

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, Dec. 29.

Wholesale trade this week has been very dull all around and business has partaken of the usual holiday character. Retailers have also had a comparatively quiet week, holiday business having been done last week to quite an extent, though Monday was a busy day. The first spell of really cold weather set in this week, Wednesday and Thursday being cold days, but the weather quickly moderated again. The cold snap was general all over the continent extending eastward to the Atlantic coast and south to the Gulf coast. The cold wave was not accompanied by a storm here, but east and south reports tell of heavy storms of wind and snow. There is only enough snow here to cover the ground. The cold appears to have been comparatively much more severe farther south than here. It is feared that great damage has been done to the vegetable and orange crops in Florida.

Complete statistics of failures for the year have not been compiled yet, but it is expected that Western Canada will make a better showing than last year.

Winnipeg Markets.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Dec. 29.

[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.]

GROCERIES.—The latest advices from the East did not report any further changes in the refiners' prices of sugars. Eastern Canada refiners were still quoting 8½c for granulated and 3 to 8½c for yellows. It was reported that while quotations had not been changed, refiners were shading quotations for large lots. The sugar outlook has been further depressed by another increase in the estimates of the European beet crop. Light increases his estimate of Europe by 175,000 tons, making the total crop 4,975,000 tons, or about 1,680,000 tons larger than the crop of 1893. Of the total crop Germany has produced about 1,900,000 tons. A prolonged period of low sugar prices seems certain, in the face of the vast over-production. Japan teas are advancing in the United States, but Canadian markets are quiet. Low prices have been offered on California raisins lately, and it is said that this is due to the goods being inferior, second crop quality. It is also asserted that a split of the alleged combine of California handlers has something to do with the lower prices.

GREEN FRUITS.—Business has quieted down considerably. Fancy apples command a good price, selling as high as \$1 per barrel, but choice apples are scarce. The oranges received lately are mostly large sizes. Following are quotations: Florida Oranges, \$5.50 to \$6 per box; Messina Lemons, \$5.00 per box; apples, \$3.00 to \$4 per barrel as to quality and condition; California winter pears, \$2.50 to \$3 per box; bananas, when obtainable \$3 to 4.50 per bunch. Malaga grapes, \$11.50 per large keg. Cranberries, \$11.75 to \$12 per barrel for fancy Jerseys. Catawba grapes 45c per 4½ lb. basket. Spanish onions, \$1.25 per crate of 50 lbs. New layer figs, 15c to 20c per pound, as to quality and size of boxes. Sweet potatoes \$5.50 per barrel. White comb honey, 22c lb; new dates, 7 to 8c lb.

NUTS.—Soft shelled almonds are quoted at 15 to 16c, walnuts, 17 to 18c, filberts, 12 to 13c. New Chestnuts, 12½ to 15c lb; Figs, new layers, 15 to 22c; Cooking figs, 8 to 9c, dates, 8 to 10c. Cocoanuts \$1 to \$1.20 per dozen.

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., \$1.50; No. 3, 8oz., \$7.88; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.83; No. 5, 2 lb., \$24.80. Staminol—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 1 dozen, \$5.10. Milk Granules with Cereals—In cases of 4 dozen, \$4.25.

CANNED MEATS:—

Corned Beef	..... 2 lb tins, per case of 1 dozen	\$2 65
Roast Beef	..... 2 " " " " " "	2 75
Drawn	..... 2 " " " " " "	2 65
Pigs Feet	..... 2 " " " " " "	2 25
Lunch Tongue	..... 2 " " " " " "	7 65
"	..... 1 " " " " " "	7 80
Ox Tongue	..... 1 " " " " " "	6 70
Chipped Dried Beef	..... 1 " " " " " "	5 25
Compressed Ham	..... 1 " " " " " "	4 60

FISH.—We quote British Columbia salmon, 1½ lb; British Columbia halibut, 1½c. Fresh mackerel, 12½c lb; cod, 8 to 9c; haddock, 8 to 9c; smelts, 12½c; Lake Superior herring, 80c dozen. Lake Superior trout, 9c; whitefish, 5 to 6c; pickerel 3 to 4c; pike, 2 to 3c; perch, 3c; Smoked whitefish, 8c lb; smoked goldeyes, 80 to 85c dozen; red herring 20c box; finnan haddies, 8½c lb. Oysters, \$2 for standards and \$2.25 for selects, per gallon. Shell oysters, \$7.50 per barrel; cans, selects, 48c; cans, standards, 45c each; dry cod, 7c lb; boneless cod, 7 to 7½c; boneless fish, 6c.

