

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, March 21, 1896.

The weather was moderate temperature and fine during the week, up to to-day, and yesterday was springlike, but the worst storm of the winter set in last night, and will likely be followed by another cold dip. Sleighing in the country was good most of the week, but grain deliveries fell off considerably. In the local market there has not been much change, except a further sharp decline in eggs. Wheat and oats are weak and tending lower. The implement trade is becoming active, and a large trade in plows is expected this spring, sales already having been large. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week show an increase of about 81 per cent over the corresponding week of last year, and about 13 per cent over the like week of 1894.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Mar. 21.

[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.]

DRUGS.—Cod liver oil is very firm and Norwegians are asking higher prices again. Sulphate of copper (bluestone) is also very firm and higher abroad. A sharp advance in prices has occurred, but this market is fairly well stocked. Cream tartar is easier: Following prices are for small parcels, and will be shaded considerably for full package orders: Alum per pound, 3½ to 4½c; alcohol, \$5 to \$5.25 gal; bleaching powder, per pound, 6 to 8c; bluestone, 4½ to 5c; blue vitrol, 5 to 8c; borax, 11 to 13c; bromide potash, 65 to 75c; camphor, 85 to 95c; camphor, ounces 93 to 1.00; carbolic acid, 40 to 65c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chlorate potash, 28 to 35c; citric acid, 55 to 65c; copperas 3½ to 4c; cocaine, per oz., \$3.50 to \$7.00; cream tartar, per pound, 28 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; epsom salts, 3½ to 4c; extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 18c; do., boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 40 to 50c; glycerine, per pound, 80 to 85c; ginger, Jamaica, 80 to 85c; do., African, 20 to 25c; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 45 to 55c; iodine, \$5.50 to \$6.00; insect powder, 35 to 40c; morphia sul., \$1.90 to \$2.25; Opium, \$1.50 to \$5.00; oil, olive, \$1.25 to \$1.40, oil, U. S. salad, \$1.25 to 1.40; oil, lemon, super \$2.25 to 2.75; oil, pepper-mint, \$1.00 to \$1.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.25 to 3.25 per gallon; oxallic acid, 13 to 16c; potass iodide, \$1.25 to 1.50; paris green, 18 to 20c lb; saltpetre, 10 to 12c; sal rocnelle 80 to 85c; shellac, 45 to 50c; sulphur flowers, 8½ to 5c; sulphur roll, per keg, 8½ to 5c; soda bicarb, per keg of 112 pounds, \$3.75 to \$4.25; sal soda, \$2 to 3; tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55c; strychnine, pure crystals 80c to \$1.00 per oz.

GROCERIES.—A report received from the East the first of the week says: "There is a better feeling in the sugar market. The price of refined sugars was advanced ½c in New York to-day, and it is believed if the higher prices there are maintained that the demand here may get more active and prices may possibly advance soon." Willet & Gray in their last circular say: "For the week raws declined ½c, while refined is unchanged. The Cuban crop for this year is virtually lost under any conditions, but the position of the United States towards Cuba will have an important influence on next year's crop. The demand for refined is very moderate and only to meet current requirements. The German Reichstag Committee agreed to place the limit of production at 1,700,000 tons, instead of 1,400,000 tons. The Imperial government will not assent to this change, and now threatens to abolish all premiums if the Reichstag

refuses to pass the bill increasing the bounties as it stands. There appears to be a big fight on between the Emperor's party and the Fabricant party, and the outcome is uncertain." The visible supply of Brazil coffee in the United States is 40 819 bags more than it was the same time last year, and 25,923 bags more than in 1894.

GREEN FRUITS.—Apples are very firm and higher, and any good sound fruit brings full prices. Oranges are steady. Bananas are selling fairly well. A few cranberries were in, but there is not a regular supply. Prices are: Lemons, New Messinas \$5.00 to \$5.50 per box; California navel oranges, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per box, as to size; California seedlings, \$3.25 to \$3.75 as to size; Bananas \$2.75 to \$3.50 per bunch as to size, a few very small bunches sell as low as \$2.50; Apples, eastern Canada choice red varieties, \$5.50, fancy " " barrel; russets, \$5.00 per barrel; Malaga grapes \$9 per keg for large sizes; pineapples, \$3.50 to \$5 per dozen; Apple cider, 35c per barrel gallon, in 30 gallon barrels; comb honey \$5.25 per case of 24 sections.

HARDWARE.—There is nothing further now in the local trade. Eastern manufacturers of carriage bolts have formed an association and have advanced the price of common bolts from 60 and 5 to 60 per cent. discount of lists. Iron pipe is lower east, and prices have been reduced a shade. It is reported that some barb wire is coming into eastern Canada markets from the United States and if this is the case to any extent it will likely lead to a reduction in prices.

Prices are as follows:

TIN, lamb and 56 and 28 lb. ingots, per lb, 20 to 21c.

TIN PLATES.—Charcoal plates, I. C., 10 by 14, 12 by 12 and 14 by 20, per box, \$1.50 to \$1.75; I. X., same sizes, per box, \$5.75 to \$6; I. C., charcoal, 20 by 23, 112 sheets to box, \$8.50 to 9.00; I. X., per box, 20 by 23, 112 sheets to box, \$10.50 to 11.00.

TERNE PLATES.—I. C., 20 by 23, \$8.50 to 9.00.

IRON AND STEEL.—Bar iron, per 100 lbs. base price, \$2.50 to \$2.65; band iron, per 100 lbs., \$3.00 to \$3.15; Swedish iron, per 100 lbs., \$5.25 to 6; sleigh shoe steel, \$3.25 to 3.50; best cast tool steel, per lb, 12 to 13c; Russian sheet, per lb, 12 to 13c.

