

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

Winnipeg, Saturday Afternoon, Oct. 23

Reports from the city wholesale trade are generally favorable. In some lines, such as paints, hardware, fruits, etc., business is quieting down, which is natural to the season. In textile lines generally, including dry goods and clothing, business is good. A brisk business is reported in winter foot-wear, including felt shoes, moccasins, overshoes, heavy socks, etc. There has also been an active demand for gloves and mitts, and though it is early in the season, repeat orders in these lines have already been coming in. As an indication of the increased trade doing this season The Commercial has been shown several letters this week replicating earlier orders for winter lines, and in some cases the earlier orders were doubled. This shows that consumers are buying early this season, when repeat orders come in so early. The grain movement from first hands is not so brisk, as farmers are busy with fall work, but the movement eastward continues heavy and an unusually large portion of the crop will be out before the close of navigation. Live stock shipments have been heavy, though scarcity of cars for moving stock has hampered the trade. Winnipeg bank clearing continues to show an enormous increase over the corresponding period of previous years.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS.

Winnipeg, Saturday Afternoon, Oct. 23

### DRUGS.

The only change in this market is in quinine, which has been advanced in sympathy with the sharp advances abroad. Quinine bark is now very high, compared with prices a year ago. Further advances are reported abroad this week. See quotations on another page.

### FISH.

As the close season is now in force for whitefish, very little fishing is being done at the Manitoba lakes. Owing to the extension of the Dauphin railway to Lake Winnipegosis, that large body of water will hereafter be fished extensively, and a number of men have already gone out to that lake to prepare camps and take in supplies for winter fishing, which will begin after the end of the close season, on the first of December. The only change in the market here is a decline of 11-2c in haddies to 11c. Local jobbing prices are as follows for fresh fish: White 51-2c, pickerel 4c, trout 9c, salmon 12c, halibut 10c per lb; kippered gold-eyes, 30c per dozen; smelt haddies, 11c per lb. Oysters are quoted at \$2.50 per gallon in bulk, and \$8 per barrel for shell.

### GREEN FRUITS.

Business is becoming narrowed down, owing to the reduction of the variety of fruits obtainable. Summer fruits are now out of season, and business is principally in apples and grapes. The

apple situation is somewhat perplexing, but there can scarcely be any risk in buying good stock at present prices. It is feared, however, that the recent warm weather east and south has injured the keeping quality of the apple crop, as it is well known that apples do not keep as well after an unusually warm autumn season. Some very poor looking apples have been seen here this fall, shippers having been less careful about quality on account of the light crop. There is still a plentiful supply of grapes, but Ontario shippers report that the crop has ripened up too fast on account of warm weather, and that there will not be many more to come forward. Tomatoes are very scarce. Crabs have not been obtainable, except a few retail lots. A few bananas have been coming in, notwithstanding the yellow fever scare south. California peaches are done. Ontario pears are coming still, but are often not very good quality for shipping. Prices are as follows: Mexican oranges, \$0.50 box; Bananas per bunch, \$2.50 to \$3; California lemons, \$5 to \$5.50 a box; tomatoes, 20-lb baskets, 70c; Washington and Oregon pears, \$2.25 to \$2.50 per box; apples, \$4 to \$4.50 per barrel for fall and winter varieties; Concord grapes, 30c 10-lb. baskets; California grapes, \$2.50 to \$3 per crate for Tokays; Ontario pears, 65 to 85c per 20-lb. basket; Cape Cod cranberries, \$9.50 per barrel; sweet potatoes, \$5 to \$5.25 per barrel.

