

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, Jan. 18, 1896.

It is too early in the season yet to look for any general activity in wholesale trade. The condition of general wholesale trade is dull, but not unusually so for the season. The wheat trade has reached an interesting point by the filling up of elevator space at our Lake Superior ports. Lower prices are feared on this account. Bank clearings at Winnipeg show a considerable falling off this week, compared with recent weeks, but show an increase over the corresponding week last year of a little over 15 per cent. The K. C. Inn agency report 80 failures in Canada this week, compared with 61 the corresponding week last year.

The feature of trade in the United States this week according to Bradstreet's report, is the advance in iron and steel. Bessemer pig and billets are up from 65 to 75 cents per ton at Pittsburgh and \$1.25 at Chicago, with the outlook for a further advance. Interests controlling the production of coke and of Lake Superior iron ore have determined that prices of those products shall not react to the level of 1891-95. Producers of Bessemer pig and billets, in the face of the restricted output of furnaces the first of the year, together with the improved demand within the week, find themselves able to advance prices. Other advances include those for tobacco, due to occurrences in Cuba; wheat, based on continued free exports; and pork and lard, on the advance in cattle and hogs. Prices of such staples as wheat flour, sugar, coffee, coal, lumber, hides and print cloths are practically unchanged, while those for leather and shoes, as explained, are lower, as is the price of cotton, petroleum. Indian corn, oats, copper and lead, the last two based on competition between producers.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Jan. 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.]

**COAL.**—Winnipeg prices are the same, and we quote: Pennsylvania anthracite \$8.50 per ton, delivered to consumers; Souris lignite \$1.25 per ton delivered to consumers, and \$3.85 at the yard here; Lethbridge bituminous \$5.50 to consumers; western anthracite, \$8.50 per ton to consumers.

**CORDBOOD.**—The Winnipeg school board will purchase 300 cords of jack pine cordwood. A contract was recently let for pine at \$3.58 per cord delivered, but the tenderer at this price failed to fill the contract, hence the necessity to make a new contract. We quote the following prices for car lots on track here: Tamarac \$4 per cord; pine \$3.50 per cord; spruce \$3.25; poplar \$2.25 to \$2.50 per cord; oak, \$3.75 to \$4; birch, \$4 to \$4.25. There is a little variation from these prices as to quality, poor quality being sometimes obtainable a little lower. Some are holding good tamarac at \$4.25.

**DRUGS.**—Cream tartar is firm again, as is also glycerine. Cod liver oil is easier abroad. Following prices are for small parcels, and will be shaded considerably for full package orders: Allum per pound, 3½ to 4½; alcohol, \$1.75; bleaching powder, per pound; 6 to 8c; bluestone, 4½ to 5c; blue vitrol, 5 to 8c; borax, 11 to 13c; bromide potash, 55 to 75c; camphor, 75 to 85c; camphor, ounces 80 to 90c; carbolic acid, 40 to 65c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chloride potash, 28 to 35c; citric acid, 55 to 65c; copperas 8½ to 1c; cocaine, per oz., \$7.50 to \$9.00; cream tartar, per pound, 23 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; epsom salts, 8½ to 1c; extract logwood,

bulk, 14 to 18c, do., boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 80 to 40c; glycerine, per pound, 20 to 25c; ginger, Jamaica, 25 to 40c; do., African, 20 to 25c; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 35 to 45c; iodine, \$5.50 to \$6.00; insect powder, 35 to 40c; morphia sul., \$1.90 to \$2.25; Opium, \$1.50 to \$5.00; oil, olive, \$1.25 to \$1.40; oil, U. S. salad, \$1.25 to 1.40; oil, lemon, super \$2.25 to 2.75; oil, pepper-mint, \$1.00 to \$1.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.25 to 2.75 per gallon; oxalica acid, 18 to 16c; potass iodide, \$1.25 to 4.50; paris green, 17 to 18c lb; saltpetre, 10 to 12c; sal roonelle 30 to 35c; sheliac, 45 to 50c; sulphur flowers, 3½ to 5c; sulphur roll, per keg, 3½ to 5c; soda bicarb, per keg of 112 pounds, \$3.75 to \$1.25; sal soda, \$2 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55c.

