THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Saturday, March 16.

The weather has continued moderate and springlike throughout the week and the rush of spring business is now setting in. Merchants in the country are getting a little nervous about their stocks and are writing in to have shipments hurried as much as possible. This is true also in connection with implement business and in fact all spring lines. It is taken by jobbers here as an indication that stocks of all kinds in the country have been pretty closely cleaned up. As a matter of fact the careful buying of kast year has left retail dealers throughout the country without any surplus stocks carried over. Judging from reports of local jobbing houses in all lines of trade there is a larger shipping movement to country points from the city now than has ever been experienced before. Values remain steady in most lires the most notable changes this week being a sharp decline of 20c per hundred in sugars, an advance of about 1c per bushel in oats and a drop of 4c per dozen in eggs. Building operations in the city are increasing every week and labor is becoming better employed as the season advances. Bank clearings continue to show larger volume than last year, which is additional evidence of the improved conditions. Collections are poor, however, and country remittances come in very slowly. Money is in good demand at from 6 to 8 per cent.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Saturday, March 16.

(All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are wiselessed for such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reductions on large quantities, and to cash discounts.)

BOOTS AND SHOES.

There is a big demand in boots and shoes for spring and summer wear and jobbers here are busy. Values for leacher goods remain steady. Rubbers are still going out on the old list as spring prices have not yet been fixed. It is expected that manufacturers will It is expected that manufacturers will announce these about the last week in this meath. The general opinion is that there will not be much if any change in values. The cutting in prices in the United States has had an unsettling effect upon the Canadian market but prices there have not yeareached a point low enough to enable the goods to pay the Canadian durant will be the goods to pay the Canadian durant about five per cent. of that point low. This means that United States consumers are buying their goods for at sumers are buying their goods for at least 15 per cent, less than Canadians, but they are doing this at the expense of manufacturers as the goods are being sold in some cases below cost on that side of the line.

CLOTHING.

Wholesale houses are busy with spring orders and report the demand for these better than usual. Values remain steady, collections poor and there are no special features.

CURED MEATS.

The market noids steady and is without special feature. The only change is a firmer feeling in lard. Winnipeg prices on page 610.

DRY GOODS.

DRY GOODS.

There is an active demand for spring goods and Jobbers are busy shipping. Stocks in the country appear to have been pretty well depicted which is making the demand better. Travellers are out with sorting and full samples and are meeting with a good demand. The wholesale millinery opening of a prominent house attracted a lot of buyers this week and these have placed some orders with dry goods house. Collections are slow.

DRUGS.

DRUGS.

Rusiness is moderately active and prices for the most part steady. Mor-phia is a little easier and oplum is Zic lower. Advices from larger markets

note a sharp advance in ipecac amounting to about 40c per pound. This is due to reports of reduced stocks both in producing and distributing centres. The decline in oplum in this market noted above is due to weather feeling and lower prices abroad. Latest advices from Turkey are to the effect that crop prospects are favorable and holders of old crop are anxious to sell. Quinine is firmly held in all markets and prices rule steady. Cascara sagrada is weaker. Winnipeg prices current will be found on page 670.

There is an active demand for fish and prices here are steady. The break-ing up of the roads is putting fish ped-dlers out of business and regular dealdiers out of business and regument diers will benefit in consequence. There will benefit in consequence. Atlanti is the usual Lenten demand. Atlantic fish are not coming forward so freely as dealers would like and some kinds are scarce. Digby chicks for instance, are scarce. Digny cincias for instance, Some of these are higher at primary points. Finnan haddle is ½c higher in the east but unchanged here. Smoked herring and dried cod are the cast but unchanged here. Smoked herring and dred cod are also nigher in the east but unchanged here. Prices are Whiteham to the per pound; pickerel, 3%c; pike, 2%c; trout, 10c; salmon, 12%c; lake Superior herring, 20c per dozen; sait cod, Cleci Labrador herring, per barrel, \$4.15; sait mackerel, \$2.25 per kit; shad, ½bbis \$7.50; Digby chicks, 18c box; boneless cod, 7%c ib; boneless fish, 5%c ib; floran haddles, 7%c per pound; fresh see cod, big, 7c per ib; tommy cod, 5%c; florandera, 5%c; smelts, 7%c; mackerel, 13c; shad, 10c; smelts, 7%c; mackerel, 13c; shad, 10c; sait, 10c; oystera, selects, \$2.15 per gallon; standard, \$2.00. and in a cod the

