

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, April 9.

Spring weather has at last set in, and the usual activity following the advent of spring will begin at once. Toward the end of the week reports came in that a commencement was being made at seeding in some districts. There is a very large area of land ready for crop this spring, last fall having been favorable for preparing the land, and with a few weeks of favorable weather an area of land probably not far from 20 per cent. in excess of any previous year, will be sown in Manitoba. No doubt this increase will be mainly given to wheat, owing to favorable prices realized from the last crop, and the better prospect of securing a good crop of wheat in this climate than of any other grain.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

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DRY GOODS.

Dealers have had a good spring trade and orders are now about all out. Samples are now being made up and travellers are going out with fall samples. The spring sorting trade has been delayed by cold weather.

FISH.

Fresh fish are tending higher, as usual at this time of year, except in the case of some frozen stock which it is desirable to work off. Haddies are lower, being offered as low as 5c to clear out some stock. Salmon and halibut are higher.

FUEL.

Cordwood is offering freely and prices are easy. Large stocks are now held in the city and dealers are not buying freely.

GROCERIES.

The effect of the new tariff on sugars, announced at Ottawa this week, will likely be to advance prices 1-2c as the tariff is advanced 15 1-2c per 100 pounds on raw sugars. The increase on refined sugar varies from 1c to 25c per 100 pounds, the lower increase being on yellows, and 25c on granulated. This will give refiners an additional protection of 1-8c on granulated. Sugar coming from the British West Indies, however, will come in under the preferential tariff, which provides for a reduction of 25 per cent in the duty after August 1 next. Considerable interest is being taken in the situation regarding California dried fruits, owing to the many alarmist reports coming from the coast regarding the damage done by the late frosts in California. One report received here says the apricot crop is completely knocked out. Owing to lack of sufficient rain in the grape districts, it is also claimed that the raisin crop will be short. While no doubt considerable damage has been done by the frost, it will perhaps be found at the end of the season that the crop is not so badly demoralized as reports would indicate. No doubt damage reports have been somewhat over drawn in order to boom prices of old stock still held. Eastern advices on canned goods are firm. Some Ontario packers are quoting \$1.25 for

tomatoes and 95c for corn per dozen, but jobbers are selling at this price in the east.

GREEN FRUITS.

Oranges and lemons are unchanged. Stocks of southern red apples are about used up. Southern apples have kept rather better than eastern stock this season. Apples are selling all the way from \$1.50 to \$1.50 per barrel as to condition and quality, and good fruit is scarce. Bananas are arriving more freely and will soon be coming in car lots. The banana season will soon be at its height. Fresh California celery, probably the last of the season, has arrived. Prices are: Mexican oranges, \$3 to \$3.50; navel oranges, \$3.75 to \$4.00; California seedling oranges, \$3.25; bitter oranges, \$6 per case, bananas, per bunch, \$2.50 to \$3.50; California lemons, \$3.75 to \$4.00 per box; apples, Ontario stock, \$4 to \$4.50 per barrel for good to choice; southern apples \$1 per bbl.; off quality, \$2.00 to \$3.50 per bbl. as to condition; cranberries, unfrozen, \$8.50 to \$9 per bbl.; sweet potatoes, \$5 per barrel; Malaga grapes \$7 to \$10 per keg; Ontario black walnuts, 8c lb.; cocoanuts, \$1 per doz.; Shelly filberts, large, 11 to 12c per lb.; Grenoble walnuts, 14c; figs, fancy elenas, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per 10 lb. box, 30 lb. boxes, 16c; 50 lb. boxes, 17c per lb.; dates, 7c per lb.; shelled walnuts, 25 to 27c per lb.; imported celery, 50 to 60 per doz.; strained honey, 7 1-2 to 10c.

HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.

Blind twine is firm. Sales have been large. Turpentine is easier in sympathy with the decline in outside markets, but as stocks here are not large it is not expected prices will decline materially before the opening of navigation. Castor oil is selling at a comparatively high price here, and will be lower when new stock arrives, after the opening of navigation, as stocks bought for later arrival are costing 2c lower. Lubricating oils have been reduced for clear machine and cylinder.

LUMBER.

