

THE SITUATION.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON, January 13.

The weather, which has been fine and comparatively mild since about the middle of December, was interrupted by a cold snap, which, however, lasted only a couple of days, but was followed by a heavy gale of wind, with mild weather, on Wednesday. The storm broke in the west earlier and travelled eastward. The storm was very severe in the West, lasting longer, and delaying railway traffic seriously. At Winnipeg the wind was only severe for a few hours, but it was a heavy gale while it lasted, but fortunately the temperature was not low. The weather is now very mild again. The delay in railway traffic is the only interference to trade, but that was not serious.

The Manitoba legislature met this week, and on account of expected changes in the law regarding the collection of debts, chattel mortgages and liens, exemptions, etc., the session is of more than usual importance to the business community. A deputation of Winnipeg jobbers waited on the government the other day and urged that the exemption act be amended so as to prevent the mortgaging or giving liens upon property exempt from execution under the act. A reduction in legal expenses in connection with law suits was urged. It is understood the present session will be fruitful of legislation affecting the collection of debts, &c.

The establishment of the clearing house in Winnipeg shows that Winnipeg clearances are larger than some of the eastern cities where clearing houses have been established.

The tariff situation is still the most important feature in the commercial situation generally, and nothing but uncertainty can prevail until the Government announces its tariff policy. *Bradstreet's* mercantile report this week says that Montreal manufacturers are idle, owing to expected tariff changes. R. G. Dun & Co's weekly review of trade says: Business has distinctly improved since the New Year, and the gain is no longer visible only in speculative markets. It is the only kind of improvement that has in its possibilities of lasting, because it is based upon actual increase in the production by industries.

Failures for the past week have been 474 in the United States, against 336 last year, and 57 in Canada, against 20 last year. The liabilities of all firms failing for the week ending January 4 in the United States were \$5,672,441. The final returns of failures in 1893 show of commercial liabilities \$346,779,889, and including liabilities in banking and financial failures an aggregate of \$557,773,697. The liabilities in 3,422 manufacturing failures were \$176,982,091, and in 11,512 trading failures \$130,062,383.

Winnipeg Markets.

[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.]

LEATHER—Trade is quiet in this branch as usual at this time of year and there has been no further change in prices. Quotations are:—Spanish sole, best No. 1, per lb, 28 to 30c; Spanish sole, No. 1, per lb, 26 to 28c; Spanish sole, No. 2, 24c; slaughter sole, heavy, 30c; slaughter sole, light, 27c; harness, heavy, best, 28 to 30c; harness, light, best, 28 to 30c; harness, No. 1, 26 to 28c; upper, heavy, best, 35 to 45c; upper, light, 50; kip skins, French, \$1 to 1.10; kip skins, domestic, 75 to 85c; calf skins, French, premier choice, \$1.25 to 1.50; calf skins, domestic, 75 to 85c; splits, senior,

25 to 35c; splits, junior, 30; cowhide, 35 to 45c; cordovan, per foot, 17 to 21c; pebble, cow, 17 to 21c; buff, 17 to 21c; russets, saddlers, per doz., \$12.50; linings, colored, per foot, 12c.

BOOTS AND SHOES—Some travellers are out with spring samples. Shipments are being made from the factories east, though manufacturers are still busy on spring orders. A fair business has been done.

DRUGS—There is nothing eventful in the drug trade. Quinine has shown a tendency to advance, recovering from the recent depression. Prices at New York were 35 higher. Opium is easier. Following prices are for parcels, and will be shaded for full package orders:—Alum, per pound, 33 to 41c—etc.; alcohol, \$4.75; bleaching powder, per pound, 6 to 8c; blue vitrol, 5 to 8c; borax, 11 to 13c; bromide of calcium, 55 to 75c; camphor, 75 to 85c; camphor oil, 89 to 90c; carbolic acid, 40 to 65c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chlorate potash, 28 to 35c; citric acid, 60 to 75c; coppers, 31 to 40; cocaine, per oz, \$9.50 to \$9.00; cream tartar, per pound, 28 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c, opsom salts, 31 to 4c; extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 18c; do., boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 35 to 40c; glycerine, per pound, 20 to 25c; ginger, Jamaica, 25 to 40c; do., African, 20 to 25c; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 50 to 60c; iodine, \$5.50 to 6.00; insect powder, 35 to 40c; morphia sul., \$1.90 to 2.25. Opium, \$4.50 to 5.00; oil, olive, \$1.25 to 1.40; oil, U. S. salad, \$1.25 to 1.40; oil, lemon, super, \$2.75 to 3.50; oil, peppermint, \$4.00 to 4.50; oxalic acid, 13 to 16c; potash iodide, \$1.25 to 1.50; saltpetre, 10 to 12c; sal rochelle, 30 to 35c; shellac, 45 to 50c; sulphur flowers, 32 to 5c; sulphur roll, per keg, 37 to 5c; soda bicarb., per keg of 112 lbs, \$3.75 to 4.25; salsoda, \$2.00 to 3.00; tartaric acid, per lb, 45 to 55c.

