

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Saturday, Oct. 14, 1899.

October is usually one of the busiest months of the year in the city, and is this year more than ever so. The work of handling the grain crop goes on steadily both here and at all market points and the railways have been taxed to their utmost to keep the grain moving. The unprecedented demand for cars has made it extremely difficult at times to supply these, and there are some complaints of car shortage. Not only are the grain shipments heavier than usual, but the movement of general merchandise is very heavy, which makes the work of keeping the grain moving more difficult. Passenger traffic on the railways is also unusually heavy at present. City mercantile establishments are all experiencing unusually good full trade for both country and city consumption. Our reviews of the different lines given hereunder bear this out. The high and advancing prices of many of these lines do not seem to check business in the least. Building operations in the city are being pushed to the utmost. A great deal of work remains to be done, and mechanics of all kinds will lose less time than usual next winter. Most of the finishing work will be done during the winter. The C. P. R. strike is the only disturbing element in the situation this week, as will be noticed in our news columns on another page. It is hoped, however, that before many days wise council will prevail and the differences which have led to the strike, be settled. In fact, it is reported this morning that the strike will be declared off, as a result of a conference between company officials and men yesterday. Bank clearings for the week ending Thursday are larger by about 30 per cent than last year, although only about \$10,000 larger than in 1897.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Saturday, Oct. 14, 1899.

(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.

A new price has been made to-day on sugar-cured hams, and we quote these now at 12 1-2c per pound. Stocks of cured meat in the city are light and sometimes not of the best quality. Packers expect to get more ample supplies of hogs shortly, and then lower prices on cured meats may be looked for.

DRY GOODS.

There is very little change in the dry goods situation locally. Business is moving steadily, and there is a very firm and buoyant tone in the market. As to the future course of prices, the prospects can best be seen in our news columns. The cotton situation is pretty fully given this week with the recent advances.

DRUGS.

The only change in the drug market is a decline of 5c on German quinine. Otherwise prices appear to be steady. Business is certainly good with the Winnipeg jobbing houses and shipments unusually heavy.

FISH.

The season for fresh whitefish closed on the 6th instant, and these are now out of the market. Frozen whitefish are plentiful. Other lines of fresh fish remain unchanged at prices given on page 181.

FUEL.

The market for fuel, both wood and coal, remains unchanged. Coal receipts are none too ample, and the situation at the lakes is one of continued strength in United States anthracite. Quotations there now are \$5.50 and \$5.75 according to size. Canadian coals are steady at last week's prices. Good dry wood is obtainable only in limited quantities, and prices run as follows delivered to consumers in Winnipeg: Tamarac, \$5.50 to \$5.75 per cord; pine, \$5; oak, \$6; birch, \$6; Minneapolis maple, \$6; poplar, \$4.

GREEN FRUITS.

Peaches, pears, grapes and plums are almost over and the market is beginning to lose some of its activity with the passing away of the summer demand. Interest now centres in the apple business. There is practically no change in the situation of winter apples since our report of last week which covered the ground pretty fully. Winter apples are now coming forward freely. Crab apples have been a disappointment to the trade this season, several large shipments which were expected and practically sold, failed to arrive. Grapes have also been a disappointment, and the demand was not nearly supplied. The frost of October 3 in Ontario spoiled all the grapes which were not pulled and housed at that time and practically put an end to shipments. We quote prices this week on leading lines as follows:

