

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Saturday, Nov. 4, 1899.

The very fine weather of this week has added much to the hopeful feeling already prevailing in regard to the business outlook. Farmers are getting along splendidly with their fall work and if they are not doing as much business as if the weather were unfavorable for work in the field, it is felt that trade can afford to wait a few days and even weeks on them. All kinds of outside work is being rushed rapidly to completion. The fine weather has been very acceptable to builders as it has greatly facilitated work on the numerous buildings in course of erection in city and town. Labor has never been so well employed in all its branches as at present. Mercantile establishments all report business good notwithstanding that the fine, mild weather has a tendency to retard the sale of seasonable goods. Travelers on the road are making good progress with their work. The monthly trade returns for October are not yet available, but it may be expected that they will make a good showing. We hope to have the figures for Winnipeg next week. Bank clearings at Winnipeg, as will be seen from the weekly statement published elsewhere in this issue, continue to expand.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Saturday Nov. 4, 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.)

DRY GOODS.

Drying business is engaging the attention of local wholesale houses to a large extent and the demand for seasonable wares is good. Piece lined underwear, knitted underwear and hosiery are in particularly good demand. Like all other lines dry goods is having a lively experience with price advances. Almost every mail brings notice of some change in an upward direction. This week a 25 per cent advance has been made in one favorite line of knitted woolen underwear. Woolen hosiery has also advanced recently. These advances are being followed more closely than in the past and retail merchants may expect to pay the full amount of all advances hereafter.

DRUGS.

The local market is without change, although this is by no means the case universally, as mail advices this week indicate that eastern markets are fluctuating considerably on several important lines. For some of these changes see our drug news column. A steady trade is being done by both the local wholesale houses.

FISH.

The demand for all kinds of fish is a fresh and cured remains good. Local dealers are now quoting fresh caught trout at 11c as against 9c heretofore. Finnan haddies are being killed out by fish dealers at 9c per pound although some other houses are asking 11c.

FUEL.

The market remains unchanged. The demand for coal is comparatively light yet owing to the fine weather. We quote wood in car lots on track Winnipeg, as follows: Tamarac per cord, \$1.50 to \$1.60; green cut tamarac, \$1.25; Josephine per cord \$1 to \$1.15; birch, \$1.15 to \$5; United States oak, \$5; Manitoba oak, \$1.15; United States maple, \$5.25; poplar, \$2.55 to \$3. Coal quotations will be found on page 277.

GROCERIES.

Business in this line is active. The principal price changes this week are an advance of 20c to 25c on canned chicken, duck, and turkey, and a reduction on cigarettes of from 20c to 10c per thousand. Canned corn is being sold here today for considerably less than its value when compared with packers' present prices, but dealers do not seem disposed to take full advantage of the rise. According to our eastern quotation, corn is worth at packing points \$1.10 which would be equal to \$2.52 here. Canned beans are also being sold at less than their value. They are practically out of the primary market. It would cost \$2.10 to bring in more stock based on eastern quotations, while they are being sold here at \$2.00 to \$2.10. The advance in packed chicken, duck and turkey is due to higher prices for the birds, advances in the price of tin and solder and an enormous increase in the demand. The new pack of these which will be in in a few weeks now will cost 25c to 30c more per dozen. The advance of 7-4c to 10c in green Rio coffee a few weeks ago holds firmly, and although there has been a large crop, the demand is so enormous that the effect of this is more than offset. Complete prices on new dried fruits may be expected next week. New evaporated apples are arriving and prices are somewhat easier.

California dried fruits are very firm, according to latest advices received here from the east. Pitted plums and nectarines are said to be about cleaned up and apricots are also getting scarce and are now held in fewer hands. Peaches are firm. California raisins are not likely to be handled in this market this season to as large an extent as in past recent years. This applies to loose muscavels, which have been handled here largely during the past few years, taking the place of Valencias. The reason is that California shippers have cut off the discount which they formerly allowed on exports to Canada. The effect of this will be to shut out California muscavels in favor of Valencia raisins, to a considerable extent at least, so that the latter line promise to once more assume their old important position in this market. Domestic canned fruits are particularly firm. Sale packers report that they are about out of stocks of several lines of fruit. Split peas and pea barley are firmer. For quotations see page 277.

