

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, June 29.

Bank clearings at Winnipeg continue to show an increase each week over the corresponding week last year. The increase this week is about 80 per cent. From present indications it seems unlikely that any of the expected railway construction work will go on this year, and this is a disappointment to those who had prepared for a busy season in railway building. An improvement in the sales of farm lands is reported, and if the crop comes off all right, a brisk business in farm lands is looked for.

In the United States the principal feature of trade this week has been the advance in iron and steel, nails, 1 cent per pound in wool,  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent per yard in prints, and advances in woollens, lard, hogs, sheep, provisions, etc. Prices are lower for flour, corn, oats, coffee, cotton.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, June 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.]

**BINDER TWINE.**—Considerable business is doing in twine and a large number of orders have been placed in prospect of an early harvest and a heavy crop. The cool, wet weather, however, may make the harvest later than expected. A good deal of twine is being sold on time, payable November 1, but very close prices are being offered for cash. It is said that the Dominion Government prison twine is being sold on even longer terms than those stated, dates being made as late as April next. It has transpired that some of the Dominion twine sold here last year is not settled for yet, and it was reported that some suits might be entered to collect these outstanding items. If the twine is sold this season at these easy terms the government will probably have some more twine suits on hand next year. Prices are quoted as follows: Blue ribbon 7½c; red cap 6½c, diamond O 6½c, sterling 6½c; central prison twine, first quality, 7½c, second quality, 6½c. Plymouth and other brands of United States twine are offering at equal to 6½ to 7½c here. These are prices to dealers. Twine is being offered to farmers at Manitoba country points at very low prices in comparison with prices to the trade. The price to farmers at Manitoba points for red cap and blue ribbon brands, (Consumers' Cordage Co. brands) will be as follows: Red cap, less than 500 pounds 8½c; blue ribbon, 9½c; lots of 500 to 1,000 pounds ½c less off either brand; 1,000 to 2,000 pounds ¾c less; 2,000 to 3,000 pounds ¾c less; 3,000 to 5,000 pounds 1c less; car lots 7½c for red cap and 8c for blue ribbon. These are delivered prices at Manitoba points free of freight and payable November 1, without interest. For Assiniboia territory prices will be ½c higher than for Manitoba, and for Alberta and Saskatchewan territory delivered prices will be 1c higher than Manitoba. For spot cash, lots of 100 to 5,000 pounds, red cap is quoted at 7c and blue ribbon at 7½c delivered at Manitoba points direct to consumers. These low prices for less than car lots to farmers are given to encourage cash business. The discount for cash on small lots to farmers it will be seen is 1½c per pound. During Friday night's debate in Parliament at Ottawa it was alleged that the Patron's twine factory had made overtures to the Dominion government to join the Patrons Co. and the Consumers Cordage Co. to advance prices at which binder twine is sold to the Canadian farmer. This is a most astonishing declaration to be made about the Patrons.

**BOOTS AND SHOES.** There has been no sign of weakness in the hide market yet and leather holds very firm, with light stocks of hides and leather the rule. There is accordingly very little prospect of any easiness in shoe prices for some time to come. Manufacturers are not anxious to sell large orders in advance, as prices are uncertain, further advances being feared in leather. Buff goods have advanced from twenty-five to thirty-five per cent., splits, from thirty to forty per cent.; grain, from thirty-five to forty-five per cent, according to advices from the east. This includes the full advance since the upward tendency set in.

**CORDWOOD.**—There is only a very moderate business doing. We quote the following prices for car lots on track here: Tamarac, \$3.75 to \$1 per cord; pine \$3.00 to \$3.25 per cord; spruce, \$3 and poplar, \$2.25 to \$2.50 per cord.

**DRUGS.**—Cream tartar is declining abroad. Glycerine, tartaric acid, caustic soda, gambier, camphor, quinine, carbolic acid, insect flowers, mercury, turpentine, etc., are either very strong or have advanced in outside markets and alcohol is sharply higher to import. Cod liver oil is advancing, in consequence of the short supply of Norwegian oil, due to a partial failure of the fisheries there. Following prices are for small parcels, and will be considerably for full package orders: Allum per pound, 8½ to 4½c, alcohol, \$1.75; bleaching powder, per pound; 6 to 8c; bluestone, 4½ to 5c; blue vitrol, 5 to 8c; borax, 11 to 12c; bromide potash, 55 to 75c; camphor, 75 to 85c; camphor, ounces, 80 to 90c; carbolic acid, 40 to 55c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chlorate potash, 28 to 35c; citric acid, 55 to 65c; copra, 3½ to 4c; cocaine, per oz., \$7.50 to \$8.00; cream tartar, per pound, 28 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; epsom salts, 3½ to 4c; extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 18c; do., boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 80 to 10c, glycerine, per pound 20 to 25c; ginger, Jamaica, 25 to 40c; do., African, 20 to 25c; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 55 to 45c; iodine, \$5.50 to \$5.00; insect powder, 35 to 40c; morphia sul., \$1.90 to 2.25. Opium, \$1.50 to 5.00; oil, olive, \$1.25 to 1.40; oil, U.S. salad, \$1.25 to 1.40; oil, lemon, super \$2.25 to 2.75; oil, peppermint, \$1.00 to 4.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.25 to \$2.75 per gallon; oxalide acid, 18 to 16c; potass iodide, \$1.25 to \$1.50; paris green, 17 to 17c lb; saltpetre, 10 to 12c; sal rochelle, 30 to 35c; shellac, 45 to 50c; sulphur flowers, 3½ to 5c, sulphur roll, per keg 8½ to 5c; soda bicarb, per keg of 112 pounds, \$3.75 to \$4.25; sal soda, \$2.00 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb, 45 to 55.

