

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

Winnipeg, Saturday, July 10.

The city jobbing trade is of moderate proportions. In the building trade in the city, there is less activity than usual at this time of year, but more building is being done in the country than usual, and the demand for building material for the country is good. Sorting trade in season goods is rather slow, in textile lines, boots and shoes, etc. The hardware trade is fairly good. Continued favorable crop prospects give hope for a prosperous fall and winter trade. Farm lands have been selling to some extent, the sales in the Winnipeg district being more numerous of late, but low prices have been accepted. If the present crop prospects are realized, it will certainly add materially to the activity in Manitoba farm lands. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week show a liberal gain over the corresponding week in previous years.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

Winnipeg, Saturday Afternoon, July 10

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

Carriage dealers report a good business this season. Orders for harvesting machinery are being booked freely. Owing to the recent tariff changes, which reduced the price of raw material, there is an easier tendency in farm machinery all through the list, though the full reduction in prices will not take effect for some time, as much of the goods now in the market were made before the changes in the tariff were announced. The Massey-Harris binder has been reduced this season \$5, and mowers about \$2.50.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

The sorting trade in this branch has been only of moderate proportions so far, but as the season was late in starting, a fair average season's trade is yet looked for. Collections are rather slow, as usual at this time of year.

BINDER TWINE.

There has been a considerable tendency to delay ordering, owing to a belief that prices might go lower. If this is kept up too long, it may result in a shortage of twine when it is needed, as jobbers will not care to lay in very heavy stocks in advance of orders. Twine is said to be offering in the country at about 1c under standard brands, but this twine is said to be one year old or older.

COAL.

The big strike of coal miners in the United States is one of the most important industrial events which has occurred for a long time. The great magnitude of the strike and the vastness of the interests involved make it a matter of the greatest concern. Railroads cannot run without coal, and already it is said the railroads are confiscating coal in transit on their lines. Manufacturing industries will be obliged to close down, and even here in the far west, the cost of our fuel for the next winter will

probably be enhanced as a result of the strike.

Coal was advanced 25 cents per ton on July 1, to \$5 par ton at Buffalo, for egg, stove and nut sizes. This was before the strike went into force. The Duluth price on July 1 was advanced to \$5.85, compared with \$5.35 on July 1 last year. This indicates dear fuel for next winter. Before the strike coal freights were quoted at 20 cents Buffalo to Duluth and 25 cents to Fort William.

FISH.

Reports from Lake Winnipeg are to the effect that there are abundance of fish, and the fishing companies are busy. Car lots are being shipped to points east and south. Jobbing prices are as follows: White 5 1-2c, pickerel 4c, trout 9c, haddock 8c, salmon 12 1-2 to 15c lb., kippered goldeyes 30c doz. Oysters are quoted at 70c for selects in cans.

GLOVES, MITTS, ETC.

Manufacturers are shipping fall goods already in gloves, mitts, moccasins, etc. Jobbers have their fall stocks in, and some orders are being sent to retailers. Orders supplied direct from eastern factories are being shipped to retail dealers.

GROCERIES.

Canned salmon is weak. It is reported that packers are offering at \$3.50 per case f.o.b. at the coast, which is a decline of 25c on the opening price, and \$1 per case less than prices a year ago. This shows very low prices for the new pack. New canned peas are expected in within a fortnight, which will be about the first new pack to arrive. Tomatoes are firm, owing to light stocks here. The large fruit crop in California would indicate lower prices this year for California canned and dried fruits. See prices on another page.

GREEN FRUIT.

