

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, Aug. 20.

Harvesting is in full swing this week and business is consequently quiet. The shipment of fall stocks is now going on. The out-look is favorable for a good fall trade, in view of the very good crops, which in a very short time now will be past danger from unfavorable weather conditions. Excursions of harvest hands from eastern Canada have been arriving this week and they have come in good time to help save the crop, a few thousand extra hands being required for this purpose. Samples of new wheat are now being shown, and the sample is very good, the berry being plump and hard. Of course these are hand rubbed samples, and as the grain is yet standing in shock, the sample is liable to reduction in quality from rain. It is possible that by the end of next week a few cars of early threshed grain may be moving. Railway work is going on on the various lines under construction. Bank clearings this week again show a shrinkage, compared with the corresponding week a year ago, which is in contrast with the large increase this year previous to July.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

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BINDER TWINE.

So far there has been no indication of a shortage of binder twine, and it looks as though the supply in the country would be ample. Prices are irregular. Holders are anxious to close out any stock they may have on hand, and twine could be bought now at a cut of 1c or more under quotations. While prices are still held considerably above values at the opening of the season, they are off 3 to 4c from the extreme top quoted a few weeks ago.

GROCERIES.

Business, for the season has been good. Canned goods and dried fruits are firm. Apricots have been advanced again here about 1c. Sugars are firm, in sympathy with the recent advance at the refineries. Now Japan teas are arriving. Compound lard is 10c lower, and pure lard in tins 25c per case lower. Canned salmon is in a very strong position on account of the expected shortage in the pack, full reports of which are not obtainable yet. Salmon have advanced 10 to 15c per dozen at New York during the past ten days. See prices on another page.

LUMBER.

The demand for lumber for immediate shipment is naturally quiet at the moment, but after harvest, a lively fall trade is expected. The features of interest in the trade this week were the annual lumbermen's excursion, the strike at the Rat Portage mills, and the failure of Graham, Horne & Co., of Fort William. The excursion was a great success. The strike situation remains about the same. It is understood an arrangement was come

to to start work on the ten hour per day basis, without an advance in wages, but later this fell through, the strikers insisting on the advance of wages as well as the reduction of one hour in the day's labor. Men have been brought in from the east to take the place of the strikers, but they have been interfered with by the strikers. The Norman mill was started running Thursday with a scratch gang, under police protection, but the engineers and firemen refused to work with the imported men, and the mill was closed again. The feeling was reported quite bitter.

GREEN FRUIT.

The fruit market is widening, and the next two weeks will probably be the heaviest of the season. California, Oregon and Washington pears, peaches and plums are coming forward freely. Quite a quantity of British Columbia plums have also come to hand, but only in express lots so far. In this way a couple of thousand cases of British Columbia plums have been handled so far. The British Columbia shippers have made a great improvement this season in the mode of handling their fruit, and much of the receipts have come to hand in very fair shape. One variety of plums, however, called the Bradshaw, has been a failure, owing to some disease or sort of dry rot. Though shipped in good condition, the plums would arrive here three days later badly affected. A member of the British Columbia fruit exchange, who called on the Winnipeg agency for the disposal of this fruit, explained that the cause of the disease was owing to neglect to spray the trees at the proper time. He said he would not have believed that the fruit could go so fast if he had not seen the stock after it was delivered here. The other varieties of plums, which have come from British Columbia—mostly peach plums and green gages, have not been affected so much with disease. Apples are now coming in freely from Ontario and prices have taken a big drop. Some Ontario basket tomatoes are also in, but no other Ontario fruits yet. Blueberries have had a large sale. The shippers think that 5c per pound here is not a profitable price for blueberries, but local dealers think 5c is a fair price for blueberries, compared with the cost of other fruits. Crabs from the United States are offering. Southern grapes are lower. Apples have sold about \$3.50 to \$4 per barrel, but they were further dropped to \$2.75 to \$3 at the end of the week. Pears are lower. Prices are: Oranges, late Valencias, \$1.50 to \$5 a box; bananas, a bunch, \$2.25 to \$2.50 as to size; California lemons \$6 per box; pie plant, 75c to \$1 per 100 lbs; Minnesota tomatoes, \$2 to \$2.50 per bushel box; Ontario tomatoes, 20 lb. baskets, \$1 to \$1.25; California and Oregon fruits, peaches, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per box; plums, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per box as to quality and variety; pears, \$2.50 to \$3 per box; blueberries, 5 to 6c per pound; Ontario Duchesse apples, 2.75 to \$3 per barrel; crab apples, \$3 to \$5.50 per barrel; British Columbia plums, \$1.00 per box; southern grapes, 65c per basket; water melons \$4 per dozen; coconuts, \$1 per dozen; Sicily filberts, large, 11 to 12c per pound; Grenoble walnuts, 14c; figs, 14c; 14 lb. boxes, \$1.50; 20 pound boxes, \$2.50, 1 lb. boxes per doz. \$1.75; dates, 6c per lb.; Tarragona almonds, 12-1-2 to 13c; peanuts, green, 9c; roasted, 12c; pecans, 14 to 15c; strained honey, 7-1-2 to 10c per lb.; maple

sugar 11 to 12c; syrup per doz. half gallon tins, \$0.50; apple cider 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

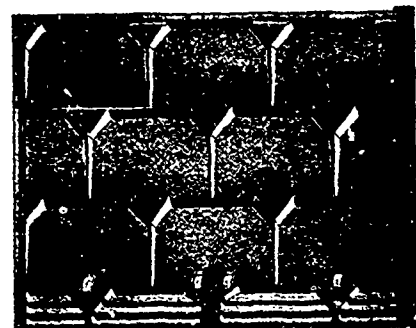
Wheat—The record of the wheat markets during the past week has been one of watching and waiting. On Monday a heavy slump in cash wheat took place in Minneapolis and Duluth, warning the trade that cash wheat and futures must come nearer together in values before long. This had a depressing effect, and for the remainder of the week—with the exception of a slight rally on Thursday, which was all lost again yesterday—values have been about steady. There is a good demand for wheat for immediate delivery, but the heavy discount at which the bears in the speculative markets continue to offer wheat for future delivery, deters the trade and everyone else from buying except for immediate consumptive requirements. Aggregate daily receipts in the primary markets of the United States still fall far below receipts for same date last year, caused partly by interior mills absorbing a large share of farmers' offerings, but chiefly by farmers continuing to withhold the new crop from market. Reserve stocks continue to decrease. The United States visible supply on the 15th inst. was only 6,864,000 bus. and a decrease of another million bus. in it is expected for the present week. The position of the United States visible and the fact that on the 1st inst., the world's visible supply of wheat and flour was only equal to 70,000,000 bus. of wheat against 78,000,000 bushels at the same day in 1897, and 124,000,000 in 1896 ought to make short sellers consider what will be the result later on when demand revives as it is sure to do.

The local market continues about on the same even level of previous weeks. A light and desultory demand for car lots of No. 1 hard for the Ontario

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