

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

Winnipeg, Saturday Afternoon, Aug. 28.

The outlook continues very hopeful. In fact the feeling has changed from one of hopefulness to one of great confidence. This is owing to the fact that the great bulk of the wheat crop is now in shock, without suffering damage of any kind, and is practically past danger of damage from frost. The feeling has not been so hopeful for many years. Travellers returning from the country report that merchants are in good spirits. One traveller, who has been on the road ten years says he never saw the merchants in better spirits. Of course, the basis of this feeling is the favorable outlook for good prices for Manitoba's great staple product—wheat, but in addition to this the development of mining in the west has been of much benefit to the trade of the city. It is being recognized that the vast regions surrounding the prairie belt, which were regarded by many as valueless territories, have great sources of wealth peculiar to each district, the development of which will add greatly to the population and wealth of Western Canada, and provide a home market for the products of the food-producing prairie region. A feature of the jobbing trade of the city has been the filling of orders for the Yukon trade, in provisions, clothing, etc. These orders come mostly from British Columbia coast merchants, who have been obliged to draw upon Winnipeg for supplies.

There have been no important disturbing features. The failure of a private banking concern in Ontario, with a branch at Glenboro, in Manitoba, is not considered of much consequence here, as the liabilities are not heavy. Bank clearances at Winnipeg this week (see statement in another column) were a little less than for the corresponding week a year ago.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS.

Winnipeg, Saturday Afternoon, Aug. 28.

### BOOTS AND SHOES.

The feature of this branch has been a demand for winter footwear in moccasins, felt shoes, etc., from British Columbia coast merchants for the Yukon trade. Fall stocks have been largely shipped out, and the season's trade has been satisfactory.

### DRY GOODS.

The dry goods trade is satisfactory. Jobbers are very hopeful. This week there has been a good demand for harvesting mitts and gloves, with a fair sorting trade in other lines. Fall shipments are well out.

### DRUGS.

Cream tartar is firm at the advance reported from abroad. Castor oil is firm, owing to reported scarcity of the raw material. Local prices are

steady. See quotations on another page.

### FISH.

The first oysters in bulk, for the season, arrived this week. This is the only new feature. 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 doz. Oysters are quoted at 70c for solelets in cans and \$2.50 per gallon in bulk.

### GROCERIES.

Business is fairly active for the season and prices steady. Sugars are firm, with higher prices talked of. All advices on teas are very strong. Reports of advances abroad are coming to hand. New dried fruits also hold firm in first hands, and the tendency is to ask higher prices than were offered at opening quotations. See prices on another page.

### HARDWARE.

Business is good for the season. There is no change to note in the hardware branch this week. See quotations on another page.

### LUMBER.

Manufacturers report that they have had a very busy summer. The mills have handled more stuff than for many years, but manufacturers claim that prices are not remunerative. Manufacturers here have had to compete with a very inferior class of lumber which has been coming in from the United States. Much of this imported stuff is simply rotten rubbish, but a howl is raised if some of this stuff is sold under quotations of home manufactured lumber, and manufacturers are charged with asking high prices. With the general improvement in trade, manufacturers hope for more profitable business.

### GREEN FRUITS.

There is a large demand for fruits, this being the preserving season. The run is mainly on peaches and plums and though car loads are arriving almost daily from the Pacific coast states, dealers so far have hardly been able to supply the goods fast enough. The fruit arriving is very fine quality, and there is scarcely any which is not taken as fast as it arrives at full prices. Prices on peaches and plums are 15c per box lower this week, the drop having taken place on Wednesday. A car of British Columbia plums came in, being the first lot of the season, but they arrived in very bad shape, and sold at from \$1 per box down to almost any price—see reference to British Columbia fruit in another column. Ontario plums are offering in the east to ship, but Ontario fruit has turned out in such bad condition in the past, that dealers are afraid to touch it, while the prices would not enable them to sell very materially lower than choice Pacific coast goods. When peaches and plums in first class condition can be had at present prices from the coast, there is not much inducement to risk bringing in fruit which is more than likely to turn out badly out of condition, and which would have to be sold at a very low price to induce consumers to touch it. Soft or spotted fruit is not suitable for canning, as it is very liable to spoil and it is only fit for jam, or something of that nature. There is a considerable demand for red apples, but it is too early in the season for red varieties. There is an abundant supply

of good cooking apples, and also yellow eating apples, but fancy red apples cannot be obtained yet in any considerable supply. Blueberries continue very scarce. Arrivals are not equal to supply half of the orders, even at present high prices. Bananas are getting higher, and as the demand is very limited at this season, there is not much money in handling them. The higher freight rate on bananas, mentioned last week, will not go into effect here after all, though it has gone into effect in the States to the south. This higher rate is made by the western freight classification, but freight for Winnipeg is handled on the Canadian joint classification, between here and points south, so that the new banana rate is less than car lots will not affect this market. Melons are in only moderate demand and stocks are running out. There has not been much money in them for the trade here, prices being low. Pears are easier. Tomatoes are arriving slowly and qualities rather poor. Last in sold at 75c per crate, owing to poor quality. No crabs in. Prices on nutmeg and orange melons are nominal, as there are none in. Prices are as follows: California late Valencia oranges \$6 to \$6 50 per box; bananas per bunch, \$1.75 to \$2.50; California lemons, \$6 a box; pea plants 1 1-2c per lb; tomatoes, 75c to \$1 per crate of four baskets; plums \$1.25 to \$1.40; for four basket crate; California peaches \$1.25 to \$1.40 per box; Washington and Oregon pears, \$2 to \$2.25 box; watermelons, \$3 per doz.; Washington crabs, nominal, \$1 per box of 30 lbs. net; blueberries, 8c to 10c lb; apples \$3.75 to \$4.25 per barrel; nutmeg melons, \$1.20 basket; Orange melons, \$2 per crate.

### PAINTS, OILS, ETC.

The feature of this branch is the strong market for linseed oil. Prices advanced 3c on Monday, and will no doubt go higher, owing to the "boom" in flax seed. See article on flax seed on another page. Plate glass is going out freely. Business is good for the season. See quotations on another page.

### GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—It is a long time since the wheat markets have experienced such a shaking up as they have of late. Such wild fluctuations in prices, day after day are certainly quite remarkable. The best informed operators are all at sea as to the outcome. These wild fluctuations cannot be considered a healthy sign, as it gives the appearance of manipulation and wild speculation. It is in the interest of legitimate trade that prices should steady down to a more regular basis. There is much bullish news floating about, particularly owing to unfavorable reports as to the spring wheat crop of the three great wheat states of Minnesota and the Dakotas. The crop was greatly over-estimated, owing to favorable conditions early in the season, and it took quite a time to convince the trade that the crop was not a big one. Now it seems probable that many reports of damage are exaggerated and that the other extreme is being resorted to. Still it seems certain that the crop will average rather light and the quality poor. South Dakota is the poorest and the northern portion of the three states is the best. Still, it is early yet to accept all damage reports as re-