

## WINNIPEG MARKETS

Winnipeg, Saturday, March 18.

(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.

Stocks of bluestone are practically exhausted. As pointed out in *The Commercial* some time ago, new supplies could not be laid down at less than about 6 1/2-7 in car lots. In fact it is difficult to obtain it at any price, as manufacturers are sold away ahead now.

## DRY GOODS.

The feature of the dry goods market is the strength in cottons. In the United States cotton fabrics are very firm. The mills are sold ahead on grey goods and orders for near delivery cannot be placed. Some of the mills will not quote prices at all for future delivery. Prices for finished goods are steadily advancing. Dress goods are firm. Swiss spot muslins are 25 per cent higher in primary markets, and may advance in domestic markets later. Velvetens are 1 to 2c higher, per yard. Organdy muslins are tending upward. Repeat orders cost 10 per cent higher. Wool is weak and manufacturers thereof are consequently not as firm as cotton. A worsted trust has been formed in the United States, and another combination of woolen manufacturers is proposed, which operates to unsettle the market.

## DRUGS.

Business in wholesale circles is picking up and orders have increased in volume considerably. The only complaint being made is regarding collections. Dealers are not at all satisfied with these. The principal change this week in prices has been a sharp advance in the price of quinine. German being now quoted at 45 to 50c and Howard's 55 to 60c, which is 10c above previous prices. Druggists have also put up the price of bluestone in their lists to the extent of about 2 to 2 1/2c per pound, but as this is only to maintain a parity with quotations of other handlers of this commodity and as the price is largely a nominal one anyway, there being practically no bluestone in this market, the advance does not mean very much to the trade.

## FISH.

The Lenten season always brings a renewal of activity in the fish trade and dealers report a good demand this year. Whitefish have become very scarce in the market, other lines remain in fair supply. The price of smoked goldeyes has been advanced again this week and they are now quoted at 45c per dozen. The reason assigned for this is the unusual size of the fish which are said to be the largest ever offered in this market. Dealers claim that they really contain more meat for the money than the smaller sized fish offered in previous years. Advances at the fisheries have also been partly responsible for the increased price. There has been a good export demand for Manitoba whitefish, which is the cause of the local scarcity, shippers having sold everything for export.

## FUEL.

The market for coal and wood is quiet. Stocks of anthracite coal in the city are low and dealers are not

anxious to replenish them at present. The demand has fallen off considerably owing to the milder weather and approach of spring. Stocks of hard coal at Duluth and Superior, whence Manitoba supplies are drawn, have never been so low at this season as they are now. Probably they would not aggregate 15,000 tons at the present time.

## GROCERIES.

The continued cold weather is certainly retarding business more or less in this line, and no very great activity is looked for until more spring-like weather is experienced. Dealers however, report sales in advance of the same period of previous years. The only material change in prices are in oatmeal, dried apples and apricots. Oatmeal has been advanced another 5c. There is considerable imported stuff in the market due to the difficulty found by local millers in getting supplies of oats. Dried apples have declined 1-2c this week, which is the result of a desire on the part of those who have held the stocks of these to let go. Apricots are up 1-2c in price owing to their great scarcity in the market. Evaporated apples remain firm. Black and white pepper, allspice and cloves have all advanced in the east and this will have to be reflected here sooner or later. Our telegraphic reports quote granulated sugar 5c higher at the refineries. Wooden ware has been advanced by eastern manufacturers. Teas are called 1c higher. See telegraphic reports. For quotations see "Prices Current" page.

## GREEN FRUITS.

Business among the wholesale fruit dealers is fair for the season. There is a strong undertone to the market for several leading lines and prospects are for an enhancement of prices on these. California oranges are strong at the recent advance and some are quoting another 25c rise. This is due to short stocks. California lemons are very firm locally in sympathy with firmness at producing points where an advance of 25 to 50c has been recorded. Stocks in the city are low. Cheap lines of navel oranges are selling at about \$3.50, while really fancy stock is worth \$4.00. A car of Washington apples arrived this week and are being jobbed out at \$2 per box for fancy lots. Minnesota and North Dakota onions are in the market at 3 1/2-4c per lb. New maple syrup to arrive next week is quoted at 60c for half-gallon cans and \$1 for gallon tins. New maple sugar 11c per lb. Prices are: California navel oranges, \$3.50 to \$1. as to quality; Mexican oranges, \$2.50 per box; bitter oranges, \$5.50 to \$6 per box; bananas, per bunch, large, \$2.50 to \$3; Messina lemons, \$1; California lemons, \$1 per box; apples, spies, \$5.50 to \$6 barrel; other varieties obtainable \$1 to \$5 as to quality; frozen cranberries, \$5.50 to \$6 per barrel; cranberries, unfrozen, \$8 per barrel; Bittan coconuts, \$1 a dozen; Sicily filberts, large 11 to 12c per pound; Grenoble walnuts, 15c; Tarragona almonds, 14 to 15c; peanuts, green, 9 to 10c; roasted, 12c, pecan nuts, 12c per lb; new shelled walnuts, 24 1/2 to 26c per lb; comb honey, \$2.00 to \$2.15 per dozen sections; strained honey, 8 1/2c to 9c per pound; maple sugar, 11c; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels; California figs, in boxes of ten bricks, \$2 per box; dates, 7c

per pound; celery, California, \$1.00 per dozen bunches; imported lettuce per dozen, 60c; California cabbage, 7c per lb; California pieplant, 10c per lb.

## HARDWARE.

Another advance of 25c on barbed wire is the feature of interest in the hardware market this week. Wire staples have also advanced 25c. Business is fair for the season and the prospect for a heavy demand of builders' hardware in the near future is good. See our telegraphic reports for more sharp advances in eastern markets.

## LEATHER.

Owing to the high prices for hides there is an upward tendency in the prices of harness and shoe leathers, and there is every prospect of increases in the cost. Saddlery hardware is also feeling the advance in cost of raw materials and manufacturers are making corresponding advances in their prices to dealers. These advances are in turn reflecting themselves in the prices to country trade.

## PAINTS, OILS AND GLASS.

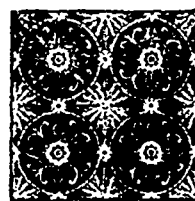
Spring trade is opening up in this line and dealers here have had a very busy week. The volume of trade even now is in excess of previous similar periods, and prospects are bright for the future. The only change in quotations is an advance of 2c on linseed oil, which continues very firm both here and in the east. For quotations see market page.

## GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—The past week has seen the hopes of the most sanguine bails in the wheat market carried away under the flood tide of bearish influences. World's shipments for last week were 7,335,000 bushels, which is more than ample to meet the weekly requirement of importing countries. The American visible supply increased 322,000 bushels for the week, and that at a time when there is usually a decrease; for the same week last year it decreased 517,000 bushels. The world's visible supply increased 317,

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