THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, August 17.

Wholesale trade is quiet, and will remain slow until harvest is well secured. Bank clearings were less this week than a year ago, but this week represented only five days, against a full week last year. The strike in the lumber district was declared off on Monday. The Canadian Pacific Railway shops in Winnipeg, the principal industrial concern in the city, will begin running full time on Monday August 19. The first harvest laborers' excursion from the east brought in 2,850 persons, a few, however, of whom were women looking for positions as domestics, and also a few who availed themselves of the cheap rate simply to visit the country. Nearly 2,500, however, were supposed to have come to work in the harvest. Another batch will arrive next week, so that with these large arrivals there will be plenty of harvest help. These men, it must be remembered, are not navvies or ordinary laborers. Many of them are sons of prosperous eastern farmers, who come with the object of seeing this western country and gaining some practical knowledge in farm work here by working through the harvest. The introduction of so many of this class will no doubt have a good effect, as it may be expected that many will become permanent settlers, or will return to take up land here. The feeling in land has already improved, in view of the fine harvest prospect, and if no accident happens to the harvest now being gathered, a great improvement may be expected in immigration and land sales.

There were 29 business failures reported from the Dominion of Canada this week. Last week the total was 31, in the week a year ago it was 40, and in the year before that 26.

In the United States, Bradstreets' report says business is brisk for the season. Iron and steel are still strong. Cotton has advanced on poor crop report. Print cloths are higher again. Flour, oats, pork, sugar and copper are unchanged. Lard and corn are lower, the latter on account of improved crop conditions.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Aug. 17.

[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.]

CEMENT AND SEWER PIPE.—At the meeting this week of the Winnipeg board of works, four tenders were received for the supply of sewer pipe; from the Ontario Sewer Pipe company, W. F. Lee, Evans & Howard and J. H. Ashdown. The latter was recommended for acceptance, at $1,895.95. The figure of Evans & Howard was lower by a few dollars, but the junction pipes of Mr. Ashdown being six inches longer, the offer of the latter was considered the best. For cement offers were received from J. H. Ashdown, the Building supply company and Miller, Morse & company. The tender of the latter was recommended at $3.75 per barrel, delivered at the works.

DRY GOODS—Some of the eastern woolen mills are said to regret booking orders ahead as freely as they did, owing to the advance in wool of late, and as a result those who have to buy wool at the advance, will find their profits very small. Woolens generally are very firm. Other manufacturers have followed the lead of the mill mentioned last week in advancing the price of cottons, cottonades and shirtings. A comparatively new and very attractive feature in Canadian manufactured goods, says a Toronto report, is an Alaska or Red River robe, an imitation of a buffalo robe, in brown, grey, black and white. It is manufactured by the Waterloo Woollen Mills Company. They are windproof and waterproof.

GROCERIES—New dried fruits are beginning to attract attention, as advance quotations are now being made on some lines. Austrian prunes are said to be 1 to 1½c higher than first offers last year. New California prunes are also offering for future shipment. The Valencia rasin crop, according to advices from Denia, is a short one. The first shipments of new raisins were made about Aug. 10, to London, which is much earlier than usual. The unexpected heavy run of salmon on the Fraser river, reported the first of this week, will make the canned salmon market easier perhaps. Our special wire to-day from Vancouver says that the total British Columbia pack up to date is 400,000 cases. The price paid to the fishermen men dropped from 30c to 8c per fish on Tuesday, in consequence of the big run, and the canners had more fish than they could handle The pack will therefore be larger than expected, the idea being that it would be very short this year. Other canned goods are firm. Eastern canners are said to be offering corn and tomatoes at 75c for future delivery, per dozen, though some quote 80c and 85c for peas. New peas have arrived in the local market. Sugars are unchanged at Canadian refineries, but firmer abroad.

GREEN FRUITS—Blueberries are having a very large sale and are being shipped to points south in the United States. California peaches and plums are more abundant, but prices are much about the same, and it is doubtful if they will be materially lower this season than this week. California grapes are now coming. The tokays are not in very good condition and hardly fit to re-ship to the country. The muscats are in a little better shape. Apples are a little lower, and pears are down considerably. Grapes are also lower. Quotations are as follows: California oranges, Mediterranean sweet and late Valencias $4 to $4.50 per box as to size; Messina lemons, $6.50 to $7 per box; bananas, $2.25 to $3 per bunch as to size, California peaches $1.25 to $1.40 per box; California plums, $1.50 to $1.60 per box; California bartlet pears, $3.25 to $3.50 per box; southern apples, $4.00 to $4.25 per barrel; southern concord grapes, 65c per 8 lb basket; California grapes, tokays $3.50 per crate; do. muscats, $3.25; tomatoes, $1.75 to $2.00 per crate of 4 baskets, Watermelons, $3.50 to $4.00 per dozen; Blueberries, 5c per lb; Layer figs, 10 lb boxes, 15c per pound, do., 14 ounce boxes, $1.50 per dozen. Dates, 7 to 7½c a lb. Maple sugar, 8 to 10c lb, maple syrup, 90c to $1.10 per gallon. Some native fruits are offering on the street market, mostly wild varieties of currants, raspberries, plums, cranberries, blueberries, etc.

HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.—Cordage is the strongest thing on the list at present, owing to the advance in hemp. We quoted an advance at the factory of ½c last week, and further advances are expected. Rope is exceedingly low at present, and it seems that an advance is quite in order. Cement is firm for the imported article, owing to higher ocean freights.

LUMBER.—The strike at Rat Portage is off, and while it lasted it did not affect trade materially. Locally business is quiet. There is said to be some cutting in prices here, notwithstanding the association agreement. The large discount of 10 per cent for cash, given this season, is said to have made a great difference in cash business, and all the best buyers take to take advantage of the favorable cash terms. British Columbia lumber has sold delivered here for some time back at prices which must have been ruinous to the producers, steep cuts being made to secure business. Recently, owing to the revival in the lumber trade at the coast, manufacturers there have not been pushing business here at such heavy cuts, and on lines which were cut the lowest they are asking advances. Cedar shingles, which were being sold, delivered here c.i.f., at as low as $2, are now held at $2.25 delivered here. No recent changes have been made in local selling prices here in any line, notwithstanding advances at the mills in some lines of British Columbia stuff.

WHEAT.—Wheat has averaged 1 to 2c lower this week, and the markets have been dull and lacking support. The total United States crop is estimated at about 460,000,000 to 475,000,000 bushels. The crop of the three states of Minnesota and the Dakotas is estimated at 180,000,000. Exports have been very light, but the visible supply still shows a weekly decrease, notwithstanding the movement of new wheat. European stocks are large. Beerbohm makes the world's wheat crop 1,818,000,000 against 2,072,000,000 last year, a falling off of 224 millions. Exports of wheat, flour included as wheat, from both coasts of the United States amount to 1,842,000 bushels this week, against 1,550,000 bushels last week, 2,975,000 bushels in the week a year ago, 6,129,000 bushels in the second week of August, 1893, 8,750,000 bushels in 1892, and 5,761,000 bushels in the corresponding week in 1891. Exports of wheat and flour during seven weeks of the new cereal year, amount in round numbers, to 12,000,000 bushels. In the like period one year ago, the total exported was 19,000,000 bushels, two years ago it was 31,000,000; in 1892 it was 21,000,000 bushels; and in 1891, 25,000,000 according to Bradstreets.

Locally there is no business doing. Practically no sales are being made, and there is no real basis of values. We can only give a random quotation of about 70 to 75c afloat Fort William. Receipts at Fort William for the week ended August 10 were 17,474 bushels, and shipments were 20,212 bushels, in store, 232,525 bushels. In store a year ago, 1,090,000 bushels, and two years ago, stocks were 1,856,154 bushels. This week last year, wheat cutting was nearly finished in the early districts of Manitoba, and the official estimate of yield was 15.6 per acre, as compared with an official estimate of 25.5 for this year.

FLOUR.—There is no further change in prices to report here, but eastern advices reported cutting in some brands of Manitoba flour, and the market is easy. Production is still very low, as many of the Manitoba mills are closed down. Sales by millers here are made at $2.05 for patents and $1.85 for strong bakers per sack of 98 lbs, delivered to city retail dealers. Second bakers, $1.60 to $1.65, XXXX about $1.35 to $1.40 per sack, according to brand. These are net cash prices, the nominal quotation being 5c higher.

MILLSTUFFS.—Millstuffs are scarce. There is practically no shorts to be obtained in the city. Prices are relatively higher in the east for millstuffs than here, and millers have kept sold up close. The quotation to the local trade is $11 for bran and $13 for shorts, per ton with small quantities held at $1 per ton more.

GROUND FEED— Prices range from $19 to $21 per ton, as to quantity and quality, for ground oats and barley feed.

OATMEAL.—Rolled oatmeal is unchanged, We quote $1.90 to $2 per sack of 80 pounds, in