

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, Feb. 22, 1896.

Stormy weather retarded business the most of the week, and reduced the grain movement, but the week is ending up fine. Country roads, however, must be bad after the storms of the week. Fine weather to enable the farmers to market their grain before the spring break-up is now desirable, though a heavy rush of grain now would bring a blockade owing to lack of elevator space. Business is beginning to increase, and may be expected to steadily improve as the season advances. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week show an increase of about 86 per cent over the corresponding week a year ago, and about 22 per cent over the like week two years ago. All Canadian clearing houses aggregate an increase of about 12 per cent over a year ago.

Canada had 58 failures this week against 70 a week ago, 83 in the corresponding week a year ago, 53 two years ago, and 36 in the like week in 1893 as reported by Bradstreets.

In the United States this week, Bradstreet's says: "The record of declining quotations begun last week is continued for some varieties of cotton, in the tendency of quotations of wool to decline, and lower prices of wheat, liquor, corn, oats, pork, lard and petroleum. Iron and steel is in moderate demand and steady, with a request for rails relatively most encouraging, and there is no change in quotations for lumber or for coal. The conspicuous advances are of coffee and sugar, although leather is firm after the advance for hides a week ago."

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Feb. 22.

[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.]

COAL.—There is no change locally in coal. From the west it is reported that the output at the Lethbridge colliery has been curtailed by the closing down of one shaft. The weather has been cold causing a good local demand. Winnipeg prices are as follows: Pennsylvania anthracite, \$8.50 per ton, delivered to consumers; Souris lignite, \$1.25 per ton, delivered to consumers, and \$3.85 at the yard here; Lethbridge bituminous \$3.50 to consumers; western anthracite, \$8.50 per ton to consumers.

CORDWOOD.—We quote prices as follows for car lots on track here; Tamarac, good, \$1.00; mixed or poorer tamarac, \$3.50 to \$3.75; pine, \$3.25 to \$3.50; spruce, \$2.75 to \$3.00; oak, dead, \$2.75 to \$3.00; oak, good, green cut, \$3.75; poplar, dead, \$2.00; poplar, green cut, dry, \$2.25 per cord.

FISH.—Selkirk dealers, says the Record, are paying the following prices to fishermen: Whitefish, boxed, 5 to 5½c; do., loose, 4½c; pickerel, boxed, 4 to 4½c; do., loose, 3½ to 3¾c; jackfish, boxed, 1½c; do. loose, 1½c; tullibees, 1½ to 1¾c; sturgeon 5c; catfish 4½c. The Record also reports shipments of eight carloads of Lake Winnipeg fish within the week, five of which were from freezers and three cars of winter caught fish. In the Winnipeg market, jobbing prices are: Cod, 9c a lb; haddock 9c a lb; salmon, 14c; halibut 12½c; smelts 9 to 10c; Lake Superior trout, 9c; whitefish, 5½ to 6c; pickerel 4 to 4½c; pike 2½ to 3c; perch 2 to 2½c; sturgeon 6c; herring haddies 7 to 7½c, or \$2.10 to \$2.25 per box; kippered goldeyes 30c doz.; oysters \$1.50 to \$2.00 for standards and \$2.00 to \$2.25 select, per gallon, extra select \$2.35 to \$2.45; oysters, in cans, select, 55 and standards 50c per

can; shell oysters, \$7.50 to \$8 per barrel. Cured fish are quoted: Boneless codfish, 40lb boxes 7c, do crates 7½c; boneless fish, 40lb boxes, 5c; smoked herrings, 15 to 20c box; dry cod \$6 per box of 100 lbs.; salt whitefish \$5 per barrel of 100 pounds; salt lake trout \$6 per barrel; salt herring, ¼-barrel \$1.

GROCERIES.—Sugars keep very firm, and a further advance is expected. Molasses is strong. A Montreal report says the market will open there for new goods 6c higher than last spring, owing to higher prices in the West Indies.

HARDWARE.—There is no change in the local market. Advices from the east say that manufacturers will advance the price of building paper there at once. Prices are as follows:

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

TIN PLATES.—Charcoal plates, 1. C., 10 by 14, 12 by 12 and 14 by 20, per box, \$1.50 to \$1.75; I. X., same sizes, per box, \$3.75 to \$6; I. C., charcoal, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$8.50 to 9.00; I. X., per box, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$10.50 to 11.00.