**DRY GOODS.**—The continued cool weather interferes with the call for light summer fabrics. This has been the coolest season, so far, which has been experienced here for many years. While eastern Canada is suffering from protracted drought and hot weather, in the west we have had a remarkably cool season, and rain, rain, rain, until we are getting tired of it. Fall goods will soon be coming to hand, and in fact some lines are now in. There has not been much business done in fall orders, however, the desire being to wait as long as possible so as to have greater assurance as to the crop prospect. Raw cotton has been easier in price lately, but the tendency is still firm in manufactured lines. In the United States some advances were reported this week in cotton goods and print cloths.

**GREEN FRUITS.**—Lemons hold very firm, and the cool weather is the only thing which keeps prices from advancing faster. Oranges were very scarce. Stocks were not actually exhausted, but dealers found it impossible to supply the smaller sizes, and had to send customers larger sized fruit than ordered in many cases. Large receipts came to hand

yesterday, which makes a good supply now. Seedling oranges are just about out of the market. Strawberries are arriving irregularly from Minnesota and the Pacific coast, and the market has not been well supplied on all days. California cherries are nearly out of season but they will be coming in from Oregon in a few days. Peaches and apricots are very much lower this week. A few boxes of plums have come in. Quotations here are as follows. California ranges seedlings, \$2.25 to \$2.75 per box; California Mediterranean sweet oranges, \$3.50 to \$1.25 per box, Messina lemons, \$5.25 to \$3.50 per box; bananas, \$2.25 to \$3.25 per bunch as to size. Strawberries \$1 to \$1.75 per crate of 21 boxes; California cherries \$2 to \$2.25 per box. California peaches \$2 to \$2.25 per box; California apricots, \$2. to \$2.25 per box; tomatoes, \$2.25 to \$2.50 per crate of 4 baskets; onions, 4 to 5c per pound. Layer figs, 10 lb boxes, 15c per pound. Dates, 7 to 7½c a lb. Maple sugar, 10c lb; maple syrup, \$1.10 per gallon tin.

**GROCERIES.**—The greatest interest is still in canned goods and all the talk is about a light pack and higher prices for domestic canned goods, owing to damage to the crops from drought and frost in Ontario. Tomatoes are particularly firm. It is said that nearly all the tomatoes in first hands are exhausted and that prices have advanced 10c east. This applies to old goods. Packers are predicting \$1 for new Tomatoes. The only new goods offering is strawberries, which are coming into this market from both United States and domestic packers. Canned salmon continues very strong. The burning of a couple of canneries in British Columbia recently has given the packers there another reason to boost prices, which they have taken advantage of to some extent, and they now ask \$1.75 to 4.85 f.o.b. at the coast for new fish. There is no change in other lines. Sugars are quoted here at 5c granulated and 4½ to 4¾ for yellows.

**HARDWARE PAINTS, ETC.**—Trade was rather quiet locally this week and without any material changes in prices. From the east turpentine was reported 1c higher at Toronto, and cement was 5c higher at Montreal for English brands. White leads are firm at the advance reported last week. Cordage, which has been ruling very low for some time, is firmer and an advance is expected in both sisal and manilla cordage.

**LUMBER.**—There is a fair demand for lumber and building material for the city trade and some big orders have been taken from grain companies who are building elevators. The Winnipeg and Brandon mills have received their log drives and will begin cutting at once. About 6,000,000 feet of timber arrived here down the Red River this week, which is said to be the largest drive ever brought down the Red. The war among the dealers at Brandon, which has resulted in a long siege of cutting prices, was patched up and a truce arranged and prices were restored to a basis which would leave the dealers there some margin on their sales. It was reported, however, that a fresh cause of strife had broken out at Brandon and that there was a possibility of the cutting in prices being renewed. The trouble on the city contract continues. A number of dealers appeared before the aldermen and objected to the lumber being supplied by the contractor to the city, claiming that the stuff was not full two inches, as called for in the contract. The city engineer said the lumber averaged 1 15-16 inches thick. The committee agreed to inspect the lumber in the presence of the contractor and dealers, and have since declared in favor of the contractor.

**RAW FURS.**—This has been another busy week in the local fur trade a large number having been put up at competition this week.