

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

Winnipeg, Saturday, October 2.

The features of business this week are heavy exports of cattle, large grain movement, heavy bank clearings at Winnipeg, being enormous in excess of the corresponding week last year, scarcity of cars for moving railway traffic, and the winding up of the season's dairying. Most of the dairy factories are closing down. The weather has been warm and fine, but the long continued drouth is unfavorable for fall plowing, and also liable to lead to prairie and bush fires, some of which have been reported this week.

Farmers who were in a position to sell their wheat early, have had altogether the best of the situation this year. Dealers have been buying on a declining market ever since the season opened, and some of them are feeling pretty blue, as the wheat so far handled would represent heavy loss to the trade, though no doubt sales have been made against much of the grain purchased.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS.

Winnipeg, Saturday Afternoon, Oct. 2

### DRUGS.

Caustic soda is 5s per ton higher abroad and sal soda is reported 2-6d higher. Quinine, castor oil, and opium are higher in outside markets. See Winnipeg prices on another page.

### COAL.

There has been practically no increase in the demand for coal so far as the weather has been quite warm enough to render artificial heating unnecessary. Coal dealers, however, are preparing for the usual fall trade. Prices, so far as reported, will be the same as last winter, except possibly for the Lethbridge coal, which was sold here on an exceedingly close margin last season—so close in fact that there was nothing in handling it.

### DRY GOODS AND CLOTHING.

Travellers are now about all out with spring samples of clothing. A noticeable feature in some lines is a demand for cheaper lines of goods than was the case a few years ago. The rage for cheap goods, which has prevailed in the east, has been growing in Manitoba, showing the keener competition in the retail trade. As an instance in the furnishing trade, a line of gloves offered to retail at 25 cents per pair, created quite a demand for such an article, though some houses do not handle anything as cheap as that, in men's fall gloves.

### FISH.

Local jobbing prices are as follows for fresh fish: White 5-1-2c, pickrel 4c, trout 9c, salmon 12c, halibut 10c per lb; kippered gold-eyes, 30c per dozen; Stunan haddies, 12-1-2c per lb. Oysters are quoted at \$2.50 per gallon in bulk.

### GROCERIES.

The principal feature this week is the further advance of 1c on Macdonald's black chowing tobacco, making 2c advance in all, besides the 15c advance after the duty was put on leaf tobacco last April. There are

no prunes in the market yet. New Californias are expected in about ten days. Valencia raisins are having some sale, but California loose muscatels are displacing eastern Valencias in this market to a considerable extent. New California raisins are looked for in about three weeks. See quotations on another page.

### GREEN FRUITS.

Several lines of fruit have been scarce this week, including peaches, plums and pears. The season for freestone peaches is about over, and plums are now about done. No more large lots of plums will arrive, and any to come will be confined to a few odd boxes in mixed cars. Blueberries are done, as are also crabs, as it is not expected there will be any more crabs to arrive. They cannot be obtained anywhere now. Apples are very firm. Holders are now refusing \$2 to \$2.25 per barrel, f.o.b. south, where they were selling at \$1.50 some time ago. Freight and duty added to these prices will make them higher here, and we look for a \$5 market for good winter stock. Tokay grapes are lower. The first cranberries arrived to-day, being Cape Cods. Prices are as follows: Bananas per bunch, \$2 to \$2.50; California lemons, \$5 to \$5.50 a box; tomatoes, 20-lb. baskets, 50c; Pacific coast plums, \$1.25 for four basket crate; California peaches, \$1.25 per box; Washington and Oregon pears, \$1.75 to \$2 per box; apples, \$3.75 to \$4.25 per barrel; Concord grapes, 35c for 10-lb. basket; California grapes, \$2.50 per crate for Tokays, and \$2 to \$2.50 for muscat. Ontario pears, 65 to 85c per 20-lb. basket; Cape Cod cranberries, \$9.50 per barrel.

### HARDWARE.

The feature of the hardware trade is the advance in rope of 25c per 100 pounds, for both sisal and manilla. This in sympathy with an advance made by manufacturers in the East. The base price here is now 6-1-2c for sisal and 8c for manilla. See prices on another page.

