

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, Sept. 28.

Unfavorable weather has further delayed the stacking and threshing of the crops, and the movement of wheat is also much less than it should be owing to the same cause, though the alleged tendency among the farmers to hold may also have something to do with light deliveries of wheat. The direction of wheat is toward higher prices this week, though late European crop reports are more favorable. The wheat outlook on this continent, however, is certainly very strong, viewed aside from foreign countries, the only weak feature in America being the huge crop of corn, which exerts an influence upon wheat. The Commercial has taken a hopeful view of the future of wheat, but we could not advise Manitoba farmers to hold as long as local prices are sharply in advance of export values. With prices here so far above an export basis as they have been of late, it would require a great confidence in the future to advise Manitoba farmers not to accept the comparatively high prices which they have been offered the last two weeks. Sugar appears to be getting into a stronger position. The outlook for coarse grains is not encouraging. Bank clearings at Winnipeg show a decrease of over 10 per cent. this week, as compared with the corresponding week last year. This is owing to the backward grain movement.

There were 1,336 mercantile failures reported in Canada by Bradstreets during the past nine months, 81 fewer than in the like portion of last year. The reduction in the total volume of liabilities of failing traders is even more marked being 37 per cent.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Sept. 28.

[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.]

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The situation is very uncertain in this branch, owing to the present high price of leather and the fear of a decline. Altogether, the market is in quite a nervous state. Manufacturers have their samples of spring goods ready, and travellers will be out at once looking for orders, but the trade will likely hold off for a while in view of the uncertainty as to prices. Manufacturers, however, have bought, or will have to buy their raw material very soon, and the prospect for any sharp decline in leather previous to the purchasing of supplies for the trade does not seem very great.

CORNUWOOD.—We quote the following prices for car lots on track here: Tamarac, \$3.75 to \$1 per cord; pine, \$3.50 per cord; spruce \$3 and poplar \$2.25 to \$2.50 per cord.

COAL.—The coal trade paper Black Diamonds says: "The era of low prices in the anthracite trade, it is confidently believed, has entirely passed away, and the advance in prices which has already taken place is simply a premonitory action indicating that harmonious relations are now in view and other advances may be expected shortly." The following are the nominal quotations for anthracite coal per 2,240 lbs., delivered free on board vessels at Buffalo: \$1.05 for grate and \$1.90 for egg, stove and chestnut. The wholesale price of coal at Duluth, Pennsylvania anthracite, is \$4.50 per ton f.o.b. cars. Win-

nipeg vices are the same and we quote: Pennsylvania anthracite, \$3.50 per ton, delivered to consumers. Souris lignite \$1.25 per ton delivered to consumers and \$3.85 at the yard here. Lethbridge bituminous, \$3.50 per ton to consumers, delivered. A telegram yesterday reported an advance at Duluth in the wholesale price of 50a per ton, to \$5 per ton, on cars there. This would make the cost \$8 per ton on track Winnipeg, making the outlook favorable for a further advance in this market.

DRY GOODS.—About the same features are apparent as last reported. In hats and caps, furnishings, etc., samples were being prepared for travellers to take the road for spring business.

DRUGS.—Cream of tartar, glycerine, and sulphate of copper are firm and higher abroad. Following prices are for small parcels, and will be shaded considerably for full package orders: Allam per pound, 3½ to 4½c, alcohol, \$1.75; bleaching powder, per pound; 6 to 8c; bluestone, 4½ to 5c; blue vitrol, 5 to 8c; borax, 11 to 18c; bromide potash 55 to 75c; camphor, 75 to 85c; camphor, ounces, 80 to 90c; carbolic acid, 40 to 65c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chlorate potash, 28 to 35c; citric acid, 55 to 65c; copars, 3½ to 4c; cocaine, per oz., \$7.50 to \$8.00; cream tartar, per pound, 28 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; epsom salts, 3½ to 4c; extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 18c; do., boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 80 to 40c; glycerine, per pound, 23 to 25c; ginger, Jamaica, 25 to 40c; do., African, 20 to 25c; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 85 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, peppermint, \$1.00 to 1.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.25 to \$2.75 per gallon; oxalic acid, 13 to 16c; potash iodide, \$1.25 to \$1.50; paris green, 17 to 17c lb; saltpetre; 10 to 12c; sal rochelle, 70 to 85c; shellac, 15 to 30c; sulphur flowers, 3½ to 5c; sulphur roll, per keg, 3½ to 5c; soda bicarb, per keg of 112 pounds, \$2.75 to \$4.25; sal soda, \$2 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55c.

