

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

Winnipeg, Saturday, Oct. 30.

The cooler weather this week improved the demand some in retail trade circles for fall goods, but up to the present time the weather has been too fine to cause consumers to buy freely. This is more noticeable in the city retail trade than in the country. In the country farmers will often lay in their supplies for fall and winter even although they may not be immediately required. This year, owing to the early grain movement, they have had money to buy early. In the city, however, consumers will not buy until they require the goods. Sorting trade is opening up some, but business has been mainly in filling late orders, or enlargements of orders given earlier. In every branch of wholesale trade reports are of a cheerful nature and all around business may be described good for the season. The improvement in wheat prices has induced freer selling of grain on the part of farmers, and the export movement of wheat continues large. Cattle experts keep up, but will soon begin to slacken. Threshing is being wound up, the season was an admirable one for this work. There has been a good demand for men to go to the woods for the winter, and also for winter work on the Crow's Nest railway, and labor is well employed. There is still some complaint about scarcity of cars for moving out grain and live stock, and also of delay of goods in transit this way. The enormous increase of late in bank clearings at Winnipeg, is again conspicuous this week, clearings being vastly in excess of previous years.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

Winnipeg, Saturday Afternoon, Oct. 30

BOOTS AND SHOES.

Business is good in this branch notwithstanding the fine weather. A good many late orders and enlargements of earlier orders have been filled lately. The volume of trade for October is reported by one jobber as being 25 per cent greater than October last year, which is a remarkable showing in view of the weather, which has been too fine for the store trade this year, while in October last year the weather was favorable for inducing buying.

COAL.

The weather has not been cold enough yet to make much demand for coal. Prices are the same, at \$10 per ton for Pennsylvania anthracite, \$9.50 for western anthracite, \$6.50 for Lehigh, and \$4.50 for Souris. These are retail prices, delivered to consumers. Reports from Duluth this week noted an advance in soft coal, Hocking being quoted at \$3, and hard coal at \$5.35 to \$5.60 as to size, etc. Freight was quoted at 25c per long ton, Buffalo to Duluth.

HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.

Business is reported good for the season. Glass is moving freely and

is very firm, owing to advances in other markets. Turpentine is very strong. There have been sharp advances in other markets, and some were quoting higher here at 60 per barrels, but the advance was not general. It is very firm, however, as is almost every staple line in hardware and paints. See quotations on another page.

DRUGS.

There are no changes in prices this week. See quotations on another page.

FARM IMPLEMENTS.

In this line attention is being given mainly to collections at present. Some wind mills have been selling, and cutters and sleighs have begun to move somewhat.

FURS.

A few fall rat and skunk have come in, but the raw fur season has hardly opened yet. Manufacturers are very busy making up fur garments, etc., and a good season's trade is expected.

FISH.

Local jobbing prices are as follows for fresh fish: White 5 1-2c, pickerel 4c, trout 9c, salmon 12c, halibut 10c per lb., kippered goldeyes, 30c per doz.; Finnish haddies, 11c per lb. Oysters are quoted at \$2.50 per gallon in bulk, and \$3 per barrel for shell.

GREEN FRUITS AND NUTS.

There are several new lines in this week, which were just opened yesterday. The first new Jamaica oranges have come to hand, and they have turned out very fine fruit. New Malaga grapes, figs and coconuts have also been received. The coconuts are about the finest ever brought to this market, being extra large, thick fleshed and white. They are the Venezuela variety. No Ontario late winter apples are in yet, but are expected early next week. There are plenty of grapes in, but they are beginning to be somewhat unsafe for shipping. Catawba grapes are expected to be the only eastern variety yet to come forward. Tomatoes are out. Few very poor crates in. Ontario pears now offering are very poor truck, and they are about done. A carload of Oregon winter pears was sold by auction, and ranged from \$1.40 to \$1.90 per box, which are considered good prices. A few bananas still come to hand, notwithstanding the yellow fever quarantine south. Cranberries are higher. Prices are as follows: Jamaica oranges, \$13 per barrel, equal to about 21-2 boxes; Mexican oranges, \$6.50 box; bananas per bunch, \$2.50 to \$3; California lemons, \$5 to \$5.50 a box; Washington and Oregon pears, \$2.25 to \$2.50 per box; apples, \$4 to \$4.50 per barrel for fall and winter varieties; Concord grapes, 30c 10 lb. baskets; California grapes, \$2.50 to \$3 per crate for Tokays; Ontario pears 60 to 65c per 20 lb. basket; Cape Cod cranberries, \$10 per barrel; sweet potatoes, \$5 to \$5.25 per barrel; Malaga grapes, \$8.50 to \$9 per keg, as to size; coconuts, \$1 per dozen; figs, fancy element, \$1.70 per 10 lb. box.

GROCERIES.

The grocery market, which a short time ago was unusually bare of staple lines of goods, is now well supplied in most lines, by the arrival of new goods. Large receipts of new emigrants came to hand this week and the market is now well supplied. The first new figs were also received. A couple of cars of California evaporated

apples have also been received. Eastern holders of dried and evaporated apples, as commented on last week, are away up in their views, and for this reason buyers here have been slow to purchase stocks of these goods. It is believed here that if the present high prices are maintained, consumers will take other lines of dried fruits, such as prunes and apricots in place of apples, and if this is general, the consumption will be so decreased that prices may be lower later on. The California evaporated stock are selling about the same as eastern evaporated apples. A car of Oregon prunes, the first ever brought to this market, are expected daily. They are larger and blacker in color than Californias, and are dried by steam process inside instead of being sun dried like the California fruit. They are expected to be something extra fine, and will sell about the same as the best California prunes. See quotations on another page.

LUMBER.

This branch still keeps fairly active but the season's trade is drawing to a close, and it has been the best one for the mills in many years. The mills will go into the winter with lower stocks than they have had for a series of years. Some of the mills are now closing down. Lumber camps for the winter have been established in the woods, and several gangs of men were sent to the woods this week.

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

Dealers report business very brisk. Shipments of holiday goods are now being made by wholesalers.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

Winnipeg, Saturday Afternoon, Oct. 30

WHEAT—The week on the whole has been a strong one in wheat, and prices have nearly reached the top mark again, as will be seen by the quotations for New York, Chicago and other markets. Prices were off on Monday from Saturday's close, but there was a continual advance from Monday to Friday, when prices showed some reaction at the close, though early on Friday, Chicago sold as high as 98 1-2c for December option. The Chicago market has been particularly strong. Chicago was so much higher than Duluth, that several cargoes of Duluth wheat were cleared for Chicago during the week. Though the movement of wheat from farmer's hands has been liberal, stocks refuse to pile up to the big figures of a year ago, the visible supply—see statistics on another page—being less than half what it was a year ago. This is owing to large exports and the reduction of stock before new wheat began to move.

The higher prices have led to freer selling by farmers in Manitoba markets, and when wheat touched 30c a good many farmers, who had wheat stored in elevators, sold out. Prices in Manitoba country markets have been strong. A week ago to-day prices were advanced in Manitoba country markets 1 to 3c. On Wednesday, this week, prices were noticeably higher at a number of country points, 80c being paid for No. 1 hard, to farmers, at a number of points, and as high as \$1 to \$2c was quoted at two or three points. Deliveries by farmers would average about 150,000 bushels per day. By the close of navigation the bulk of the crop will be out of the country, as the movement started early and has been heavy right