

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, October 1.

The volume of business in general mercantile lines is satisfactory. Collections for the fall months will no doubt be slower than last year, but later they will be better than last year. In fact it looks now as though the income from the crop out-turn will be spread over a much longer period than usual. This will be a benefit rather than a detriment to the trade. Last year wheat prices opened high and farmers sold their wheat freely. They also got through with the threshing of their crop very early last year. This year there is a much heavier crop to handle and the weather has been broken, so that the harvest work has been retarded, while many who have threshed refuse to sell their wheat at the prices offered. Having had a taste of high prices on the last crop they prefer to wait a while to see what will develop before accepting the prices now offered. This disposition will greatly curtail the circulation of money in the early part of the season, but as the crop is large and it will have to be marketed sooner or later, collections will no doubt be good later. Prices paid to farmers for wheat at Manitoba country markets, though continuing considerably higher than shipping values for round lots, have not tempted them to sell freely, and many of those who have been bringing in their wheat are placing it in the elevators for storage. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week were over \$1,000,000 less than for the corresponding week of last year, this great difference being largely attributed to the light grain movement.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Winnipeg, Saturday, Oct. 1

(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.)

BOOTS AND SHOES.

Travellers have been receiving their spring samples, and several are already on the road. The tendency is to ask a little higher prices for spring goods, owing to the advanced cost of leather. Rubber goods have not all been shipped yet.

COAL.

There is keen competition in the local coal trade this year, and with the advent of several new dealers to take a share of the trade, and prices cut down to such a low figure that there is scarcely any profit left, there promises to be very little money in the coal trade for any one this season. Canadian anthracite has been reduced 25c. Other prices are the same as last quoted. Advice from Duluth report a reduction of 25c there on hard coal to \$4.75 wholesale. The freight rate on coal, Buffalo to Fort William, is quoted at 20c per ton,

DRY GOODS.

Travellers are doing some work on sorting trips, and new samples of spring shirts are also being shown. In the clothing branch travellers are now going out with their spring samples.

FISH.

A few laddies have come in by express. They are held high yet. The shell oyster season has also opened, but only a few small lots have come yet, and they come high, 40c per dozen.

GREEN FRUITS.

Plums have advanced some, as was expected, and a further advance is looked for. No good fruit can be had under \$1 per box, for Oregon, and 75c for British Columbia plums, some of which latter are still arriving. Grapes are now about done. The supply as well as the quality this season has been better than usual. California lemons have made a sharp advance. Grapes are the principle line now, and are selling freely at lower prices. Prices are: Oranges, late Valencias, \$3.50 to 4.50 a box; bananas, a bunch, \$2 to 2.50 as to size; California lemons, \$7 per box; Ontario tomatoes, 20 pound basket, 60 to 65c; California and Oregon fruits, peaches, \$1 to 1.25 per box; plums \$1 per box; British Columbia plums 75c per box for best quality; pears, \$2 to \$2.25; Ontario apples, \$3 per barrel; crab apples, 2 per box; California grapes, tokays, \$2.75, and muscats, \$2.50 for four basket crates; Ontario grapes, 10 lb. baskets, Concord, 25c; Niagara, 30c; Ontario pears, 40c to 70c per basket, as to quality; sweet potatoes, \$5.50 barrel; coconuts, \$1 per dozen; Sicily filberts, large, 11 to 12c per pound; Grenoble walnuts, 14c; figs, clemens, 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, \$6.50; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels.

GROCERIES.

There has been no change in prices in this branch this week. Canned vegetables are firm. No new corn or tomatoes are in yet. Tomatoes are being sold at a close margin, compared with cost of stocks held. Teas are coming in, and a few early lines of dried fruits have been received. See prices on another page.

HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.

No changes are reported in this branch. Business is good. Glass and turpentine are very firm, but no advance has occurred in this market yet.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

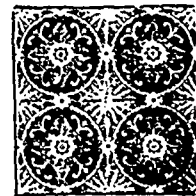
WHEAT—A fairly active trade has to be noted in the wheat markets the past week. Beginning with a rather easy feeling on Monday morning, a decided upward turn was given to prices on that day by the quite unexpected decrease of \$80,000 bushels in the United States and Canadian visible supply, against an increase of 2,403,900 bushels for the corresponding week of last year. The near approach of the close of September led to the squeezing of shorts in that month in New York and Chicago markets which helped to add strength to the situation, and heavy clearances and good export

demand at the United States seaboard contributed to stimulate the advance. By Wednesday, however, the September short interest was pretty well liquidated, Russia was reported to be offering wheat freely, and the receipts at primary points in the United States were showing considerable enlargement, so that notwithstanding the large consumptive demand, and the still very small visible reserves, the markets could not withstand the work of the local sellers, and while Liverpool still keeps firm, the United States markets closed yesterday at a decline on the week of about 4c in cash wheat, and 1c on December and May. The demand for cash wheat in both Europe and America is excellent, but there is almost no speculative interest shown either in the trade or by the public, and with increasing receipts, and only hard to month demand, values may not unlikely decline a little more in the near future.

The local trade continues quiet and on a restricted scale owing to farmers holding their wheat instead of selling freely. Cars arriving at Fort William this week number about 700 daily, as against about 300 daily at same date last year. The inspection at Fort William was very disappointing to shippers during the first half of this month, only about 20 per cent. of the arrivals grading 1 hard. A marked improvement has taken place latterly, and during this week fully 50 per cent. of the cars arriving have inspected 1 hard and upwards of 80 per cent. of the inspections come within 1 hard, 2 hard and 1 northern, all high grades. Prices on a basis of in store Fort William, have followed the changes in outside markets. On Monday 70 1-2c was paid for spot 1 hard and 69 1-2c for wheat in transit, with 3c less for 2 hard and 1 northern. On Tuesday sales were made at 70 1-2, and 71c basis 1 hard in transit, or for delivery first half October and spot 1 hard sold at 71 1-2c. On Wednesday the feeling was weaker, but 70 1-2c basis 1 hard was paid, delivery first

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