The revised list of Winnipeg prices published this week showing the change as previously noted. No. 2 and 3 common board, are advanced 50c, and cul boards \$1. In British Columbia lumber the classification has been changed considerably.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—Wheat has been quiet and comparatively steady this week. In country market, nothing is now doing. In this market, cash wheat ranged at 97 to 98c during the week, and May at 98 to 99 1-2c for No. 1 hard. Receipts of wheat at Fort William last week were 31,000 bushels, shipment, 29,000 bushels and in store last Saturday 760,000 bushels. A year ago stocks at Fort William were 3,381,000 bushels, two years ago 3,862,000, three years ago 930,000, and four years ago 2,338,000 bushels. A year ago stocks of wheat at lake and interior points were estimated at 6,000,000 bushels, compared with 8,000,000 two years ago, and 3,000,000 bushels three years ago. This year stocks are now estimated at 3,400,000 bushels.

FLOUR—The market is steady and prices unchanged. We quote: Patent, \$2.50; best bakers \$2.30; second bakers \$1.90; XXX, \$1.40 per sack of 98 lbs, with discount of 5c net.

MILLFEED—Prices are firm, the demand is very large, and the supply scarce. There was practically no bran to be had part of the time this week. We quote bran at \$12 and shorts \$14 per ton in bulk. Large lots \$1 per ton less.

GROUND FEED — Pure grain feed is quoted at \$22 to \$24 for rolled oat feed. Inferior mixed mill feed, \$18 to \$20 per ton. Ground corn feed is higher and now quoted at \$17 to \$18 per ton. Oil cake \$22 per ton.

OATMEAL—The market is firm. Dealers are selling to the trade at \$2 for sacks of rolled.

BARLEY—Nominal in the absence of business, at about 40c for feed and 45 to 50c for seed samples.

OATS—Prices are very firm. Feed oats are held stiff at 39 to 40c and choice at 41 to 43c per bushel for ear lots on track, Winnipeg, equal to 35 to 38c in the country for good samples.

CORN—We quote 40 to 40 1-2c per bushel of 56 pounds for cars on track here.

BUTTER, creamery—A little fall creamery is still held, which is selling at 23 to 23 1-2c.

BUTTER—Dairy—Good butter is very scarce, even poor stuff is bringing 13 to 15c per lb. and so-called good 16 to 18c. For really good fresh butter, 19 to 20c can be had in a small way, but of course there is very little which will come up to the mark.

CHEESE—Dealers are selling at 10 to 10 1-2c. Stocks limited.

EGGS—Prices have been firm this week owing to cold weather during the two previous weeks. The milder weather which set in this week of course has not had time to affect the market yet. The demand was also large, being Easter week. Prices opened on Monday at 13 to 14c and advanced to 15c on Wednesday. City retail dealers usually buy the bulk of their supplies at the beginning of the week, and the demand was large from the opening of the week. With Easter over and milder weather prevailing, prices are expected to drop fast next week. Country merchants should begin at once to buy on the basis of a 10c market here, to be on the safe side, as the advance this week will no doubt be only temporary.

DRESSED POULTRY—Poultry is scarce and prices firm. Good chickens will bring 9c dressed, or 60 to 75c per pair live, and turkeys 11c per lb. live weight. Some frozen turkeys were brought in from the south this week which cost 17c laid down here. Only one or two firms in the city have any turkeys, and they are holding them for their own retail trade.

DRESSED MEATS — We quote hogs 6 1-2 to 6 3-4c, and a few fancy may bring 7c in a small way. Beef 6 to 6 1-2c for city dressed. Frozen beef is now about used up and at the end of the season there was a better demand than earlier. Mutton is firmer, owing to demand to ship to British Columbia, which has taken considerable stock from here, and what remains is in fewer hands. Prices of frozen mutton have been advanced 1c to 7c to 8c. Fresh mutton will be in this week, but not in any large quantity. Veal 7 to 9c, as to quality.

CURED MEATS and LARD—Prices have been advanced 1-4c for dry salt bacon and lard is 1-2c higher for palls. See quotations on another page.

HIDES—Hides are weak. No. 1 green have been taken at 7c this week, but a drop to 6 1-2c is expected soon, and may go into effect on Monday. Frozen