### PAINTS, OILS, ETC.

Business is active in glass and this is the principal line now selling. White lead is firm at the advance to \$6.25, reported last week. Linseed oil is firm. Turpentine has advanced East, but is unchanged here. See prices on another page.

### GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

**WHEAT**—The general tendency of wheat has been toward lower prices, though the decline this week has been moderate. The bulls appear to be somewhat discouraged, and heavy holders, who bought freely when prices were high, are now feeling weary, while the farmer who sold promptly can feel cheerful over the fact that he has had decidedly the advantage of the grain man, having disposed of his wheat at from 5 to 10c per bushel more than it is now worth for export. Deliveries in Manitoba country markets have fallen off some this week, owing perhaps to lower prices, and to the desire to push fall plowing. The first rush of wheat comes largely from farmers who have no storage on their farms, and who rush their wheat into the elevators. Considerable of the wheat in store is held by farmers who have not yet sold. Elevators at some points were full and cars for shipping wheat could not be had fast enough in some cases to keep space open for taking in further grain,

though delays of this kind are only temporary. With a heavy rush of grain coming on so suddenly, it is practically impossible to keep every market supplied promptly with all the cars needed to move the grain. Deliveries at country points were about 200,000 bushels per day. Prices paid to farmers at country points were dropped on Wednesday 1 to 2c, and again on Thursday prices were 2 to 3c lower, ranging from 69 to 73c, compared with 73 to 77c on Monday and Tuesday. At a few points the range was higher than quoted. In the Winnipeg market the range of values was 91-1-2 to 92c on Monday for No. 1 hard, float Fort William. On Tuesday sales were made at the same range, but on Wednesday 90-1-2c was quoted early, with 89 to 89-1-2c quoted at the close. Yesterday 89c was bid at the close, though it was reported 89-1-2c had been realized earlier in the day.

**FLOUR**—The market has been easier, with a decline of 10c on the outside, the minimum price being the same as a week ago. We quote prices as follows: Patent \$2.40 to \$2.45, strong bakers' \$2.20 to \$2.25, second bakers' \$1.75 to \$1.80 XXXX \$1.40 to \$1.50. These are local quotations in broken lots.

**MILLEED**—Bran is quoted at \$8 per ton and shorts at \$10 per ton delivered in the city to retail dealers.

**BARLEY**—A few loads of new barley have sold at about 25c per bushel of 48 pounds. Very little offered.

**OATS**—Scarcely any movement. A few loads of new have been offered on the street here and were taken at about 25c per bushel of 34 pounds. One car of new No. 2 white was offered at 27c, with 25c bid. Old oats held at 28c for cars here.

**GROUND FEED**—Ground feed is held at \$16 to \$18 per ton, as to quality for good straight grain feed.

**OATMEAL**—The market is firm and \$1.70 is asked in lots to retail dealers for rolled.

**BUTTER**—Creamery—Most of the factories are now closed or closing for the season. The long continued drouth has reduced the make during the past month, but the make of creamery butter will nevertheless be larger than in any previous year. Notwithstanding the larger make, shipments eastward have been limited, owing to the increased consumption in the West on account of mining development and expanding population in the non-producing districts. The home trade has been decidedly good and nearly equal to the supply. Factories are nearly all sold out and the product is held in strong hands. Prices are firm. We quote 20c for fresh made.

**BUTTER**—Dairy—Prices are about the same as last week, good round lots bringing 12 to 14c, as to quality, though 14c is considered an extreme quotation, and higher than some buyers say they can go.

**CHEESE**—The market is very firm and high prices have been paid to factories to secure the balance of the season's makes. We quote 9 to 9-1-2c to factories. These prices are high compared with eastern markets, and are about the very extreme limit which can be paid and hold the western trade against eastern goods, as the differential in favor of Manitoba produce in freight rates to British Columbia ports compared with rates from Eastern Canada, is not very great, and present prices would almost let in Eastern Canada goods. The same is true of butter as well as cheese.