

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, March 5, 1898.

Business with the city jobbing trade is opening out in a very satisfactory manner, and the volume all around is larger than last year. Winnipeg is not getting any very great benefit from the Klondike rush. A little outfitting is being done here, but it is hardly noticed in the general volume of trade. Winnipeg jobbers in some lines, however, are filling orders through coast houses for Klondike supplies, so that directly and indirectly the Klondike business will form a feature in the trade of the city. The Klondike fever is not absorbing attention entirely from more practical and staple investments. Manitoba lands, for instance, continue to improve in demand. The sales of the Canadian Pacific railway land department were three fold greater during last month than for February of last year, and other reports are equally hopeful. It is not to the Klondike rush that we look for business, but to the development of the greater Klondike right at home in the rich lands of the prairie region. The continued improvement in the demand for lands for settlement is the most hopeful feature in the situation. Railway traffic is very heavy, due largely to the Klondike rush. Trains sometimes have to be run in two sections.

Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week were \$1,566,141, compared with \$944,596 for the corresponding week last year and \$1,001,155 for the like week two years ago. For the month of February this year clearings at Winnipeg were \$5,517,340, compared with \$3,551,013 for February last year and \$4,052,551 for February of 1896.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS

Winnipeg, Saturday, March 5  
BICYCLES.

Consumers are not buying yet, but dealers are getting in their supplies for the spring trade. Prices of standard wheels will be \$5 to \$10 lower than last season. In Winnipeg bicycles have been used more or less all winter.

### FISH.

Winter fishing is about over. A good many whitefish have been taken in Lake Manitoba but it is said the fish caught at Lake Winnipeg have been mostly pickered, the whitefish having evidently gone farther north this winter than usual. Haddies are selling at 6 to 7c. Other prices are about the same.

### FUEL.

There is no change in the local situation. Prices are the same and business is moderate, owing to mild weather. A report from Duluth says, "Hard coal was advanced to \$5.25 a ton this week, a rise of 50 cents a ton. The circular price has all along

been \$5.25, but for a month or two has been entirely disregarded, and \$4.75 has been the ruling price. Hard coal nearly always advances in the spring, but the raise comes earlier this year than usual. It is done to get business in shape for next year, so the companies say. Hocking coal still sells at \$2.60 and Youghiogheny at \$2.75. The stocks of coal left here at the close of navigation will be about what they were in past years. Instead of a shortage of 200,000 tons in soft coal which many expected, there may be a surplus of that amount."

### GREEN FRUITS.

Oranges and lemons are easier. Mexican oranges have been reduced 50 to 75c per box. In order to clear out balance of stock. Navels have been reduced 25 to 50c per box. Some seedlings are now offered at about \$3. The new stock now offering is good quality, but there is some poor held navel which are selling as low as under \$3 box. Lemons are 25c box lower. Choice apples hold firm, but off quality are selling at buyers' prices. Cranberries are getting scarce. Prices are as follows: Mexican oranges, \$3.00 to \$3.50; navel oranges, \$3.75 to \$4.25; bananas, per bunch, \$2.50 to \$3.50; California lemons, \$3.75 to \$4.00 per box; apples, Ontario stock, \$4 to \$4.50 per barrel for good to choice; southern apples \$4 per bbl.; off quality, \$2.00 to \$3.50 per bbl. as to condition; cranberries, unfrozen, \$8 to \$8.50 a barrel; frozen stock, \$7 to \$7.50 per bbl.; sweet potatoes \$5 per bbl.; Malaga grapes \$7 to \$7.50 per keg; Ontario black walnuts, 8c lb.; cocoanuts, \$1 per doz.; Sicily filberts, large 11 to 12c per lb.; Grenoble walnuts, 13c; figs, fancy elemes, \$1.40 to \$1.50 per 10 lb. box. 30 lb. boxes, 16c; 50 lb. boxes, 17c per lb.; dates, 7 1-2c per lb.; shelled walnuts, 20 to 25c per lb.; imported celery, 60 to 75c per doz.

### GROCERIES.

The feature of the local market is the upward tendency in domestic canned goods. All lines are firm, and corn and tomatoes are again quoted higher this week. Sugars are firm. The tendency here is to advance prices 1-2c, in sympathy with the advance reported last week in the east. The prices we quote on sugars are net prices and they will probably be advanced 1-2c. In cereals pot barley and rice are higher, Japan being quoted at 5 3-8c. Oatmeal is also firm and higher for rolled oats. Dried apples cannot be had at the inside price quoted recently. Currants have appreciated from the inside price quoted a short time ago. See quotations on another page.

### HARDWARE.

Business is moving very satisfactorily in this line. The price changes this week are a decline of 5c on cut nails to \$2.45 base price, and the advance of 2c, noted elsewhere, on lined oil. Binder twine is moving some, though buying is not active yet for this article. The market is very firm for this article. Cordage has been advancing steadily for some time, owing to the increased cost of both raw manilla and sisal, and binder twine is of course affected the same as rope by this advance in the price of the raw material. Quotations for binder twine are about the same as last year, the removal of the duty having been fully counterbalanced by the increased cost of the raw material, with a firm tendency.

### LEATHER.

The market is very firm. A while ago it was said that leather would have to go up and hides would come down, so as to equalize prices between hides and leather. The hide market, however, has held very firm and the tendency has been higher, consequently the feeling in leather is very strong. Harness leather advanced 1c in the east last week. Prices here are firm and may go higher. Business is good.

### LUMBER.

A rather better feeling prevails in the trade this week. Differences between dealers, both wholesale and retail, are being adjusted on a satisfactory basis. One principal trouble between the wholesale and retail trade is understood to have been removed this week. The outlook is a so more hopeful for a better understanding between the city retail dealers. It will certainly be very much better for the dealers to work harmoniously than to engage in price cutting, which only results in business demoralization and loss. Any gain to consumers from price cutting is not a public gain when it results in loss. Prospects are good. There will certainly be more building this year, both in the city and country, than there has been for some time.

### PAINTS, OILS, ETC.

Lined oil, which has been very firm for some time has advanced 2c to 54c and 57c for raw and boiled respectively, in barrels. Turpentine is also stronger and may be higher. Business is opening out nicely. Orders have been coming in from western points for some time, and now nearly points are beginning to place orders for their spring requirements.

### PAPER BAGS.

Paper bags have been selling at very low prices for some time, owing to keen competition among manufacturers. The competition was carried to such an extent that there was nothing left in the business for jobbers, as manufacturers were selling small orders about as low as for larger orders. The prices were cut so fine that manufacturers felt they could not meet any discounts for large orders. Recently manufacturers have come together and arranged the business on a more reasonable basis. A graduated scale of prices has been established, in proportion to the size of orders, and values have been advanced about 10 per cent. The new basis of prices will enable jobbers to handle bags on a small margin of profit, as by buying in large lots, thereby getting car lot freight rates as well as the lower price for large purchases, they will be able to sell to the trade here at about mill prices for small lots.

### GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—The markets opened firm this week, advancing sharply on Monday, made a further gain on Tuesday, held steady on Wednesday, declined slightly on Thursday, and declined 1c on Friday. Argentine shipments have been large so far this year, compared with last year. The visible supply is declining more rapidly. It is expected Monday's statement will show a decline of 1,500,000 bushels this week. The decline in the visible last week was 1,345,000 bushels.

The local market has been dull. There was some buying of May wheat at \$1. Fort William. Cash wheat ranged from 97 to 99c during the week. Yesterday 97 1-2c was quot-