GREEN FRUITS.—Apples are coming forward freely, of all varieties, some being very fine, but no winter fruit has come in yet. Prices are easier. Owing to the fine crop of apples in Great Britain and throughout Europe, there is no export demand, and this is the consequence of the low prices. The small crop of apples in Canada is therefore not a misfortune, for if the crop had been large there would have been no sale for them. Ontario grapes, pears and tomatoes are coming, but very few plums. In fact the few Ontario plums received here are usually out of condition, and they do not handle plums properly in the east to ship here. Some of the grapes are also a little out of condition, but the concord are better than the other varieties. California fruits, particularly plums, and also peaches to some extent, are getting to be slow sale, the demand for the season for preserving appearing to have been about supplied. No crab; have been in and there may not be any more this season. Prices are: Messina lemons \$7 per box; bananas \$2.25 to \$3 per bunch as to size; California peaches \$1.25 to \$1.50 per box; Oregon and Washington plums \$1.25 to \$1.50 per box; California and Oregon pears \$2.25 to \$3.00 per box; apples \$3.00 to \$3.25 per barrel; Ontario concord grapes 50c per basket of 10 lbs; Ontario white Niagara and Red Roger's grapes 65c per basket of 10 lbs; Ontario pears 60 to 90c per basket. California grapes, tokays, \$3.00 to \$3.25 per crate; tomatoes 90c to \$1.10 per basket. Layer figs, 10 lb. boxes, 15c per lb.; do., 14 ounces boxes, 1.50 per dozen; dates 7 to 7½c a lb.

FISH.—Oysters are now coming into demand, and there is a regular supply on hand. Local jobbing prices for fresh fish are as follows: B.C. salmon, 1½c; Lake Superior trout, 9c; whitefish, 6c; pickerel, 8c; finnan haddies, 7c; kippered goldeyes, 80c doz. Very little doing in salt fish; oysters, \$2 for standards and \$2.25 selects, per gallon.

GROCERIES.—There has been considerable talk about higher prices for new prunes. Several reports have been in circulation about a very short crop of French prunes, equal it is said to 50 per cent. of the usual crop, and higher prices are asked. The Austrian prune crop is also said to be very small. It is said the French crop is so small that French houses have been inquiring as to the cost of importing California prunes to supply their trade. A few more new Valencias have been received in Eastern Canada markets. Pears are firm and active. Refiners have been easier on sugars since our last report. Montreal refiners have sold granulated at 8 15-16c, which is one point lower than previous prices. Yellows were quoted at 8 to 8½c at the refineries. At latest reports the market was firmer. It is not thought that the recent advance in wooden ware in the east will have much influence on this market, as any important advance here would open the door for imports from the United States. As it is imports of car lots of wooden ware from the United States were made into this market not a great while ago. The price of wooden ware in Canada is kept as close as possible to the import price, the duty being 20 per cent., which the manufacturers take advantage of. There has been considerable excitement in canned goods in this market lately, and evidently some cutting in prices has been done by the representatives of eastern canners. At any rate goods are being offered by the packers at unusually low prices, particularly for corn and tomatoes, recent quotations being about as low as ever reported here. Agents who placed goods here a short time ago at higher prices, are getting into trouble, as buyers are demanding a rebate on account of the low prices offered recently. The breaking up of the packers' association has evidently made quite a change in the situation.

Later reports from the east indicate that the stronger position of sugars has developed fast and there have been two advances at the Canadian refineries this week. The position of sugars is certainly stronger than it has been for sometime, owing to increased demand and the necessity of the United States markets, which will call for large importations of beet sugar. Prices have advanced ½ to 3-16c at Canadian refineries this week and refiners now quote granulated at 4 1-16c, and yellows at 3 1-16 to 3½c as to grade.

HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.—The strongest line at present appears to be cordage. Eastern manufacturers have made two advances on both manilla and sisal cordage. Turpentine has advanced 1c South recently. Refined petroleum is more active and firmer, owing to advances in crude.

Information was received here to-day that the cut and wire nail associations have withdrawn all quotations, and it is expected that the two associations will adopt the United States scale of extras, which will make some important changes in these goods. It is also said to be not improbable that another advance will be made in cut and wire nails. Whatever changes are to be made will be announced on October 1.

RAW FURS.—A few odd skins have come in, mostly skunk and mink, but they are far from prime yet and grade only No. 3 or No. 4. It is too early to look for any new business for some time yet. A lot or two of last winter's furs from the far north coun-