

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, April 29.

Prospects for immigration continue favorable. The season will apparently prove an active one in building and general improvements, and important new railway work will be carried out. Altogether, the season promises to be one of general and marked advancement for Western Canada. The unfavorable feature at the moment is the backward season. Further rains this week have again delayed seeding, and it is now evident that a large portion of the crop will be sown considerably later than usual. Of course, favorable weather may later make up for the disadvantage of the delay now. The crop area, however, is likely to be curtailed somewhat by the unfavorable weather for seeding, but this may not prove a very great disadvantage. The tendency in Manitoba with most farmers is to put in more crop than they can properly handle. If the land best suited for crop is sown, and a larger area summer fallowed for next year, on account of the backward season, it may prove a benefit rather than a disadvantage.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Winnipeg, Saturday, April 29.

(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.)

BLUESTONE.

A very small quantity of bluestone has been offering this week from wholesale druggists at a price of about 10c per pound. Beyond this none has been obtainable in a wholesale way. One Winnipeg retail grocer had a half ton in from Montreal on Monday which he soon disposed of at 12 1-2c per pound.

DRY GOODS.

Dry goods houses are experiencing a little let up in the volume of business due to the unfavorable state of the weather and the bad roads. Travelers are out with fall samples and are securing very satisfactory orders for articles of that season's wear. The trade presents no other features worthy of note.

DRUGS.

The demand from all parts for drugs, drug sundries and patent medicines is quite active and city houses have difficulty to keep up with the orders. There is still an active inquiry for bluestone but practically speaking none can be had. A substitute known as formalin is taking the place of bluestone to some extent and has met with considerable sale. It is said that one pound of formalin will treat forty bushels of wheat. The wholesale price, Winnipeg, is 40 to 50c per pound.

FUEL.

Locally the situation remains pretty much unchanged. Although the bad state of roads throughout the country retards receipts considerably, dealers are not much concerned therewith as stocks of wood in the city are said

to be ample for immediate requirements. The city council dealt with some tenders for the supply of wood this week and awarded a contract for the supply of 250 cords of jackpine at \$3.50 per cord delivered at Winnipeg. Coal dealers are interested in the question of summer prices for coal at lake ports. So far as can be learned these have not been announced to the trade here yet but a Chicago coal journal says the price of coal at lake ports will be \$4.75 for broken and \$5. per ton for egg, stove and nut sizes, net, on board cars. The Buffalo price will be \$4 broken and \$4.25 per ton gross domestic sizes, and 25c per ton extra on board vessels. These are high prices, and will mean higher prices here next winter, if they are held.

FISH.

There is very little change in this market. Fresh water fish such as trout, whitefish, pike, pickerel, etc., are practically out. Salmon, halibut, haddock, cod and finnan haddie are in fairly good supply. The demand for fish of all kinds is good. Fresh caught whitefish may be in the market next week as on account of the good demand every effort is being made to get them. It is possible too that some Wabigoon trout may be offering next week. Prices remain unchanged.

GREEN FRUITS.

A car of nice spy apples arrived this week. This will probably be about the last of this fruit. All the early varieties of oranges have been shipped from California and there is no more of these to arrive here. There only remains now the paper rind St. Michaels and late Valentinas to come. The season for these will be over early this year. Receipts of strawberries are light. A car of cocoanuts was the principal feature of interest locally. This shipment came direct from Jamaica and was all for one dealer. It is said to be the first car lot of cocoanuts ever received here. They are being offered in sacks of 100 at \$5.00 per sack. When it is considered that the duty is \$1.05 per sack on these it will be seen that the margin of profit is small. We quote prices as follows:

Navel oranges, \$4.00 to \$4.50; seedlings \$3.25 to \$3.75, as to quality, per box; Mediterranean sweets, \$3.75 per case, bloods, \$5 per box; bananas per bunch \$2 to \$2.25, as to size and quality; Messina lemons, \$3.75 to \$4.00; California lemons, \$4 a box; grape fruit, per case, \$4.50 to \$5.00; apples, spics, \$6.50 per barrel; Washington box apples, \$2 box of 50 pounds; strawberries, per case, twenty-four one quart boxes, \$7.50; cranberries, unfrozen, \$8 per barrel; sweet potatoes, per barrel, \$5.50; cocoanuts in sacks of 100 \$5.00, Sicily filberts, large, 12c a lb., Grenoble walnuts, 11c; new shelled walnuts, 25c, Tarragona almonds, 15c; peanuts, green, 9 to 11c, roasted, 12c, pecan nuts, 12c per lb.; comb honey, \$2 per dozen sections; strained honey, 8 1-2 to 9c per pound; orange marmalade in 7 lb. pails, 60c; maple sugar, 11c; maple syrup in cans of 1-2 gallon, 60c; in gallon cans, \$1; 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, in boxes of ten bricks, \$1.90 per box; in 1 pound glove boxes, \$2.40 per dozen; dates 7c per pound; native lettuce, radish, water cress, etc., per dozen bunches, 40c; California cabbage, 7c per pound;

pleplant in 50 pound boxes, 2.40; onions 3 1-2 to 4c per pound.

GROCERIES.

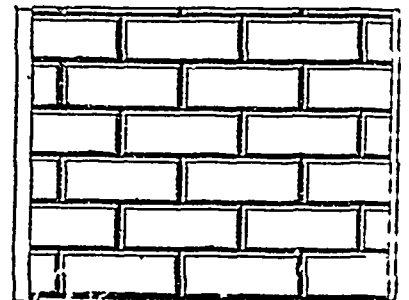
Trade has been quiet, largely on account of the bad roads. Sugar prices remain firm at last week's advance. Dried fruits are in fair demand and a stronger feeling is apparent in all classes. Although dried apples are likely to be lower, according to latest reports they are still very scarce. Evaporated apples while plentiful, maintain their strength, and from present indications there will not be more than enough for requirements. Canned goods are firm all around and been are becoming scarce, which has led to an advance of 10 to 15c this week. Cherries are also 15c higher on the inside quotation. Pot barley is slightly easier. California unpeeled peaches are 1c higher. Dates in cases are 1-2 to 1c higher. Other prices remain unchanged. Teas continue very firm. An offer has been accepted at 3 1-4c advance on December shipment, for Ceylon, for this market. Nothing can now be had under 8d in London, in Ceylon tea, or equal to 16c or better cost laid down here. Tapioca is costing very high to import now. A recent importation cost 4 1-2c laid down here, compared with a cost of 3c a year ago, or an advance of fully 50 per cent. Layer Valencia raisins are scarce and higher and cost 1-4c more to import.

HARDWARE AND PAINTS.

Bar iron has advanced 10c per 100 pounds on the base price, and Land iron is also up 5c. A new iron pipe list shows a general advance in prices 1-1 inch being now quoted at \$8.40 per 100 feet as against \$3.00 a week ago. Other sizes have gone up proportionately. These are the only changes this week. Business is a little quiet owing to the unsettled state of the weather. The paint trade has no new features, business being good and prices unchanged.

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