Oranges Valencias, per box \$5.50; lemons, per box \$4.25; bananas, per bunch \$1.75 to \$2.25; apples, winter, \$1.75 per barrel, in 5 barrel lots, \$3.60, fall apples, \$3.25; Washington pears, per case, \$3.00; California peaches, \$1.25 per case; Washington plums, \$1.20; Ontario grapes, 30 to 40c per basket; California grapes, per crate, \$2.25; cranberries per barrel, \$7.50. coconuts in sacks of 100, \$5 to \$6. Grenoble walnuts, 13c; Tarragon almonds, 15c; peanuts, green, 9c, roasted, 11c; pecan nuts, 13c per lb., chestnuts, 15c, comb honey, \$2 per dozen sections, strained honey, \$1-2c per pound, maple sugar, per lb. 11c, apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels; fruit cider put up in 20 and 30 gallon kegs, per gallon, 40c, figs, in boxes, 7c lb.; new layer figs in 10 lb boxes, \$1.75, dates 7c per lb., onions, 11-2 to 2c per lb., celery, per dozen, 35c; tomatoes per basket, 50c; sweet potatoes, per barrel, \$5 to \$5.50.

GROCERIES.

Woodenware quotations have been withdrawn this week and it is understood that a new list showing 10 per cent advance will be issued at once. Meanwhile we quote old prices on our current prices page. Green Rio coffee is stronger in tone and prices are up nearly 1-2c per pound. Whether this will be permanent or not remains to be seen. The situation is a very strong one. Indian teas have advanced 1d to 1 1-2d per pound in London. Beans have developed a still stronger tone than last week, and it looks as

if they would reach \$2.00 per bushel. Currants are stronger and 1-2c higher all around. Bosnia prunes are quoted at such high prices that it will be impossible to buy them to sell in competition with California prunes. These latter are now in the market and show good value. Small prunes are going to be very scarce. Business here is brisk and orders from all parts of the country heavy.

HARDWARE.

No important changes have been made here since last Saturday. Cement is a line which has been very scarce and hard to get lately. In fact with the exception of some stocks of German cement the market has been bare. The price went up 25c this week. Hardware quotations will be found on page 183.

PAINTS AND OILS.

The strong tone and continued upward tendency of prices is the feature in this branch. Local dealers received advices of an advance of 37 1-2c per 100 lbs. at the Eastern factories on white lead and the tendency was to put the advance into effect here at once, when would make the price here \$7.12 1-2 for pure. Linseed oil is very strong. Prices were advanced 2c this week. The price of flax seed is about the highest on record here. Crushers are paying \$1 per bushel in country markets to farmers, which is 35c per bushel higher than a year ago. This means that linseed oil will rule high in price for an indefinite length of time—probably until another crop comes to market at least. Turpentine was easier, but is firmer again and prices are quoted higher. Glass stocks are low. Some dealers are practically sold out and none of the jobbers are able to fill all the business they could have. The market is therefore strong and tending higher.

SCRAP.

No change from last week. Demand continues good for iron scrap. Quotations are as follows: No. 1 cast iron free from wrought and malleable, \$12 per ton, No. 2 do., \$4.50 per ton; No. 1 stove plate, \$3.50 to \$4 per ton; wrought iron scrap, \$5 to \$6 per ton, heavy copper, 10c per pound; copper bottoms, 8c per pound, red brass, 8 to 8 1-2c per pound; yellow brass, heavy, 7 1-2c per pound; light brass, 4 1-2 to 5c per pound; lead pipe or tea lead, 2 1-2c per pound; zinc scrap, 1c per pound; rags, country mixed, 50c per cwt.; clean, dry bones, 35c per cwt., rubber boots and shoes free from arctic and rivets, 6c per lb. Good quart beer bottles are worth 25 to 30c per dozen; pints, 10c per dozen; square gin bottles, 30 to 35c per doz.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—Although during this week war has actually begun in South Africa, its influence on the wheat markets has been practically nil. It did give a slight stimulus to export demand at the Atlantic seaboard on Wednesday, and prices in the American markets advanced 3-4c per bushel, but since then a weaker feeling has obtained, and at the close of yesterday's markets there was a loss in value on the week of 1-4c to 3-8c per bushel. Prices in England are a little higher, and English farmers are reported to be holding on to their wheat in view of the war. Ocean freights have advanced 2c to 3c per bushel owing to a considerable number of the Atlantic liners having been chartered by the British government to carry troops and supplies to the Cape; so that the