

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

Winnipeg, Saturday, Sept. 25.

The outlook continues very favorable. The magnificent weather has enabled the farmers to get ahead remarkably fast with their harvesting and a large portion of the crop has now been threshed in some districts. The portion of the crop not already threshed is safe in stack, though in some cases farmers are waiting to thresh from the stook. Farmers have been enabled to save their crops at a much less expense as regards labor than usual. Sufficient threshing has now been done to show that the average yield will be somewhat under earlier estimates, but the saving of labor in harvesting and the high prices will more than compensate for the light yield, compared with previous years, while the quality is straight No. 1 and No. 2 hard. Business is good for the season in nearly all branches of wholesale trade. In the grain trade the rush is now on and the railways are taxed to handle the crops. Bank clearings are heavy, clearings for this week being almost double the corresponding week last year.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

Winnipeg, Saturday Afternoon, Sept. 25.

COAL.

The coal trade papers say that the usual fall advance in the Pennsylvania anthracite trade will likely soon be ordered. For egg, stove and chestnut coal, delivered on ship at Buffalo, the quotation is \$5.80 per 2,240 pounds. The rate of freight to Duluth is quoted at 20c per ton. There is nothing to add to last week's remarks regarding the local situation.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

The only new feature in this line of late has been the increased demand for common crockery plates, cups and saucers, etc. This is attributed to the threshing season, as the farmers have to make larger spreads to accommodate the threshing gangs, and the housewife is obliged to add to her stock of crockery ware. Business is reasonably active.

DRUGS.

See quotations on another page.

DRY GOODS AND CLOTHING.

The dry goods branch is fairly active. The warm weather is rather unfavorable to the fall trade, but nevertheless business is fairly good for the season. In the clothing branch, some of the houses have had their travellers out with spring samples for a week or two, but other houses will not send travellers out until October. The cash put into circulation by the new crop movement has hardly been felt yet, though a few remittances have come in as a result of the grain sales in the country.

FISH.

Finnan haddies are now in season again, and are arriving weekly in express lots only, so far, making the price high yet. Local jobbing prices

are as follows for fresh fish: White 5 1-2c, pickerel 4c, trout 9c, salmon 12c, halibut 10c per lb; kippered gold-eyes, 30c per dozen; finnan haddies, 12 1-2 cper lb. Oysters are quoted at \$2.50 per fan in bulk.

GROCERIES.

There is a good trade doing, but much of the demand is for staple lines of which stocks are very low. In fact stocks are so low in some lines as to be positively scarce. New season goods in several lines have not arrived yet, and stocks of old are about exhausted. One line in which there is a scarcity is rice. While the new Japan crop is very large, other countries are short of supplies, and prices are strong. The great scarcity of prunes we have previously referred to and this will not be relieved until next month, when new goods will begin to arrive. Tomatoes are also very scarce, new season goods not being in yet. Prices for dried and evaporated apples are very firm, and prices will be considerably higher than last year. See quotations on another page.

GREEN FRUITS.

There has been nothing further in in British Columbia fruits, and it is not likely there will be any more cars of British Columbia stuff this year. In Ontario fruit grapes are now arriving freely and dealers are able to supply the demand for these, which has been urgent for some time. The Ontario grape crop was late this year and country dealers became impatient about not getting supplies. Though the Ontario crop is late, advices to hand this week say that very warm weather in September has ripened up the crop very fast, and a short grape season is predicted. Prices for concords are lower, the ten pound baskets selling at 35c, which is lower than the price of the eight pound southern concords, which have been in the market previously. Ontario tomatoes of very good quality were in this week, in 20-pound baskets. Ontario pears are also offering in 20-pound baskets. They are fair preserving stock, but not as nice for table use as the Pacific coast pears. Bananas are getting scarce, as the yellow fever scare south is shutting off supplies on account of the quarantine of southern cities. This will matter little, as bananas are not in demand. California freestone peaches are offering freely, but are not expected to hold out much longer. The plum season is drawing to a close. Only blue varieties are now arriving. Blueberries are about wound up. A few more may come in. Crabs were cleared up this week entirely. Shippers have been unable to fill orders for crabs for this market, but some may yet arrive. One western shipper advised that he would get one more car off, and if it arrives some of the orders now in may yet be filled. It is not expected there will be any more than this one car to come forward. Apples are very firm. Advices from the south report sharp advances in prices. At St. Paul prices have advanced 40c per barrel within a few days. The bulk of our supply of apples will come this year from Missouri and Kansas and eastern buyers are now operating in that region, on account of the light crops in the eastern states, thus causing higher prices in the west. One car of Ontario apples has reached here, but it is expected very few Ontario apples will be shipped west this year. 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 to \$1.40 for four basket crate; California peaches, \$1.25 to \$1.40 per box; Washington and Oregon pears, \$1.75 to \$2 per box; blueberries, very scarce, 8 to 10c lb; apples, \$3.75 to \$4.25 per barrel; concord grapes, 35c for ten-lb. basket; California grapes, \$3 per crate for Tokays; and \$2 to \$2.50 for muscat. Montana crabs nominal at \$2.40 to \$2.50 per bushel box. Ontario pears, 65 to 85c per 20-lb. basket.

HARDWARE.

There has been no changes in local quotations, but nearly all staple lines are very firm. See quotations and hardware trade notes on other pages of this issue.

LUMBER.

Local dealers report business active. Prices are steady, there being no further change since the advance in certain lines of low grade stuff, announced two weeks ago. Advices from the coast quote prices firm, with a possibility of some improvement in prices. Red cedar shingles are firm and supplies light. See Winnipeg lumber prices on another page.

PAINTS, OILS, ETC.

The important feature this week is the advance of 2c on linseed oil, making the price here now 55c for raw and 58c for boiled. The article is very firm at this advance and may go higher yet. The advance in the United States has been much greater proportionately than here. Turpentine is firm. Prices have advanced 1c in the East, but there is no change here. White lead is very firm at the advance noted last week. The sharp advance in the raw material for lead renders the outlook very strong. Glass holds firm at \$1.75 for first break. Stocks of window glass are now well in hand. See quotations on another page.

The price of white lead here is low compared with Eastern Canada markets. The price quoted at Toronto is \$5.50, which with the 72 cent freight added would be equal to \$6.22 here, besides which there is the tare on packages, etc.

Since writing the above we learn that a further advance has been made in white lead of 10c, the price now being fixed at 6 1-4c, in sympathy with the sharp advances east. This advance was made too late in the week to enable us to correct the price list given on another page of this issue, where the price appears at \$6.15.

REFINED PETROLEUM.

The long nights are now coming on, and already an appreciable increase in the consumption of coal oil is noticeable. There has been no change in prices here for some time. Quotations will be found on another page, under the head of paints and oils. The new customs regulations announced a short time ago, permitting the handling of imported oil in tank cars, are not fully understood here yet. The oil can be brought in in tank cars and stored in tanks, but oil must be sold in packages not exceeding 50 gallons in size. This would apparently necessitate the barreling of all oil before it goes to the consumer, so that it cannot be shipped in bulk, except to point where barreling plants have been established. This practically cuts off the entire country trade from the advantage of handling oil in bulk.