

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, March 14, 1896.

The weather has been steady and rather cold for the season, and with good sleighing farmers have been offering more grain of all kinds. Wheat prices in Manitoba are high in comparison with outside markets, and the sharp decline in leading markets cannot help but weaken values here. Business is generally improving and the usual spring movement is setting in in all lines. In produce, the local butter market is in good shape, being well cleaned up. Cheese is very weak in British markets and prices low so that the outlook is not favorable. Eggs are declining, and country buyers will have to buy under the market to avoid loss. Bank clearances at Winnipeg were about 55 per cent greater this week than for the corresponding week a year ago, 21.5 per cent greater than the like week in 1891.

Failures in Canada this week number 58, against 61 last week, 89 in the week a year ago, 45 two years ago. Bradstreets reports the situation in the United States this week as not favorable. Cotton industries are depressed, wool is very dull and pig iron production is being curtailed.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Mar. 14.

[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.]

**CORWOOD FUEL.**—The quantity of wood offering is very limited and poplar particularly is very scarce. In fact poplar can hardly be got at all. It is said the supply of seasoned wood is very limited, owing to the limited cut in the woods a year ago. Wood cut this winter is of course too green for use. At present farmers are hauling in considerable, but as soon as the roads break up this supply will be cut off and the city will have to depend on supplies coming in by rail. A sharp advance is therefore effected at an early date. We quote prices as follows for car lots on track here; Tamarac, good, \$1.00; mixed or poorer tamarac, \$3.50 to \$3.75; pine, \$3.25 to \$3.50; spruce, \$3.00 to \$3.25; oak, dead, \$3.00 to \$3.25; oak, good, green cut, \$3.75; poplar, dead, \$2.25; poplar, green cut, dry, \$2.50 per cord.

**COAL.**—Prices are unchanged. Winnipeg prices are as follows: Pennsylvania anthracite, \$3.50 per ton delivered to consumers; Souris lignite, \$4.25 per ton, delivered to consumers, and \$3.85 at the yard here; Lethbridge bituminous \$6.50 to consumers; western anthracite, \$3.50 per ton to consumers.

**CEREALS.**—National Food preparations in cartoons: 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., 2 1/2 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; g'utin flour, 1 doz., per case, \$3.50; rolled wheat, in bbls., 180 lbs. \$4.50.

**DRIED FRUITS AND NUTS.**—Grenoble Walnuts, 16c; Tarragona almonds, 16c; princess paper shell almonds, 22c; Sicilly filberts, large, 12c; Brazil nuts, 15c; peanuts, roasted, 15c; peanuts greens, 13c; 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, \$5.10. boxes, 19c; figs, fancy imperial, 55 lb. boxes, 22c per

lb; dates, new, 6 and 7c per lb., apricots, 18 1/2 to 14c.

**DRY GOODS.**—An easier tendency is reported from the east in cottons, but woollens hold firm. Local wholesalers have the bulk of their spring orders shipped out, but the weather has not been favorable of late for sorting business, and there is very little small order trade doing yet. Clothing houses will start out next month with samples for the fall trade.

**DRUGS.**—There is the usual heavy demand for bluestone at this season of the year, but the large number of houses which are handling it divides up the trade and tends to cutting in prices. It has sold as low as 4c in special cases. Strychnine is coming into demand for the annual spring onslaught against the gophers or ground squirrels, which are sometimes so destructive to crops. Cod liver oil is stronger; and is advancing in Norway. Following prices are for small parcels, and will be shaded considerably for full package orders: Alum per pound, 3 1/2 to 4 1/2c, alcohol, \$5 to \$5.25 gal.; bleaching powder, per pound, 6 to 8c; bluestone, 4 1/2 to 5c; blue vitrol, 5 to 8c; borax, 11 to 13c; bromide potash, 65 to 75c; camphor, 85 to 95c; camphor, ounces 90 to 1.00; carbolic acid, 40 to 65c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chlorate potash, 28 to 35c; citric acid, 55 to 65c. coppers 3 1/2 to 4c; cocaine, per oz., \$1.50 to \$7.00; cream tartar, per pound, 28 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; epsom salts, 3 1/2 to 4c; extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 18c; do., boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 40 to 50c; 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 \$2.25 to 2.75; oil, pepper-mint, \$1.00 to \$1.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.25 to 3.25 per gallon; oxalice acid, 18 to 16c; potassium iodide, \$4.25 to 4.50; paris green, 18 to 20c lb; saltpetre; 10 to 12c; sal rocnelle, 30 to 35c; shellac, 45 to 50c; sulphur flowers, 3 1/2 to 5c; sulphur roll, per keg, 3 1/2 to 5c; soda bicarb., per keg of 112 pounds, \$3.75 to \$4.25; sal soda, \$2 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55c; strychnine, pure crystals 80c to \$1.00 per oz.

