

Manitoba.

WINNIPEG.—The extension of the Government telegraph lines north from Athabasca Landing to Lesser Slave Lake is expected to reach the lake this fall. The right-of-way has been cleared and the poles have been erected.

WINNIPEG.—A complete change in the method of the management of the Manitoba Government telephone has been decided on. The arrangement will be similar to the arrangement by which railway companies are governed, the business being divided into several departments, each of which is independent of the others. The province will be divided into districts. The management will be under three heads—commercial agent, superintendent of plant, and superintendent of service. One important new post will be created, that of general superintendent of plant for the province.

British Columbia.

VICTORIA.—A telephone connection with Strawberry Vale has been decided on. The Telephone Company has agreed to commence work immediately.

MARKET CONDITIONS.

Montreal, September 2nd, 1909.

Advices from the United States confirm the prediction that records might be broken, presently, in the pig iron production of that country. It is claimed that the production last week sets a new high record, exceeding even that of 1907, which has hitherto been referred to as the high record year. In addition to the activity thus indicated in the pig iron trade, huge orders for steel rails are now being placed, for delivery next year. Other railway material, such as steel frogs and switches, are being ordered in very large quantities, and one company has just booked an order for 16,000 tons of structural steel for bridge work. There is consequently every reason to look forward to an increasingly active season. Steel bars are now quoted at a minimum of \$1.35 per 100 lbs., Pittsburg, structural steel being \$1.40, with a tendency to higher prices for future delivery. Bessemer, this year's delivery, is quoted at \$16.50, Valley, being an advance of about 50c. recently, large quantities having been sold at the higher figure. For delivery for the first half of next year, the price is \$17, these being minimum prices. Basic pig is now quoted at \$15.25, but is expected to advance immediately. No. 2 foundry has been dealt in at \$16, Valley, and as high as \$16.25 has been paid. Foundry iron is difficult or impossible to obtain at less than \$15.25, furnace.

Mail advices just received from Glasgow, refer to an advance of 1s. 6d., and say that a very large business has been done in pig at the advance mentioned. Shipments are showing a very considerable increase. Malleable iron castings have advanced 7s. 6d. per ton.

Locally, demand is good, generally speaking, for pig iron, and demand for castings and for general material is also better, it is claimed. Consumers are buying for fall and winter delivery, and it is expected that some good, big orders will be booked in the next ten days. There is a decided scarcity in the hands of smaller people, and even importers, who usually carry small lots around their warehouses, have been entirely cleaned out lately, owing to the demand from small consumers. Prices are advancing slightly from time to time as a result. If the English and Scotch markets continue to advance, as they have been doing, corresponding advances will be made for delivery here.

Prices of finished and semi-finished material have been about steady here during the past week, and practically no changes have taken place in the usual list, after the somewhat frequent alterations reported the previous week.

Antimony.—The market is steady at 8¾ to 9c.

Bar Iron and Steel.—Prices are steady and trade is quiet. Bar iron, \$1.85 per 100 pounds; best refined horseshoe, \$2.10; forged iron, \$2; mild steel, \$1.85; sleigh shoe steel, \$1.85 for 1 x ¾-base; tire steel, \$1.90 for 1 x ¾-base; toe calk steel, \$2.35; machine steel, iron finish, \$1.90; smooth finish, \$2.70; imported, \$2.20.

Boller Tubes.—The market is steady, quotations being as follows:—1½ and 2-inch tubes, 8¾c.; 2½-inch, 10c.; 3-inch, 11¾c.; 3½-inch, 14 1/2c.; 4-inch, 18 1/2c.

Building Paper.—Tar paper, 7, 10, or 16 ounces, \$1.80 per 100 pounds; felt paper, \$2.75 per 100 pounds; tar sheathing, 40c. per roll of 400 square feet; dry sheathing, No. 1, 30 to 40c. per roll of 400 square feet; tarred fibre, 55c. per roll; dry fibre, 45c. (See Roofing; also Tar and Pitch).

Cement.—Canadian cement is quotable, as follows, in car lots, f.o.b., Montreal:—\$1.30 to \$1.40 per 350-lb. bbl., in 4 cotton bags, adding 10c. for each bag. Good bags re-purchased at 10c. each. Paper bags cost 2½ cents extra, or 10c. per bbl. weight.

Chain.—Prices are as follows:—¾-inch, \$5.10; 5-16-inch, \$3.95; ¾-inch, \$3.55; 7-16-inch, \$3.35; ½-inch, \$3.20; 9-16-inch, \$3.05; 5/8-inch, \$2.95; ¾-inch, \$2.90; 7/8-inch, \$2.85; 1-inch, \$2.85.

Coal and Coke.—Antracite, egg, stove or chestnut coal, \$6.75 per ton, net; furnace coal, \$6.50, net. Bituminous or soft coal: Run of mine, Nova Scotia coal, carload lots, basis, Montreal, \$3.85 to \$4 per ton; canal coal, \$9 per ton; coke, single ton, \$5; large lots, special rates, approximately \$4 f.o.b. cars, Montreal.