### GROCERIES.

Lines of new season goods continue to come forward. New currants arrived early in the week and there is now a moderate supply of these goods in the market and further supplies will come to hand later. Prices are high on the new currant crop and cases are held at 7c upward. New California muscatel raisins are also in and they show better quality than last year's crop. Some Valencias have been selling here for a few weeks, but the prospect appears to be that the California raisins will have the principal sale. Prices are firm and higher than on the old crop. Evaporated and dried apples are almost out of sight for new goods. Only a few evaporated apples have come in so far, and on account of the high prices demanded it is expected that consumption will be greatly curtailed in apples and more California fruits will be taken. For evaporated apples as high as 9c is asked in the east, or equal to 10c laid down in Winnipeg, and they are reported scarce at this price in the east. Samples of new dried apples shown have been very poor, indicating that on account of the light crop east apples which would usually be fed to the pigs have been dried this year. For dried apples they are asking 5 to 6c in the east, which is equal to 6 to 7c here. There is a little old stock held in this market yet, but scarcely any new goods have come in. California prunes and apricots are in fairly liberal supply. All dried fruits are very firm. Domestic canned goods are firm. Advances from the east reported advances on gallon apples and tomatoes, the former being quoted at 90c and the latter at \$2 per dozen east. Canned vegetables are also firm, but domestic canned fruits, except apples, are offering at moderate prices, thus tending to restrict the sale of California canned goods. Teas and sugars are steady. The recent change in earnings at the refineries has not affected the situation here. The advance at the refineries is largely a

nominal one. While the quotation was advanced, a discount was arranged at the same time, which makes the actual cost about as before, the previous basis of quotations being net prices.

### HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.

Prices are unchanged this week, but all staple lines are very firm. Glass is selling freely, and stocks have been considerably broken, though full fall importations are not yet to hand. Turpentine is firm in sympathy with the advance in the east and south, but is not quoted higher. Refined petroleum (Canadian) was quoted 1c higher east, but is unchanged here.

### GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—Wheat was comparatively steady the first four days of the week and slightly lower than the average of last week, but on Friday there was a big advance in prices, amounting to quite a "boom" again, caused, according to telegraphic advices by increased export buying at New York, continued drought in the western winter wheat states, and higher cables. It appears that the recent rains have not been sufficient to relieve the situation in the winter wheat states.

In Manitoba country markets the deliveries of wheat by farmers have continued to fall off, farmers being busy with farm work. Marketings have ranged from 125,000 to 150,000 bushels per day. The movement eastward has been heavy, and a large portion of the crop will be shipped out before the close of navigation. About 4,500,000 bushels of wheat are in store at principal country points, over 1,000,000 bushels is held at Fort William and between three and four million bushels have been shipped east by the lakes, making a total of 9,000,000 to 10,000,000 of the crop out of farmers' hands, though some of the wheat in store is held by farmers. Prices have been more irregular in country markets, ranging about 75 to 78c to farmers for No. 1 hard at most Manitoba points and 72 to 74c at more distant western points.

In the Winnipeg market about 91c was quoted on Monday for No. 1 hard, afloat Fort William. On Tuesday there were sales at 90 1-2c to 91c. On Wednesday sales were made as low as 90c early in the day, but toward the close the tendency was higher. On Thursday 91 1-2c to 92c was realized. On Friday 92c was realized in the morning, but prices advanced to 93c, and it was alleged that one sale touched 93 1-2c, but this was not confirmed. No. 2 hard was quoted 21-2c to 3c under No. 1, and No. 3 hard 4c under No. 2, afloat Fort William.

FLOUR—There has been no change in the local price of flour. Millers report a good demand for shipment, and some large export sales were reported from Montreal. Prices are the same as last week. We quote prices as follows: Patent \$2.40 to \$2.45; strong bakers' \$2.20 to \$2.25; second bakers' \$1.75 to \$1.80; XXXX \$1.40 to \$1.50 per sack of 48 lbs. These are local quotations in broken lots.

MILLFEED—Bran is quoted at \$8 per ton and shorts at \$10 per ton delivered in the city to retail dealers.

GROUND FEED—Ground feed is held at \$10 to \$18 per ton, as to quality for good straight grain feed.

OATMEAL—The market is firm and higher prices are asked, broken lots being quoted at \$1.80 to \$1.90 for rolled, though round lots have been