

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

Winnipeg, Saturday, Sept. 18.

The outlook continues favorable. There has been some rain, but not to very materially interfere with the work of saving the crop, which is now nearly all safely in stack and threshing is going on actively. Deliveries of wheat by farmers at country elevators have been heavy for this date and with continued favorable weather a large part of the crop will be easily shipped out before navigation closes. Business in wholesale trade is generally good and there is a marked upward tendency in prices in many lines.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS.

Winnipeg, Saturday Afternoon, Sept. 18.

### COAL.

The cool weather which set in last Thursday has drawn attention again to the coal trade. The Souris coal mines have been considerably increased this summer in their output capacity and a good trade is expected in this native soft coal, as several stoves adapted to burning this coal have been placed on the market during the last year or two and these stoves have been coming into use. It is expected coal prices will rule the same as last winter, when the retail price was \$10 per ton for Pennsylvania anthracite, \$9.50 for western anthracite, \$6.50 for Lethbridge bituminous, and \$4.50 for Souris lignite.

### DRUGS.

Cod liver oil is firm. Advices from the east report an advance of 10 to 15c on Norwegian oil. Cream of tartar has advanced 1c abroad. See quotations on another page.

### FISH.

Local jobbing prices are as follows for fresh fish: White 5 1-2c, pickerel 4c, trout 9c, salmon 12c, halibut, 10c per lb; kippered goldeyes, 30c per dozen. Oysters are quoted at \$2.50 per gallon in bulk.

### GROCERIES.

The most important change in prices this week is an advance of 1c on Prince of Wales chewing, which is the principal chewing tobacco handled here. This advance is said to be due to a better understanding of the late tariff changes. Manufacturers are beginning to find out exactly what the tariff on raw leaf now means, in regard to the effect it has in increasing the cost of the manufactured article. The duty is 14c on stemmed and 10c on unstemmed leaf. The price of tobacco was advanced 15c shortly after the duty was put on, and the advance this week therefore makes 16c on Prince of Wales since the duty on leaf tobacco went into effect.

Another new feature in the trade this week is a drop of 25c per case on Eddy's matches, thereby reducing the prices to \$3.60 for Telegraph, \$3.40 for Telephone and \$3.25 for Tiger. This drop is said to be owing to competition from cheaper brands of matches. The Eddy matches pretty nearly control the trade here, and owing to the basis on which these matches are handled, dealers are hardly open to deal in other brands.

The feature of the dried fruit market is the scarcity of prunes, of which there are practically none here of any

description. California prunes will be to hand about the middle of October. A limited quantity of new eastern Valencia raisins have been brought in and some eastern loose Muscatels are expected, but there will be no large supply until California fruit arrives, early in October. See quotations on another page.

### GREEN FRUITS.

The great bulk of the business doing is still in Pacific coast states plums, peaches and pears, which are having a very large sale at steady prices. Pears are a little lower. The goods are arriving in very choice condition and there is no trouble whatever in reshipping these goods to the most remote country points. They can be shipped direct from the cars without any picking over and without any fear that country receivers will find fault with the fruit. Dealers say they are paying very large sums in freight and duty on fruit from the Pacific coast states, and they would prefer to see this money remain in Canada, if they could get fruit in good condition from Canadian fruit districts. Up to the present time, however, Canadian fruit has never been received here in fit condition to re-ship, without a great deal of labor and loss of time in picking over, and even after this has been done, every batch of Canadian fruit sent out to the country trade is sure to be followed by a large list of complaints from country dealers with demands for rebates. It has got to this condition that wholesalers here dislike to handle Canadian fruit, as they know it means loss and endless annoyance. This applies to peaches, pears, plums and crabs. Ontario apples and grapes are an exception. Ontario grapes are late this year, as the crop is one or two weeks later than usual. The first car of Concordis will be in some time next week. Some Chawplons have been in, but they are not a favorite variety. Very fine Montana crabs are offering in bushel boxes, but it is not expected they will be coming forward much longer. Prices are as follows: Bananas per bunch, \$2 to \$2.50; California lemons, \$5 to \$5.50 a box; tomatoes, \$2.50 per bushel baskets; Pacific coast plums \$1.25 to \$1.40 for four basket crate; California peaches, \$1.25 to \$1.40 per box; Washington and Oregon pears, \$1.75 to \$2 per box; blueberries, very scarce, 8 to 10c lb; apples, \$3.75 to \$4.25 per barrel; Southern grapes, 50c for 8 lb. basket; California grapes, \$3 per crate for tokays; and \$2 to \$2.50 for muscat. Montana crabs \$2.40 to \$2.50 per bushel box.