GREEN FRUITS

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Demand is much improved and dealers say that business has never been better at this time of year. Fruit is arriving freely, excepting apples, which continue scarce, oranges are lower. We quote: Apples, Ben Davis, \$5.50; Baldwins, \$5.00; Russata, \$4.90; California navel oranges, per box, \$1.00 to \$1.75; bitter oranges, \$6.00 per case, lemons, per box, \$4.60, per case, lemons, per box, \$2.00; Wisconsin cranberries, per barrel, \$10, Jerseys, frozen, \$5.50; Rgs, \$1.25; per 10 lb box; onlons, per Rb, 23c; mince meat in 25-pound palls, 10c per pound; carioon dates, per package of 1-pound, 10c; new dates, \$6c; cider in keps or barrels, 35c per gallon; honey, 1-pound airs, \$2.50; a dozen; maple sugar, 12c; maple syrup, 2-pound tins, per dozen, GROCERIES.

GROCERIES.

Business is good. The feature of the week has been the drop of 20c per hundred in price of both granulate and yellow sugars. The reason for this decline is not clear as the impression in the trade seems to be that the general situation favors firm prices. decline is not clear as the impression in the trade seems to be that the general situation favors firm prices. Another important feature is the strength in rolled oatmeal which is still quoted at \$1.30 and very firmly held, and will in all probability advance shortly. All lines of canned goods remain unchanged, although there is every prospect of imported canned fish such as hippered herring, preserved bloaters, etc., being sharply advanced as prices have gone up from 20 to 3be per dosen in England and Scotland where they are put up. Green Rilo coffee has been somewhat unnettled for the last week but is reported stronger again at time of writing although prices remain unchanged at 1% to 10½ per pound. In cured fish the feature is the scarcity of Digby cricks and grocery houses are quoting these at 20 to 21c, a figure which has not been reached for years. There is a wide range of prices in Valencia raisins and a wide range in quality also. Poor raisins can be hought for \$15.00 per box whereas best quality is worth \$2.55 per pox. At the former price, wholesale men are making no money although the higher prices goods are probably best value. Callfornia dried fruits are steady and in fair demand. Glucose syrup is 1-5c per pound higher at factories in sympathy with the recent advance in corn. Jobbers here are still selling at old figures. Wholesale quotations per positi agere it activers a sympathy with the recent advance in corn. Jobbers here are still selling at old figures. Wholesale quotations will be found on page 670.

HARDWARE.

Orders for spring shipment are sum-erous and there is an improved tone to the market. The week has been with-out special feature so far as prices are concerned.

PAINTS, OILS AND GLASS. Spring business is large and the market is now quite active. Linseed of holds steady at last week's decline. Turpentine is steady and unchanged. White lear, is 25c lower.

IMPLEMENTS.

Spring shipments are going forward freely and dealers are devoting their attention exclusively to these. Country dealers are getting a little anxious owing to the continued mildness of the weather and think that the spring may open up early, in which case weather and think that the spring may open up early, in which cases farmers will want to take delivery of shelr seeders, etc., very shortly. This is making the pressure for delivery at country points much stronger.

SCRAP

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There is a fairly good demand for scrap iron and prices for this and other old materials rule steady as follows: No. 1 cast iron, free from wrought and malieable, \$12 to \$13 per ton; No. 2 44.00 to \$5 per ton; wrought iron scrap, \$5 to \$0 per ton; wrought iron scrap, \$5 to \$0 per ton; wrought iron scrap, \$10 to \$12c per pound; red brass, \$10c per pound; yellow brass, heavy, 7 to \$8c pound; light brass, \$5c to \$6c per pound; light brass, \$5c to \$6c per pound; light brass, \$5c to \$6c per pound; light prices, \$6c per pound; lig

STONE AND LIME.

