WINNIPEG MARKETS

Saturday, May 17.

The weather has been finer this week—although it is cloudy again at time of writing, and has rained a little during the day—and business has been a little more active than last week. The weather practically governs the situation in Manitoba to-day, and on its behavior during the next few weeks depends the year's prospects to a great extent. Wheat seeding is now well advanced in all parts but the Red River Valley, where it is still backward. Next week should see the wheat all in if the weather is favorable. Business is moderately active, but it is undoubtedly suffering in many directions from the effects of bad weather. Values are steady in wholesale circles. A large amount of trading in land is being done, and the rush of new settlers continues. Labor is well employed. Another strike has developed in the city this week, that of the Canadian Northern Railway Company's machinists. Bank clearings at Winnipeg are still much larger than in previous years.

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, May 17.

(All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are wholesale for such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reductions on large quantities and to cash discounts.)

BUILDING MATERIAL.

Demand is good and prices remain unchanged as follows: Rubble stone, $4 per cord; footings, $5.50 per cord; broken stone, $1.25 per cubic yard; brick, kiln run, $9 per thousand; veneer, $11 per thousand; white lime, 20c per bushel; grey lime, 17c per bushel.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

There is a light sorting demand for these goods locally and the market is without special feature. At factory points the market continues to improve. Western orders for fall and winter staples are said to be large. Leather is firm but not advancing and the whole situation is healthy.

DRY GOODS.

Trade is moderately active in this line. Travellers have finished their sorting trips, and are out for fall. Merchants in the country complain a good deal about the weather, which has been hindering trade, and they say that their spring business has not been up to expectations. Cottons continue to advance in price as our news columns this week show, and while jobbing prices here are no higher than they have been, they may be expected to advance as soon as present stocks are exhausted.

DRUGS.

There is a good trade being done here in this line and the market holds steady. The New York Oil, Paint and Drugs Reporter gave the following list of changes in that market last week: Advanced—Menthol, 5c; Canada Indica, 5c; buchu leaves, 2c; formaldehyde, 1c; beeswax, ½c; ceresin, ½c; cocoa butter, ½c. Declined—Anise oil, 2½; castor oil, ½c; Tahiti vanilla beans, 20c; cuttlefish, 1c; quinine, Java, ½c; wild cherry bark, 2c.

FISH.

Fishing commenced this week at the lakes, and fresh fish will be in the market by next week. In the meantime the demand is being met with frozen stock, which rules as follows: Whitefish, 5c per lb.; pickerel, 4c per lb.; pike, 2½c; trout, 10c; salmon, 9c; halibut, 11c; fresh cod, 7c per lb.; fresh haddock, 7c; mackerel, 15c; herrings, 15c per doz.; Labrador herring, per barrel, $4.25; salt mackerel, $1.80 per kit; Holland herring, in kits, $1.00; Digby chicks, 18c per lb.; boneless fish, 5½c lb.; finnan haddie, 7 to 8c per lb.

GREEN FRUITS.

The demand for fresh fruit is improving as the season advances and there is now a good trade being done in all seasonable lines. Strawberries have been reduced to $5 per case this week, a decline of 50c. We quote prices as follows: Oranges, $4 to $5.50 per case; lemons, $4 per case; Messinas, $3.90 to $4; bananas, $3 to $3.50; strawberries, in cases of 24 quarts, $5.00; apples, $6 to $6.50 per barrel; cocoanuts, 90c per dozen; dates, in one pound packages, 6c. Vegetables—Tomatoes, $5 per case; celery, per dozen, 90c; Egyptian onions, 4½c in single sacks and 4½c in five sack lots; radish and lettuce, per dozen bunches, 30c; rhubarb, 5c per pound. Honey per pound, 15c in 60-lb. tins; in glasses, $2.25 per dozen; apple cider, per gallon, 35c; Quebec maple syrup, $6 per doz. in ½ gal. tins; Imperial maple syrup in gallon tins, $12.50 per dozen; in ½ gallon tins, $6.50; quarts, $3.60.

GROCERIES.

Trade is good and the market for staples steady, with the exception of salt, which has declined 25c per barrel, owing to the lower cost of transportation consequent upon the opening of navigation. The new prices for salt are given in our price list on another page. Both currants and raisins are higher on eastern markets as a result of reduced crop prospects, but so far prices here are unchanged.

HARDWARE AND PAINTS.

Hardware trade keeps good and there is a very large demand for building materials. Summer lines, such as refrigerators, ice cream freezers, netting, etc., are also in good request. The only changes to make in prices are: An advance of ½c per pound in malleable clevises, making the price now 7c here; a change in the discount on "Maple Leaf" cotton netting, 2 inch, and an advance in poultry netting, 24 inch, being worth now $1.35 and other widths in proportion. The paints, oils and glass market is steady and there have been no changes to note. Demand is good. Turpentine is firmer at Savannah. A list of prices of staples at Winnipeg will be found on another page.

IMPLEMENTS.

