

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, May 18.

Bank clearings at Winnipeg again show a liberal increase over the corresponding week last year, though mercantile reports generally speak of a moderate volume of business. The Manitoba crop outlook is considered very favorable, notwithstanding the check to rapid growth by the cool weather of the last ten days. The upward tendency of prices continues in many staple commodities, including sugar, hides, leather, boots and shoes, cottons, some metals, wheat, flour, etc. Cattle and hogs have been easier in price again this week in most markets. Butter and cheese are weak and very low in price, as compared with a year ago. Bradstreet's, New York, to-day says: "Prices of staples this week again show a sharp inclination upward, the most striking since the revival set in, because of the increased strength of advance in and demand for iron and steel."

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, May 18.

[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.]

BOOTS AND SHOES.—The present season is a most unsatisfactory one for the manufacturers in this branch, owing to the advancing tendency in leather. Shoe houses take their orders long in advance of manufacturing, and with leather prices advancing almost every week, it is very hard for them to fix prices for boots and shoes at safe figures. Their raw material is costing them more every day. Leather has taken a tremendous advance since the season for booking fall orders in the shoe trade opened, and the prospect seems that leather will advance quite a bit yet, as hides are still advancing owing to the scarcity of the stocks, and leather is still below a parity with hides. Shoe manufacturers have been compelled to make a further advance in prices, which show an appreciation of 10 to 15 per cent since the advance started in leather, but as leather has made further sharp advances within the last two weeks, the shoe manufacturers are not in any better position than they were before they advanced prices. Under the present conditions of the hide and leather market, it seems unreasonable to expect anything but an advancing tendency in boots and shoes for some time, and these who hold off ordering in the hope of a weakening in prices, will likely find they have blundered seriously.

BINDER TWINE.—The feature of interest in this line is the call of the Patrons of Industry for tenders for their supply of twine for this season. They are asking tenders for about thirty car loads, though they do not bind themselves to take that quantity. Dealers here are not quoting prices yet, but it is known, as previously stated in The Commercial that prices will be considerably lower than last year—Probably at least a full cent or lb. lower. The price at which the Patrons obtain their twine will no doubt have some influence on prices to dealers generally. It is understood the Patrons will close their tender on May 23. Merrick Anderson & Co., agents here for the Consumers Cordage Co., will not carry a stock of twine this year, as they have done in the past, but will simply bring in twine as ordered. The margin on twine is now so small that no one wants to take the risk of carrying any stock over to another season, and it will therefore be necessary for country dealers to get farmers to place their orders

early, so that they will know just what quantity of twine they will require, as it will perhaps be impossible to replenish stocks late in the season should any run short, as no large stocks in advance of actual orders will be carried here.

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, and \$8.50 for small nut; 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.

DRY GOODS.—The firmness in prices in many staple lines of goods, which has been so noticeable of late, is beginning to manifest itself in the dry goods trade. In the United States cottons are firm, and a considerable advance has taken place in both gray and white cottons, and the factories in both cottons and woollens are well employed. In Canada cottons are following the advance in the United States and have appreciated about 7½ per cent.

DRUGS.—Cream tartar continues to advance abroad. Glycerine is firm. The advance in the duty on alcohol causes an advancing tendency in tinctures, ethers, extracts, etc., of from three to five per cent. Following prices are for small parcels, and will be shaded considerably for full package orders: Alum, per pound, 3½ to 4½c; alcohol, \$1.75; bleaching powder, per pound; 6 to 8c; bluestone, 4½ to 5c; blue vitrol, 5 to 8c; borax, 11 to 13c; bromide potash, 55 to 75c; camphor, 75 to 85c; camphor, ounces, 80 to 90c; carbolic acid, 40 to 65c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chlorate potash, 28 to 35c; citric acid, 55 to 65c; copers, 3½ to 4c; cocaine, per oz., \$7.50 to \$8.00; cream tartar, per pound, 28 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; epsom salts, 3½ to 4c; extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 18c, do., boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 30 to 40c, glycerine, per pound, 20 to 25c; ginger, Jamaica, 25 to 40c; do., African, 20 to 25c; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 35 to 45c; 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 1.10; oil, U.S. salad, \$1.25 to 1.40; oil, lemon, super \$2.25 to 2.75; oil, peppermint, \$1.00 to 1.50; oxallic acid, 13 to 16c; potash iodide, \$1.25 to \$1.50; saltpetre, 10 to 12c; sal rochelle, 30 to 35c; shellac, 45 to 50c; sulphur flowers, 3½ to 5c; sulphur roll, per keg 3½ to 5c; soda bicarb. per keg of 112 pounds, \$3.75 to \$4.25; sal soda, \$2.00 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb, 45 to 55.

