

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, Sept. 17.

Business has been very satisfactory for the season, and the universal expectation is for a good fall trade. Harvest work puts a quietus on the movement in some lines, but an active trade is looked for in all season lines. The grain movement is getting nicely started, though nothing like a rush has yet set in, and owing to the low prices compared with last crop, there will doubtless be a tendency on the part of farmers to store their wheat. Most of the wheat so far delivered at the elevators is being held by farmers. The prospects regarding the crop is that estimates as to yield will be fully reached. There is likely to be a brisk movement in farm lands this fall. Usually lands move more freely after harvest and this season land has been selling all along much better than usual. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week were a little less than for the corresponding week of last year, but considerably larger than in previous year.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

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(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.

Quite a slump has taken place in the price of coal, owing to competition. It was expected that the price of Pennsylvania coal would range about \$9 to \$9.25 per ton this season, in the Winnipeg market, retail, but some dealers began taking orders for future supply at cut prices, and the result was a general slump all around. \$8.50 is now the usual price for Pennsylvania anthracite, delivered to consumers in the city, which is \$1.50 under the price of last winter. Western anthracite is down in proportion. A new coal may come into the market this year by the opening of the railway to the Crow's Nest mines, though none of it has been offered in this market yet.

CLOTHING.

Business in this branch is quiet at present. Travellers have concluded the season's trade on fall and winter goods and representatives of eastern houses have sent their samples east. A little sorting business is now doing. Merchants have purchased liberally this season, and on this account the sorting trade may not be large, unless retailers have an exceptionally good season. Spring samples will be ready about October 1.

GREEN FRUITS.

Peaches are selling freely at the same prices as last week. Those who wish freestone peaches should not delay securing them as the season will soon be over. Ontario grapes have been arriving freely and the season is now at its height and the stock is good. They may be a little cheaper later on, but the quality is now at its best, and choice quality is more

desirable than a shade lower prices for poorer fruit. Barrel crabs are scarce. Washington crabs in boxes are offering at \$2 per box. Watermelons are getting out of season. Prices are: Oranges, late Valencia, \$3.50 to \$4.50 a box; bananas, a bunch, \$2 to \$2.50 as to size; California lemons, \$6 per box; Ontario tomatoes, 20 pound basket, 60 to 65c; California and Oregon fruits, peaches, \$1.25 per box; plums \$1 per box; British Columbia plums, 75c to 90c per box for best quality; pears, \$2 to \$2.25; Ontario apples, \$3 per barrel; crab apples, barrel 4; boxes \$2; California grapes, tokays, \$2.75, and muscats, \$2.50, for four basket crates; Ontario grapes, 10 pound baskets, concord, 30 to 35c; Niagara, 35 to 40c; the lower price for large lots; Ontario pears, 40c to 70c per basket, as to quality; watermelons, \$3 per dozen; coconuts, \$1 per dozen; Sicily filberts, large, 11 to 12c per pound; Grenoble walnuts, 14c; figs, eleme, 14 pound boxes, \$1.50; 20 pound boxes, \$2.50; 1 pound boxes per dozen, \$1.75, dates, 6c per pound; Tarragona almonds, 12 1-2 to 13c; peanuts, green, 9c; roasted, 12c; pecans, 14 to 15c; strained honey, 7 1-2 to 10c per pound; maple sugar, 11 to 12c; syrup per dozen half gallon tins, \$8.50; apple cider, 85c per gallon in barrels and half barrels.

GROCERIES.

The changes in the local market this week are not very important. A lower quotation on canned tomatoes is the principal feature. Standard and granulated oatmeal are 10c higher. Canned salmon continues very firm. There is practically no red fish to be obtained at the coast, and a number of the packers cannot fill their orders. Brokers here cannot give quotations. There are no further changes in dried fruits.

HARDWARE.

Horseshoes are 10c lower. There is a good demand for ammunition. Loaded shells are higher. Glass is very firm, but the dealers will not agree on an advance, though prices in this market are away below a parity with Eastern Canada and foreign markets.

LUMBER.

A very large trade is doing notwithstanding the harvest season. In Winnipeg dealers are selling pine on a very close margin, not exceeding 10 per cent on staple lines, as no advantage has been made here to correspond with the advance at the mills some time ago.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Wheat held steady in leading markets the first three days of the week, but quite a spurt was recorded in prices on Thursday, and part of the gain was lost again yesterday. The feature of the market is the great strength in cash wheat. Yesterday at Duluth cash wheat closed 5 1-4c above December option. The speculative tendency, however, seems weak, and in view of the large world's crop and the expectation of liberal supplies of wheat later on, futures refuse to take their proper place compared with the cash market. Beerholm, of London, is out with a world's crop estimate which places the crop of the present year at 2,620,000,000 bushels. This is the largest since 1894. When the crop was 2,562,000,000 bushels. The visible and invisible reserves of wheat, however, are

estimated to be 320,000,000 bushels less now than in 1894, making the aggregate supply of wheat, including new crop and reserves, 262,000,000 bushels less than 1894.

In the local market there has been some business doing in new wheat, though the movement so far has been very limited. Deliveries of wheat are only nicely commenced, and the farmers are storing much of it. Prices have been somewhat irregular. Cash or wheat for immediate delivery has been maintained at a big premium over futures. The prevailing price for spot or quick delivery has been equal to about 70c for No. 1 hard Fort William. On Thursday, however, 71c was paid for wheat in transit, but yesterday 70c was the usual quotation with business nominal. For October delivery the general quotation throughout the week was 66c for No. 1 hard, in store Fort William. Old wheat was quoted at 81 to 83c. No. 1 hard, Fort William. Stocks in store at Fort William on Saturday last were 118,000 bushels. Towards the end of the week delivery at country points, were becoming heavy, and an immediate heavy movement will begin, unless there should be another check to threshing from wet weather. Threshing so far has been done almost entirely from the shock, and not much stacking has so far been done. Some grain was threshed after the late rains before it was properly dried, which may result in loss unless the wheat is very carefully handled, as it will heat in the bins. This crop is certain to vary considerably in quality, as compared with last crop, which was very uniform. The new crop will be divided up between a greater number of grades, including considerably more northern grades than last season.

FLOUR—A further decline of 20c per barrel has been experienced in flour this week, covering high grades. Low grades are not materially changed. Prices

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