

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, May 23, 1896.

The wet weather and bad roads have continued to greatly interfere with general wholesale trade and building operations, and the election campaign is a further demoralizing influence. It is a matter for regret that the campaign was not cut shorter. Bank clearings at Winnipeg show the first decrease for a long period, as compared with the corresponding week of last year, the decrease this week being nearly 6 per cent., but as compared with the corresponding week of 1894, there is an increase of about 16 per cent. Bank clearings at all Canadian cities—Winnipeg, Hamilton, Montreal, Toronto and Halifax—aggregate \$19,821,000 this week, compared with \$20,629,000 a week ago, \$19,721,000 in the third week of May last year and with \$13,900,000 in the like week two years ago.

The total number of business failures reported in Canada this week by Bradstreet's is 23, as compared with 31 last week, 25 in the week a year ago and 29 two years ago.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, May 23.

[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—The price of imported Anthracite is now \$9.50 per ton, or \$1 higher, but of course sales are very limited. Prices are being held firm at the mines, and on the present basis will be at least \$1 higher here next winter than the ruling price of last winter.

CORNBWOOD—Dealers are holding prices very firm, and are asking \$1.25, and in some cases even \$1.50 for car lots of good tamarac, on track here. Pine about \$3.25 to \$3.50. No popular offering.

DRUGS—Cable reports announce an advance of about \$5 per ton in glycerine. Prices are the same as quoted last week.

DRY GOODS—The wet weather and bad country roads have greatly interfered with business in this branch. Some travellers now have their fall samples made up.

FISH—Fresh fish now in the market, with jobbing prices are: Whitefish, 6c; Lake Superior trout, 9c; pickerel, 5c; sturgeon, 8c; salmon, 15c; halibut, 14c lb; smoked gold-eyes, 80c dozen; smoked salmon, 15c lb. Cured fish are quoted: Boneless codfish, 40lb boxes 7c, do crates 7½c; boneless fish, 40lb boxes, 5c; smoked herrings, 15 to 20c box; bloaters, large, \$1.35 per box; bloaters, small, \$1.00 per box; dry cod \$6 per box of 100 lbs.; salt whitefish, \$5.50 per barrel of 100 pounds; salt lake trout, \$6.50 per barrel; salt herring, ½ barrel \$1, salt salmon, 10c lb.

GREEN FRUITS—Navel oranges are about done, being now out of season. New Messina lemons via direct ship to Montreal are now arriving here and are of fine quality. Prices are firm. Bananas of good quality are abundant. Strawberries are arriving freely. A few cold storage apples are offering at \$7 per barrel. Prices are: Lemons Messinas \$1 to \$1.75 per box; California navel oranges \$1.75 to \$5.00 per box; California seedlings, \$3.75 to \$1.00; California Mediterranean sweet oranges, \$1.50 per box; Bananas, \$2.50 to \$3.50 per bunch as to size, a few very small bunches sell as low as \$2.00; strawberries, \$1.50 per case, pineapples, \$3.50 to \$5 per dozen as to size; Apple cider, 35c per gallon, in 30 gallon barrels; comb honey \$5.25 per case of 21 sections. New maplesugar, 10 to 12c per lb; maple syrup, \$1.10 per wine gallon,

in gallon tins; pie plant, \$1 per box of 50 pounds.

HARDWARE AND METALS—The barb wire trade is in a very unsatisfactory state here this season. Quotations on this article are being made as low as \$3.10 f.o.b. Winnipeg for five to ten ton lots in one shipment. Last fall there was heavy buying of barb wire on the part of the local and western trade, in expectation of an advance. Now the trade throughout the country find themselves loaded with barb wire bought at comparatively high prices, on the basis of present values. These speculative purchases of this article are therefore proving very disappointing to holders. Jobbers and retailers alike are carrying large stocks of dear wire, which they are obliged to sell at little or no profit. This situation again proved the error of buying so far in advance of requirements. It is said stocks now held throughout the country are in excess of the requirements for the season. Revised prices are as follows.

TIN, lamb and 56 and 28 lb. ingots, per lb, 19 to 20c.

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 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, \$8.00 to 8.50.

IRON AND STEEL.—Bar iron, per 100 lbs. base price, \$2.35 to \$2.50; band iron, per 100 lbs., \$2.85 to 3.00, Swedish iron, per 100 lbs., \$5.25 to 6; sleigh shoe steel, \$3.00 to 3.25; best cast tool steel, per lb, 11 to 12c; 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 \$1.10.

