

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, April 17.

Business has been slowly picking up and the movement is gradually increasing. An early opening of navigation is looked for. Freight is now being booked for lake and rail shipment, on the opening of navigation. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week were about 19 per cent. less than for the corresponding week last year, but were 30 per cent. greater than for the like week two years ago.

At New York on Thursday call money was quoted $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., prime mercantile paper $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 per cent., bar silver was $\frac{1}{2}$ higher than a week ago at 62c, Mexican dollars, 48 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, April 17

[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.]

CORDWOOD—Prices are firm. Pine is held about \$3.50 for cars on track here; tamarac, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per cord on track, and poplar at \$2.50 to \$2.75.

COAL—Prices here are the same, as follows: Pennsylvania anthracite \$10.00; western anthracite, \$9.50 per ton. Souris coal \$1.50 ton; Lethbridge \$6.50. These prices are delivered to consumers in Winnipeg. Car lots on track of Souris coal are held at \$3.85 to 3.90 per ton here, or \$1.50 per ton on cars at the mines.

DRUGS—Cream of tartar has again advanced sharply abroad, showing a further gain of 2s to 2s 6d per 100 lbs. Sal soda has advanced 5s per ton abroad, making 10s in all. Prices here for parcel lots are as follows, with liberal reductions for large orders: Alum per pound, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; alcohol, \$5.25 gallon; bleaching powder per pound; 6 to 8c; bluestone, barrel lots $\frac{1}{2}$ c, less than barrels, 5 to 6c; borax 11 to 13 cents; bromide potash, 65 to 75c; camphor, 90 to 95c; camphor, ounces 90 to 1.00; carbolic acid, 40 to 65c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chlorate potash, 25 to 30c; citric acid, 55 to 65c; copperas $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4c; cocaine, per oz., \$5.00 to \$5.51; cream tartar, per pound, 30 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; epsom salts, $\frac{3}{4}$ to 4c; extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 18c; do., boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 35 to 40c; glycerine, per pound, 30 to 35c; ginger, Jamaica, 30 to 35c; do., African, 20 to 25c; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 45 to 55c; 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 \$2.75 to 3.25; oil, peppermint, \$1.00 to \$1.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.50 to \$1 per gallon as to brand; oxalic acid, 13 to 16c; potash iodide, \$1.25 to 1.50; paris green, 18 to 20c lb; saltpetre, 10 to 12c; sal rochelle, 80 to 35c; shellac, 45 to 50c; sulphur flowers, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 5c; sulphur roll, per keg, $\frac{3}{4}$ to 5c; soda bicarb., per keg of 112 pounds, \$1.00 to \$1.25; sal soda, \$2 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55c; strychnine, pure crystals \$1 to \$1.25 per oz.

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 4-oz., \$1.50; No. 3, 8-oz., \$7.83; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.83; No. 5, 2 lb., \$24.30. Staminol—2-oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do, 4-oz., \$5.10.

FISH—Haddies are scarce, a few being held in cold storage. Fresh salmon is coming in. Oysters are firmer, and shell oysters are about out of the market. Jobbing prices are as follows:—Finnan haddies, 8c per lb; whitefish, 1 to 5c; Lake Superior trout, 9c; pickerel, 3 to 4c; salmon, 12c halibut, 12c; cod, 8c; halibut, 8c per lb; smelts, 10c, herrings, 25c per dozen; oysters, \$1.80 per gallon for standards, \$2.00 for selects, and \$2.25 for extra selects and counts; bloaters, \$1.00 to \$1.25 box; red herrings, 20c box; pickled trout, \$7.50 per barrel of 100 lbs; pickled whitefish, \$6 per barrel; salt herrings \$3.50 per half barrel; boneless fish, 5c lb.

NUTS—Tarragona almonds, 10c; Sicily filberts, large, 15c, filberts ordinary, 12c, peanuts, roasted, 12c; peanuts, green, 9c, Ontario butternuts 9c; Ontario Walnuts 6c; hickory nuts, 10; Grenoble walnuts, 15c; French walnuts, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c lb.

GREEN FRUITS—Apples are still coming in from the East, but good keeping stock is scarce. Trains from the south have got through better than was expected, considering the floods south. Prices are as follows: Apples, choice, \$3.75 to \$4.00, other fair to good stock, \$3.00 to \$3.50 per barrel as to quality, poor stock, \$2 to \$2.50. California oranges, navel, \$1.50 to \$1.75 per box; California seedling oranges \$1.50 to \$1.90 per box; Messina lemons, \$1.50 per box; California lemons, \$1.50 to \$5 box; Cape Cod cranberries, 1/2 z, \$5 to \$5.7 per barrel; Malaga grapes, \$9.50 per keg, bananas, \$2.50 to \$3.25 per bunch; pineapples, \$1 per dozen; sweet potatoes, \$1 to \$1.50 per barrel; dates, $\frac{1}{2}$ to 7c lb, figs, 13 to 15c lb. for layers.