RAW FURS—Locally there is nothing of importance to note. McMillan & Co., of Minneapolis, in their last circular say: "The receipts are large. The report from the coming January London sale is that the offerings are enormous, and of some articles two or three times what they were in the January sale a year ago. With scarcely any trade in this country and hard times in most parts of Europe it means lower prices at the coming sale for a great many of the principal articles. On a few articles of which the collections are never very large, prices may be sustained or advanced somewhat; but the quantities of the articles that will hold their own will be small. We have reduced our prices materially on mink and muskrat, and after the sale we think that we shall have to reduce mink and some other kinds still more. Mink is the poorest selling article this year, even at the decline. Skunk is the best, but with larger receipts of skunk as the season advances, we feel sure that with general business so poor skunk will have to be bought lower. When any one quotes two or three times as much and offers all manner of inducements for shipments, beware of them, because the furs will be sorted to suit the prices." Quotations below will about cover the range of prices now paid in Winnipeg. The value of a skin varies as to size, color and condition of fur. The top price is for large skins, of prime quality. Occasionally an extra large, fine skin is received which will bring even more than the top quotation:—

Badger, per skin	\$ 05 to \$ 80
Bear, black	50 to 25 00
Bear, brown	50 to 25 00
Bear, grizzly	1 00 to 16 00
Beaver	2 00 to 7 00
Beaver castors, per pound	2 50 to 4 00
Ermines, per skin	01 to 02
Fisher	50 to 7 00
Fox, cross	75 to 6 00
Fox, kit.	.10 to .45
Fox, red	.25 to 1.50
Fox, silver	5.00 to 70.00
Lynx	.25 to 3.50
Marten	.75 to 2.50
Mink	.25 to 1.60
Musquash	.92 to .10

Otter	1.50 to 10.00
Raccoon	.50 to .85
Skunk	.05 to .60
Timber wolf	.25 to 3.00
Prairie wolf, large	.25 to .75
" " small	.25 to .55
Wolverine	.50 to 3.50

GREEN FRUITS—Business has been quite dull in this branch, and at this season of the year there is nothing new in the direction of new varieties of fruit in the market. It is reported that the cold weather of the first of the week extended as far as California, damaging the orange and lemon crops seriously. Particulars beyond the mere statement, have not been received. Firmer prices on Florida oranges are expected, as at present prices the growers are not making any money. California pears are out of the market. Apples are steady. We have quoted prices at \$5 to \$6, as it was expected they would advance to \$6 for choice fruit, but this price is rather beyond the range of values. Lemons continue firm. Prices here are: Apples, \$5.00 to \$5.50 per barrel. Florida oranges, \$4.00 to \$4.50 per box; lemons, new Messinas, \$8.00 to \$8.50; Cranberries are quoted at \$7.50 to \$8.00 per barrel. New Malaga grapes at \$8.00 to \$8.50 per keg. Sweet potatoes, \$5.50 \$6.00 per barrel. Honey, strained, 12c per lb.

DRY GOODS—The action of the cotton manufacturers is attracting attention. Some have been so unkind as to declare that the reason the combine has not declared a dividend for the last year is merely for effect, in expectation of a reduction in the duty. There is no doubt but the manufacturers will strongly oppose any reduction in the duty. The fact that they have declared no dividend would, under ordinary circumstances, be taken to mean that business had not been profitable, but under the peculiar situation many believe it is done simply for effect, and to make it appear that the industry is not prosperous, and cannot stand a reduction in the duty. An eastern trade paper declares that the mills are busy, and that business with them has been prosperous. Travellers are now out with spring samples, but it is too early to say how the trade will turn out this season.

CANNED MEATS:—

Corned Beef	1 lb tins, per case of 1 dozen	\$2 65
Roast Beef	" " " 1 " "	2 90
Brawn	" " " 1 " "	2 05
Pigs Feet	" " " 1 " "	2 90
Lunch Tongue	" " " 1 " "	7 00
Ox Tongue	" " " 1 " "	7 60
Chipped Dried Beef	" " " 2 " "	5 00
Compressed Ham	" " " 2 " "	5 50

FLUID BEEF, ETC.—Following are prices of the goods put up by the Johnston Fluid Beef Company of Montreal:—Johnston's Fluid Beef—No. 1, 2-oz. tins, per dozen, \$2.70; No. 2, 4 oz., \$4.50; No. 3, 8-oz., \$7.85; No. 4, 1-lb., \$12.83; No. 5, 2-lb., \$24.30. Staminol—2 oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do, 4 oz., \$5.10; do, 8 oz., \$7.65; do, 16-oz., \$12.75. Fluid Beef Cordial—20-oz. bottles, \$10. Milk Granules—In cases of 4 dozen, \$5.10. Milk Granules with Cereals—In cases of 4 dozen, \$4.25.

COAL—Prices are not changed, and are quoted at \$10.50 for Pennsylvania anthracite, \$9 for western anthracite and \$8.00 per ton for Lethbridge bituminous. These are retail prices, delivered to consumers in the city. Souris coal sells at \$4.25 retail and \$3.75 on track here for the Estevan mines. Roche Perce mine Souris coal is quoted 25c higher per ton than from the Estevan mines, or \$4.50 to consumers and \$4 on track. At the mines Souris coal is quoted at \$1.50 per ton f.o.b. cars.

DRIED FRUITS—Eastern markets claim to be firmer on raisins, as it is said the holiday trade reduced stocks to a low state. Prices are:—New golden dates 10c lb. Dried apples, 7 to 7½c; evaporated 11 to 11½c. Valencia raisins, \$1.80 to \$1.90 per box; currants, 5½ to 6c; prunes, 7½ to 8½c; dates, old, 7 to 8c. California fruits—prunes, 11 to 12c; apricots, 16