

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Saturday, Sept. 23, 1899.

(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.)

DRUGS.

Trade in this line is active and prices remain for the most part unchanged. A sharp advance has been made in the price of cocaine, the old quotation of \$4 to \$5.25 having been replaced by one of \$6 to \$6.25. Several new drug stores have been opened recently at country points, and this has added to the volume of business being done. Morden, Carman and Rathwell in Manitoba, and Kimberly in British Columbia, have had additions of this kind recently.

DRY GOODS.

Placing order shipments for fall trade are practically speaking all cleaned up and interest begins to centre around the sorting trade. Travelers will be out with samples for these in a short time and a good business is anticipated. The feeling is that all orders placed from now on should be subject to the higher prices which prevail at manufacturing centres. Money is not coming in yet but the collection departments will be very busy for the remainder of the season.

FISH.

Whitefish are becoming more plentiful again as considerable quantities of Lake Manitoba fish have been placed in the market. The advanced quotations of last week still hold good, however. Other kinds of fresh fish remain unchanged in price. Consignments of oysters are now reaching the city regularly and are quoted at \$2.00 per gallon for standards and \$2.25 for select. Salt Labrador herring is also offering in half barrels at \$3.85.

FUEL.

Fuel prices remain unchanged, but the feeling in regard to both wood and coal is very firm. Pennsylvania anthracite is being sold by Winnipeg colliers retail, delivered in the city at \$10 per ton, which is a close price when the high prices at lake ports are figured on. There has been some talk of a cut on this rate as a result of the operations of a new firm which contemplated opening here, but the margin at \$10 is so close that there is really no room for cutting. Canadian anthracite and soft coals remain unchanged as given on our "prices current" page. Wood stocks in the city are getting low and there is difficulty in getting fresh supplies owing to scarcity of cars. Moreover, stocks at shipping points are becoming very much depleted. It would not be surprising if advances should take place in the cost of wood fuel this coming winter as men are scarce, wages higher and longer hauls are necessary now in some places to get wood to the railways.

GREEN FRUITS.

The season for peaches, pears and plums is now far advanced. Two cars of Crawford peaches came in this week which is the last of this variety. Ontario grapes are coming in in large quantities and show first class quality. Tomatoes are also coming in freely from the east. Crab-apples are very scarce. Fall apples are offering at \$2 to \$3.50 per barrel, according to quality. Cape cod cranberries to arrive are quoted at \$7.50 per barrel.

Lemons, new, \$1 per case; apples, Ontario, \$3 to \$3.50 in barrels; crabs, 60c per basket, in barrels, 5.00; pears, per case, \$2.25 to \$2.50; California peaches \$1.25 per case; Washington plums \$1.25; California grapes in twenty-pound cases \$2.00; Ontario grapes in 10 lb. baskets, 28 to 40c; California prunes, \$1.60 per case; Washington prunes, \$1.30 per case; cocoanuts in sacks of 100, \$5 to \$6; Grenoble walnuts, 15c; Tarragona almonds, 15c; peanuts, green, 9c; roasted, 12c; pecan nuts, 15c per lb; comb honey, \$2 per dozen sections, strained honey, \$1-2c per pound; maple sugar, per lb. 11c; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrel and half barrels; fruit cider put up in 20 and 30 gallon kegs, per gallon, 40c; figs, in boxes, 7c per lb; layer figs in 10 lb boxes, \$1.75, dates 7c per lb; onions, 3c per lb; celery, per dozen, 30c; cucumbers, 15c per dozen; tomatoes per basket, 50c; sweet potatoes per barrel, \$3.

GROCERIES.

