

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

Winnipeg, Saturday, June 20.

The outlook continues favorable and there is a hopeful feeling in business circles, in view of the favorable crop prospects. Though cool this week, general conditions have been favorable for the crops. Railway traffic on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountains has been delayed by floods, and considerable damage has been entailed by overflow of the mountain streams in Western Alberta, particularly in the Bow River valley and west of Calgary. Bank clearings at Winnipeg continue to show a considerable increase over previous years.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

Winnipeg, Saturday Afternoon, June 26

FISH.

There is no change this week in prices of fish. Jobbing prices here are as follows: White 5 1-2c, pickerel 4c, trout 9c, haddock 8c, salmon 12 1-2 to 15c lb., kippered galleys 30c doz. Oysters are quoted at 70c for select in cans.

GROCERIES.

New, dried, apricots are offering for July shipment at a cost of about 7c in California. New domestic canned peas and strawberries are offering for early July shipment at about 60c for peas and \$1.40 for strawberries, at the factories. Advice from Ontario are firm as to new pack of strawberries, owing to the cold, backward season. One factory writes that up to June 20 they had not packed a case of strawberries, while last year they began on June 1 to pack this fruit. They add that this looks like a small pack, and may necessitate withdrawing quotations. Occasional ear lots of 1896 crop of California dried fruits are arriving, for which there is a large sale. Some sales have been made of new canned salmon, which are offering at \$3.75 f.o.b. at the coast for best brands, and down to \$3.25 for cobbles. Canned meats are having a good sale. See quotations on another page.

GREEN FRUIT.

There are no apples which are really fit to re-ship, as their keeping quality is very brief after coming out of cold storage. Seedling oranges are done. The fine-looking Hawaii pineapples, which we mentioned last week, did not turn out nearly as good as they looked. While the apples are very large and rich looking, the flesh has proved inferior. California peaches, pears and plums are expected in a few days. A few small lots that came in of apricots have sold at about \$2, but they are scarce and only quoted as they arrive. Strawberries have been scarce and are higher. Those in yesterday sold at \$1 to \$1.50. Watermelons are now offering. Lemons are higher. Prices are: Apples, \$5 to \$7 per barrel California late Valencia oranges, \$3.75 to \$5 per box; Mediterranean sweets \$1.50 per box; St. Michaels, \$3.25 per box; Messina lemons, \$1.75 to \$3; bananas, \$2 to \$2.75 per bunch; pineapples, \$3 to \$3.75 per dozen; pineapple plants, 1 1-2 cents per pound; strawberries, \$4 to \$4.50 per case of 24 baskets; tomatoes, \$1.75 to \$2 per

crate of 4 baskets; California cherries, \$1.50 to \$1.75 per box; onions, \$1 per 100 lbs; new cabbages, \$1 per 100 lbs. Dates, 6 1-2 to 7c lb; layer figs, 12 1-2 to 15c lb; asparagus, local, 50c dozen; cucumbers, \$1 dozen. Watermelons \$8.50 to \$9 per dozen.

HARDWARE.

There is no change in prices this week and values are steadier. Goods are now coming from the East in lines which were brought in from the States to a large extent immediately after the first reduction in the duty was announced. The second draft of the new tariff, which made advances on staples such as nails, etc., together with the reductions now made in freight rates, has once more given this market to Eastern manufacturers. See prices on another page.

PAINTS, OILS, ETC.

Business is good in this branch. Prices are steady and without change this week. See quotations in another column.

TEAS.

There has been nothing doing in new teas in this market yet, as buyers have been afraid to take hold on account of the high prices. United States buyers have been tumbling over each other in their rush to buy the new Japanese crop, on account of their desire to get it in before the expected duty goes into effect. Buyers here have an idea that after the United States demand is satisfied, prices may settle back, so they have not taken hold. Of course this belief may not be realized. This applies to Japan teas, which is the only new tea offering. This market is well stocked with teas, as considerable supplies were held in anticipation of a duty being placed on tea in this country, but the new tariff bill did not show any such duty. These stocks add to the feeling here to hold off from buying at present.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

Wheat—The market has been quiet this week. In the country very little is doing and not many buyers are now left on country markets. Most country buyers now out will be withdrawn this month. The price of No. 1 hard has ranged from about 70c to 71 1-2c, the lowest price early in the week, and the highest price yesterday after the advance at Chicago and other leading markets. Quotations yesterday were as follows: No. 1 hard 71 1-2c, No. 2 hard 68 1-2c, No. 3 hard 64 to 64 1-2c per bushel of 60 pounds, afloat, Fort William.

