

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

Winnipeg, Saturday, Oct. 9.

The grain movement has kept up large, though deliveries at country markets were not as heavy as last week. The proportion of the crop already marketed is much larger than in previous years at this date, the bright, dry weather which has prevailed over since harvest started having enabled farmers to get ahead with their work very fast. In some districts threshing is almost complete. The weather has been very enjoyable, but has been marred by the knowledge that the continued bright, dry, warm weather has been productive of a considerable loss on account of prairie and bush fires, which have been the most destructive in the history of Manitoba. Business in the jobbing trade is good, and shipments of hardware and building supplies and general merchandise, to country points are heavy, the difficulty being to keep up stocks in some lines. Lumber stocks are the lowest in many years. Purchasing supplies for the lumber camps which will operate in the woods during the coming winter, was a feature of the trade this week. There will be more work done in the woods during the coming winter than for years, both in getting out saw logs and cordwood, owing to the reduced stocks of lumber and the destruction of cordwood by bush fires recently. Live stock shipments continue heavy. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week make a new record, being considerably more than double clearings for corresponding week last year.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

Winnipeg, Saturday Afternoon, Oct. 9
COAL.

Up to the end of this week the weather had not been cold enough to materially increase the demand for coal and dealers are becoming impatient for colder weather. Supplies from the native western coal mines are now coming in. The Souris mines are now busy putting out coal. A supply of the native anthracite coal is in this market, but the company has been greatly hampered by the flooding of their mine by the freshet last summer on the Bow river. The Winnipeg supply was got out before the flooding of the mine, and work has not since been fully resumed, as it has taken a long time to get the mine pumped out, consequently there may be difficulty in filling all orders for this coal for country points. The large quantity of cordwood consumed by bush fires recently, may enhance the price of wood and thus lead to a larger consumption of coal. Stocks of coal are said to be very light at Duluth, whence our supply is principally drawn. The wholesale quotation at Duluth is \$5.60 for nut, stove and egg anthracite. Freight, Buffalo to Duluth, are quoted at 20c per long ton.

DRUGS.

Glycerine has been advanced 1c per pound by manufacturers. Castor oil is advancing. See prices on another page.

GROCERIES.

The principal feature this week is the arrival of new California prunes. A couple of cars have come to hand and more will quickly follow. They are in good demand, as this market has been practically bare of prunes for the past month and plenty of orders are in waiting for stock. Receipts so far have been mostly small sizes. They are quoted at 5 1-2 to 6c for small sizes and 6 to 8c for large sizes. Some very fine samples of California prunes have been shown here, claimed to be equal to the finest French prunes, but they are rather too expensive for this market. In the past the demand has been largely for the cheaper grades of prunes, and it has been difficult to handle the expensive grades here, either in French or California goods. The California prunes now pretty well control this market. They are liked better than the eastern prunes and are claimed to be of better keeping quality. California raisins are expected shortly. California loose muscades are the principal raisins in demand here, and they are taking the lead over Valentias. Sultanina raisins and currants are very fine and prices asked are much higher than a year ago, for new goods, which will come to hand later. Currants will soon be in. Teas are firm. Package teas are in good demand. See quotations on another page.

FISH.

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; Minnan haddies, 12 1-2c per lb. Oysters are quoted at \$2.50 per gallon in bulk.

GREEN FRUITS.

The strong outlook for apples is the feature of the market. Holders south are now asking \$2.50 per barrel, and even up to \$3 per barrel for choice winter stock, i.e. car lots, to which would have to be added freight, duty and other costs of handling, which would make the price about \$5 to sell here. Apples in the East are now held high. At a recent auction in Montreal fall apples sold at \$2.20 to \$3.25 per barrel. A car of B. C. apples of very good quality was in the market and sold well, and a few crabs in the car, arrived in good condition. Plums are now out of season. None were received this week. Peaches are getting short in supply, and a good many offered are edging stones. It is doubtful if any further large lots of peaches will arrive, though there will be some small lots in mixed cars. Crabs are practically done. A few baskets were received in mixed cars. California grapes firmer and are arriving in good condition and of good quality. Tomatoes are scarcer and higher. Pears have advanced 50c for Pacific coast varieties. Bananas are 50c higher. Virginia sweet potatoes are the only new thing in. Prices are as follows: Bananas per bunch, \$2.50 to \$3. California lemons, \$5 to \$5.50 a box; tomatoes, 20-lb. baskets, 60c; California peaches, \$1.25 per box; Washington and Oregon pears, \$2.25 to \$2.50 per box; apples, \$4 to \$4.50 per barrel for fall and winter varieties; Concord grapes, 30c 10-lb. baskets; California grapes, \$2.50 to \$3 per crate for Tokays; Ontario pears, 65 to 85c per 20-

lb. basket; Cape Cod cranberries, \$9.50 per barrel; sweet potatoes, \$5 to \$5.25 per barrel.

PAINTS, OILS, ETC.

Business is active in glass, large stocks of which are now in the warehouses here. Prices are very firm, and abroad prices have advanced. White lead and linseed oil are very firm at the recent advance. Turpentine is firm and higher east. There are no changes in quotations here this week. See prices on another page.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—Wheat has been irregular this week in leading market. On Monday prices were a trifle lower, but there was a considerable advance on Tuesday and Wednesday, when a moderate falling off in values again on Thursday and Friday. The average of prices for the week has not varied much from last week, and prices yesterday closed about 2c higher than a week ago. One of the principal features of strength has been the drought in the winter wheat states. There were also reports of crop shortage from Argentine from orouth and locusts. The news, as a whole, has been favorable to the bulls, and we regard the outlook as favorable for a firm market.

In Manitoba country markets, prices paid to farmers were stronger, there being advances at a number of places on Wednesday and Thursday. Prices ranged from 69c to 73c for No. 1 hard on Monday, according to freight rates and local conditions, and on Thursday the general range had advanced to 72c as the lowest price at most points, though prices vary greatly in different markets. Wheat deliveries have been rather under the average of last week, but the movement has kept up fairly liberal, ranging from 200,000 to 250,000 bushels per day. It is estimated that about 4,000,000 bushels are now in store at Manitoba country points. The proportion of the crop handled to date has been much larger than in previous years, making an unexpectedly heavy strain on the railways to handle the traffic and keep the elevators open. Inspection returns show that the yield is nearly all No. 1 and No. 2 hard. Prices in the Winnipeg market advanced to 92c on Wednesday, for No. 1 hard, afloat Fort William, which was the highest figure of the week, and 92c was said to have been realized early on Thursday, but at the close on Thursday 91c was outside value. Yesterday sales were made again at 91c afloat Fort William, for No. 1 hard per bushel of 60 lbs.

FLOUR—There has been no change. Millers report a good demand for shipment. Prices are the same as last week. 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 per sack of 98 lbs. These are local quotations in broken lots.

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

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 oats per sack of 80 pounds.

BARLEY—Nominal at about 25c per bushel of 48 lbs. None offering.

OATS—Stocks of oats in the city are very light and the condition is verging on scarcity. In fact, it is said