

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, Sept. 10.

Business with the jobbers has been very fair for the season. Fall shipments are mostly made and sorting trade is beginning in some lines. Hardware, paints and building material are in fair demand. In the city a large number of buildings are being pushed forward to have them completed or closed in before winter. The recent wet weather has caused some apprehension as regards the crops, but the most serious has been the delay to harvest work. Owing to the low temperature and cool wind which accompanied and followed the rains, the damage to the crop has not been serious. The delay adds to the expense of harvesting, however, by keeping a large number of extra farm hands from work, while their pay goes on, and should the winter set in early, it might find some grain in bad shape for threshing or to stand the winter in stack. Manitoba has had two wet harvests since the export grain trade began. The first was in 1884 and the second in 1891. In the latter year the rains were very heavy and prolonged through September, and the crops were subject to vastly more rain while in stock than has so far been experienced this year, but the temperature was low, and the actual damage done by the rain was not very great. There was an immense loss, however, on account of much grain having been stacked before it was dry, and also on account of bad stacking, which admitted the water. With fine weather now for a few weeks, it would be found that the crop has suffered very little from its drenching with cold water.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

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GROCERIES.

In the local market, canned salmon has been marked up 25 cents from the inside price, and this commodity is very firm. The total pack of salmon for the Pacific coast is estimated at only 1,850,000 cases, compared with 2,800,000 cases last year. This does not include the fall pack in either year. Last year the fall pack was 300,000 cases, and it is estimated that it will be 200,000 cases this year. The advance in salmon is therefore legitimate, and due to an enormous shortage in the pack. Yellow sugars have been advanced 1-16 cent, and the market is firm. Pitted plums have been advanced 1-2c. All California fruits are being held very firm.

GREEN FRUITS.

Peaches have been arriving somewhat more freely this week, and orders sent in at once will no doubt be filled. Dealers, however, should not long expect to be able to secure freestone peaches and those who delay will probably have to take clingstones.

Ontario grapes are arriving in car lots. Ontario fruit has not come forward in very good condition. Grapes have been off stock and pears soft, while some Ontario plums that arrived were simply carted out to the refuse grounds, and not offered at all. British Columbia plums have mostly come to hand in poor condition, though some lots have arrived all right. Prune plums branded St. Elmo Fruit Rancho arrived from British Columbia in very good condition, and the question is, if shipments from some fruit farms are all right, why should not other shipments of the same varieties arrive here all right. If the same care is exercised in picking and packing the fruit. Blueberries are about out of the market. A few Canteloupe melons were offered. The report published in Winnipeg papers that the freight rates on fruit from Ontario to Manitoba points had been advanced is not correct. The rate remains the same. Prices are lower on several varieties this week. Bananas are in better supply and very fair quality, and offering lower. Prices are: Oranges, late Valencias, \$3.50 to \$4.50 a box; bananas, a bunch, \$2 to \$2.50 as to size; California lemons, \$6 per box; Ontario tomatoes, 20 pound basket, 60 to 75c; California and Oregon fruits, peaches, \$1.25 per box; plums, \$1 per box as to quality and variety; British Columbia plums, 75c to 90c per box; pears, \$2.00 to \$2.25; Ontario apples, \$3.00 per barrel; crab apples, barrel, \$4; California grapes, \$2.75 for four basket crates; Ontario grapes, 10 pound baskets, concord, 30 to 35c; mozels, 35 to 40c; the lower price for larger lots; Ontario pears, 60 to 75c per basket; water melons, \$3 per dozen; coconuts, \$1 per dozen; Sicily filberts, large, 11 to 12c per pound; Grenoble walnuts, 14c; figs, eleme, 14 pound boxes, \$1.50; 20 pound boxes, \$2.50; pound boxes per dozen, \$1.75, dates, 3c per pound; Tarragona almonds, 12 1-2 to 13c; peanuts, green, 9c; roasted, 12c; pecans, 14 to 15c; strained honey, 7 1-2 to 10c per pound; maple sugar, 11 to 12c; syrup per dozen half gallon tins, \$6.50; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels.

HARDWARE AND PAINTS.

Glass is moving freely, both for common and plate, but prices continue very low here, compared with values east, where prices were advanced sharply some time ago. A report from Montreal this week says: "Glass is very firmly held in sympathy with the continued strong advices from abroad, and importers fully expect a higher range of prices in the near future." Prices are very steady all round in the local markets, and without any actual changes this week. Business is moving very freely for the season.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

Monday was a holiday in the wheat markets. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the markets were steady, with an upward turn on Thursday. On Friday quite a strong feeling was developed and a good advance was made in United States markets, due to unfavorable weather reports from the Northwest and in sympathy with the improvement in corn, on reports of damage to the corn crops by frost.

In the local market there has been very little doing, owing to the wet weather. Threshing was just getting nicely started toward the close of last week, and the rush of new wheat to

market would have commenced in earnest this week if the weather had been favorable. The rains, however, have practically prevented anything from being done this week, and as there was fear of a continuance of the rains, dealers were afraid to offer anything for future near by delivery. Good prices were offered for spot wheat, or for immediate shipment, such being quoted at 70 to 72c, Fort William, but there is scarcely any obtainable. One shipment of 6,000 bushels of new wheat, the first of the season east of Fort William, was forwarded from Fort William on Thursday for the Ontario milling trade. For October delivery No. 1 hard was quoted at 64 1-2 to 65c, Fort William. Old wheat is a scarce commodity. A few cars were handled at a range of 79 to 81c, Fort William. At Duluth No. 1 hard was selling yesterday at the big premium of 3 3-4c over No. 1 northern, which indicates that there must be a lot of northern wheat and a corresponding shortage of hard grain, which forces buyers to bid up to secure stuff to fill contracts. At country points yesterday No. 1 hard was quoted at 51 and No. 2 hard and No. 1 northern at 48c. These prices are to farmers.

FLOUR—There cannot be very much money in flour at present prices, when it is considered that it is old wheat flour that is offering, which was bought at high prices. There has been no change since the decline announced last week. Prices are \$2.15 for patent, \$1.95 for strong bakers, \$1.50 for second bakers, and \$1.15 for XXXX per sack of 98 lbs.

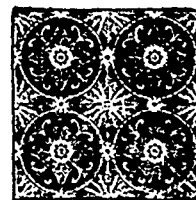
MILLFEED—There is no change in prices, but there are practically no stocks in the market. We quote bran at \$11 and shorts at \$13 per ton in bulk. Large lots nominal at 50c per ton less.

GROUND FEED—Ground feed is quoted at \$27 to \$28 per ton as to quality for oats. Ground corn is in the market again at \$17 to \$18 per ton.

OATS—The wet weather has been very favorable to holders of old oats, who have been enabled to maintain

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