

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, June 11.

Business continues very satisfactory with the wholesale trade generally. The demand for many lines of staple goods is greatly in excess of previous years. The letting of another railway contract has led to the placing of some additional orders here. Railway work is now under way on three different lines in Manitoba—the Dauphin extension, the Southeastern, and the extension of the Northern Pacific in Southwestern Manitoba. Winnipeg jobbers have also received good orders on account of railway work in the Kootenay and Boundary Creek districts, of British Columbia. The general rains which covered the country so thoroughly on Sunday, June 5, have caused a better feeling regarding the crop outlook, which is now regarded as very hopeful, though reports from some districts are not very favorable. The rains covered all the wheat territory. A noticeable feature of the situation is the improved feeling regarding farm lands throughout Manitoba. The improvement in values which set in last fall has been maintained, and there has been an increase in sales of land to new settlers, particularly settlers who are moving into Manitoba from the States to the south. Quite a number of people from Dakota and other states have found their way to Manitoba this spring, and they appear to be a good class of settlers.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

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BINDER TWINE.

The binder twine market continues wild and excited. Prices have again advanced sharply in eastern and United States markets. At eastern points in the United States sisal twine is quoted at 9 to 11c as to brand, 10 to 12c for mixed twine and 11 to 13c for pure manilla. Here the market is quoted at 10c for sisal, 11c for mixed manilla, and 12c for pure manilla, for car lots. These prices, however, are purely nominal, as there is no business doing whatever. Nobody is buying any twine now, as they could not compete with those who sold earlier, and twine is being sold retail to consumers at less than it could be sold down for in car lots. Dealers, of course, would not purchase at higher prices than farmers are buying for. If the supply runs short the advance will have to be paid before the harvest is over, but in the meantime the market is entirely nominal. Those who bought early have a good chance to make big money on twine if they take advantage of the market position now.

GREEN FRUITS.

Bananas have continued scarce all this week. Receipts were limited and scarcely anything that did come was fit to re-ship, the fruit being too soft. It will be the middle of next week or later before a fresh supply arrives in any quantity, as it is said there are

none obtainable nearer than New Orleans at present. Prices are therefore nominal. Oregon strawberries are now arriving and the fruit is in good condition. The strawberries handled this week are about the finest ever seen here and the price is reasonable. Cherries are scarcer and firmer. There were very few apples fit for shipping in the market yesterday. A few are held in cold storage which turn out nice, but they do not last long when taken out of store. The season is about wound up in apples. Naval oranges are out of season and stocks exhausted. Seedlings are also scarce for anything good. Pineapples nominal in the absence of stock. New tomatoes in four basket crates are arriving. Apricots are 25c lower. Prices are. Oranges: California Mediterranean sweets, \$3.75 to \$4 a box; seedling oranges, \$2.75 to \$3; St. Michael oranges, \$3.75 to \$4; Malta blood oranges, \$1 to \$1.50 a box; bananas a bunch, \$2 to \$2.50 as to size; Messina lemons, \$3.75 to \$4.25 per box, as to quality; pineapples, \$3 to \$3.50 per dozen, as to size and quality; pie plant 2c; strawberries, \$3.75 per case; of twenty-four quarts; tomatoes \$3.75 to \$4 per crate of six baskets; California cherries, \$1.75 per ten pound gross box; apricots, \$2.25 to \$2.50 per box; cocoanuts \$1 per dozen; Sicily filberts, large 11c to 12c per lb; Grenoble walnuts, 14c; figs, clemes, 10 lb boxes, \$1.25 to \$1.40, as to quality; 50 lb boxes, 17c per lb. dates, 6 1-2 to 7c per lb; Tarragona almonds, 12 1-2 to 13c; peanuts, green, 9c; peanuts, roasted, 12c; pecans, 14 to 15c; strained honey, 7 1-2 to 10c per lb; maple sugar 11 to 12c; syrup per dozen 1-2 gallon tins, \$7; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels; Egyptian onions 3 3-4 to 4c per lb.

GROCERIES.

One of the features of the grocery market is the great strength in rice. This commodity has been steadily advancing for some time, owing to light crops and other causes. Japan rice is very scarce. Japan has actually been obliged, it is reported, to import rice from Burmah. The mills do not seem able to supply any quantity of B. rice, and prices are higher here for both Japan and B. rice. Sugars are firm. Raw sugars are advancing and advances in Canadian refined are expected by jobbers here almost any time.

HARDWARE AND PAINTS.

There seems to be no telling where the advance in rope is going to stop. Another advance of 1c was made this week on both manilla and sisal and the end is said to be not yet, owing to the scarcity of raw material due to the blockade of the Philippines. Owing to the rebellion which has been going on for a year or more in these islands, production was interfered with and now the supply is cut off entirely by the war. Barb wire is another article of important interest at the moment. The consumption of barb wire has been very heavy in Manitoba this season, greatly exceeding expectations. Added to this jobbers have been unable to secure delivery of orders at all promptly. The demands upon the mills have been so great that they are away behind with their orders, the mills being two to four weeks behind. It is said that Winnipeg jobbers have orders placed with the mills at present aggregating several hundred tons, and during the last three weeks it has been almost

impossible to secure delivery of any wire. This inability of the mills to supply the goods, combined with the unprecedented demand here, has caused a great deal of inconvenience and annoyance to jobbers. Retail dealers are of course impatient about the delay and are wiring in from all parts of the country for wire, which the jobbers are powerless to supply. They are doing all they can to hurry supplies forward, but at the rate importations are coming forward it will be several weeks before orders now booked can be filled.

LUMBER.

The Winnipeg market is still irregular for lumber, and dealers have not yet agreed to advance prices to meet the recent advance at the mills. Some of the dealers say they will advance prices at once, whether or not there is a general agreement to that effect. The Minnesota lumber companies doing business in Manitoba have advanced their prices \$1 per thousand feet on all lumber but clears, which corresponds with the advance made by the pine mills here recently. Their lists went into effect June 3, showing this advance. The recent rains have raised the water in the streams tributary to the Lake of the Woods, and it is now believed that the logs will about all be got down. This is very fortunate, as stocks are lighter, logs scarcer at the mills, and the demand larger than it has been for a decade. Some of the companies had no logs on hand whatever and were obliged to close down, but it is expected the mills will all get started next week.

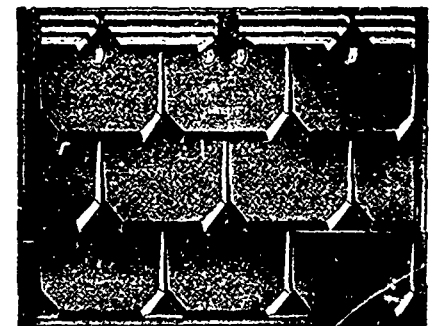
RAW FURS.

Two or three large lots of furs have come in recently, and the northern furs will be in this month. So far the marketings of raw furs have been very light this season, and it is expected the collections of far northern furs, yet to come in, will show a decline. The collection of spring rat even shows a

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