SHEET IRON.—10 to 20 gauge, \$3.00; 22 to 24 and 26 gauge, \$3.25; 28 gauge, \$3.50.

CANADA PLATES.—Garth and Blaina, \$3.00 to 3.10.

GALVANIZED IRON.—Queen's Head, 22 to 24 gauge, per lb., 5c; 26 gauge, per lb., 5½c; 28 gauge, per lb., 5¾c.

IRON PIPE.—50 to per 60 cent. off list.

CHAIN.—Best proof coil, 8-16 inch, per lb. 6½ to 6¾c; ½ inch, per lb., 6 to 6¾c; 5-16 inch, per lb., 5½ to 6c; ¾ inch, per lb., 5½ to 5¾c; 7-16 inch, per lb., 4½ to 5c; ½ inch, per lb., 4½ to 5c.

LEAD.—Pig, per lb., 4½c.

SHEET ZINC.—In casks, 5½c lb., broken lots, 6c.

SOLDER.—Half and half (guar) per lb, 14 to 16c.

AMMUNITION.—Cartridges—Rim fire pistol, American, discount, 85 per cent.; rim fire cartridges, Dominion, 50 per cent.; rim fire military, American, 5 per cent. advance; central fire pistol and rifle, American, 12 per cent.; central fire cartridge, Dominion, 30 per cent.; shot shells, 12 gauge, \$6 to 7.50; shot, Canadian, soft, 5½c; shot, Canadian, chilled, 6c.

WIRE.—Galvanized barb wire, plain twist—od wire and staples, \$3.50 per 100 lbs.

ROPE.—Sisal, per lb., 8 to 9c base; manilla, per lb., 11 to 11½c base; cotton, ½ to ¾ inch and larger, 16c lb.

AXES.—Per box, \$6.50 to 15.50.

NAILS.—Cut, per keg, base price, \$3 to 3.10; common steel wire nails, 5 to 6 inch, \$3.60 per keg; 8 to 4 inch, \$3.90 keg; 2½ inch, \$4.20 keg; 2 inch, \$1.50 keg.

HORSE NAILS.—Pointed and finished, oval heads. List prices as follows: No. 5, \$7.50 box; No. 6, \$6.75 box; No. 7, \$6 box; No. 8, \$5.75 box; No. 9, 10 and 11, \$5.50 box. Discount off above list prices, 45 to 50 per cent.

LUMBER.—This is a time of list-making, or revising of lists in the lumber trade. Last week we reported that a new list of British Columbia stuff had been arranged. This week the Winnipeg dealers have issued a new list, one of the principal features of which is, that the ten per cent discount for cash has been discarded and prices are quoted net. Though all the British Columbia firms had agreed to adhere to the one list, it is reported that a list has been sent out by one firm or its agent, to retail dealers here which differs in some features. From the general list supposed to have been accepted by all the manufacturers. This may lead to some trouble, though it is not thought it will affect prices any.

RAW FURS.—Interest this week centres in the great London furs sales. The sales held this week, and which will be continued next week in London, are the most important of the year. The Hudson's Bay Co.'s sales closed on Thursday, but C. M. Lampson & Co.'s sales will be continued next week. Following is the report received by cable of the Hudson's Bay Co.'s sale:

| | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| Otter, | 7½% higher than March, 1895. |
| Fisher, | 7½% " " " " |
| Martin, | 10% " " " " |
| Fox, silver, | 80% lower " " " " |
| Fox, cross, | 80% " " " " |
| Fox, red, | 30% " " " " |
| Fox, white, | 50% " " " " |
| Mink, | 12½% " " " " |
| Lynx, | 85% " " " " |
| Skunk, | 35% " " " " |
| Wolf, | 20% " " " " |
| Wolverine, | 15% " " " " |
| Bear, black, | 35% " " " " |
| Bear, brown, | 45% " " " " |
| Bear, grizzly, | 50% " " " " |
| Musk ox, | 15% " " " " |

The above report shows that the sales have turned out very unsatisfactory and the result will no doubt exercise a weakening tendency on prices paid here. The following quotations give the range of prices here. The prices cover the range from small to large skins, size, color and condition being considered though skins are sometimes offered which are not worth the minimum quotations, on account of being killed out of season.

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| Badger | \$0 05 to \$0 60 |
| Bear, black or brown | 5 00 to 26 00 |
| Bear, yearlings | 2 00 to 8 00 |
| Bear, grizzly | 5 00 to 25 00 |
| Beaver, large | 5 50 to 7 50 |
| " medium | 3 00 to 4 50 |
| " small | 50 to 2 50 |
| " cubs | 25 to 60 |
| " castors, per lb. | 2 50 to 5 50 |
| Fisher | 3 00 to 8 00 |
| Fox, cross | 2 00 to 15 00 |
| " kitt | 10 to 40 |
| " red | 25 to 1 50 |
| " silver | 20 00 to 75 00 |
| Lynx, large | 1 50 to 2 50 |
| " medium | 1 00 to 2 00 |
| " small | 75 to 1 25 |
| Marten dark | 1 00 to 4 50 |
| " Pale or Brown | 1 00 to 3 50 |
| " Light pale | 75 to 1 75 |
| Mink | 50 to 1 50 |
| Musquash, winter | 03 to 07 |
| Otter | 2 00 to 9 00 |
| Skunk | 25 to 80 |
| Wolf, timber | 1 00 to 2 75 |
| " prairie | 25 to 75 |
| Wolverine | 1 00 to 4 00 |