**CEREALS.**—National Food preparations in cartons: Dessicated rolled oats, 2 doz., 2 lb pkgs, per case, \$2.90; dessicated rolled wheat, 2 doz. 3 lb pkgs per case, \$3.25; Dessicated wheat, 1 doz., 2 lb pkts., per case, \$2.75; Snowflake barley 2 doz., 2 lb pkgs., per case, \$2.90; Buckwheat flour, 1 doz., 5 lb pkgs per case \$2.75; Buckwheat flour 2 doz., 2½ lb pkts., per case \$2.90; breakfast hominy, 1 doz., 3 lb pkts., per case, \$3.25; prepared pea flour 1 doz., per case, \$2.50; gluten flour, 1 doz., per case, \$3.50; rolled wheat, in bbls., 180 lbs. \$1.50.

**DRIED FRUITS AND NUTS.**—Grenoble Walnuts, 16c; Tarragora almonds, 16c; princess paper shell almonds, 22c; Sicilly filberts, large, 12c; Brazil nuts, 15c; peanuts, roasted, 15c; peanuts greens, 15c; Ontario black walnuts, 8c; butternuts, 9c; hickory nuts, 10c per pound; figs, old, 14 oz. boxes, \$1 per dozen; figs, new, 9 lb. boxes, 14c; figs, superior, 35 lb. boxes, 19c; figs, fancy imperial, 55 lb. boxes, 22c per lb; dates, new, 6 and 7c per lb.

**FISH.**—As previously reported there has been much cutting in prices of oysters, but the tendency is to hold good stock firmer. Haddies have also been slaughtered freely at all sorts of prices, but there is a difference in the quality of the goods offered. Oyster can sometimes be had at lower prices than the quotations below, but this depends on the quantity on hand. Haddies have also been sold even lower than the quotation given though some are holding higher. Fresh fish are quoted here: Cod 9c lb, haddock 9c lb; salmon 14c; halibut 12½c; smelts 9 to 10c; Lake Superior trout 9c; whitefish 5c; pickerel 4c; pike 2c; perch 2 to 2½c; sturgeon 7c; finnan haddies 7½c, or \$2.25 per box; kippered gold-eyes 30c doz.; oysters \$1.90 to \$2.00 for standards and \$2.15 to \$2.25 selects, per gallon, extra selects \$2.35 to \$2.45; oysters, in cans, selects, 55 and standards 50c per can; shell oysters, \$7.50 to \$8 per barrel. Cured fish are quoted: Boneless codfish, 40 lb boxes 7c, do crates 7½c; boneless fish, 40 lb boxes, 5c; smoked herrings, 19c box; dry cod \$6 per box of 100 lbs.; salt whitefish \$5 per barrel of 100 pounds; salt lake trout \$3 per barrel.

**FLUID BEEF, ETC.**—Following are prices of the goods put up by the Johnston Fluid Beef Company of Montreal:—Johnstons Fluid Beef—No. 1, 2-oz. tins, per dozen, \$2.70; No. 2 4oz., \$1.50; No. 3, 8oz., \$7.88; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.83; No. 5, 2 lb., \$24.30. Staminial—2oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do, 4oz., \$5.10; do, 8 oz., \$7.65; do, 16oz., \$12.75. Fluid Beef Cordial—20oz. bottles, \$10. Milk Granules—In cases of 4 dozen, \$5.10. Milk Granules with Cereals—In cases of 4 dozen, \$4.25.

**GREEN FRUITS.**—Choice apples are held higher. California oranges are offering plentifully, of the navel variety. Cranberries are firm. Bananas were out this week, but are occasionally to be had. Prices are: Lemons, New Messina, \$6.50 to \$7.00 per box; California navel oranges, \$4 to \$5 per box, as to size; Bananas \$3 to \$4 per bunch as to size; Apples, eastern Canada choice red

varieties, \$5 per barrel; Greenings and russets, \$1.50 per barrel; Southern red apples, \$4 per barrel; Malaga grapes \$7 to \$9 per keg as to size; Cranberries \$12.50 per barrel for choice unfrozen stock; Frozen berries, \$12 to \$12.25 per barrel; Apple cider, 35c per gallon, in 30 gallon barrels; Fresh comb honey, 22c per lb.