Apples are out of the market. New southern apples are expected in a week or so as they are now offering to ship. No strawberries fit to ship were received this week. Some eastern berries came but were spoilt in transit. Some very fine Manitoba berries are offering, but the quantity is limited and they are all taken by local dealers at 20c to 25c per box. Bananas have been very scarce, owing to the big 4th of July demand in the States. This market was sold out entirely yesterday. Lemons have again advanced 50c per box. Melons have declined sharply. Californian fruits are coming forward more freely and the tendency is lower on peaches, plums and pears. Prices are: California late Valencia oranges \$6 to \$6.50 box; Mediterranean sweets, \$1.50 per box; St. Michaels, \$5.25 per box; Messina lemons, \$6 to \$6.50; bananas, \$2 to \$2.75 per bunch; pineapples, \$2.50 to \$3 per dozen; pie plants, 11-2 cents per pound; tomatoes, \$1.75 per crate of 4 baskets; California cherries, \$1.50 to \$1.75 per box; apricots, \$2 box; California plums, \$2.25 to \$2.50 box; California peaches, \$2.25 to \$2.50 box; California pears, \$3.50 to \$4 per box; onions, \$4 per 100 lbs; new cabbages, \$3.50 to \$4 per 100 lbs. Dates 6 1-2 to 7c lb; layer figs, 12 1-2c to 15c lb; cucumbers, 75c to \$1 doz; watermelons \$6 per doz.

HARDWARE.

There are no changes in prices this week. Business is fairly good. See quotations on another page.

PAINTS, OILS, ETC.

Prices are steady and without change this week. See quotations in another column. Business is quiet.

THE BICYCLE TRADE.

The telegraphic report from New York, which appeared in The Commercial last week, announcing a slump in bicycles, has already had its effect upon the Winnipeg market. Local prices of bicycles are demoralized. Several dealers are advertising bicycles at buyers prices, and some standard wheels are being offered as low as \$50 to \$75 cash. As the bicycle season is well over here and stocks are light the local trade will not be heavily by the demoralized state of the market. It is not likely that prices will be restored this season, but some think that an arrangement to hold up prices will be made before another season. A cable yesterday stated that the panic had reached England and one of the leading companies have announced a reduction of nearly 50 per cent in high grade wheels.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—Wheat has ranged from 69 1-2c on Monday, which was the lowest point of the week, to 72 1-2c on Thursday, sales being made of No. 1 hard, afloat Fort William, at this price. Yesterday the market was lower, with sales at 71 1-2c for No. 1 hard No. 2 hard 8c, under No. 1, and No. 3 hard 4c under No. 2.

FLOUR.—The only change is a slight tendency in low grades, XXX being quoted at 90c to \$1, this being an advance of 10c. Further orders from Australia have been booked, which is a renewal of the trade done with Australia last winter. Prices as follows: Patent \$1.95; bakers' \$1.75, good bakers' \$1.40; XXXX, 90c to \$1 per sack of 98 pounds, to the local trade delivered in the city.

MILLFEED.—Prices continue very firm and a further advance of 50c to \$1 is asked this week. These prices show a total advance of \$2.50 to \$3 per ton on brand and \$4.50 to \$5 on shorts, all within a few weeks, which is a remarkable advance so late in the season. Stocks are well cleared up. Bran is now quoted at \$7 to \$7.50 per ton and shorts at \$8.50 to \$9 per ton, with large lots sold about 50c per ton.

BARLEY.—Nominal at 23 to 24c feed grade.

OATS.—Prices firm. Sales have been made at western points for the Crow's Nest construction. Quote No. 2 mixed at 22 to 22c; No. 2 white, 22 to 22 1-2c per bushel of 34 pounds.

CREALS.—Rolled oatmeal 50b sold \$1.50 per sack; granulated, 98 lbs \$1.75; standard, 98 lbs \$1.75. Rolled wheat, 80 lbs, \$1.75 sack; pot barley 98 lbs, \$1.75; pearl barley, 98 lbs \$3.25 sack.

GROUND FEED.—Rolled oats are at \$15 per ton, ordinary mill chop, 13c, \$13.

BUTTER.—Creamery. The market steady and a little firmer with purchases at about 14 1-2c to 14 3-4c the factories, and buyers have been taking round lots freely at these prices, f.o.b. at factories. We have heard of 1-2c above the side quotation being paid.

BUTTER.—Dairy. Dealers are buying 8c to 10c for round lots. There is very little demand and receipts are going into cold storage.