

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, Jan. 21.

While business is moving in moderate volume, the movement is larger than for the corresponding period of last year. This is true of the month of December and January to date. This is reflected by the bank clearings at Winnipeg, which each week continue to show a considerable increase over previous years, while in September, October and November, bank clearings here were less than last year. The deliveries of grain in country markets have increased somewhat, and should continue to increase as the season advances until spring work begins. High prices are being paid in Manitoba country markets, compared with export values.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Winnipeg, Saturday, Jan. 21.

(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.)

BLUESTONE.

Bluestone is a commodity which has attracted much attention of late, owing to the big advances made by manufacturers of this article. Bluestone is a product of copper, and copper, as is well known, has experienced a tremendous "boom" in prices lately, owing to speculative influences and efforts to control the copper situation by certain individuals. Bluestone has therefore advanced owing to the increased cost of copper. Locally the commodity is now selling here at less than it would cost laid down in car lots, on the present basis, the net cost being about 4 3-4c here, while sales have been made freely about 4 1-2c here, and even at closer prices in large lots. The tendency, however, is very strong, as at the present cost small lots here should sell about 5 1-2c.

DRUGS.

Business is reported fairly good. The principal feature of interest to the trade is the big combine in borax. It is reported from New York that all the important companies in the world engaged in the production of borax and boric acid have joined in a trust. This combination includes the owners of the main deposits of borax and extends through the United States, England, France and South America. It will control the world's supply of the product.

FISH.

Supplies of haddies continue scarce, and only enough have been coming forward to keep the market going in a hand-to-mouth way. Whitefish, or at least winter caught whitefish, have been offered very sparingly in this market, but there are plenty of summer caught refrigerator stored fish.

GROCERIES.

In the way of price changes in the local market this week we have a decline of 1-8c on granulated sugar, but no change in any other sorts. In rice there is a decline of 1-4c on Patna and 1-2c on Japan rice. Pot barley is up 25c per sack. The only change

in the dried fruit list is a decline of 1-4c on 2 crown Muscatel raisins, and 1-2c reduction on 3 crown. Ground and unground white pepper are up 2c. The only change in canned goods is an advance of 10c on pigs feet. In the sugar market the situation is interesting, and sugars are offering at very low prices here. This is owing to the fight between the big refineries in the United States, in consequence of which the price of granulated sugar has been reduced to a low point. Yellow have not declined in the same proportion and these grades are now much higher, comparatively than granulated. Some United States sugars have been coming into this market. In consequence of the low price in the United States and the low through freight rates from New York to Winnipeg, Eastern Canada refiners have been obliged to quote very low prices for sugars delivered in this market. The Vancouver refinery is also meeting the cut. Of course, as soon as the fight in the United States between the big refiners is stopped, sugars will come up again to a more natural level. An advance in brooms is not unlikely, owing to the corner on broom corn, which has led to a big advance in the raw material. Coffee is firm. There is considerable short crop talk.

GREEN FRUITS.

Business is good for the season, apples are firm, and stocks of choice fruit are getting reduced. Winter pears and Almeria grapes are pretty well used up, and some dealers are about out of these lines. Prices are: California navel oranges, \$4 to \$4.25, as to size. Mexican oranges, \$3.75 to \$4 box; California seedling oranges, \$3.50 to \$3.75 box; bananas, per bunch, \$3.00 to \$3.50, as to size; Messina lemons, \$4.50 per box; California lemons, \$4.50 per box; Ontario apples, good ordinary stock, \$4; fancy spies \$4.50 per barrel, Almeria grapes, \$8, \$10 and \$12 per keg as to quality and size; Catawba grapes, \$5.50 per crate of fifteen 3 lb. baskets; winter Nelles pears \$3 box; Easter pears \$3.50 box; cranberries, unfrozen, \$3 per barrel; sweet potatoes, \$5 per barrel; coconuts, \$1 a dozen; Sicily filberts, large 11 to 12c per pound; Grenoble walnuts, 15c; Tarragona almonds, 14c; peanuts, green, 10c; roasted, 12c; pecan nuts, 12c lb.; shell walnuts, 24 1-2 to 26c per pound; strained honey, 8 1-2 to 9c per pound; maple sugar, 11 to 12c; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels; California figs, in boxes of ten bricks, \$2 per box; dates, 7 1-2c per pound; celery, 40c per dozen bunches.

HARDWARE AND PAINTS.

General firmness is the feature of nearly all staples in this branch. The principal feature now is the strong market for barb wire, owing to the further consolidation of the wire industry in the United States, where prices have been advanced in consequence. Barb wire in the local market has been advanced 10c, and is now firm at \$2.50 f.o.b. Winnipeg. Through car lots to country points carry the additional proportionate freight rate added to the cost. Zinc is higher locally, owing to the advance in first hands. Wire nails are very firm. An advance is not unlikely in this line here. Wire nails are influenced by about the same conditions as barb wire. The combine on spades and shovels is a feature which is commented upon adversely by the local

trade. It is claimed that Canadian consumers are being taxed to aid the combine in the United States, which works with the Canadian association. Turpentine is firm at the last advance. Mixed paints and white lead are very firm, owing to the increased cost of raw material used in their manufacture, but prices are unchanged. A new Canadian oil combine is reported from Toronto.

RAW FURS.

Important sales of raw furs were held in London this week. At the Hudson's Bay Co.'s sales beaver and musquash were offered, as customary in past years at the January sales. Advances to the company here by cable report that beaver advanced 12 1-2 per cent, while rat declined 10 per cent compared with the January sales of last year.

The Commercial has received the following report regarding C. M. Lamson & Co.'s sale held in London this week:

Red fox advanced 15 per cent.
White fox advanced 30 per cent.
Lynx advanced 20 per cent.
Martin advanced 40 per cent.
Skunk same as a year ago.
Otter same as a year ago.
Wolverine advanced 25 per cent.
Black bear declined 15 per cent.
Brown bear declined 10 per cent.
Grizzly bear declined 10 per cent.
Raccoon advanced 15 per cent.
Wolf advanced 20 per cent.

On the 19th a second sale of lynx was held, when the price advanced 35 per cent, compared with a year ago.

WOOD AND COAL.

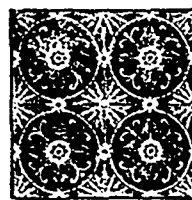
There is no change in coal, which is quoted wholesale at 10 1-2c at above the selling price here, adding freight and cost of handling. Cordwood is easy and in liberal supply. Pine wood is lower, as noted last week. Poplar, however, holds fairly firm.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—The wheat market has got into a rut these days and there is

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