Implement dealers are getting ready for the summer and fall trade. Orders are large and numerous and there is every prospect of the experience of the spring, in the way of slow delivery, being continued into the fall lines. The spring trade has certainly been a severe trial to everyone owing to the inability of factories to meet the demand. There is a good deal of talk about higher prices for implements and it is likely that factories will be forced to ask more for their goods than heretofore by the higher cost of material and labor. Advances, if made, when they come will be general and will cover the entire range of farm machinery. Binder twine is about dead here, but we give a review of the Chicago market in another column.

RAW FURS.

Receipts are light and the market holds steady at about the following prices: Badger, prime, 25c to $1; bear, black, small, $5.00 to $15; bear, black, large, $15 to $25, brown, large, $15 to $22; beaver, small, $1.50 to $3; beaver, middling, $3 to $5; beaver, large $5 to $7.50; fisher, $4 to $9; fox, silver, $25 to $150; fox, cross, $5 to $15; fox, red, $1 to $3.50; lynx, $2 to $5; marten, large, dark, $6 to $10; marten, large, brown, $4.50 to $7; marten, large, light, pale, $3.50 to $5; mink, $1 to $3; musquash, winter, 3 to 7c; musquash, spring, 4 to 9c; otter, $5 to $12; skunk, 25c to $1.25; wolf, timber, $1.50 to $3; wolf, prairie, 50c to $1.50; wolverine, $2 to $5. The above prices are those obtaining in Winnipeg for prime skins only. Allowance must be made for size and color, and inferior skins may only be purchased at lower prices, according to their value, in proportion to the above quotations.

SEEDS.

Demand for field and garden seeds is active and leading lines rule steady at following prices: timothy, 8¾ to 9¾c per pound; clover, white, 23c per pound; clover, red, 16c per pound; alsike, 17c per pound. Hungarian, $1.60 per bushel of 48 pounds; millet, $1.60 per bushel of 48 pounds; onions, Dutch sets, 12c per pound; potato onions, 8c per pound; shalot onions, 8c per pound; flaxseed, $2 per bushel; field peas, golden vine, $1.80 per bushel for imported; field peas, Canadian Beauty, $1.80 per bushel; spelts, $1.75 per 100 pounds; western rye grass, 12c per pound; fodder corn, North Dakota flint, $1.50 per bushel of 56 pounds.

SCRAP.

Business is good and prices hold steady. We quote: No. 1 cast iron, free from wrought and malleable, $13 to $14 per ton; No. 2, $5 to $6 per ton; wrought iron scrap, $5 per ton; heavy copper, 7c per pound; red brass, heavy, 4½c per pound; light brass, 5 to 6c per pound; lead pipe or tea lead, 2 to 2½c per pound; rags, country mixed, 50c per 100 pounds; rubbers, free from rivets, buckles, and arctics, 4½c per pound; zinc scrap, 1c per pound; bones, clean, dry and bleached, $5 to $6 per ton; 15c per dozen.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—The wheat markets have been fairly strong throughout the past week, but trade has not been active either in the cash business or the speculative markets. In fact it is a weak feature of the situation that the public is not bothering itself much with the speculative grain markets, at the present time. On Monday and Tuesday the American markets showed a firm tendency with an advance of 1c in the cash, but since then they have declined gently and gradually, and prices at the close of the week are unchanged to about ½c higher than they were at the close of last week. The primary receipts in the States continue to show a large decrease as compared to last year, and visible stocks are decreasing fast. The American government report for May was issued on Monday afternoon and it gave the average condition of the winter wheat crop on May 1st as 76.4, against 94.1 on May 1st, 1901, and 83.2 the mean average for the past ten years. The area of winter wheat under cultivation is given as 27,103,000 acres, being 4,868,000 acres less than the area sown last fall, this much having been plowed up and put to other crop. The government report by itself might be taken as quite bullish, but there are good reasons for considering that the report is not a reliable exhibit of the actual situation in regard to acreage, and its usefulness is doubtful. Other reports, held in estimation, gave larger acreage and higher condition, and in two days the government report evidently lost any interest it had created. In the first days of the week there were further good rains in the winter wheat belt and dry and warm weather in the spring wheat country so that the week has been very favorable for crops generally. The wheat crop in Europe is in very good condition and it is stated this year is a fair prospect of 200,000,000 bushels larger yield there than last year. The weather in Argentina has been favorable for farming operations and plowing for the new crop is going ahead. World's shipments keep up well, but the Argentine and Australia have not much of the crop to ship now and India cannot enlarge her exports. For the next seven to eight months, therefore, Europe is almost wholly depending on America and Russia for her outside supply. Stocks are light everywhere except on ocean passage, which is several million bushels larger than last year. The American visible supply decreased 3,026,000 bushels, against a decrease last week of 2,121,000 bushels and a decrease last year of 907,000 bushels. The world's shipments were 7,794,000 bushels, against 8,608,000 bushels last week and 9,414,000 bushels last year. The world's visible supply according to Bradstreet's decreased 2,734,000 bushels, against a decrease of 6,974,000 bushels last week and a decrease of only 157,000 bushels last year.