Flour—Prices are a little irregular. A 5c cut was made on some brands of patents and bakers yesterday, while other millers held the same. Low grades are steady. Business is rather quiet. Prices are as follows: Patent \$1.95 to \$2, bakers' \$1.75 to \$1.80; second bakers', \$1.40; XXXX, 90c per sack of 98 pounds, to the local trade, delivered in the city.

Milled—There is a large demand for milled, particularly for shorts and supplies have been short, the output being well cleaned up. Prices are firm. An advance of 5 1-2c per ton has gone into effect. Millers are now quoting \$6.50 for bran and \$8.50 for shorts per ton in small lots, with large lots shaded about 50c.

Barley—Normal at 23 to 24c for feed grade.

Oats—Held rather firmer. We quote cars on track at Winnipeg at 21c to 21 1-2c for No. 2 mixed, and No. 2 white at 22 to 22 1-2c. Choice milling 23 to 25c per bushel of 54 pounds. Cars on track country points, 13 to 16c. Prices of oats advanced at Montreal early in the week, being quoted as high as 26 3-4 to 27c in store.

Cereals—Rolled oatmeal, 80 lb sacks \$1.50 per sack; granulated, 98 lbs, \$1.75; standard, 98 lbs, \$1.75. Rolled wheat, 80 lbs, \$1.75 sack; pot barley 98 lbs, \$1.75; pearl barley, 98 lbs, \$3.25 sack.

Ground feed—Rolled oats are held at \$15 per ton, ordinary mill chop per ton, \$13.

Butter—Creamery. The market is steady. The present basis for business is about 14c to 14 1-2c at the factories here, and buyers have been taking round lots freely at about these prices, f.o.b. at factories. There has been no accumulation yet. British Columbia markets, however, are getting filled up. Shipments are now beginning to go east. Some factories are grumbling about the price here, but they will note that these prices are above values in United States markets. The highest price paid this season at the Minneapolis creamery board was 15c, and this figure was reached only once, on May 11, while the range has been as low as 12c. The average price at Minneapolis has been about 13 1-2c to 14c for the choicest grade, classed there as extras, with other grades 1c to 4c lower. The latest quotation we have from New York is 11c to 15c for creamery, the latter for fancy Elgin.

Dairy—Dealers are paying 8c to 10c for round lots here. Some good sized lots have been reported, though it is doubtful if the make will be as large as last year, as it is expected farmers will patronize the creameries better than formerly. Prices are for new grass dairy. The early make of dairy was cleaned up as fast as it came in, so that there has been no accumulation of this undesirable class of goods, as has been the case in some seasons. There is no local demand for jobbing lots, and British Columbia markets want creamery goods mostly. Quite a lot of dairy butter is being made in British Columbia this season, the local offerings there being larger than in former years.

Cheese—The market is easier. A sale of a carlot was reported at 7c, and small lots have been taken at 7 1-2c to 7 3-4c. The tendency is easier, and buyers are talking 6 1-2 to 7c next week for round lots at factories.

Eggs—Buyers are paying 9c net and selling candled stock in a small way at 11c.

Poultry—Chickens, live, 45 to 55c pair, or 10c lb. dressed. Turkeys, 9c lb., live weight, ducks, 50 to 60c pair.

Lard—A car of lard was brought in from the States this week. The price is very low in the States, enabling shippers to pay freight and duty and ship in here to a limited extent. Prices are: Pure \$1.70 to \$1.75 for 20 lb., pails, and \$4.25 for 50 lb. pails; pure leaf lard in 3, 5 and 10 pound tins, quoted at \$8.00 per case of 60 pounds, tierces 8 to 8 1-4c.

Cured meats—United States meats and lard have been offering here, but very little meat has been brought in, what has come being mostly lard. Prices are steady. Prices are: Hams, assorted sizes, 10 1-2 to 11c; breakfast bacon, bellies, 10 1-2c to