Prices for the opening of the season have been fixed as follows: Rubble stone, \$4.00 per cord; footings, \$5.50 per cord; broken stone, \$1.25 per cubic yard; white lime 20c per bushel; grey lime 15c per bushel. These are practi-cally the same prices as prevailed last

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

Wheat—The past week in the wheat markets has shown the same lifeless characteristics which have obtained Wheat—The past week in the wheat markets has shown the same lifeless characteristics which have obtained for several weeks now, but yesterday an awakening took place in the American speculative markets, which for one day at least has gotten them out of the rut they have been in. Liverpool yesterday morning opened easy and a shade lower, but later became strong and advanced firmly. This induced the American markets strongly, and a large short interest having accumulated, a gradual advance took place through shorts covering, and markets closed at the high point of the day, I to 1½c higher than a week ago, the whole advance having been made yesterday. Any increase in export demand, or crop damare preports coming from winter wheat fields would easily cause further advance at the present time. So far the season has been remediable for the absence of crop damare reports to the whose comments the first weeks even in the firster Enve fields would easily cause further advance at the present time. So far the season has been remarkable for the winter wheat crop in the States. Engishment for control of the season heradatuffa. The United States zoverament remove for March was issued on the 11th inst. siving reserves of wheat in farmers hands on March let as 120 time for him was instead on the 11th inst. siving reserves of wheat in farmers hands on March let as 120 time for him was an instead of 138 time for him was hand in the season of the season o

small and demand limited. Buy as have been very scarce, and wheat unsaleable unless price was lowered, and holders have not been disposed to and duce prices. The spurt in yesterduce where the price and the markets has created a limited for the course of the course of

American markets has created a firmer feeling but sufficient time has not elapsed to allow a practical influence so that prices are nominal as follows, viz.: 1 hard, 84c; 2 hard, 76c; 3 hard, 88c; 10 ha

MILLIFEED—Both bran and shorts have advanced \$1 per ton here owing to insufficient supply and large denand. Bran is now quoted in \$15 per ton and shorts at \$17.00 per ton delivered.

and a shorts at \$17.00 ptr for decivered.

GROUND FEED—Ground feed is service owing to the small supplies of coarse grains. Fure out chop is worth a supplies of coarse grains. Fure out chop is worth a supplies of coarse grains. Fure out chop is worth a supplies of coarse grains. Fure out come is \$1.50 mighter at \$21.50 period corn in \$1.50 mighter at \$21.50 period corn. \$1.50 mighter and at meny points so business doing at all. Most of the west which has offered is of poor quality. Buyers are paying the farmers from 50 to 65c per bushel, according to quality of grain and rade of freight.

OATS—Receipts are lighter and the market has firmed up in consequence. It seems to be the case that stocks is the country are running low, both at regards Manitoba and Northern Alberta. Manitoba and Northern Alberta cats after the supplies of the

BARLEY-The market is practically

BARLIES — are mainted of no. 3 corn on moninal.

CORN—Carlots of No. 3 corn on track here are worth from 48 to 40% per burbel, an advance of 11½ to 20 per burbel for the week.

FIANSEED—The market is purely nominal as there is no flarseed offer.

FLANSEED—The market is purely nominal as there is no flanseed officient. HAY—The market for hay is finned and we quote both loose and presed hay \$1 per ton higher than a week see. Stocks are becoming light at shipping points and most of the offerings are poor quality. We quote choles free baled hay \$1 to \$9 per ton.

POULTRY—Demand is failing of, the property of t

hands. Dealers are selling from stek at about 22c per pound.

RUTTER—Dairy—There is a picition of second grade stock in the market, but choice butter in dearce and good decemend. The market for reflection of the second grades of a commission basis.

Rest deskey is worth 152 life per pound commission basis. Best deskey is worth 152 life per pound commission basis. CHEESE—Commission means are reflected by the second grades on a commission basis. Best deskey is worth 152 life per pound commission basis.

CHEESE—Commission men are reflected by the second grades in the proposed to the city retail trade.

DOGG—A sharp drop has the proposed to the city retail trade at the process of the second with 15c a well ago. Commission because are reflected to the retail trade at 16c per pound strictly new laid engs are worth 25c per dease at the city market.

VEGETABLES—Three cart-ale of potatoes have been breamful in two Ontorio this week by local dealers as are being jubbed out at 46c per busin. The wild worther has made chipter pounditie. Cleane grown potatoes are