**GROCERIES.**—Regarding sugars Willett & Gray, of New York, say that M. Licht estimated the beet crop of Europe at 1,191,841 tons available for export up to December, against 1,151,278 actually exported for the same time in 1891, thus leaving an apparent surplus for export of 60,000 tons. The United States refiners have already bought 80,000 tons for export during 1896. If, says this firm, the estimate of a shortage of 600,000 tons in the Cuban crop is correct the United States refiners will have to buy 500,000 tons of raw sugars in Europe. Very much higher prices for sugars therefore will be only a question of time. Turkish prunes were reported by cable up 1s 6d and higher prices were expected. Advices from London report that the stock of Persian dates there is about one-third of the quantity usually held. The London market was reported very firm with an upward tendency.

**GROCERY SUNDRIES.**—Carveth's condensed mince meat, \$3 per case of 3 doz. pkgs; Carveth's horseradish, 16 oz. bottles, \$2.50 per case of 2 dozen; Comb honey, 20 to 22c lb; extracted honey, in tins, 11c; Imperial cheese, 1 doz. large, \$10.80, do, 1 doz. medium, \$5.40, do, 2 doz. small, \$3.00; Sneider's Tomato catsup, pints, \$3.95 per dozen; do, half pints, \$2.25 per doz; Tomato soup, half pints, \$2.25 per dozen.

**HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.**—Trade is of course very dull in these lines at present and dealers will not look for much business before next month. There are no new features in prices locally. From Eastern Canada market come reports of cutting in prices of linseed oil. Both at Toronto and Montreal there has been sharp cutting in oil, prices having declined 8c at Toronto. Turpentine is firmer, advices from the South being strong, and Eastern markets are higher. Refined petroleum is easier. The manufacturers were in session at Toronto last week, but no changes have so far been reported in prices. Cut and wire nails, horse shoes, horse nails, locks, screws, wire, etc., were considered and old discounts continued. Prices are as follows.

Tr., lamb and 56 and 28 lb. ingots, per lb, 20 to 21c.

**TIN PLATES.**—Charcoal plates, I. C., 10 by 14, 12 by 12 and 14 by 21, per box, \$4.50 to \$4.75; I. X., same sizes, per box, \$5.75 to \$6; I. C., charcoal, 20 by 25, 112 sheets to box, \$8.50 to 9.00; I. X., per box, 20 by 23, 112 sheets to box, \$10.50 to 11.00.

**TERNE PLATES.**—I. C., 20 by 28, \$8.50 to 9.00.

**IRON AND STEEL.**—Bar iron, per 100 lbs. base price, \$2.50 to \$2.65; band iron, per 100 lbs., \$3.00 to \$3.15; Swedish iron, per 100 lbs., \$5.25 to 6; sleigh shoe steel, \$3.25 to 3.50, best cast tool steel, per lb, 12 to 13c; Russian sheet, per lb, 12 to 13c.

**SHEET IRON.**—10 to 20 gauge, \$3.00; 22 to 24 and 26 gauge, \$3.25; 28 gauge, \$3.50.

**CANADA PLATES.**—Garth and Blaina, \$3.00 to \$3.10.

**GALVANIZED IRON.**—Queen's Head, 22 to 24 gauge, per lb., 5c; 26 gauge, per lb., 5½c; 28 gauge, per lb., 5½c.

**IRON PIPE.**—50 to per 60 cent. off list.

**CHAIN.**—Best proof coil, 8-16 inch, per lb. 6½ to 6¾; ¾ inch, per lb., 6 to 6½; 5-16 inch, per lb., 5½ to 6c; ¾ inch, per lb., 5½ to 5¾c; 7-16 inch, per lb., 4½ to 5c; ½ inch, per lb., 4½ to 5c.

**LEAD.**—Pig, per lb., 4½c.