**FISH.**—The market is well supplied with fresh fish. Winnipeg market, jobbing prices are: Cod, 9c a lb; haddock 9c a lb; salmon, 14c; halibut 12 1/2c; smelts 9 to 10c; Lake Superior trout, 9c; whitefish, 5 1/2 to 6c; pickerel 4 to 4 1/2c; pike 2 1/2 to 3c; perch 2 to 2 1/2c; sturgeon 6c; finnan haddies 7 to 7 1/2c, or \$2.10 to \$2.25 per box; kippered goldeyes 30c doz.; oysters, \$1.80 to \$2.00 per gal; shell oysters, \$7.50 per barrel. Cured fish are quoted: Boneless codfish, 40 lb boxes 7c, do crates 7 1/2c; boneless fish, 40 lb boxes, 5c; smoked herrings, 15 to 20c box; dry cod \$6 per box of 100 lbs.; salt whitefish, \$5.50 per barrel of 100 pounds; salt lake trout, \$6.50 per barrel; salt herring, 1/2 barrel \$4.

**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., \$4.50; No. 3, 3oz., \$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.

**GREEN FRUITS.**—Apples are firm, with a higher tendency. Greenings are about done and are getting out of season. Really fancy apples would be held at \$6 per barrel. Cranberries are out of the market. Bananas are increasing in demand, but they are difficult to handle, as the weather has been cold. Prices are: Lemons, New Messinas, \$5.00 to \$5.50 per box; California navel oranges, \$4

to \$4.50 per box, as to size; California seedlings, \$3.25 to \$3.75 as to size; Bananas \$2.75 to \$3.50 per bunch as to size, a few very small bunches sell as low as \$2.50; Apples, eastern Canada choice red varieties, \$5 to \$5.50 per barrel; russets, \$4.50 per barrel; Malaga grapes \$9 per keg for large sizes; pineapples, \$3.50 to \$5 per dozen; Apple cider, 85c per barrel gallon, in 30 gallon barrels.

**GROCERIES.**—Business is improving and prices are steady. Regarding sugars, Willett & Gray, of New York, in their last circular say: "The weakness in beet sugars abroad has checked any advance here which otherwise would have come, because of the limited supply of cane sugar. Should the President issue a proclamation in favor of Cuba the Cubans would probably allow American estates in Cuba to make sugar. This would tend to check the rise in raws, but it must come eventually because of the statistical position."

**HARDWARE.**—Business is now beginning to move fairly well in this branch. Prices are steady. The recent advance by manufacturers has caused an advance here in nails of 10c per keg for both cut and wire nails. The discount on horse nails has also been reduced. Prices are as follows:

**TIN, 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 20, per box, \$4.50 to \$4.75; I. X., same sizes, per box, \$5.75 to \$6; I. C., charcoal, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$9.50 to 9.00; I. X., per box, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$10.50 to 11.00.

**TERNE PLATES.**—I. C., 20 by 28, \$3.50 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., 5 1/2c, 28 gauge, per lb., 5 1/2c.

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

**CHAIN.**—Best proof coil, 3-16 inch, per lb. 6 1/2 to 6 3/4; 1/2 inch, per lb, 6 to 6 1/2; 5-16 inch, per lb., 5 1/2 to 6c; 3/4 inch, per lb, 5 1/2 to 5 3/4; 7-16 inch, per lb., 4 1/2 to 5c; 1 inch, per lb., 4 1/2 to 5c.

**LEAD.**—Pig, per lb., 4 1/2c.

**SHEET ZINC.**—In casks, 5 1/2c lb., broken lots, 6c.

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

**AMMUNITION.**—Cartridges—Rim fire pistol, American, discount, 35 per cent.; rim fire cartridges, Dominion, 50 per cent.; rim fire military, American, 5 per cent. advance; 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, 5 1/2c; shot, Canadian, chilled, 6c.

**WIRE.**—Galvanized barb wire, plain twisted wire and staples, \$3.50 per 100 lbs.

**ROPE.**—Sisal, per lb., 8 to 10c base; manilla, per lb., 11 to 11 1/2c base; cotton, 1/2 to 1 inch as 1 larger, 16c lb.

**AXES.**—Per box, \$6.50 to 15.50.

**NAILS.**—Cut, per keg, base price, \$3 to 3.10; common steel wire nails, 5 to 6 inch, \$3.60 per keg; 3 to 4 inch, \$3.50 keg; 2 1/2 inch, \$4.20 keg; 2 inch, \$4.50 keg.

**HORSE NAILS.**—Pointed and finished, oval heads. List prices as follows: No. 5, \$7.50