

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, May 19.

The continued dry weather is creating a little uneasiness. Whether this is well founded or not remains to be seen. Rain would certainly improve the outlook very much if heavy and general. Light showers have fallen this week in most parts of the province. The general trade situation remains about the same as last week. Light summer wearing apparel is moving freely. Boot and shoe trade is dull. Hardware is fairly active. Groceries are active. Lumber and building material are in good demand. The general range of values is about the same, although there is a tendency to recede from the high level attained on some kinds of hardware and metal. Railway traffic is quite heavy. Large numbers of new settlers are still pouring into the country and farming operations are proceeding actively in all parts. The area in crop is certainly very much larger this year. Cattle trade is quiet. Bank clearings at Winnipeg expanded over the same week a year ago \$885,644.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Winnipeg, Saturday, May 19.

(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.)

CURED MEATS.

Demand is good and the market very firm. Dealers announce an advance of 12c per pound on smoked shoulders, picnic hams, dry salt shoulders, short clear, and backs to take effect on Monday.

DRY GOODS.

Trade in all seasonable lines continues active. Summer goods of all kinds are in good demand both in city and country. Prices continue firm. Collections poor.

FISH.

Fresh caught fish are now more plentiful. Whitefish, trout, pike and pickerel are all obtainable. Demand is good. We quote: Whitefish, fresh caught, 6 1/2c per pound, frozen 6 to 5 1/2c; Lake Superior trout, 10c; salmon, 12 1/2c; halibut, 12 1/2c; pickerel, 1c; pike, 3c; trout, 10c; salmon, 12 1/2c; salmon, round cuts, 10c; halibut, 11c; salt whitefish, in half barrels, \$6.50; haddock, 7c; salt cod, 7c; mackerel, fresh, 15c; fresh herring, 20c; Labrador herring, in half barrels, \$4.00.

GREEN FRUITS.

Strawberries are now becoming quite plentiful and have declined to \$4.00 per case of two dozen boxes. California cherries in 10 pound boxes are coming in this week and sell at \$2.50 per case. Pineapples are in the market at \$1.00 per dozen. Rhubarb is becoming cheaper owing to more plentiful supply. Commencing Monday the price will be 3c per pound, owing to expected large arrivals next week. Stocks of Egyptian onions are expected in to-day and will sell at 4c per pound. At present there are no onions in the market. New Messina lemons from the Montreal sales are expected in to-day

and will sell at \$4.75 per case. Med. sweet oranges are plentiful and also St. Michaels. Naval oranges are about done. Bananas are 25c lower. We quote: Med. sweets, \$3.75 to \$1.50 according to size; St. Michaels, \$4.75 to \$1.25; California navel oranges, \$1.75 to \$5 per case for regular sizes; California seedlings, \$3.75 to \$4.00, California lemons, per box, \$4.75, bananas, \$2.75; pineapples per dozen, \$5.00, six avocados, \$1.00 per case; coconuts, per dozen, 80c; Grenoble walnuts, 15c; Taragona almonds, 15c, filberts, 12c; peanuts, green, 9c, roasted 12c, pecan nuts 15c per lb; new maple sugar, per pound 15c; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels; fruit cider put up in 20 and 30 gallon kegs, per gallon, 35c; California layer figs in 10 pound boxes, \$1.40; new Smyrna in glove boxes, \$2.00 per dozen; 10 lb. boxes, \$1.50 per box; dates, 7c per lb. in 115 cartons, 10c; honey in 1-lb. glass jars, per dozen jars, \$2.50; Egyptian onions, 4c per pound; green onions, 30c per dozen bunches; lettuce, 40c; sweet potatoes, per barrel, \$7; new California cabbage, 5c per lb.; cucumbers, \$1.75 per dozen.

GROCERIES.

Trade is good in all staple lines of groceries. As regards prices canned goods remain unchanged. Green Rio coffees manifest an easier tendency. California raisins have declined about 1.2c per pound due to apparent surplus of stock at primary points. Local jobbers are supplied for the present with raisins bought at the old figures. Tapioca is 1.4c lower per pound. United States wooden and fibre ware are being supplied to the trade here until Canadian mills can be replaced. These can be laid down duty paid at old prices. Some local jobbers have always carried these goods so that their customers were familiar with them. Prices are given on page 1188.

