

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, June 2.

The month of May just closed has recorded a considerable falling off in business as compared with the same month last year. Hours which held their own for the earlier months of the year, report a falling off for May. A considerable trade in small orders, however is looked for, as merchants generally stocked up very lightly this spring. The weather has been warm and dry this week, and very warm the latter half of the week. While crops are reported upon favorably, the need of rain is daily becoming more urgent. Wheat in the west is ten inches high in some cases. The upland hay crop prospect is poor. There were some showers last week in the west, but not at all general, and none in the principal wheat districts. The cold, heavy rains of a short time ago in the far west are said to have caused the loss of considerable young stock on the exposed ranges. Railway communication with the Coast has been interrupted by the terrible floods in British Columbia, where it is said the loss will be about \$3,000,000. The lower Fraser river valley is affected by the floods the most severely, many farm buildings and live stock have been swept away. There is considerable building in Winnipeg, mostly private residences, which improves trade in certain lines, so that the situation is not altogether depressed.

Winnipeg Markets.

[All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are whole sale for such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reduction on large quantities and to cash discounts.]

NUTS Soft shelled almonds are quoted at 16 to 18c, walnuts, 14 to 16c, peanuts roasted, 14 to 15c, filberts, 12 to 15c, pecans, 16 to 17c. Brazils, 14 to 15c. Figs, 14 to 18c; dates, 10c.

CANNED MEATS:—

Corned Beef	1 lb tins, per case of 1 dozen	\$2 65
Roast Beef	1 " " " 1 " "	2 75
Brawn	1 " " " 1 " "	2 65
Pigs Feet	2 " " " 1 " "	2 25
Lunch Tongue	2 " " " 1 " "	7 65
Ox Tongue	1 " " " 2 " "	7 80
Chipped Dried Beef	1 " " " 2 " "	6 70
Compressed Ham	1 " " " 2 " "	6 50

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. Staminal—2 oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do, 4-oz., \$5.10; do, 8-oz., \$7.65; 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.

GREEN FRUITS—Strawberries have been more plentiful, but prices have not been materially reduced. For choice fruit \$5 has been asked, while large buyers have been able to secure a reduction of 15 or 20c per box. Bananas continue quite scarce. Those received are very fine, large bunches and have brought a good price. California cherries are being received. The cheaper grades of California oranges are about done. A few seedlings were going at \$3.75, but \$4 to \$4.50 was wanted for good fruit of the better qualities. No tomatoes in this week. Prices are: California oranges, \$4 to 4.50; Lemons, new Messinas, \$3.25 to 4.50. Bananas, \$2.75 to \$3.50 per bunch. Pineapples, \$2.50 to \$3.00 per dozen. Strawberries, \$5.00 per case of 24 boxes. California cherries, \$2.25 to \$2.50. Pie plant, 2 to 3c per pound, California comb honey, \$3.50 per case of 48 sections. New maple sugar, 12 to 13c per pound in 1-lb. cakes. Maple syrup, 75c to \$1 per gallon in wood, and \$1 to 1.25 in tins, as to quality.

RAW FURS—Following are the dates fixed for the June fur sales at London. C. M. Lavapson & Co. will hold sales as follows: June 4, 5, 6,

7, 8. After the June sales there will be no important sales until October, on the following dates October 22, 23, 24, 25, 26. Quotations below will about cover the range of prices 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 \$ 60
Beaver, black	50 to 20 00
Beaver, brown	50 to 20 00
Beaver, grizzly	1 00 to 16 00
Beaver	2 00 to 7 00
Beaver castors, per pound	2 50 to 5 00
Ermings, per skin	01 to 02
Fisher	50 to 7 00
Fox, cross	75 to 6 00
Fox, kit	10 to 00
Fox, red	25 to 1 50
Fox, silver	5 00 to 70 00
Lynx	25 to 3 00
Marten	75 to 2 50
Mink	25 to 1 50
Musquash	02 to 10
Otter	1 50 to 9 00
Raccoon	50 to 35
Skunk	05 to 50
Timber wolf	25 to 3 00
Prairie wolf, large	25 to 75
" small	25 to 55
Wolverine	50 to 3 50