Copper.—Prices are strong at 13¾ to 14c.

Explosives and Accessories.—Dynamite, 50-lb. cases, 40 per cent. proof, 15c. in single case lots, Montreal. Blasting powder, 25-lb. kegs, \$2.25 per keg. Special quotations on large lots of dynamite and powder. Detonator caps, case lots, containing 10,000, 75c. per 100; broken lots, \$1; electric blasting apparatus:—Batteries, 1 to 10 holes, \$15; 1 to 20 holes, \$25; 1 to 30 holes, \$35; 1 to 40 holes, \$50. Wire, leading, 1c. per foot; connecting, 50c. per lb. Fuses, platinum, single strength, per 100 fuses:—4-ft. wires, \$3; 6-ft. wires, \$3.54; 8-ft. wires, \$4.08; 10-ft. wires, \$5. Double strength fuses, 4-ft., \$3.75; 6-ft., \$4.20; 8-ft., \$4.81; 10-ft., \$5.37. Fuses, time, double-tape, \$6 per 1,000 feet; explometers, fuse and circuit, \$7.50 each.

Iron.—Swedish iron, 100 lbs., \$4.75 base; sheet, black, 14 to 22 gauge, \$3.75; 24-gauge, \$3.90; 26-gauge, \$4; 28-gauge, \$4.10. Galvanized—American, 18 to 20-gauge, \$4.40; 22 to 24-gauge, \$4.65; 26-gauge, \$4.65; 28-gauge, \$4.90; 30-gauge, \$5.15 per 100 lbs. Queen's Head, 22 to 24-gauge, \$4.65; 26-gauge English, or 30-gauge American, \$4.90; 30-gauge American, \$5.15; Fleur de Lis, 22 to 24-gauge, \$4.50; 28-gauge American, \$4.75; 30-gauge American, \$5. Galvanized iron.—The market is steady. Prices, basis, 28-gauge, are:—Queen's Head, \$4.40; Comet, \$4.25; Gorbals' Best, \$4.25; Apollo, 10¼ oz., \$4.35. Add 5c. to above figure for less than case lots; 26-gauge is 5c. less than 28-gauge. American 28-gauge and English 26 are equivalents,

as are American 10¼ oz., and English 28-gauge.

Galvanized Pipe.—(See Pipe, Wrought and Galvanized).

Iron.—The outlook is strong. The following prices are for carload quantities and over, free on dock, Montreal, prompt delivery: No. 1 Summerlee, \$20 to \$20.50; selected Summerlee, \$19.50 to \$20; soft Summerlee, \$19 to \$19.50; Clarence, \$17.50; Midland or Hamilton pig is quoted at \$20 to \$20.50, Montreal. It is said Dominion and Scotia companies are not quoting prompt delivery. Carron special, \$19.50 to \$20; Carron soft, \$19.25.

Laths.—See Lumber, etc.

Lead.—Prices are about steady, at \$3.55 to \$3.65.

Lead Wool.—\$10.50 per hundred, \$200 per ton, f.o.b., factory.

Lumber, Etc.—Prices on lumber are for car lots, to contractors, at mill points, carrying a freight rate of \$1.50. Red pine, mill culls out, \$18 to \$22 per 1,000 feet; white pine, mill culls, \$16 to \$17. Spruce, 1-in. by 4-in. and up, \$15 to \$17 per 1,000 ft.; mill culls, \$12 to \$14. Hemlock, log run, culls out, \$13 to \$15. Railway Ties; Standard Railway Ties, hemlock or cedar, 35 to 45c. each, on a 5c. rate to Montreal. Telegraph Poles: Seven-inch top, cedar poles, 25-ft. poles, \$1.35 to \$1.50 each; 30-ft., \$1.75 to \$2; 35-ft., \$2.75 to \$3.25 each, at manufacturers' points, with 5c. freight rate to Montreal. Laths: Quotations per 1,000 laths, at points carrying \$1.50 freight rate to Montreal, \$2 to \$3. Shingles: Cedar shingles, same conditions as laths, X, \$1.50; XX, \$2.50; XXX, \$3.

Nails.—Demand for nails is better, but prices are steady at \$2.30 per keg for cut, and \$2.25 for wire, base prices. Wire roofing nails, 5c. lb.

Paints.—Roof, barn and fence paint, 90c. per gallon; girder, bridge, and structural paint for steel or iron—shop or field—\$1.20 per gallon, in barrels; liquid red lead in gallon cans, \$1.75 per gallon.

Pipe—Cast Iron.—The market is unsettled and uncertain, as dealers are compelled to meet competition from all sources. Prices are easy and approximately as follows:—\$31 for 6 and 8-inch pipe and larger; \$32 for 5-inch and 4-inch at the foundry. Pipe, specials, \$3 per 100 pounds. Gas pipe is quoted at about \$1 more than the above.

