THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, April 3.

The weather has been favorable this week for spring business. Grain deliveries in the country are now practically over, until after seeding, as farmers will be getting at their spring work at once, and the roads have broken up. The monthly trade returns for March show that dealers have been taking liquors, etc., out of bond, for fear of an increase in the duty. Bank clearings at Winnipeg for March exceed those of Alarch 1896 by just a trifle, but show an increase of 45 per cent. over March 1895. Implement dealers report business about equal to last season.

Bank clearings at Winnipeg, Toronto. Hamilton, Montreal and Halifax amount to \$19,400,000 this week, compared with \$17.-29,000 the week before and with \$10,203,000 in the like week last year. There were 683 basiness failures reported from the Dominion of Canada and Newfoundland during the first quarter of 1897, compared with 785 in the like portion of 1896. The corresponding reduction in liabilities is from \$5.773,000 in 1895 to \$1,627,000 for the first quarter of

Regarding the business situation in the United States this week Bradstreets says: Another drop is recorded in price becomer pig iron and steel billets, and wheat, four, coal, coffee and lard, which is, in part, elet by increased activity and higher prices for wool and for woolens, for corn, cats, sugar and petroleum. There are 4,404 business fillures in United States during the past quarter compared with 4.512 in first quarter of 1996,s falling off of about 11 per cent. Liabilities of all individuals, firms and corporations which failed amount to \$62,518,000, a filling off of 16 per cent from the correspondingtotal last year Reports from fifty civies initiate there are at work at these centres polally not to exceed 100,000 in excess of the number employed in November last.

At New York yesterday call money was quied at 13 to 13 per cent., prime mercanthe paper 32 to 4 per cent., bar silver was 50 corer than a week ago 1t 62c, Mexican dulan, 485c.

WINHIPEG MARKETS.

Winnipeg, Saturday Afternoon, April 3

ill quotations, unless otherwise specified, are wholeted for each quantities as are usually taken by retail sales, and are subject to the usual reduction on large Guntines and to cash discounts.

ORDWOOD—Prices are firm. Pine is old about \$3.50 for cars on track here; imme, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per cord on track, and poplar at \$2.50 to \$2.75.

OM. — Prices here are the same, as obrs: Pennsylvania anthracito \$10.00; estem anthracite, \$9.50 per ton. Souris coal 50 ton; Lethbridge \$6.50. These ion are delivered to consumers in Windry, Car lots on track of Souris coal beld at \$3.85 to \$9.90 per ton here, or 50 per ton on cars at the mines.

DECOS—Prices here for parcel lots are as loss with liberal reductions for large orders; and por pound, Sig to Aig; alcompany of the second of

to 4c; cocaine, per oz..\$5.00 to \$5.50; cream tartar, per pound, 30 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; epsom salts, 3½ to 4c; extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 18c; do., boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 35 to 40c; glycerine, per pound, 80 to 35e; ginger, Jamaica, 30 to 35e; do., African, 20 to 25e; Howard's quinine, rer ounce, 45 to 55e; iodine, \$5.50 to 600, unsect powder, 35 to 40e; merchia sul \$1.90 to \$2.25. Opium, \$4.50 to \$5.00; oil oilve \$1.25 to \$1.40, oil, U. S. salad, \$1.25 to \$1.40; oil, lemon, super \$2.75 to \$2.25; oil, peppermint, \$4.00 to \$1.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.50 to \$1 pergallon as to brand; oxalice acid, 13 to 16c; potassiodide, \$4.25 to 4.50; paris green, 18 to 20c lb; saltpetre; 10 to 12c; sal rochelle 30 to 35e; shellag, 45 to 50e; sulphur flowers. \$2 to 5e, sulphur roll, per keg, \$2 to 5e; soda bicarb, par keg of 112 pounds, \$4.00 to \$1.25 sal soda, \$2 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55e; strychnine, pure crystals \$1 to \$1.25 per oz.

FLUID BEEF, ETC.—Following are prices of the goods put up by the Johnston Fluid Beef Company of Montreal:—Johnstons Fluid Beef —No. 1, 2-oz. tins, per dozen, \$2.70; No. 2 4oz., \$4.50; No. 3, 8oz., \$7.88; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.83; No. 5, 2 lb., \$21.30. Staminal—2oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do. 4oz. \$5.10.

FISH-Prices are the same. Jobbing prices are as follows:—Finnan haddies, 8c per lb; whitefish, 4 to 5c; Lake Superior trout, 9c; pickerel, 3 to 4c; salmon, 12c halibut, 12c; cod, 8c; haddock, 8c per lb; smelts, 10c; herrings, 25c per dozen; oysters, \$1.60 per gallon for standards, \$1.80 for selects, and \$2 to \$2.25 for extra selects and counts; shell oysters, \$9c per barrel; smoked salmon, 15c lb.; bloaters, \$1.10 to \$140 bx; red horrings, 20c box; pickled trout, \$750 per barrel, salt herrings \$3.50 per half barrel, boncless fish, 5c lb.

