

The Business Situation.

Winnipeg, Saturday, May 8.
The warm weather which has prevailed this week has been favorable to the movement of spring and summer goods, and jobbers report a noticeable improvement in the demand. Very favorable reports are coming in from the country regarding the crops. The season has been a very favorable one for seedling, and many farmers are now through with their seedling. In some cases wheat is showing up nicely. This shows seedling to be much more advanced than at this date last year, and this also applies to past years as a general rule. The crop outlook is therefore regarded as hopeful. Rain is needed, as the spring has been dry; but showery weather set in here to-day.

Winnipeg Markets.

Winnipeg, Saturday afternoon May 8.
(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.)

Wheat—Prices have been irregular this week, in sympathy with the changes in leading markets elsewhere, but yesterday prices did not vary very materially from the quotations a week ago. Business has been quiet. One of the features of the local trade is the formation of a new grain syndicate, composed of a number of Manitoba dealers, who will combine their resources and form a company controlling a large line of country elevators. The formation of a similar company on similar lines is also hinted at. The crop outlook is considered favorable, the seedling season having been very favorable, but this is only the first step toward producing a crop.

Receipts of wheat at Fort William last week were 140,000 bushels, and shipments from the same port were 42,000 bushels. For the corresponding week last year receipts were 38,500 bushels, and shipments 329,486 bushels. Stocks in store at Fort William last Saturday were 3,250,000 bushels, compared with 3,612,000 bushels a year ago, 589,900 bushels two years ago, 1,543,900 bushels three years ago, and 3,353,000 bushels four years ago.

Prices here yesterday were quoted as follows: No. 1 hard 73 to 73 1-2c; No. 2 hard, 70 to 70 1-2c; No. 3 hard, 61 1-2c; No. 1 frosted, 59 to 60c; No. 2 frosted, 55 to 56c.

Flour—There has been no change in the price of flour this week. Prices are \$2.05 for patents, \$1.85 for extras, \$1.45 to \$1.50 for second bakers, and \$1.00 to \$1.05 for XXX, per sack of 48 lbs.

Stuffs—Bran and shorts have experienced a decline of \$1 per ton. We pay \$5 for bran and \$7 for shorts.

Barley—There is scarcely any business doing in this grain. Feed is worth about 20c to 23c per bushel of 48 lbs. and malting samples 25c to 30c.

Oats—There is no material change in prices. Car lots of feed, grade usual, range about 18c to 19c per bushel of 48 lbs. for car lots on track and up to 20c to 23c for fancy grades.

Butter—Receipts continue light, and there is no accumulation of stock, nothing being taken for immediate

consumption as fast as it comes in. Still the tendency of prices is weaker and present prices are only maintained on account of light receipts. The first indication of any accumulation would bring lower prices, owing to the low prices ruling for butter in eastern markets. At Montreal prices have declined further this week, and choice creamery has sold there down to 15c. Under these circumstances, country buyers should watch the market closely, shift promptly and buy lower, as there is sure to be a big slump in prices sooner or later. It is too warm to handle rolls to advantage. We quote 14c to 17c as jobbing prices here for good to choice new dairy.

Cheese—There is a great scarcity of cheese locally, stocks of old being exhausted, and only one small lot of new has come in yet, which sold at 11c to 12c in a small jobbing way. These high prices are due only to local shortage, and will not long be paid.

Eggs—Receipts have been moderate and prices steady. Some shipments have been made to British Columbia. We quote 81-2c to 9c per dozen as the jobbing price. Packers are paying 8c net.

Poultry—Prices are firm, as receipts are light. No ducks or geese offering. Following are prices: Chicken, 10c; turkey, 12 1-2c; geese, 10c; ducks 10c.

Lard—Prices are: Pure \$1.70 to \$1.75 for 20 lb. pails, and \$4.25 for 50 lb pails; pure leaf lard in 3, 5 and 10 pound tins, quoted at \$6.00 per case of 60 pounds, thence 8 to 8 1-4c.

Cured Meats—Prices are firm and quoted as follows: Smoked meats are quoted: Hams, assorted sizes, 10 1-2 to 11c; breakfast bacon, bellies, 10 1-2c to 11c; do., backs, 9 1-2 to 10c; short spiced rolls, 7 1-2 to 8c; shoulders 6 1-2 to 7c; smoked long clear, 8 1-2 to 9c; fancy clear, 8 to 8 1-2c; dry salt meats are quoted: long clear bacon, 7 1-2 to 8c per lb; shoulders, 5 3-4c; boneless shoulders 6 1-2 to 7c; backs 7 3-4 to 8 1-4c; barrel pork, clear mess, \$13.00 to \$13.50; short cut, \$15.50 to \$16; rolled shoulders, \$13 to 13.50; per barrel. Pork sundries, fresh sausage, 7 1-2c; bologna sausage, 6c; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 10c per package; pickled hocks, 7c; pickled tongues, 5c; sausage casings, 25 to 30c lb.