WOOL—The wool markets in the States are not improving, and prices are low and with no prospects of an early improvement, either here or in the States, as the mills are buying very cautiously and stocks are large, there being a large quantity of last year's clip still held in this country. The fact is, last years clip was bought on a speculative basis, and was bought too high. Dealers were counting on the early removal of the duty on wool going into the United States, and expected that would give them a better market, hence they were eager buyers a year ago. The duty in the States still remains, and the price of wool in that country has fallen so low that even if the duty were now removed it would not help prices here. Local dealers quote 7 to 9c for unwashed Manitoba fleece and up to 10c for pure down wools, about 9½c is said to have been paid for mixed quality. Bradstreet's last report on wools in the United States says: "Demand continues slow, with sales ruling smaller for all kinds of wool. The arrivals of new wools are increasing and the market is generally weaker, with prices of most kinds lower under the pressure to sell. Fine fleece sales have been made at lower prices. No. 1 clothing fleeces are 1c lower to sell, with combing fleeces nominally unchanged. Territory wools are dull and values are lower all along the line. The market for one quarter and three-eighths blood wools is low on spot, with values quoted down fully 2c on lots to arrive. Manufacturers are only meeting pressing needs. Carpet wools are dull."

TEXTILES—United States cottons are said to be coming into Canada at eastern points. These importations are not a matter of duty so much as owing to the depression in the States. The goods are evidently being slaughtered to raise the wind, and probably are sold at a loss. Prices of cotton are said to be easy in consequence at the Canadian mills, and the possibility of further concessions have been talked of. At the recent annual meeting of the Canadian Colored Cotton Company the report was not as satisfactory as expected, the financial statement showing net profits of \$201,559.56, which after paying interest on bonds and dividends left \$1,700 to the good. It is said considerable dissatisfaction was manifested on the part of the shareholders at the expenses of the management, which amounted to \$44,390, and also the large commissions paid the selling agents, amounting to \$61,000. The output of the company for the year was about \$2,050,000, showing a falling off of about \$1,000,000. The capital of the company

is \$2,700,000, and the bonds \$2,000,000. Work was resumed on Monday at the Jt. John (New Brunswick) cotton mills, the employees accepting a reduction of wages. The New Brunswick mills, St John, were reported ready to start on Thursday if the operatives desire to work at reduced wages. The St. Croix cotton mills, at Stephen, New Brunswick, have since last August been running only about thirty five hours per week, and the operatives have not much more than made their board. Last week they were notified of a general cut-down in wages or else the mill would be closed down during the summer. The operatives have declined to accept the cut and the mill is closed. In the local situation here trade is quiet, May having been a very quiet month. Houses which held their own during the previous months this year, show a falling off for May as compared with a year ago. In clothing a good many small mail orders have been received this week, which indicate that stocks are being broken, but orders are only being given for urgent requirements. As country merchants stocked up very lightly last spring, stocks must be well reduced now. Some errors were made in the last report of tariff changes in dry goods. For instance it was said that a specific duty of 10c per pair had been made on socks, whereas it should have read 10c per dozen pair. The clothing duty is 5c per pound and 30 per cent. Instead of 5c and 25 per cent. as reported. Following are the corrected changes: Socks and stockings of all kinds, n.e.s., 10 cents per dozen pair and 35 per cent. Two ply and three ply ingrain carpets, of which the warp is composed wholly of cotton or other material than wool, worsted, the hair of the Alpaca goat or other like animal, 3 cents per square yard and 25 per cent. Treble ingrain three ply and two ply carpets composed wholly of wool, 5 cents per square yard and 25 per cent. Manufactures composed wholly or in part of wool, worsted, the hair of the Alpaca goat or other like animal, viz., blankets and flannel of every description, cloths, do-cloths, cassimeres, tweeds, coatings, overcoatings and felt cloth, n.e.s., 5 cents per pound and 25 per cent. All fabrics composed wholly or in part of wool, worsted, the hair of the Alpaca goat or any other like animal, n.e.s., 30 per cent. Clothing ready-made and wearing apparel of every description, composed wholly or in part of wool, worsted, the hair of the Alpaca goat or other animal n.o.p., 5 cents per pound and 30 per cent. Shirts, n.e.s., 35 per cent. Window shades, in the piece or cut and hemmed, 35 per cent., but no less than 5 cents per square yard. Enamelled floor, stair, shelf and table oilcloth, cork matting or carpet and linoleum, 30 per cent., but not less than 4 cents per square yard. Yarns, composed wholly or in part of wool, worsted, the hair of the Alpaca goat or other like animals, costing 20 cents per pound and under, 5 cents per pound and 20 per cent. ad valorem.

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.

WOOD—There is very little business in car lots. Tamarac is held at \$4.50 to \$4.75 per cord on track here in car lots as to quality. Oak about \$4, mixed pine, spruce, etc., can be had at \$3.50 to \$3.75. Poplar has sold at from \$2.50 to \$3.00 on track as to quality, green oak poplar brings the top price.