NUTS—Tarragona almonds, 16c; Sicily filberts, large, 15c. filberts ordinary 12c peanuts, roasted, 12c, peanuts, green, 9c. Ontario butternuts 9c; Ontario Walnuts 6c; hickory nuts, 10; Grenoble walnuts, 15c, French walnuts, 12½c 1b.

GREEN FRUITS.-Apples are coming in from the East, but they do not keep well and good sound stock brings full prices. Bananas have been in good supply, but the interruption to the railway service during the last few days, on account of water on the track in Minuesota and Dakota, has inter-rupted supplies again. The future regard-ing fruits coming from the south is uncertain, on account of fear of high water in the Red river valley. Prices are as follows. Apples, choice, \$3.75 to \$1.00, other fair to good stock, \$3.00 to \$3.50 per barrel as to quality, poor stock, \$2 to \$2.50. Califorma oranges, navels, \$1.50 to \$1.75 per box; California seedling oranges \$3.50 to \$1.00 per box: Messina lemora \$1.51 per box; Cahlornia lemens, \$1,50 to \$5 box; Cape Cod crauberties, frozen, \$5 to \$5,50 per barrel, Malaga grapes, \$9 50 per keg; bananas, \$2,50 to \$3,25 per bunch; California lemens, \$1.50 to pineapples \$1 per dozen; sweet potatoes, \$1 to \$1.50 per barrel; dates, 61 to 7c lb.; figs, 13 to 15c lb. for layers.

HARDWARE—A telegram from Montreal this morning says. The wire nail association of Canada at their session in the Windsor hotel here yesterday, decided to make a reduction of 10 per cent, on all wire nails to jobbers in Ontario, sold on tae association's scale of discounts. It was also resolved to make the province of Quebec an open market, which means that the makers are practically free to sell at any price they like."

Prices here are:

Try, 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 29, 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, \$9.11 to 9.25, I. X., per box, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$11.00 to 11.20.

TERNE PLATES.—I. C., 20 by 28, \$9.00 to 9.25.

IRON AND STEEL—Bar iron, per 100 lbs. base price. \$2.85 to \$2.50; band iron, per 100 lbs., \$2.55 to 3.00; Swedish iron per 100 lbs., \$-25 to 0, sleigh shoe steel, \$3.00 to 3.25; best east tool steel, per lb, 9 to 11c; Russian abeat, per lb, 12 to 13c.

SHEET IRON.—10 to 20 gauge, \$3.00; 22 to 21 and 26 gauge, \$3.25, 28 gauge, \$3.50.

CANADA PLATES.—Garth and Blaina, \$3.15

GALVANIZED IRON.—American, 20 gauge, \$1.00; 22 and 21 gauge, \$1.25, 25 gauge \$1.51; 26 gauge, \$1.75 per 100 lbs.

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

LEAD .- Pig, per lb., 41c.

SHEET ZINC-Incasks, 5.75 lb., broken lots, 6 00.

SOLDER.—Half and half (guar) per 1b, 14 to 16c.

AMMUNITION.—Cartrilges—Rim fire pistol, American, discount, 40 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 guage, \$6 to 7.50; shot. Canadian, soft, 5½c, shot, Canadian, chilled, 6c.

WIRE.—Galvanized bart wire plain twisted wire and staples, \$3.10 per 100 lbs.

ROPE —Sisal, per lb., 7½ to 8c base; manilla. per lb., 9½ to 10½c base, cutton, ½ to ½ inch av 1 larger, 15c lb.

AXES - Per box, \$6.00 to 9.00.

NAILS.—Cut, per keg, base price, \$2.63 for 60 d. with usual extras; common steel wire nails, 3 to 6 inch,\$3.20per keg; 2½ inch, \$3.33, with usual extras for smaller sizes.

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.

PAINTS, OILS, ETC —Prices are as follows: WHITE LEAD—Pure, \$5.75 per 100 lbc.

PREPARED PAINTS. - Pure liquid colors per gallon, \$1.15 to \$1.25.

DRY COLORS.—White lead, per lb., 7c; red lead, kegs 5½c, yellow ocro in barrel lots, 2½c, less than barrels, 8c; golden ocro, barrels, 3½c; less than barrels 4c; Venetian, red, barrels, 8c; less than barrels, 9½c; American vermillion, 15c; English vermillion, \$1 per lb., Paris green, 18 to 19c; Canadian metalic oxides, barrel lots 2½c; less than barrel lots, 3c; English purple oxides, 100 lb. kegs, 4c; less, than kegs, 4½c lb.

VARNISHES. - No. I furniture, per gal., \$1; axtra furniture, \$1.95; pale oak, \$1.50; alastic oak, \$1.50 to \$1.75; No. 1 carriage, \$1.50 to \$1.75; hard oil finish, 1.50 to \$2; brown.Japan, \$1: goldsize Japan, \$1.50; No. 1, orange shellac, \$2; puro orange shellac, \$2.50.

SUNDRIES.—Glue, S.S., in sheets, per lb., 12½ to 15c; glue, white for kalsomining, 15 to 18c. Stove gasoline, per case, \$1.00; ben-