

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, April 22.

The spring is proving a rather backward one. Seeding was getting nicely under way at the beginning of the week, though on the heavy land the soil was too damp for working. General rains, however, set in on Wednesday and Thursday, and the week winds up with everything very damp. It is to be hoped there will be no further set back to seeding, as the season is now well advanced. Building operations have begun actively in the city, but a scarcity of material in the line of stone and brick, etc., is proving a disadvantage. A good deal of material will have to be imported from the United States, which is a matter for regret, as there is abundance of raw material here to work upon. Some proposed buildings will likely be abandoned for this year on account of the shortage of building material. Labor will be exceptionally well employed in the city this year. In addition to the new waterworks system, a great deal of paving and general street improvements will be carried out, giving steady employment to a large number of men. The season will also be an active one in railway building. Work has already been resumed on one line, and will likely be resumed on the Dauphin and Southeastern roads, shortly. A new road by the Northern Pacific, westward from Portage la Prairie, is also promised. Immigration promises this spring to exceed previous records. Immigration includes a good many settlers from the United States. The grain movement from first hands is about nil now, and the movement east of Lake Superior terminals will be very light until navigation opens. Stocks of Manitoba wheat at Lake Superior terminals and interior points west thereof aggregate about 10,000,000 bushels, which is by far the largest on record at this season, previous largest stocks being about 8,000,000 three years ago. It is also supposed the farmers are holding back more wheat than usual for summer marketing. A considerable quantity of damp wheat is still going forward to the drying plants. Bulk clearings at Winnipeg this week were practically the same as the like week last year, but considerably larger than in years previous to last year. Sales of farm lands are fairly active.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Winnipeg, Saturday, April 15.

(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.)

BLUESTONE.

The situation in regard to bluestone remains about as outlined in The

Commercial a few weeks ago. No new stocks have since arrived in the city and the market is completely bare. Some country merchants have sold back their surpluses to wholesale houses which have thus been able to supply a few odd lots to their most needy customers. Very high prices have to be paid for any bluestone obtained in this way.

DRY GOODS.

The active letter order business which marked the beginning of this month has dropped off somewhat and trade is quieter in every way, due largely to the unfavorable weather. Spring retail trade can hardly be said to have opened yet in either ladies or gentlemen's goods and until it does there will be no active movement in a wholesale way, values remain practically unchanged although there is a decided firmness in some lines in sympathy with outside markets.

DRUGS.

The local drug market remains unchanged this week and there are no special features to note. Further changes in price list are predicted for next week. The recent decline in quinine, according to mail advices from the east, was a general one affecting Montreal, New York and London. Saltpetre is said to be in short supply in the big markets. Unfavorable crop conditions are having a hardening effect on the opium market and \$3.10 per single case is said to be the inside quotation now at New York. Our list remains unchanged as given on market page.

FUEL.

Cordwood is a little firmer, as usual at this season of the year, as deliveries are light. Prices of Pennsylvania coal, according to advices from New York, are to be kept up all summer to the high rates prevailing during the winter. A \$5 rate at Duluth is proposed for the season by the companies, and if the agreement works, high prices will be maintained. The following tenders were received by the Winnipeg city council this week for supplying cordwood: D. Scott, tamarac with a proportion of pine, \$3.75, straight pine, \$3.50, J. G. Hargrave, tamarac delivered at the quarry, \$4.70, delivered in the city, \$4.45.

FISH.

Pickeree and jackfish are out of the market, it being close season. Fresh water fish continue scarce, whitefish particularly. Salt water fish are plentiful. Haddies are in fair supply and there is a good steady sale for them. Stocks in the city are said to be larger than usual. Oysters are now almost done, although a few are to be had yet. The end of April will see them out. Since the very cold weather of January and February the oyster trade has been somewhat demoralized, the severe frosts having spoiled much of the stock of oysters in shell in the hands of dealers, excepting where it was well protected.

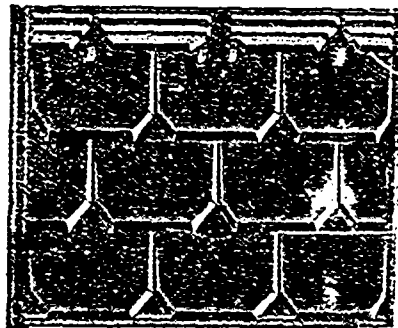
GREEN FRUITS.

It is reported that navel oranges are about done at shipping points. Prices have firmed up considerably in outside markets and the situation as regards prices is a strong one. Local dealers continue to sell at quotations which have prevailed for some weeks past although these are hardly on a level with prices in other markets. Only the fact that stocks on hand, bought when prices were lower, are sufficient for present requirements.

prevents further advances. Mediterranean sweets are now in the market, and being offered at \$3.75 per case. Bananas are arriving regularly now in car lots. It is said that bananas will not be as plentiful this season owing to crop shortage. A few spy apples may still be had but stocks are very light. A car of Baldwins has been received by a local house and is being offered at \$5.50 per barrel. Maple products are late in arriving after all, although some weeks ago it was thought they would be earlier than usual. We have only heard of one lot being in the city. It is more than probable that stocks will be light when they do come. We quote prices as follows: Navel oranges, \$1.00 to \$1.50; seedlings, \$3.25 to \$3.75, as to quality, per box; Mediterranean sweets, \$3.75 per case; bloods, \$5 per box; bananas, per bunch, \$2.25 to \$2.75 as to size and quality; Messina lemons, \$3.75 to \$4.00; California lemons, \$1 a box; grape fruit, per case, \$1.50 to \$5.00; apples, spies, \$6.50 per barrel, Washington box apples, \$2.00 of 50 pounds; strawberries, per case, \$3.25; cranberries, unfrozen, \$8 per barrel; sweet potatoes, per barrel, \$5.50; coconuts, 90c a dozen; Sierra limes, large, 12c per pound; Grande walnuts, 14c; new shelled walnuts, 25c; Tarragona almonds, 15c; peanuts, green, 9 to 11c; roasted, 12c; pecan nuts, 12c per lb.; comb honey, \$2 per dozen sections; strained honey, \$1.25 to 9c per pound; orange marmalade in 7 lb. pails, 60c; maple sugar, 11c; maple syrup in cans of 1-2 gallon, 60c; in gallon cans, \$1; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels; fruit cider, put up in 10, 20 and 30 gallon kegs, per gallon, 40c; California figs, in boxes of ten bricks, \$1.90 per box; in 1 pound glove boxes, \$2.40 per dozen; dates 7c per pound; native lettuce, radish wat.

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