The grocery market has had an active week and there have been an unusual number of price changes of more or less importance. Sugar has been the subject of another advance of 1-8c extra standard granulated being quoted now at \$5.30 per 100 pounds. Canned vegetables show continued strength, and it is questionable if Winnipeg jobbing houses have not been too cautious in not stocking up more extensively earlier in the season. Considerable buying has already been done, but local stocks are not at all large. Canned beans have been reduced 10c. White Ontario beans are 10 to 15c per bushel higher. Currants have advanced 1-4c all around. New provincials in barrels are now worth 53-8 to 51-2c and Fillatras in barrels 51-2 to 53-8c. Old Valencia raisins are practically out of the market. A few 1898 Muscatels are held by local houses at an advance of 1c per pound which makes the price at Winnipeg 71-2 to 73-4c for three crown. New Valencia raisins are expected in to-day. The quality of these is reported to be very fine. The price, although not yet definitely fixed will be something over \$2 per box. Rio coffees have advanced a little and are now worth 81-2 to 9c, inferior grades 8 to 81-4c. All classes of California dried fruits show considerable strength. Apricots, nectarines, silver prunes and pitted plums are now offering here. Although the crop in these lines has been a good one the demand has been so much in excess of other years that an unusually firm feeling has been generated.

HARDWARE.

Further advances of a very substantial character mark the hardware situation this week. Steel chain has gone up another 50c all round. Rope is higher at an advance of 1-2c on sisal and of 1c on manila. This brings quotations here into line with the latest changes at Montreal. Wire nails made a further advance of 15c per keg early in the week and predictions of another rise of 25c to take place immediately were freely made at the time. At time of writing it is not yet in effect. Roller tubes have been the subject of another advance, 2 inch being quoted now at 16 1-2c per foot as against 14c last week. 2 1-2 inch tube is now worth 21 1-2c and 3 inch 24c, an advance of 6c on each of these sizes. Bar iron has gone up another 15c per 100 pounds and band iron is also 15c higher. The discount on iron pipe larger than 2 inch is now 3c per cent. Instead of

55c. There is a reported scarcity of some kinds of shot shells here. Notwithstanding the phenomenal advances which have gone into effect on all classes of hardware, commenting on which one dealer was led to remark this week that "we are all bulls now," the hardware trade at this point has never been in a more active condition. Builders hardware is especially active.

The advance on wire nails predicted above went into effect to-day although it does not amount to quite as much as was at first expected. 20c per 100 pounds has been added all around to the list making the base price now \$3.80. Plain wire has also advanced to-day 15c per 100 pounds all around. The market continues active and bullish, and further advances in the near future may be confidently expected.

LEATHER.

So far this season there has been no change in the market price of leather here, notwithstanding the fact that higher prices prevail in the east. Recent purchases of leather by Winnipeg wholesale houses in eastern markets reflect the firmer feeling there. Saddlery hardware is in common with all other metal goods on a much firmer basis than last year at this time. A large demand is being experienced for all kinds of harness and shoemakers supplies.

PAINTS.

A turpentine famine is the feature of the paint and oil trade. Stocks in Winnipeg are exhausted and it is hard to say when they will be replenished, as importers are afraid to place orders at present high prices east. Silver Star and oleophene coal oil have advanced 1-2c, making the price 18 1-2c and 21 1-2c respectively here. Trade is active in all lines except turpentine which of course is not moving for the reason above stated. There is a very large demand for glass, and in view of the difficulty of getting further supplies makes the jobbing houses here very saving of their stocks.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

Quite a number of travellers are now on the road with their spring samples and nearly all the travellers will be out within a few days. The tendency of prices is very firm. At the recent meeting of manufacturers held at Montreal, about all the concerns in Canada were represented. It was recognized that manufacturers would have to ask more money, in view of the fact that goods used in the manufacture of boots and shoes have been advancing for the past two years. A circular has been issued, signed by all the manufacturers, stating that it was resolved to advance prices 10 per cent over last season's figures. It was stated that sole leather and upper stock has advanced 25 to 50 per cent, and linings, eyelets, nails, buttons, thread and other findings are 25 to 300 per cent higher.

SCRAP.

All kinds of old material are in good demand at firm prices. We quote as follows: No. 1 cast iron, free from wrought and malleable, \$10 per ton, No. 2 do., \$4.50 per ton; No. 1 stoveplate, \$3.50 to \$4 per ton; wrought iron scrap, \$3.50 to \$4 per ton, heavy copper, 81-2 to 9c per pound, copper bottoms, 8c per pound; red brass, 8 to 81-2c per pound, yellow brass, heavy, 71-2c per pound; light brass, 41-2 to 5c per pound; lead pipe or tea lead, 2c per