HARDWARE—Business is improving. The feeling is easy on a number of staple lines, in consequence of tariff uncertainty. The lower summer freight rates also has an easier tendency. Freight on some special lines will be lower than last year. Barb wire is lower here, and for car lots very close prices are being made. Wire nails are 10c lower all around in sympathy with the decline east at factories, noted last week. There has been an important change in extras on cut nails, at the factories, and new prices will be announced here next week. It is expected the base price will be slightly advanced, but there will be important reductions in extras which will make the average price somewhat lower. Prices are:

TIN, lamb and 56 and 28 lb. ingots, per lb. 19 to 20c.

TIN PLATES—Charcoal plates, I. C. 10 by 14, 12 by 12 and 14 by 20, per box, \$1.50 to \$1.75, I. N., same sizes, per box, \$5.75 to \$6; I. C., charcoal, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$9.00 to 9.25; I. N. per box, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$11.00 to 11.20.

TERNE PLATES—I. C., 20 by 28, \$9.00 to 9.25.

IRON AND STEEL—Bar iron, per 100 lbs. base price, \$2.35 to \$2.50, band iron, per 100 lbs., \$2.85 to 3.00, Swedish iron, per 100 lbs., \$5.25 to 6; sligh shoe steel, \$3.00 to 3.25; best cast tool steel, per lb, 9 to 11c; 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 Blain, \$3.15

GALVANIZED IRON—American, 20 gauge, \$1.00; 22 and 24 gauge, \$1.25, 26 gauge \$1.50; 28 gauge, \$1.75 per 100 lbs.

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

LEAD—Pig, per lb., 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

SHEET ZINC—In casks, 5.75 lb., broken lots, 6.00.

SOLDER—Half and half (guar) per lb, 14 to 16c.

AMMUNITION—Cartridges—Rim fire pistol, American, discount, 40 per cent.; rim fire cartridges, Dominion, 50 and 5; rim fire military, American, net list; central fire pistol and rifle, American, 12 per cent.; central fire cartridge, Dominion, 30 per cent.; shot shells, 12 guage, \$6 to 7.50; shot, Canadian, soft, $\frac{1}{2}$ c, shot, Canadian, chilled, 6c.

WIRE—Galvanized barb wire, plain twisted wire and staples, \$2.90 to \$3 per 100 lbs. These prices are being shaded for car lots.

ROPE—Sisal, per lb., $\frac{7}{8}$ to 8c base; manilla, per lb., $\frac{9}{16}$ to 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ c base; cotton, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch at 1 larger, 15c lb.

AXES—Per box, \$6.00 to 9.00.

NAILS—Cut, per keg, base price, \$2.63 for 60 d. with usual extras; common steel wire nails, 3 to 6 inch, \$3.10 per keg; 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, \$3.23, with usual extras for smaller sizes.

HORSE NAILS—Pointed and finished, oval heads. List prices as follows: No. 5, \$7.50 box; No. 6, \$6.75 box; No. 7, \$6 box; No. 8, \$5.75 box; No. 9, 10 and 11, \$5.50 box. Discount off above list prices, 45 per cent.

PAINTS, OILS, ETC.—Prices are as follows:

WHITE LEAD—Pure, \$5.75 per 100 lbs.

PREPARED PAINTS—Pure liquid colors, per gallon, \$1.15 to \$1.25.

DRY COLORS—White lead, per lb., 7c; red lead, keg, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, yellow ochre in barrel lots, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, less than barrels, 3c; golden ochre, barrels, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; less than barrels, 4c; Venetian, red, barrels, 3c; less than barrels, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; American vermilion, 1c; English vermilion, \$1 per lb., Paris green, 14 to 19c, Canadian metallic oxide, barrel lots 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; less than barrel lots, 3c; English purple oxides, 100 lb. kegs, 4c; less than kegs, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c lb.

VARNISHES—No. 1 furniture, per gal., \$1; extra furniture, \$1.35; pale oak, \$1.50; classic oak, \$1.50 to \$1.75; No. 1 carriage, \$1.50 to \$1.75; hard oil finish, 1.50 to \$2; brown Japan, \$1; gold size Japan, \$1.50, No. 1, orange shellac, \$2; pure orange shellac, \$2.50.

SANDRILS—Glue, S.S., in sheets, per lb., 12 to 15c; glue, white, for kalsomining, 15 to 18c. Stove gas-oil, per case, \$1.00; benzine, per case, \$1.00; benzine and gasoline, per gallon, 50c. Axle grease, Imperial per case, \$2.50, Fraser's axle grease, per case, \$3.75; diamond, do, \$2.25 per case. Coal tar, per barrel, \$8; Portland cement, per barrel, \$4.00; plaster, per barrel, \$3.10; plasterer's hair, P.P. 90c per bale, putty, in bladders, barrel lots 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c per lb., for less than barrels per lb., 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

WINDOW GLASS—1st break is quoted at \$1.75 per box of 50 feet and \$2 for second break.

LINSEED OIL—Raw, per gal., 52c; boiled, per gal., 55c in barrels; less than barrels 5c per gallon extra, with additional charges for cans.

TURPENTINE—Pure spirits, in barrels, per gallon, 55c; less than barrels, per gallon, 50c. An additional charge for packages for small quantities.

OILS—Range about as follows: Black oils, 25 to 30c per gallon; clear machine oils, 33 to