

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, May 4.

The weather this week has been favorable for business and accordingly it has been reasonably active. There is a good steady trade being done by jobbing houses and the outlook for business is quite promising. Money is scarce, but this does not appear to affect the situation as a good many traders appear to have found the secret of getting goods and doing business without money. Navigation is now open at Fort William so that there will be a large increase in the inward movement of merchandise. Building and factory operations are proceeding with considerable activity. Railway traffic is increasing, especially by the westbound passenger traffic. Bank clearings for the week have been smaller than last year, as will be noted in our report elsewhere in this issue. This is the first time for some months that this has been the case.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS

Saturday, May 4.

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

## BINDER TWINE.

Demand for this article has become very light since prices advanced to the present level. It is thought that fully three-fourths of the orders are placed and that further buying will be deferred until near harvest time. Quotations remain at last week's level of 11½¢ per pound for pure manila twine, f.o.b., Chicago, 10½¢ for 900-foot manila and 8½¢ for sisal and standard.

## BUILDING MATERIAL.

The building movement has expanded considerably since the weather became summerlike and there is now a big demand for stone, lime and sand, and also a growing demand for brick. The latter material has declined \$1 per thousand since the season opened. We quote prices as follows: Rubble stone, \$4.00 per cord; footings, \$5.50 per cord; broken stone, \$1.25 per cubic yard; white lime, 20¢ per bushel; gray lime, 15 to 16¢ per bushel. Veneer brick \$11 per thousand; kiln run, \$9 per thousand.

## DRY GOODS.

Travellers who have been out for sorting and fall business have now covered their territory pretty thoroughly and judging from results the season's business in the west is to be fairly satisfactory notwithstanding the scarcity of money. People in the west seem to be increasing their requirements in this line as years go by and the country becomes more settled. There is a growing demand for specialties and fancy goods of all kinds and also for the latest and best in the way of dress materials. A line of goods which has been having a tremendous run lately is the straight front corset. Wholesale merchants have found it impossible to keep pace with the orders for these and are pushing factories as hard as they can to get goods forward.

## FISH.

Demand is steady and the market unchanged. Fresh fish will be in next week. We quote prices as follows: Whitefish, 6½¢ to 6½¢ per pound; pickerel, 4¢; pike, 2½¢ to 3¢; trout, 10¢; fresh spring salmon, 14¢ per pound; salmon, 12½¢; halibut, 12½¢; Lake Superior herring, 20¢ per dozen; salt cod, 6½¢; Labrador herring, per barrel, \$4.00; salt mackerel, \$2.25 per kiln; boneless cod, 7½¢ per lb.; boneless fish, 6½¢ per lb.; Annan haddies, 8¢ per pound; fresh sea cod, big, 7¢ per pound; fresh haddock, 8¢; smelts, 7½¢; mackerel, 13¢; fresh shad, 10¢; bass, 13¢; eels, 10¢; oysters, select, \$2.15 per gallon; standard, \$2.00.

## GROCERIES.

Trade is fairly active, with good demand from country points, particularly in the far west. White beans are somewhat easier although probably only temporarily, and are now quoted at \$1.85 to \$1.95 for prime. Cornmeal is again higher in sympathy with the high price of corn in Chicago, and although prices have not as yet been marked up locally they must within

a few days be put up 5¢ to 10¢ per sack. Prunes are again firmer and have now got back to about their old prices, notwithstanding which the demand continues large. Corn syrup is advancing in sympathy with corn and while not yet advanced here it shows an advance of 10¢ at primary points. Winnipeg wholesale quotations will be found on another page.

