

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, March. 9.

The weather has been about seasonable. Labor is rather better employed, a good many men having been engaged to go to the woods to get out tie, cordwood, cedar blocks, etc. There are rumors of railway work to go on in the spring, in connection with the Hudson Bay and Duluth and Winnipeg roads, all more or less indefinite. The immigration season has set in. Arrivals of new settlers were considerably augmented this week. A party of British and Eastern Canada immigrants arrived one day this week, numbering about 150 persons. Immigration prospects are not considered very good for this year. Mercantile payments were not as good on the 4th of March as they were a month ago. The general report is poor. A feature of the week was the opening of the export season for cattle. A train load of Manitoba cattle went forward this week for export via Halifax. Another new trade feature was the shipment of a car of Manitoba dairy butter to England, with the object of testing the market there for this class of butter.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Mar. 9.

[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.]

**GROCERIES.**—A week ago we quoted 8½c for granulated sugar at the refineries, and 8½c for second grade of granulated. Though each succeeding drop in prices has been spoken of as reaching the lowest possible basis, it is said that even the quotations of a week ago have since been shaded by Canadian refiners. Large lots of granulated are said to have been booked at 8 5-16c, though 8½c was asked for smaller quantities of No. 1 grade. Yellows sold at 2½ to 8c at the refineries, and even 1-16c lower. Though Canadian refiners were lower, New York was reported firmer at 8 13-16c for granulated. In canned goods the maximum prices quoted by the associated canners are the same, the only recent change being the advancing of some brands which were quoted at a discount from other brands. The association canners' reports are all very strong and they claim to have a firm grip on the situation for the balance of the present season at least, there being little or no goods outside of the association. Whether the association will hold for another year is still a debatable question. One cannery has recently been dropped from the association on the alleged reason that the goods packed by the factory in question were inferior in quality and were giving the association a good deal of trouble in consequence. Whether the reason given is the real one, it is a fact that the brands of one concern have been dropped from the association lists. There are about 25 canning factories altogether, about ten of which are outside of the association, but a movement is now on foot to get a number of these into the association for the next season. A good many of the jobbers are hostile to the canned goods association, but others admit that the steadier prices which have ruled as a result of the association methods has been a benefit to the jobbers. In dried fruits currants are very firm, this fruit having tended steadily upward since the new crop came on the market. Primary currant markets have almost doubled in price quotations. Instead of an advance in salt as a result of the recent meetings of Ontario man-

ufacturers, prices have taken a further drop. The Ontario salt industry is said to be in very bad shape, owing to prices being below a profitable basis.

**GREEN FRUITS.**—Choice apples are very scarce. Really choice stock is hard to get, and as high as \$6 per barrel has been asked. Fair to good bring \$1 to \$5 per barrel. California oranges are selling well. Prices are as follows: California oranges, seedlings, \$1 per box; California Navel oranges, \$1.50 per box; Messina lemons, \$5 to \$5.50 per box; apples \$1 to \$6 per barrel as to quality and condition. California Easter Beurre pears \$1.50 per box; bananas, when obtainable, \$3 to 4.50 per bunch; Malaga grapes, \$11.50 per large keg; Spanish onions, \$1.25 per crate of 50 lbs. Layer figs, 10 lb boxes, 15c per pound. Sweet potatoes, \$5.50 per barrel. White comb honey, 22c a lb; new dates, 7 to 7½c a lb.

**FISH.**—There is a good supply of fresh sea and fresh water fish. We quote: British Columbia salmon, 1½ lb; British Columbia halibut, 1½c; Fresh mackerel, 12½c lb.; cod, 7c; haddock, 8c; smelts, 12½c; sea herring, 8½c dozen; Lake Superior herring, 25c doz; Lake Superior trout, 9c; whitefish, round (not gutted) 4c; whitefish slit, 5c; pickerel, 2½ to 3c; pike 1½ to 2c; perch, 2c; smoked whitefish, 8c lb; smoked goldeyes, 30 to 35c dozen; red herring 20c box; finen haddies, 6½c lb; Oysters, \$2 for standards and \$2.25 for selects, per gallon. Shell oysters, \$7.50 per barrel; cans, selects, 48c; cans, standards, 45c each; dry cod, 7c lb; boneless cod, 7 to 7½c; boneless fish 6c.

**NUTS.**—Soft shelled almonds are quoted at 15 to 16c, walnuts, 17 to 18c, filberts, 12 to 18c. New Chestnuts, 12½ to 15c lb; Figs, new layers, 15 to 22c; Cooking figs, 8 to 9c, dates, 8 to 10c. Cocoanuts \$1 to \$1.20 per dozen.

