \$4.50 to consumers and \$4 on track. At the mines Souris coal is quoted at \$1.50 per ton f.o.b. cars.

GREEN FRUITS.—Now that the holiday trade is over, business has settled down to the usual winter quiet, and there is no change to speak of. Apples are firm. They are nominally quoted at \$5 to 6 per barrel, but they are being sold mostly at about \$5. Very high prices are being realized in eastern Canada for apples for export, good fruit being held at \$4 and upward per barrel. Florida oranges are easy. At an auction sale in Montreal last week they sold at \$2.75 to 2.77 1/2 per box. Lemons continue firm. Prices here are: Apples, \$5.00 to \$6.00 per barrel. Florida oranges, \$4.00 to 4.50 per box; lemons, new Messina, \$6 to 6.50; California winter Nellis pears, \$4.00 to \$4.50 per box. Cranberries are quoted at \$7.50 to \$8.00 per bbl. New Malaga grapes at \$8.00 to \$8.50 per keg. Sweet potatoes, \$5.50 \$6.00 per barrel. Honey, strained, 12c per lb.

DRIED FRUITS.—Prices are: New golden dates 10c lb. Dried apples, 7 to 7 1/2c; evaporated, 11 to 11 1/2c. Valencia raisins, \$1.80 to \$1.90 per box; currants, 5 1/2 to 6c; prunes, 7 1/2 to 8 1/2c; dates, old, 7 to 8c. California fruits—prunes, 11 to 12c; apricots, 16 to 18c; peaches, 24 to 27c. New layer figs