

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, July 30.

Business is rather quieter with the jobbers, which is usual about this time of year, being between seasons for some branches. The amount of business doing, however, is reported as satisfactory for the season, but there will be the usual quiet time in season goods until the fall trade opens. The farm implement trade is one of the most active branches now, and the fruit trade will soon be at its height. The large amount of new railway work going on in Manitoba this year, including the construction or extension of seven different lines of railway, is an important feature, and keeps labor well employed. The harvest will soon be starting, which will greatly increase the demand for labor. A little grain will be cut next week in some early sections. It is said some early barley has been cut this week, but this is far in advance of the general crop. The harvest, however, promises to start fairly early, though it will be irregular. The frost of Tuesday of last week, we learn from later reports, did some damage in the far northwestern district of Manitoba and the adjoining territory, but that section is mostly a cattle country and very little wheat is grown in the affected district. The export cattle trade is just beginning, which is later than last year. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week, for the first time in a long while, are less than for the corresponding period of last year. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week were \$1,197,012, compared with \$1,257,626 for the corresponding week last year, and \$1,076,551 two years ago.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

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BINDER TWINE.

The edge is off the binder twine market. The harvest is about finished south, and holders of twine are now offering their goods more freely in the northern spring wheat regions. It is also said that the quantity of twine wanted in Ontario will not be as large as earlier estimates, which leaves a more liberal quantity for this market. The market has a decidedly easier tone, but even should there be a decline of one or two cents it would not in the least affect prices of twine purchased at the beginning of the season, as the opening price, at which liberal sales were made here, was 5 to 7c below prices recently quoted. A drop of a few cents would therefore have no influence on the twine now held by the trade on earlier purchases.

DRUGS.

The war tax on patent medicines in the United States is said not to apply on medicines exported, nevertheless some manufacturers have advanced their prices in Canada, notably on Cuticura goods, Ripans' tabules, Pet-

tit's eye salve, antikanmia and resinol.

GROCERIES.

Sugars are firm and more active. Japan tea is firm. Foreign advices note a strong market. A large run of salmon is reported from the northern British Columbia rivers, but the Fraser river pack is light so far. Packers of salmon are somewhat inclined to hold back, though some sales are being made for futures. There is still considerable irregularity and uncertainty regarding domestic canned goods. Advices from the east say some packers have withdrawn quotations. Tomatoes were sold here this week at 70c at the factory, for future delivery, and contracts for peas were made at 57 1-2c, and as low as 55c at the factory was reported on peas for future delivery to jobbers, a week or two ago. One packer, however, writes that they have sold peas east at 65c, and are consequently not inclined to meet prices made here. The general tone seems firmer, on new canned goods. Advices regarding new apricots from California are firmer, and report an active market and a large part of the crop already sold. It is said the crop of the state will not exceed 225 to 250 carloads. About 9 1-4c is now quoted in California for bags and 1-2c higher for boxes, and one report says prices will go to 10c. Some very strong reports have come to hand regarding spices. A New York report says that London buyers took all the Singapore black pepper obtainable at 9 1-4c, and were open for more, but sellers held 1-8 to 1-4c higher. Cloves were firm on short crop talk and there are stronger foreign advices on Cassia. On and after the first of August the preferential tariff will only apply to Great Britain and certain British colonies. This may prevent German sugars from coming in, and will effect some other commodities. See prices last week, which are unchanged.

GREEN FRUITS.

Bananas are still very scarce and prices firm. Blueberries have been coming forward very freely and price has dropped to 5c per lb. At this figure the supply has been in excess of the demand. Large quantities of blue berries are being sent to the country. A few apricots came in, but they are very poor quality. Tomatoes are down to \$1.25. A few new apples in boxes have been offered, at \$2 per 50 lb. box. Southern concord grapes in 8 lb. baskets are in the market at \$1 per basket. Another shipment of Georgia peaches have come in. They are in six basket crates of about 40 lbs. net, and have turned out very good quality. Cherries out of season. Prices are: Oranges, California, Mediterranean sweets, \$3.75 to \$4.50 a box; late Valencias, \$4.50 to \$5 a box; St. Michael oranges, \$4 to \$4.50, bananas, a bunch, \$2.50 to \$3 as to size; California lemons, \$6 per box; pie plant, \$1 per 100 lbs; tomatoes, \$1.25 per crate of four baskets; Oregon cherries, \$1.25 per ten pound gross box; apricots, \$1.50 per box; California peaches, \$1.50 per box; Southern peaches, 40 lb. crates, \$3; California plums, \$1.75 to \$2 per box, as to quality and variety; California pears, \$4 to \$4.25 per box; blueberries, in baskets, 5c per pound; watermelons, \$4 per dozen; coconuts, \$1 per dozen; Sicily filberts, large, 11c to 12c per pound; Grenoble walnuts, 14c; figs, elemes, 14 lb. boxes, \$1.50; 20 lb. boxes, \$2.50; 1 lb. boxes per doz., \$1.75; dates, 6c per lb; Tarragona almonds, 12 1-2 to 13c; pecans, green, 9c; roasted, 12c; pecans,

14c to 15c; strained honey, 7 1-2 to 10c per lb.; maple sugar, 11c to 12c; syrup per dozen half gallon tins, \$6.50; apple cider 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels.

HAIRDWARE.

Glass holds very firm, but no advance has been made yet, though an upward move has been looked for for some time, in view of the higher prices in other markets. Rope is easier, in sympathy with the decline east, but prices are locally unchanged. Paris green is in good demand at firm prices. White lead is firm. See quotations on another page.

IMPLEMENTS.

Mowers and hay rakes have been going out to consumers freely, and some dealers are about sold out of rakes. A large area of hay land will be cut this year. Hay is usually so cheap in Manitoba that some consumers depend on buying at least a portion of their requirements, in preference to putting it up for themselves. Those who followed this plan during the past year, were left in a bad position, owing to the scarcity and high price of hay. On this account an extra effort will be made to put up hay this season, and though the crop is light, a plentiful supply will no doubt, be put up by cutting a much larger area. Dealers report that the sales of threshing rigs have been considerably larger than last year.

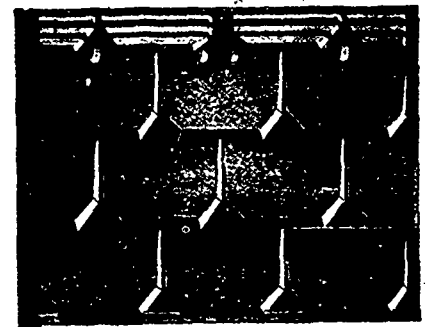
LUMBER.

The important feature in the lumber trade this week is an advance of \$1 per thousand feet on British Columbia lumber, on delivered prices at Manitoba and territorial points. This makes the third advance on British Columbia lumber this season. Shingles remain unchanged at \$2.25 Manitoba points, for standard stock. In the States south \$2 is quoted for stars,

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