## GREEN FRUITS.

The warmer weather has produced a better demand for green fruit. California navel oranges are getting pretty well done and about another ten days will finish them. Apples are practically out of the market. Bananas are coming in in good shape and prices remain firm at points of shipment. Strawberries are \$2 per crate cheaper. Florida tomatoes are offering at \$15.50 per six basket crate. Cherries are now in the market at prices quoted below. So also are pineapples. Plantain has been scarce at 10¢ per pound, but lower prices are looked for next week. We quote: Apples, 80¢ per barrel; California navel oranges, per box, \$2.35 to \$4.00; lemons, per box, \$3.50 to \$3.75; bananas, per bunch, \$2.75 to \$3.00; strawberries, \$6.00 per crate of two dozen boxes; cherries, \$2.75 per 10-pound box; pineapples, \$3 per doz., \$1.40 to \$1.50 per 10-pound box; cartoon dates, per package, of 1-lb., 6¢; new dates, 6¢, elder in kegs or barrels, 35¢ per gallon, honey, 1-lb. jars, \$2.50 a dozen, maple sugar, 12¢; maple syrup, 2-lb. tins, per dozen, \$2.25; half gallon tins, \$6.50 per dozen; gallons, \$12.00. Florida tomatoes, in 4-basket crates, \$4.50; plantain, 10¢ per pound; Egyptian onions, 4¢ per pound.

## HARDWARE.

There is a considerable amount of activity prevailing in the hardware market here and we note a large demand from many parts of the west for building materials, summer lines of household goods, wire screens, netting, etc. Dealers are pleased with the outlook for the summer. Prices show but few changes this week. Stove pipe is lower, having declined 50¢ per 100 lengths. Pine pitch is 50¢ per barrel higher at \$4.50. Shot is lower, soft being quoted now at \$6.25, as against \$6.65 before, chilled at \$6.75, as against \$7.15, and buckshot at \$7.25, as against \$7.65 before, a drop of 40¢ all around. Pressed spikes at 20¢ per keg lower. Ingot tin is 2¢ per lb lower. These are all the changes that have occurred this week. For latest Winnipeg prices see another page.

## PAINTS, OILS AND GLASS.

Demand is active. Lined oil has advanced 2¢ per gallon, making the price here now 70¢ per gallon for raw oil and 73¢ for boiled. This advance is a result of the stronger position which oil has taken up in eastern and southern centres. There was an advance of the same amount at New York last week and this has gradually spread westward. It is understood that the prospective outputs of mills all over this continent are pretty well bought up already, so that the only chance for lower prices before another crop is to be found in the possibility of imports of British made oil putting down the price. Other lines of goods under this head hold steady and unchanged.

## SCRAP.

The scrap market is fairly active and there are good prospects for an active season's business. The market for wrought iron scrap is a little stronger but there is no quotable change. Bottles are higher, quarts being now worth 25¢ per dozen and pints 15¢. This advance is due to failure of prohibition bill in Manitoba. There is a good demand for everything in the way of old materials excepting rubbers which have declined owing to weakness of southern markets. Stocks of rubber on this continent are pretty heavy. Scrap cast iron is the strongest article on our list and dealers who have stocks on hand are holding them for an advance. We quote: No. 1 cast iron, free from wrought and malleable, \$12 to \$13 per ton; No. 2, \$1 to \$5 per ton; wrought iron scrap, \$7 per ton; heavy copper, 10 to 12¢ per pound; copper bottoms, 10 to 11¢ per pound; red brass, 10 to 11¢ per pound; yellow brass, heavy, 8¢ per pound; light brass, 5 to 6¢ per pound; lead pipe or era lead, 2 to 2½¢ per pound; rags, country mixed, 50¢ per 100 pounds rubbers, free from rivets, buckles and articles, 5¢ per pound; zinc scrap, 1¢ per pound; bones, clean, dry and bleached, \$5 to \$6 per ton; bottles, quarts, 25¢ per dozen; pints, 15¢ per dozen.

## GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

**WHEAT**—The markets have held moderately strong the past week and at the close of business yesterday prices showed only fractional changes from a week ago. Last Saturday a sharp advance took place in Chicago and other markets but the whole of it was lost on Monday and a further slight decline followed in the next two days. Since Wednesday the loss has been recovered. Prices in the American markets are 1 to 1½¢ per bushel over what they were at corresponding date last year. Primary receipts in the States continue to exceed those of a year ago contrary to general expectation, as it has been considered that owing to the short crop in the Northwest it would not be possible that there could keep up to same rate for so long a time. It looks very much as if both the Northwest spring wheat crop and the Southwest winter wheat had yielded a larger quantity than the statistics gave them credit for. As a matter of fact the primary receipts of winter and spring wheat from the beginning of the crop year to date are fully eleven million bushels more than for the same time in 1899-1900. There has been a good demand from the continent for wheat cargoes on account of the damage to the German crop and all European markets are somewhat higher within the last few days. Millers generally report the flour trade as dull or only fair. While there is a fair amount of strength and activity in the wheat trade at present and a probability that these may last for some weeks yet, the more distant future of wheat prices is bound up in the crop prospect. If that continues favorable and results in liberal yields it is next to a certainty that prices will work towards a lower level. Except for some damage by fly and insects in the southern part of the winter wheat crop in the States, all reports are favorable and point to a large acreage and an unusually good stand. The Pacific coast has this week been visited by fine rains. Spring wheat seeding over the Northwest will be nearly completed this week under very favorable conditions, and the acreage will be increased 10 per cent or more. Except for the German crop all winter wheat crops in Europe are doing well and the weather has recently been fine for spring work. The American visible supply decreased 1,516,000 bushels last week compared to a decrease of 2,005,000 bushels the previous week and a decrease of 2,342,000 bushels same week last year. The world's shipments were 7,731,000 bushels compared to 9,031,000 bushels previous week and 7,220,000 bushels same week in 1900. The world's visible supply, according to Bradstreet's, decreased 3,300,000 bushels against a decrease of 3,272,000 bushels the previous week and a decrease of 2,418,000 bushels for same week last year.

Lake navigation opened at Fort William on April 30th, five days later than last year. So far the opening of navigation has not roused the local market to activity, and it continues dull and very little trade passing, and prices at close of business yesterday show little or no change from a week ago. We quote 1 hard 7½¢, 2 hard 6½¢, 3 hard 6½¢, 3 northern 6½¢, tough 3 hard 6½¢, tough 3 northern 5½¢, dried 3 hard 6½¢ and dried 3 northern 6½¢, all in store Fort William.

**FLOUR**—Mills are running steadily and there is a ready market for all products. We quote prices as follows: Lake of the Woods, Five Roses, \$2.10; Red Patent, \$1.95; Medora, \$1.90; XXXX, \$1.20 per sack of 38 pounds. Ogilvie Milling Co., Hungarian, \$2.10; Glenora Patent, \$1.95; Alberta, \$1.75; Manitoba, \$1.60 and Imperial XXXX, \$1.25 per sack of 38 pounds.

**MILLEFEED**—There is a good demand for both bran and shorts. Prices have declined \$1 per ton and are now quoted at \$12 and shorts at \$14 per ton delivered.

**GROUND FEED**—Pure oat chop is worth \$27 per ton delivered, mixed barley and oats, \$25 per ton, and corn \$22.50 per ton, an advance of 50¢ in the price of the latter.

**COUNTRY WHEAT**—The market is almost a nominal condition as there is little or no wheat being delivered by farmers.

**OATS**—There is a steady demand for oats for feed purposes, to meet which the supply is so far quite sufficient. Seed oats are also in demand, the preference being for Ontario oats. No change in prices. We quote: Ontario oats, No. 2 white, 46¢ per bushel;

Alberta oats, 41 to 43¢; Manitoba grades, 30¢ to 40¢ in carlots on track here.

**BARLEY**—Some seed barley is being sold here at 45¢ per bushel on track.

**CORN**—Corn is ½¢ higher at 35¢ a bushel in car lots here for No. 3.

**FLAXSEED**—Argentine seed is about all that is offering. Holders are asking \$3.00 per bushel for this.

**HAY**—Hay is in good demand and seems to be getting scarce. We quote an advance of \$1 per ton in the market here this week. Fresh baled hay is now worth \$10 to \$11 per ton in carlots on track here and loose hay on the street about the same figures.