HANDWARE.

The feature of the local situation is the prospective scarcity of harvest tools, axes, etc., due to the St. Catharines fire and dealers are speculating as to the source of their future supplies. Trade is good and prices for the most part steady. Tar paper has advanced 5c per roll, which is the only change. Quotations will be found elsewhere in this issue.

PAINTS, OILS AND GLASS.

Trading in this line in a jobbing way is only moderate. Prices remain unchanged. Linseed oil is very firm and further advances are not improbable. Turpentine is firm at the lower range of prices established a short time ago. For Winnipeg prices see elsewhere in this issue.

IMPLEMENTS.

Local dealers report business good in carriages, and those dealers who by rail bicycles have had a lively trade. There has been a difficulty in getting supplies in fast enough and some lines of bicycles have been entirely out of stock part of the time. There is a rush now to get implements forwarded before the new classification takes effect on June 1, after which date the 12,000 pound car rate will be discontinued and cars will be billed only at the 20,000 pound rate, which will mean a considerable increase in the cost of laying down implements at country points.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—The wheat markets have been slow enough some days the past

week, but have shown somewhat of an awakening tendency, more especially towards the end of the week, as if the long period of dull and lifeless markets were beginning to give signs of an approach to more interesting and brisker trade. That the change should develop is being brought on by more or less crop damage in various districts is a matter for regret. Yesterday the American speculative markets become very active on the steady stream of damage reports coming from the west and southwest owing to over supply of rain, and from the Northwest owing to want of it. Increasing signs of insect damage also reported from various points in the States. With the advance yesterday prices have gained 11-14 to 13-8c on the week, and are practically at the same figures as they were before the government report was issued last week. While crop reports are favoring the bull side, recent statistics may also be looked upon as supporting it. Last week the American visible decreased 2,204,000 bushels, and the decrease in three weeks has been over 7,000,000 bushels. The world's shipments were 7,564,000 bushels against 9,161,000 bushels the previous week, and the world's visible supply according to Bradstreet's, decreased 4,366,000 bushels against a decrease of 6,700,000 bushels the previous week and an increase last year of \$76,000 bushels. The crops in western Europe and in England are not doing so well as cold and inclement weather has again been experienced, and the situation continues very backward. The Russian crop at last accounts is very favorable.

The local market is quiet. Holders are firm and not pressing sales. Buyers for export are slow and cautious, professing that there is no profit in export business at present prices. The value of 1 hard spot Fort William has advanced 11-14c on the week from 67 1/2c at the close of last week to 68 1/2c the closing price yesterday. Spot and May delivery are the same value, and even for June delivery there is little or no premium. No. 2 hard and 1 northern are 21-4c under 1 hard, and 3 hard 41-2c under 1 hard.

FLOUR—The demand for flour is fair and prices steady. Ogilvie's quote Hungarian patent at \$1.95; Glenora patent, \$1.75; Manitoba Strong Bakers' \$1.45, and XXXX \$1.00. The Lake of the Woods Company's prices are \$1.65 for Fivo Bloses, \$1.65 for Patent, \$1.30 for Medora and \$1.10 for XXXX, in 80 pound sacks delivered.

MILLFEED—Prices are easing off and are now \$1.50 lower than last week at \$12.50 to \$13.00 per ton for bran and \$14.50 to \$15.00 for shorts, in bags delivered.

GROUND FEED—Prices on barley and mixed feed are firming up, owing to higher prices for the grain. We quote: Oat chop, \$23 per ton; barley chop, \$19; mixed feed of barley and oats, \$22; oil cake, \$27.

GATE—Demand is fairly good and prices firm. Fair quantities are offering. No. 2 white oats can be obtained under 32c per bushel, which is the current quotation for carlots on track here. No. 2 mixed are scarce at 30 1/2c per bushel. Carlots at country points are worth 25 to 26c per bushel according to freight rate.

BARLEY—The market is very quiet. A few lots have been bought this week at from 33 to 35c per bushel on track here.