The Manitoba wheat market has been quiet during the week, and trade moves along in the same way without much demand for wheat, or pressure on the part of the holders to sell it. Wheat for immediate or early delivery is easier, but firmer for more distant delivery. Last week prices left off at 74⅜c for 1 northern and 72⅜c for 2 northern in store Fort William spot or May delivery, and by Tuesday afternoon they had advanced under the influence of stronger outside markets to 76⅛c and 74⅛c, but since then they have declined 1c and at the close of business yesterday the best prices obtainable were 75¼c 1 northern and 73¼c 2 northern spot or May delivery in store Fort William. Hard is worth 78¼c. June delivery is not wanted, but will sell at same figures as for May delivery.

FLOUR—There is a very heavy demand for flour at present for export trade and the market is 10c higher. We quote: Manitoba patents, $4 per bbl; Hungarian Patent, $2.15 per sack of 98 pounds; Glenora, $2.00; Alberta, $1.85; Manitoba, $1.70; and XXXX, $1.25.

MILLFEED—Demand is heavy and mills are not able to keep pace with orders. The feature of the week has been an advance of $1 per ton in prices. Bran, in bulk, is now worth $15.50 per ton and shorts, $17.50.

GROUND FEED—Oat and barley chop have advanced 50c per ton, owing to higher cost of these grains, oil cake is $3 per ton higher. We quote: Oat chop, per ton, $28; barley chop, $22; mixed chop, $23; oil cake, $28; meal screenings, $14.50; oil cake, $28.

OATS—The market has advanced 1c per bushel this week owing to increased demand. We quote: No. 2 white oats, Fort William, 41c per bushel; No. 1 white, in carlots on track, Winnipeg, per bushel, 45c; No. 2 white, 43 to 42c; feed grades, 38c; feed seed oats, 50c. At country points farmers are getting 29c to 31c for No. 2 white oats. Street oats are selling.

BARLEY—Stocks available are light and the market has jumped to 46c to 48c for seed grades and to 42c for feed barley, in carlots on track at Winnipeg.

FLAXSEED—Dealers are asking $2 per bushel for seed flax.

SPELTZ—Dealers are asking 75c per bushel of 50 pounds for speltz.

HAY—Receipts are light, and market is $1 higher at $8 to $9 ton for fresh baled. Loose hay is offering in any extent.

ROLLED OATS—Milling companies report their prices unchanged as follows: 80 lb. sacks, $2.20; 10 lb. are worth $2.25; 20s, $2.30; and 5s, $2.60, with cover. Two pound packages, $3.60 without case. Granulated standard oatmeal is unchanged $2.75 per 98 lb. sack.

POULTRY—There is very little poultry in the market. Chickens are worth 12½c per pound for dressed, and turkeys 12½ to 15c, according to quality.

BUTTER—No country creamery butter has reached this market yet and there is consequently nothing to report. The weather has not been favorable for pasture and consequently milk is scarce in most districts. Commission houses are quoting 22c per pound for choice creamery butter delivered here.

BUTTER—Dairy—Butter making is still a slow process for our dairies and receipts of dairy are very light. Commission houses are offering as high as 20c per pound for best quality of fresh made butter on a commission basis, and from that figure the market ranges down to 16c for round lots.

CHEESE—This market is bare of cheese and there is hardly any to be had. Dealers do not care to bring in much eastern stock as Manitoba cheese will begin to arrive soon. The wholesale selling price to-day is about 9½c.

EGGS—The market is firmer and about 14½c per dozen is now being obtained for fresh case eggs from the retail trade here.

VEGETABLES—The potato market is decorative largely owing to the crooked work of buyers from the United States who were operating here a or three weeks ago. These men offered big prices for potatoes and had contracts with local buyers for all they could obtain, then when the market south unexpectedly declined they quietly left town and when the potatoes they were rushed to be loaded to take delivery, consequently the market is glutted. The market to-day is 10c lower than it was a week ago. We quote: Potatoes, car lots, 35c per bushel; carrots, $1.80 per bushel; beets, 60c per bushel; turnips, 75c per bushel; lettuce, 30c per doz.; parsley, 30c per doz.; radish, 40c; cress, 30c; celery, 90c per doz. bunches; green onions, 20c per doz.; onions, 5½ to 6c per pound.

DRESSED MEATS—Beef is very scarce and has advanced 1c this week. We quote: Beef, city dressed, per pound, 8 to 9c; veal, 7½ to 8c; mutton, 10c; spring lambs, each $3.50 to $4.50; hogs, per pound, 7½c to 8c.

HIDES—The market is about dead. Prices are now on a basis of 6½c. We quote: No. 1 city hides, 6½; No. 2s, 5½c, and No. 3s, 4½c. Kips are held the same price as hides; deskins, 2