TERNE PLATES.—I. C., 20 by 28, \$3.50 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 5.50; 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, 3-16 inch, per lb. 6½ to 6¾c; ½ inch, per lb, 6 to 6½c; 5-16 inch, per lb., 5¾ to 6c; ¾ inch, per lb., 5½ to 5¾c; 7-16 inch, per lb., 4¾ to 5c; ½ inch, per lb., 4¾ 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, 35 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 twisted wire and staples, \$3.50 per 100 lbs.

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

AXES.—Per box, \$6.50 to 15.50.

NAILS.—Cut, per keg, base price, \$2.85 to \$3; common steel wire nails, 5 to 6 inch, \$3.50 per keg; 3 to 4 inch, \$3.80 keg; 2½ inch, \$1.09 keg; 2 inch, \$1.38 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, 50 to 50 and 10 per cent.

HORSE SHOES.—Per keg, \$4.50 to \$4.75: snow pattern horse shoes, \$4.75 to \$5.

WHITE LEADS.—Pure, ground in oil, association guarantee, 5.75 per 100-lb; white lead, assorted ¼ to 5-lb. tins, per lb., 9c.

PREPARED PAINTS.—Pure liquid colors; per gallon, \$1.15 to \$1.25.

DRY COLORS.—White lead, per lb., 8c; red lead, 5½c; yellow ocre, 2½c; golden ocre, 4c; Venetian, red, French, 3½c; Venetian, red, English, 3½c; English purple oxides, 4½c; American oxides, per lb., 3 to 4c. These prices for dry colors are for broken lots. ¼ per lb. less when full kegs or barrels are taken. American vermilion, kegs, 15c. English vermilion, in 30-lb. bags, 90c per lb.; less than bags, per lb., \$1; Paris green, 18 to 20c.

VARNISHES.—No. 1 furniture, per gal., \$1; extra furniture, \$1.35; pale oak, \$1.50, elastic oak, \$1.75; No. 1 carriage, \$2; hard oil finish, \$2; brown Japan, \$1; goldsize Japan, \$1.50; No. 1, orange shellac, \$2; pure orange shellac, \$2.50. These prices are for less than barrels, and include cost of cans.

SUNDRIES.—Glue, S.S., in sheets, per lb., 12½ to 15c; glue, white, for kalsomining, 17 to 18c. Stove gasoline, per case, \$4.00; benzine, per case, \$1.00; benzine and gasoline, per gallon, 50c. Axle grease, Imperial per case, \$2.50; Fraser's axle grease, per case, \$3.75; diamond, do, \$2.25 per case. Coal tar, per barrel, \$8; Portland cement, per barrel, \$4.00; plaster, per barrel, \$3.00; plasterer's hair, 90c. per bale; putty, per lb., 2½c. for less than barrels; barrels, per lb., 2½c.

WINDOW GLASS.—1st break is quoted at \$1.65 per box of 50 feet.

LINSEED OIL.—Raw, per gal., 68c; boiled, per gal., 66c in barrels.

TURPENTINE.—Pure spirits, in barrels, per gallon, 60c; less than barrels, per gallon, 65c.

OILS.—Range about as follows: Black oils, 25 to 30c per gallon; clear machine oils, 33 to 40c; cylinder oil, 50 to 75c, as to quality; castor oil, 10c per lb.; lard oil, 70c per gal.; tanner's or harness oil, 65c; neetsfoot oil, \$1.00; steam refined seal oil, 85c; pure winter bleached sperm oil, \$2 per gallon.

REFINED PETROLEUM.—There is no change in burning oils. Prices here are as follows: Silver star, 2½c; crescent, 27c; oleophene, 29c in barrels. In car lots 2c per gallon discount is allowed off prices in barrels. United States oils in barrels are quoted at 3½c for cocene and 30c for sunlight.

RAW FURS.—There has been some business doing. A large lot of furs was in this week from the eastern district, valued at about \$1000. 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.

Badger	.....	\$0 15 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 20 to 2 50
" cubs	.....	25 to 60
" castors, per lb	.....	2 50 to 5 50
Fisher	.....	9 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
" Palo 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