GREEN FRUITS.

California oranges and seedlings are now arriving, prices for which will be found below. New Smyrna figs are expected today. New dates are not expected in for some weeks yet. Peaches and plums are practically done. Onions grapes are also about out. Chestnuts are now offering and also hickory nuts. Winter apples are moving freely and some fall apples are also being taken yet. The stock of these in the city is ample. We quote prices as follows: California naval oranges, 15 to 26c; do., seedlings, \$1.25 to \$4.75; Mex-

ican oranges, \$5.50 to \$6.00, lemons, new Californias, per box, \$5.50; bananas, per bunch, 2.25; apples, winter, \$3.65 to \$3.75 per barrel; fall apples, \$2.75 to \$3.25; snow apples, fancy, \$5.00 per barrel; fair to good \$3.75; quinces, per basket of 20 lbs., 15c; Ontario grapes, 16c to 35c per basket; California grapes, per crate, \$2.00; Malaga grapes in kegs, per keg, \$8.00; cranberries per barrel, \$7.50; coconuts, per dozen, 80c; Grenoble walnuts, 15c; Tarra-gona almonds, 15c; peanuts, green, 9c, roasted, 11c; pecan nuts, 13c per lb.; chestnuts, 15c; hickory nuts, 16c per lb.; maple sugar, per lb., 11c; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels; fruit cider put up in 20 and 30 gallon kegs, per gallon, 40c; figs, in boxes, 7c lb.; new layer figs in 10 lb. boxes, \$1.75; dates, 7c per lb.; sweet potatoes, per barrel, \$5.

HARDWARE.

The hardware market has developed very few new features. Business continues good and prices for all lines steady with a firm feeling, and likelihood of further advances. For quotations see page 279.

LEATHER.

The activity in leather and hides in eastern markets and the upward tendency of prices has resulted in another advance in leather here, and we quote No. 1 union oak harness now 31c as against 30c before, an advance of 1c. All other brands of harness leather have also gone up 1c. It would not be surprising if another advance goes into effect shortly. Shoe leathers are also gaining strength daily, and may be expected to gain a point or two in price here very shortly. Saddlery hardware is increasingly firm.

PAINTS, OILS AND GLASS.

Linseed oil is up another 3c, making the price now 70c for raw and 75c for boiled. Turpentine is unchanged, but higher prices are predicted. White lead will likely advance to \$7.25 or \$7.50 per 100 lbs. for pure, after the close of navigation. Gas will advance 25c per case. A present price of linseed oil and white lead it will be impossible for makers of mixed paints to keep their prices at present figures and it is generally supposed that there will be an advance of from 10 to 20c per gallon. Before spring orders are taken. Shipments of glass which should have arrived this week from Antwerp, and which are very much needed for use in various new buildings have not arrived. They are likely to be in any day. It is understood that Toronto and Montreal stocks of glass have almost reached the vanishing point.

OLD MATERIALS.

There is a continued strong demand for all kinds of old material, particularly iron and metals. Sale for almost an unlimited quantity of these can be readily found in the city at good prices. The United States market for scrap is a little easier this week, but prices here have not been affected. Our quotations, given hereunder are for carlots or large quantities. For small lots of No. 1 cast iron and stove plate regular dealers are not paying quite so much, their price being also 2-12 per ton for No. 1 cast iron. We quote: No. 1 cast iron free from wrought and malleable, \$14 per ton, No. 2 do., \$5.50 per ton; No. 1 stove plate, \$5 per ton; wrought iron scrap, \$6.50 per ton, heavy copper, 10c per pound; copper bottoms, 8c per pound; red brass, 8 to 12c per pound; yellow brass, heavy, 7-12c per pound; light brass,