GALVANIZED IRON.—Queen's Head, 22 to 24 gauge, per lb., 4½c; 26 gauge, per lb., 5c; 28 gauge, per lb., 5½c.

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

LEAD.—Pig, per lb., 4½c.

SHEET ZINC.—In casks, 5.75 lb., broken lots, 7.25.

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

AMMUNITION.—Cartridges—Rim fire pistol, American, discount, 10 per cent.; rim fire cartridges, Dominion, 50 and 5; rim fire military, American, net list; 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, \$3.10 to \$3.25 per 100 lbs.

ROPE.—Sisal, per lb., 7½ to 8c base; manilla, per lb., 9½ to 10½c base; cotton, ½ to ¾ inch and larger, 15c lb.

AXES.—Per box, \$6.50 to 15.50.

NAILS.—Cut, per keg, base price, \$3.21 for 60 d. with usual extras; common steel wire nails, 5 to 6 inch, \$3.90 per keg; 3 to 4 inch, \$1.22 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 per cent.

LUMBER—The continued wet weather is greatly retarding building operations and lessening the immediate demand for lumber, but this will no doubt be made up later on; local prices are the same as last reported,

RAW FURS—A number of small lots are coming in, but the trade is not particularly active. The northern furs will begin to come in soon. Prices are the same as last reported.

WHEAT—GENERAL SITUATION—The general situation in wheat this week has been weakness, and prices have got down to a lower level again in leading markets. There have been reports of too much rain to delay seeding or damage crops in the northern spring wheat region, and Hessian fly damage in Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, but sentiment seemed bearish. Cables were generally lower and the decrease in stocks light, together with many favorable crop reports. Exports of wheat, flour included, from both coasts of the United States this week amount to 1,935,600 bushels, as compared with 1,933,000 bushels last week; 2,751,000 bushels in the week one year ago; 2,310,000 bushels two years ago, and 2,106,000 bushels three years ago.

WHEAT—LOCAL SITUATION—The weakness in leading markets has made the local market very quiet, as holders refuse to make concessions sufficient to induce business, while buyers are not anxious to operate on a weak and declining market. Shipments from Fort William last week show up large, several large charters having been made to Buffalo. Rates are easier, the rate from Duluth or Fort William on wheat to Buffalo being now under 3c. Receipts at Fort William for the week ended May 16 were 493,676 bushels; shipments, 1,200,000; in store 2,422,760 bushels. Receipts at Fort William for the corresponding week last year were 74,741 bushels and shipments 103,791 bushels. There has been no business doing in No. 1 hard Manitoba, worth mentioning. Latest offers heard of were at 6½c afloat Fort William, but this was fully 1c above the views of buyers. No. 2 hard quoted at about 59½c to 60c to-day.

FLOUR—It is quite a long time since there has been a change in flour, but this week millers reduced prices 10c all around. Sales by millers here are now made at \$1.75 to \$1.90 for patents and \$1.55 to \$1.60 for strong bakers per sack of 98 pounds, delivered to city retail dealers; second bakers \$1.30 to \$1.35; XXXX \$1.05 to \$1.10, delivered. Brands of country mills usually sell at 5 to 10c under these quotations.

MILLSTUFFS.—City mills are still selling at \$8 per ton for bran and \$10 for shorts, delivered in the city, in small lots. There has been a good demand, owing to the high price of hay lately.

OATS—No improvement in this grain, either as to demand or price. In fact eastern markets have been weak. Some sales of oats are being made in Ontario for export. There has been no business doing in the city in oats and owing to the bad roads, farmers are not bringing any in, but most dealers have ample stocks on hand, and car lots, if needed could be obtained, local freights paid, at 18 to 20c per bushel of 48 pounds. Farmers would be paid about 18c for loads. For eastern shipment, on through freight rate from country points, we quote car lots at 10 to 13c, but there is no movement worth mentioning.

BARLEY.—We quote barley for the local markets or seed purposes at 18 to 25c, the higher price for good clean seed grain, but not much wanted. No shipping demand, and car lots or through freights, nominal at 13 to 15c per bushel of 48 pounds.

WHEAT—Local farmers' market.—The price paid at the city mills for farmers' loads is nominal at 50c per bushel of 60 pounds for best quality.

GROUND FEED. Prices range from \$10 to \$12 per ton, as to quality, the top price for rolled oat feed, and the lowest price for mixed mill feed.