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The very mild weather which has prevailed up to this week has been a damper on the winter trade in this branch. Still a fair amount of business has been done. One Winnipeg retail dealer spoken to this week said that his stock of winter goods was practically cleared out, notwithstanding the mild weather. Another large retailer said trade had not been good with him on account of the mild weather, but he admitted that his winter stock was well cleared up. The weather took the most wintry spell of the season this week, and if it holds out no doubt quite a quantity of felt goods and other winter lines will be run off yet. The felt shoes have rapidly come into general use for winter wear, and promise to find a very large market here another year, as they will be handled in a different way from the plan followed heretofore. Heretofore one house has had the handling of the Dolge felt shoes here, but hereafter these goods will be sold to the trade generally, the company having appointed an agent here to handle their goods for the season of 1895-96. It is also expected that a further reduction in the price of the felt goods will be made for next winter's trade, which will bring them more largely into general use.

DRY GOODS.—Business with the wholesale houses has of course been very quiet, wearing the usual holiday aspect. Attention is now mainly directed to the spring trade. Some travellers went out this week with their samples, and others will go out right after New Year's with full spring samples.

HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.—These branches are of course very dull. In fact business is practically dormant and will remain so until toward spring. A report is given elsewhere in this issue of the meeting of the manufacturers in the association lines, at Toronto. The principal change reported from these meetings is the reduction in barbed wire to 3c per lb, delivered at Ontario points. Rope is easier. Sisal rope has declined in the United States and is 1c lower in Eastern markets. Manufacturers are said to be cutting prices of clothes wringers.

CORD WOOD.—Receipts of wood have been large and competition is active. We quote: Tamarac, \$3.75 to \$4 per cord on track here in car lots as to quality, the best is going at from \$3.90 to \$3.95. Oak about \$3.60 to 3.75, mixed pine, spruce, etc.,

can be had at \$3.25 to 3.50. Poplar has sold at from \$2.25 to 2.40 on track, as to quality. Birch \$4 to 4.25. Ash \$3.75.

COAL.—Prices delivered to consumers in Winnipeg are as follows: Imported anthracite, \$9 per ton for egg, stove and nut sizes; western anthracite, \$8.50 per ton for stove and furnace size; Lethbridge bituminous, \$7.50 per ton; Souris lignite, \$1.25 delivered or \$3.75 on cars here, and \$1.50 to 1.75 on cars at the mines.

RAW FURS.—The following quotations give the range of prices paid in Winnipeg. The prices cover the range from small to large prime skins, size, color and condition being considered, though skins are sometimes offered which are not worth the minimum quotations, on account of being killed out of season:

Badger	.....	\$0 05 to \$0 50
Bear, black or brown	.....	3 00 to 25 00
Bear, grizzly	.....	1 00 to 16 00
Beaver, large	.....	6 00 to 7 25
" medium	.....	3 00 to 4 00
" small	.....	1 50 to 2 00
" castors, per lb.	.....	3 00 to 7 00
Fisher	.....	3 00 to 7 00
Fox, cross	.....	2 50 to 15 00
" kitt	.....	10 to 30
" red	.....	50 to 1 50
" silver	.....	20 00 to 75 00
Lynx, large	.....	1 50 to 2 25
" medium	.....	1 00 to 2 00
" small	.....	75 to 1 25
Marte	.....	1 00 to 4 00
Mink	.....	50 to 1 40
Musquash	.....	02 to 07
Otter	.....	2 00 to 9 00
Raccoon	.....	50 to 85
Skunk	.....	25 to 60
Wolf, timber	.....	1 00 to 3 00
" prairie	.....	25 to 75
Wolverine	.....	1 00 to 3 50

HARDWARE AND METALS.

TIN, lamb and 56 and 28 lb. ingots, per lb, 25 to 26c.

TIN PLATES.—Charcoal plates, I. C., 10 by 14, 12 by 12 and 14 by 20, per box, \$1.75 to \$5; I. X., same sizes, per box, \$6 to \$6.25; I. C., charcoal, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$9.50 to 9.75; I. X., per box, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$11.50 to 11.75.

TERNE PLATES.—I. C., 20 by 28, \$9.50 to 9.75.

IRON AND STEEL.—Bar iron, per 100 lbs., base price, \$2.75 to \$2.85; band iron, per 100 lbs., \$3.25 to \$3.50; 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, \$3.25 to 3.50.

IRON PIPE.—50 to 55 per cent. off list.

GALVANIZED IRON.—Queen's Head, 22 to 24 gauge, per lb., 5½c; 26 gauge, per lb., 5½c; 28 gauge, per lb., 5½c.

CHAIN.—Best proof coil, 3-16 inch, per lb., 7 to 7½c; ½ inch, per lb, 6½ to 6¾c; 5-16 inch, per lb., 6 to 6½c; ¾ inch, per lb., 5½ to 6c; 7-16 inch, per lb., 5½ to 5¾c; ½ inch, per lb., 5½ to 5¾c.

SHEET ZINC.—In casks, 6c lb., broken lots, 6½c.

LEAD.—Pig, per lb., 4½c.

SOLDER.—Half and half (guar) per lb, 18 to 20c.

AMMUNITION.—Cartridges—Rim fire pistol, American, discount, 95 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, 80.