## CANNED MEATS:—

Corned beef	2 lb tins, per case of 1 dozen	\$2 65
Roast Beef	2 " " " " " "	2 75
Brawn	2 " " " " " "	2 65
Figs Feet	2 " " " " " "	2 25
Minch Tr	2 " " " " " "	7 65
Ox Tongue	1 " " " " " "	7 50
Chipped Dried Beef	2 " " " " " "	5 70
Compressed Ham	1 " " " " " "	4 60

**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., \$21.30. 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.

**DRY GOODS.**—The recent spring millinery openings took a few representatives of western houses East. Spring goods are going out slowly. An eastern report says: "Prices are generally firm, especially in woollens. Higher prices for all lines of coarse Canadian woollens for next season are regarded as a certainty. The stocks of Canadian fleece wool are reduced to a minimum, and prices are decidedly firmer than they were at the beginning of the year."

**WOOD FUEL.**—Prices for cordwood remain much about the same. Some of the larger shippers refuse to accept present prices and are holding higher, but they are not selling anything. Plenty of tamarac is to be had at \$3.25 to \$3.60 per cord on track here, as to quality, and pine about \$3.00 per cord. Oak brings about the same as tamarac, and extra good oak goes a little better sometimes. Poplar ranges about \$2 to \$2.25 per cord on track here.

**COAL.**—Prices delivered to consumers in Winnipeg are as follows. Imported anthracite, \$9 per ton for egg, stove and nut sizes, western anthracite, \$8.50 per ton for stove and furnace size, and \$6.50 for small nut; Leth-

bridge bituminous, \$7.50 per ton; Souris lignite, \$1.25 delivered or \$3.75 on cars here, and \$1.50 to \$1.75 on cars at the mines.

**LEATHER.**—The Winnipeg dealers have not published their new spring list yet. The changes in prices at which the new season will open, however, were foreshadowed in our report of last week, and there have been no new developments since then.

**RAW FURS.**—Now that the Manitoba legislature is in session, it might be a good time to pass some legislation to prevent the killing of fur-bearing animals out of season. There is a very heavy loss to the country every year on furs killed out of season. These fur-bearing animals are a source of wealth to the country, and it would be wisdom to protect them. The loss in Manitoba from the destruction of fur-bearing animals out of season is probably not less than \$100,000 every year, and more likely it is nearly double this sum. Of course in passing such a law, destructive animals such as the coyote could be left off the protected list, but we think bear should be protected, as it is very rarely indeed that we hear of them doing any harm to man or to domestic animals. The next fur sales in London begin on March 18, when the H. 'son's Bay Co. and C. M. Lampson & Co. have sales extending over several days. C. M. Lampson & Co. will offer at the March sale the following number of skins in the classes named. Dry fur seal, 700; Red fox, 65,000; Blue fox, 3,600; Silver fox, 1,400; Cross fox, 5,000; Russian sable, 8,000; Ser. Otter, 1,200; Wolverine, 600; Fisher, 3,000; Lynx, 5,000; Otter, 6,000; Marten, 50,000; Beaver, 6,000; Bear 7,500.

**HARDWARE PAINTS, ETC.**—There is no change in the local market, owing to the fact that business is light and no new importations are coming in. Turpentine is very firm, but this market has not yet followed the sharp advances made in other markets. Another advance of 8c was reported from Montreal this week, making 8c advance there altogether. Stocks at both Toronto and Montreal are said to be light and they cannot be replenished at present except at much higher cost, prices having advanced about 7c in the States. In oils, castor oil is easier, but cod and seal oil have been strong at higher prices. "At this period in years gone by," says a Montreal paper, "there used to be large sales of Scotch and English Pig iron for spring importation covering thousands of tons; but that time is passed, and in its place business is transacted more on a spot basis, either in the Canadian or American product. The only sale we heard of during the week was a lot of Canadian pig iron at \$16.50.

**DRUGS.**—We referred last week to the big advance in cod liver oil, owing to the short Norwegian supply, the oil having about doubled in price within a brief period. It is held at \$1 75 to \$2 per gallon in Montreal, for Norwegian, or about \$50 per barrel. In 1893 Norwegian oil reached the big price of \$100 per barrel, and it is said the supply is shorter now than at any time since that date. Latest advices from New York reported a slightly easier feeling there, holders being inclined to realize the big profits on lots bought at the low prices ruling a short time ago. Cables were received at New York from Norway offering slightly lower. Wood alcohol manufacturers in the United States have advanced prices 20 cents per gallon. This is simply a restoration of a drop in prices made a year ago, when it was feared alcohol would be made free of duty. This fear having passed away, the prices have been restored. Cream of tartar and camphor are firmer. Following prices are for small parcels, and will be shaded considerably for full package orders: Alum, per pound, 3½ to 4½c, alcohol, \$4.75; bleaching powder, per pound, 6 to 8c; blue vitrol, 5 to 8c; borax, 11 to 18c;