Pipe—Wrought and Galvanized.—Demand is much better and the tone is firm, though prices are steady, moderate-sized lots being: ¼-inch, \$5.50 with 63 per cent. off for black, and 48 per cent. off for galvanized; ½-inch, \$5.50, with 59 per cent. off for black and 44 per cent. off for galvanized; ¾-inch, \$8.50, with 69 per cent. off for black, and 59 per cent. off for galvanized. The discount on the following is 72½ per cent. off for black, and 62½ per cent. off for galvanized; 1-inch, \$11.50; 1-inch, \$16.50; 1½-inch, \$22.50; 1½-inch, \$27; 2-inch, \$36; 2½-inch, \$57.50; 3-inch, \$75.50; 3½-inch, \$95; 4-inch, \$108.

Plates and Sheets—Steel.—The market is steady. Quotations are: \$2.20 for 3-16; \$2.30 for ¼, and \$2.10 for ¼ and thicker; 12-gauge being \$2.30; 14-gauge, \$2.15; and 16-gauge, \$2.10.

Rails.—Quotations on steel rails are necessarily only approximate and depend upon specification, quantity and delivery required. A range of \$30.50 to \$31 is given for 60-lb. and 70-lb.; 80-lb. and heavier, being \$30; rails, per gross ton of 2,240 lbs., f.o.b. mill. Re-laying rails are quoted at \$27 to \$29 per ton, according to condition of rail and location.

Railway Ties.—See lumber, etc.

Roofing.—Ready roofing, two-ply, 70c. per roll; three-ply, 95c. per roll of 100 square feet. Roofing tin caps, 6c. lb; wire roofing nails, 5c. lb. (See Building Paper; Tar and Pitch; Nails, Roofing).

Rope.—Prices are steady, at 9c. per lb. for sisal, and 10½c. for Manila. Wire rope, crucible steel, six-strands, nineteen wires; ¼-in., \$2.75; 5-16, \$3.75; ¾, \$4.75; ½, \$6; ¾, \$7.25; ¾, \$8.50; ¾, \$10; 1-in., \$12 per 100 feet.

Spikes.—Railway spikes are steady at \$2.35 per 100 pounds, base of 5¼ x 9-16. Ship spikes are steady at \$2.85 per 100 pounds, base of ¾ x 10-inch, and 5/8 x 12-inch.

Steel Shaffing.—Prices are steady at the list, less 25 per cent. Demand is on the dull side.

Telegraph Poles.—See lumber, etc.

Tar and Pitch.—Coal tar, \$3.50 per barrel of 40 gallons, weighing about 500 pounds; roofing pitch, No. 1, 70c. per 100 pounds; and No. 2, 55c. per 100 pounds; pine tar, \$8.50 per barrel of 40 gallons, and \$4.75 per half-barrel; refined coal tar, \$4.50 per barrel; pine pitch, \$4 per barrel of 180 to 200 pound. (See building paper; also roofing).

Tin.—Prices are unchanged, at 32 to 32½c.

Zinc.—The tone is steady, at 5¾ to 6c.

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Toronto, August 26th, 1909.

The now almost certain prospect of good crops in the North-West, the general success of Canadian farmers in securing good prices for their products, are reflected in the earnings in other departments of the country's industry. Business of all kinds is more active and prices are in many cases looking up, metal being a notable example. It is regrettable to learn of the disablement, at a time of increased production and very active orders, of one of the furnaces of the Hamilton Iron & Steel Works. The loss which the company must suffer is placed at a high figure.

In Great Britain, the price of iron for future delivery is advancing, and there is greater buoyancy in the trade. In the United States, as we note elsewhere, there is a genuine improvement, not bolstered by special interests.

Toronto finds business active, especially so in the way of house-building, which is in a great danger of being overdone, if not already so. The Industrial Exhibition promises to be a good one this year, and the retail activity will be thereby increased.

An experienced New York observer says there is every appearance of a sound actual revival in business in the iron and steel trade, which may be expected to grow and spread to other lines. "With the tariff now out of the way, and a bumper crop promised, basic conditions are now sound and promising." If, it is added, a reduction should come in the shape of a decline from the extravagant prices to which some securities have been forced in Wall Street, it would make very little impression on the generally favorable mercantile position and prospects in the U. S.

In harmony with this prediction of greater general activity, is the appearance of a circular from an important shipping house to its Canadian clients, dated 24th August, which says:

"We beg to advise that there is a serious car shortage impending which the railroad people now regard as certain between the present time and the coming winter, and we inform you of this so you may anticipate your requirements in our line as much as possible, sending in your specifications for immediate and future shipment."

When it is remembered that hundreds of thousands of cars were reported lying idle only a month or two ago, the significance of the announcement is great.

Antimony.—Demand inactive, market unchanged at \$9 per 100 lbs.

Axes.—Standard makes, double bitted, \$8 to \$10; single bitted, per dozen, \$7 to \$9.

Bar Iron.—\$1.95 to \$2, base, per 100 lbs., from stock to wholesale dealer. Market well supplied.

Boiler Plates.—¾-inch and heavier, \$2.20. Boiler heads 25c. per 100 pounds advance on plate.

Toronto, September 2nd, 1909.

An improved demand from the country exists in such goods as building felt and building papers, pitch, tar, and roofing goods. Bricks, too, are active for city trade, but the same cannot be said of cement. In