Dressed Meats—Prices are firm. Beef is selling at 6c to 6 1-2c, and 7c has been paid for a little fancy stuff, but 6 1-2c is about the top. Mutton is held at 10c for fresh and 8c for cold storage stock. Dressed hogs range from 5c to 6c.

Hides—The market for hides is weak, and the tendency lower. Some are offering not over 6c for No. 1 hides, but prices are irregular. We quote 6 to 6 1-2c for No. 1, and 5 to 5 1-2c for No. 2; calf 8 to 15c lb., skins 7 to 9c per lb; dekins 10 to 20c each; kins, 6 to 7c; sheepskins range from 60c each to 75c according to quality. Horses, 75c to \$1.25.

Live Stock—Prices are about the same all around as quoted last week, ranging at 3c to 4c for cattle, 4 1-2 to 4 3-4c for sheep, and 4 1-4 to 4 1-2c for good bacon hogs, off cars here; some export business is doing in cattle. One city butcher is bringing in a car load of sheep from Ontario, but they could probably have been obtained here to about as good advantage.

Wright Bros., grocers, Winnipeg, have purchased the stock of C. D. Anderson, at 70 cents on the dollar.

Winnipeg Clearing House.

Clearings for the week ending May 6 were \$1,314,861; balances, \$235,790. For the previous week clearings were \$70,599. For the corresponding week of last year clearings were \$1,214,951 and for the week two years ago, were \$787,907. For the month of April clearings were \$4,161,962, compared with \$4,032,458 for last year and \$3,093,079 for April, 1895.

British Columbia 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.)

(By wire to the Commercial.)

Vancouver, May 8, 1897.

Butter is firmer, California dairy and local creamery having advanced 1c each. Cured meats are advancing, and prices will likely be higher next week. Fresh meats show a lower tendency, and meat quotations will doubtless be lower.

Butter—California dairy, 20c; local creamery, 22c; Manitoba dairy, 18c; Manitoba cheese 11c; California cheese 12c lb.

Cured Meats—Hams 13c; breakfast bacon 12 1-2c; backs, 9 1-2c; long, clear, 9 1-2c; short rolls 9 1-2 to 10c; smoked sides 10 1-2c. Lard is held at the following figures: Tins 10c per lb., in pails and tubs 9 1-2c lb.

Fish—Prices are: Flounders, 3c; smelts 5c; sea bass 4c; black cod, 5c; rock cod 4c; red cod 4c; tommy cod 5c; herring, 4c; spring salmon 7c; steelhead, 7c; whiting 5c; soles 6c; smoked halibut, 10c; kippered cod, 9c; sturgeon 6c; smoked salmon, 10c; finnan haddie, 10c; kippered herring, 12c; Columbia river oolichans, 7c.

Vegetables—Local potatoes, \$23 to \$25 per ton; onions 3c; cabbage, 13-4 cts. lb.; carrots, turnips and beets, \$10 a ton.

Eggs—Oregon eggs 17c.
Fruits—Fruit is sold by box unless otherwise quoted. Standard American boxes measure one foot ten and a half inches by eleven and a half inches with depth of eleven inches. Inside measurement, and contain from 280 to 360 lemons, from 125 to 300 seedling oranges, or from 125 to 150 navel oranges. California lemons, \$2.50. California oranges, seedling, \$2 to \$2.25; navel oranges, \$3.50 to \$3.75; Australian apples, \$2.50; bananas, \$2.75 per bunch.

Evaporated fruits—Apricots 11c per lb; peaches 9c; plums 9 to 10c; prunes, French, 5 to 7 1-2c; loose Muscatel raisins, 6c; London layer raisins \$1.90 box; Italian prunes, 6 to 8 1-2c lb.

Nuts—Almonds, 13c; filberts, 12 1-2c; peanuts, 10c; Brazil, 12 1-2c; walnuts, 13c lb.

Meal—National mills rolled oats, 90 lb sacks, \$3.00; 45 pound sacks, \$3.10; 22 1-2 pound sacks, \$3.20; 10 7/8 sacks, \$2.60. Oat meal, 10-10's, \$3.25; 2-50's, \$3.00. Off grades, 90 lbs, \$2.70.

Flour—Delivered B. C. points.—Manitoba patent, per barrel, \$5.50; strong bakers, \$5.20; Oregon, \$5.50.

Grain—Local wheat, \$30 to \$35. Oats \$26 per ton.

Ground feed—National mills chop, \$23 to \$24 per ton; ground barley \$22 ton; shorts, \$21.00 ton; bran, \$19.00; oil cake meal, \$35 ton; F.O.B. Vancouver, including duty paid on import stuff.

Hay—\$17 per ton.