### PAINTS, OILS AND GLASS.

There is a brisk demand for glass. White lead is very firm. Manufacturers have advanced prices about 12 1-2 or 15c per 100 pounds, and this has a strong tendency on the local market. We advance prices this week 15c. The general feeling in all staples is one of firmness, particularly for linseed oil. See quotations on another page.

### HARDWARE.

There is a very strong tendency for almost every staple of the hardware trade. Metals are very firm. All advices from other markets speak of an advance in the prices. Manufacturers report business active, and they are taking advantage of the situation to put up prices. Iron pipe is higher all around in first hands and there is a strong probability of an early advance here, though no advance has actually gone

into effect yet in the local market. Lead and lead pipe are very firm, and prices in other markets have advanced sharply. Sheet zinc is higher here. In some lines manufacturers are withdrawing prices.

### GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—The downward tendency in wheat this week has been rather disappointing to the bull element, though after such a sharp advance a moderate reaction should not cause much surprise. A drop of about 6c in a week, however, is quite a change from the rapid advances recorded of late. Locusts were reported to be causing depredations to the crops in Argentine, but a later report said indications were very favorable for a big crop. The wheat area of Argentine is said to be 20 per cent. greater than last year, and if a big crop is saved, it will make wheat supplies more liberal in the early part of next year, when the Argentine crop comes to market. Heavy rains were reported from India, and crop prospects are said to be good in that country. Reports from Ontario say the new wheat is lacking in strength and makes a weak flour. This should lead to a good home milling demand for Manitoba wheat for mixing with the eastern wheats, to tone up the flour.

In Manitoba threshing has been going on actively, and though there has been some delays by rain, a great deal of threshing has been done. The majority of reports state that the yield is less than was previously estimated, though some say wheat is turning out equal to earlier estimates and an occasional report says the yield is better than previous estimates. The amount of wheat delivered by farmers at country elevators to date this season is very large compared with most previous seasons. This is owing to favorable weather for threshing and harvesting. Much of the wheat delivered at elevators is held by farmers, but a good deal has also been sold. The sample of wheat is generally light and good. About 200,000 bushels per day have been delivered at country elevators. Prices in Manitoba country markets were dropped 2c to 80c for No. 1 hard on Monday at average freight rate points, and prices were about 1c lower again on Wednesday, ranging from 78c to 80c per bushels to farmers at country points. It is expected prices will be dropped in the country 1c to 2c to-day. In this market No. 1 hard sold about Fort William at about 95 to 96c, according to the variation in outside markets. On Thursday sales were made at 95c for new wheat, Fort William, but at the close yesterday, 93 to 93 1-2c was the quotation.

FLOUR—The market is unchanged. Prices to the local trade here are quoted as follows as to brand: Patent \$2.60 to \$2.65; bakers', \$2.40 to \$2.45; XXXX, \$1.45 to \$1.50 per sack of 98 lbs, to the local trade delivered in the city. Feed grade of flour, \$1 per sack.

MILLFEED—Bran is quoted at \$8 per ton and shorts at \$10 per ton. Small lots about \$1 per ton more.

BARLEY—A few loads of new barley have sold at 30c per bushel of 48 pounds.

OATS.—Prices are unchanged. There is very little doing in oats. New oats will not move, much for some time as all facilities will be taxed to handle the big rush of wheat, and no one seems to care about handling oats while the wheat rush is on. The crop