FISH.—We quote: British Columbia salmon 11c lb.; British Columbia halibut, 11c, Fresh mackerel, 12½c lb.; cod, 9c; haddock, 9c; smelts, 12½c, sea herring, 35c dozen; Lake Superior herring, 25c doz; Lake Superior trout, 9c; whitefish, 6c, pickerel, 4c; sturgeon, 7c, smoked whitefish, 8c lb., smoked goldeyes, 30 to 35c dozen; red herring, 20c box; finnen haddies, 6 to 6½c lb; salt herring \$1.50 per barrel; blotters, \$1.00 to \$1.75 per box; Oysters, \$1.90 for standards and \$2.00 for selects, per gallon; dry cod, 7c lb; boneless cod, 7 to 7½c; boneless fish, 6c.

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, 4-oz., \$1.50; No. 3, 8-oz., \$7.88; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.83; No. 5, 2 lb., \$21.30. 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 4 dozen, \$5.10. Milk Granules with Cereals—In cases of 4 dozen, \$1.25.

GROCERIES.—Sugars have continued very strong and advancing. The 3c duty coming in at a time when there was an advancing tendency in the market aside from the influence of the duty, has made the situation very

strong. There would no doubt have been an advance of ½ to ¾c in sugars at the present time even if the duty had not been imposed. Eastern refiners advanced prices ¾c again on Monday, making on advance altogether of ¾c on granulated within the fortnight, ¾c of which is directly due to the duty recently placed on all sugar to that amount, in addition to the duty of 61c per 100 pounds previously imposed on refined sugars, raws being formerly free. Eastern refiners now quote 1½c for granulated and 3½ to 4c for yellows. Molasses and syrups are slightly higher, owing to the increase in the duty and the advance in molasses abroad. The price of domestic canned corn and peas has been reduced 2½c by the packers' association. It appears, however, that prices of canned goods are generally demoralized. Packers are offering freely, direct to the wholesale trade at lower prices than the association lists quote, and this would indicate a probable breaking up of the association.

GREEN FRUITS.—Lemons have been coming forward in car lots from Montreal, being from steamship loads landed there direct from the Mediterranean. Winnipeg dealers attended the sales of these direct importations and bought heavily for the spring and summer trade. Prices at the Montreal sales were very strong this year, prices realized being higher than last year, so that lemon prices will rule firm this season. California navel oranges are about done for the season. Bananas were very scarce this week. Strawberries are now down to \$1.50 per crate. Quotations here are as follows: California oranges seedlings, \$3.00 to \$3.25 per box; California Navel oranges, \$1.00 to \$1.25 per box; Messina lemons, \$5 per box; apples \$7 to \$7.50 per barrel for anything good; bananas, \$2.25 to \$3.75 per bunch as to size. Pineapples, \$1.50 to \$6 per dozen; strawberries \$1.50 per crate of 2½ boxes; Egyptian onions, \$5.00 per 100 pounds. Layer figs, 10 lb boxes, 15c per pound. White comb honey, 22c a lb; new dates, 7 to 7½c a lb. Maple sugar, 10c lb; maple syrup, \$1.10 per gallon tin.

HARDWARE, PAINTS, OILS, ETC.—The outlook in metals looks decidedly firmer, principally owing to the advance in coke, which must sooner or later have its effect on the iron market, if maintained. Pig tin and copper have advanced sharply in England and the latter also in the United States. Turpentine has declined heavily, as much as 3c at Montreal last week, and is weak in the South. Linseed oil was also 1c lower at Montreal last week. Castor oil is firm. Refined petroleum has made a second decline since the recent "boom" in crude began to subside. United States oils have declined 2½c altogether for refined, and Canadian oils 1c, in the East. Locally there are no changes in prices: Quotations here are as follows:

WHITE LEADS.—Pure, ground in oil, association guarantee, \$6 per 100-lb kegs; white lead, No. 1, per 100 lbs., \$5.50; white lead, No. 2, \$5.00; assorted 1 to 5-lb. tins, per lb., 10c.

PREPARED PAINTS.—Pure liquid colors, per gallon, \$1.25 to \$1.35.

DRY COLORS.—White lead, per lb., 8c; red lead, 5½c; yellow ocre, 2½c; golden ocre, 5c; Venetian, red, French, 3½c; Venetian, red, English, 3½c; English purple oxides, 4½c; American oxides, per lb., 3 to 4c. These prices for dry colors are for broken lots. ¾c per lb. less when full kegs or barrels are taken. American vermilion, kegs, 15c, English vermilion, in 30-lb. bags, 90c per lb.; less than bags, per lb., 1c.

VARNISHES.—No. 1 furniture, per gal., \$1; extra furniture, \$1.35; pale oak, \$1.50, elastic oak, \$1.75; No. 1 carriage, \$2; hard oil finish, \$2; brown Japan, \$1; goldsize Japan, \$1.50; No. 1, orange