**POULTRY**—Dressed turkeys are quoted at 11 to 13¢ per pound; chickens, 7½ to 10¢; ducks, 9¢; geese, 8 to 10¢, wild geese, 7 to 8¢.

**DRESSED MEATS**—A carload of beef arrived this week from Ontario consigned to a local concern. Fresh beef is scarce at unchanged prices. We quote: Beef, fresh, 7 to 8¢ per pound; veal, 7 to 8½¢ per pound; mutton, frozen, 8¢ per pound; fresh mutton, 10 to 11¢ per pound; hogs, 7 to 8¢ per pound.

**BUTTER**—Creamery — Some new creamery is beginning to offer. Dealers are paying 20¢ per pound for this at factories. Supplies are expected to be much larger next week as all factories will soon be in operation.

**BUTTER**—Dairy—Choice grades are very scarce. Inferior butter too plentiful. As high as 15¢ per pound would be paid for a really good article. Dressed beef, but the ruling quotation for best is 14 to 16¢ commission basis. Most of the offerings bring about 12¢. Second grades are not wanted, but may be quoted at 8 to 11¢ commission basis.

**CHEESE**—Manitoba cheese is being sold to the retail trade here at 10¢ per pound.

**EGGS**—We quote 10 to 10½¢ per dozen for fresh eggs in cases, delivered here.

**VEGETABLES**—Potatoes are 5¢ per bushel higher owing to active demand and light deliveries. Parsnips are 1½¢ lower. Cucumbers are offering at \$2.40 per dozen and asparagus at \$2 per dozen. We quote: Potatoes, 5¢ per bushel for farmer's loads, carrots, 10¢ per bushel; beets, 45¢ per bushel; turnips, 20 to 25¢ per bushel; parsnips, 25¢ per pound; onions, \$1.50 to \$2 per bushel; cabbage, new, 1 to 1½¢ per pound; celery, imported, 30¢ to \$1.25 per dozen; parsley, lettuce, radish and watercress, 25¢ to 30¢ per dozen bunches; cucumbers, \$2.40 per dozen, asparagus, \$2 per dozen.

**HIDES**—The market is quiet and steady. Very few hides are offered and the quality is poor. We quote No. 1 hides, 50¢ per pound; No. 2, 40¢; No. 3, 30¢; sheep and lambskins, 40 to 50¢ each; stunks, 15¢ each.

**WOOL**—None offering. We quote unwashed fleece nominally worth 8 to 8½¢ per pound.

**TALLOW**—Dealers are paying for No. 1 tallow at 4¢ per pound. No. 2 is worth 3¢ per pound.

**SENECA ROOT**—It is expected that new root from nearby points will be in by the end of next week or early in the week following unless something happens to delay digging. The recent fine weather has favored growth greatly. Opinion as to the opening price varies but it will not be more than 24¢ nor less than 20¢.

## LIVE STOCK.

**CATTLE**—Market quiet and without feature. Supplies of fat cattle are very light and demand good. No change in prices which we quote as follows: Choice butchers' grades, 4½¢ per pound; medium to good, 4½¢ and inferior 4 to 4½¢ off cars here. Steers are worth about \$12 to \$10 each for yearlings. Shipments of stockers have been going south and west this week.

**SHEEP**—Not much demand as frozen mutton is still obtainable. We quote: Choice mutton sheep off cars here 4½ to 5¢ per pound. Lamb 4½¢ to \$4.00 each.

**HOGS**—The ruling price for 15 hogs off cars here, choice weights, is \$5.25 per 100 pounds. Inferior weights and qualities ½ to 1¢ less.

**MILCH COWS**—Supply is limited and there is not much demand. We quote \$30 to \$40 per head, according to grade.

**HORSES**—The demand for horses has fallen off, especially the farm demand. A considerable number are being held here awaiting better demand. Values remain about the same. Work horses will bring all the way from \$125 to \$200 each, according to weight and quality.