

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, May 20.

The weather has been favorable and the crop outlook, speaking generally of Manitoba and adjacent western districts, is quite good. In some low or flat districts, where seeding was delayed by over-abundant rains, the crop is backward, but the general condition is well advanced and decidedly good. There was some frost about the end of last week and first of this week, but it was very light, at least in this section, and could not be noticed on vegetation. A good general rain would now do good, and rain is now indicated. Grain has been moving a little better. Farmers are beginning to market some wheat, having got over their rush of spring work, but prices are no better. The local egg market is demoralized, and butter is declining fast. Producers should cease making roll butter and begin packing. The Manitoba Southeastern railway scheme is again attracting attention, but the local government seems fully decided to refuse the aid required.

Bradstreet's report, issued at New York on May 25, says of the situation in the States:—"The unfavorable conditions prevailing in commercial and industrial circles throughout the country, together with the prospect for no material improvement during the summer, marks the present season as probably the dullest, relatively, for twenty years. At no time since the panic and business depression manifested themselves last year have reports as to the volume of sales of merchandise, the manufacture of staple goods, and the indisposition of merchants generally to buy, except for absolute immediate wants, been so pronounced. The next few months promise a continuance if not an intensifying of existing conditions of extreme dullness and depression. Bank clearing for the six days ending with May 24, amount to \$355,000,000, nearly 4 per cent. less than in the week before, and 18 per cent. less than in the like week a year ago. The total number of industrial employees idle as a result of coal scarcity is placed at 35,000, and the total number idle owing to the strike, which now appears likely to fail, is 210,000. In other industrial lines 25,000 men are reported idle as a result of strikes, making the total number now idle 235,000.

Winnipeg Markets.

[All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are whole sale for such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reduction on large quantities and to cash discounts.]

GROCERIES—Sugars are firm, but not changed up to latest advices. Eastern refineries were quoted 4½¢ for granulated and 3½¢ to 3¾¢ for yellows. Vancouver refined sugars were firmer, and prices at the coast were advanced. The Vancouver refinery, which was reported closed on account of the tariff change, and the influx of Chinese sugar, has resumed. One of our British Columbia reporters states this week that tariff modifications have been promised, favorable to the Vancouver refinery, with a view, it is presumed, of keeping out the cheap China sugar. Sugars advanced at New York, both raws and refined. The last China-Japan steamer to arrive at the coast brought in a load of new tea.

CANNED MEATS.—

Corned Beef	1 lb tins, per case of 1 dozen	\$2 65
Roast Beef	1 " " " "	2 75
Brown	1 " " " "	2 65
Pigs Feet	2 " " " "	2 25
Lunch Tongue	2 " " " "	7 65
On Tongue	1 " " " "	7 80
Chipped Dried Beef	1 " " " "	6 75
Compressed Ham	1 " " " "	5 50

FISH—Lake Superior, Manitoba and Lake of the Woods are sending in fresh fish, but no fishing is doing at Lake Winnipeg yet. There are large stocks of frozen winter-caught fish on hand. Pickerel, mullet, etc., are being supplied from the river. Lake Winnipeg frozen whitefish are quoted at about

5c and pickerel 3 to 4; fresh caught white fish 6 to 7c; Lake Superior trout 6c; British Columbia salmon 16c; halibut 14c; smoked herrings 8c; smoked white 8c; Gannan haddies 8c; red herrings 20c per box.

FLUID BEEF, ETC.—Following are prices of the goods put up by the Johnston Fluid Beef Company of Montreal:—Johnston's Fluid Beef—No. 1, 2-oz. tins, per dozen, \$2.70; No. 2, 4-oz., \$4.50; No. 3, 8-oz., \$7.88; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.83; No. 5, 2 lb., \$24.30. Staminial—2 oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do, 4-oz., \$5.10; do, 8 oz., \$7.65; do, 16 oz., \$12.75. Fluid Beef Cordial—20-oz. bottles, \$10. Milk Granules—In cases of 4 dozen, \$5.10. Milk Granules with Cereals—In cases of 4 dozen, \$4.25.

GREEN FRUITS.—Strawberries have been scarce this week, owing to bad weather south, and prices have been firm and in some cases higher. Choice fruit has sold as high as \$5.25 per case of 24 quarts. Bananas have also been very scarce, owing to the cold wave and frost which spread nearly all over the States at the end of last week. Bananas in transit were badly damaged or destroyed by the cold, and as a consequence local dealers have been out of stocks. Large receipts of lemons have come to hand, from ships arrived at Montreal direct from the Mediterranean, and prices are lower. California oranges are firm. A few cherries have been received and also a few apples, which have sold at \$8 to \$9 per barrel. Pie plant is lower. Prices are: California oranges, \$3.50 to \$4. Lemons, new Messinas, \$3.25 to 4.50. Bananas, \$2 to \$3 per bunch. Pineapples, \$2.50 to \$3 per dozen. Strawberries, \$4.50 to \$5.25 per case of 24 boxes. Tomatoes, \$4.50 to \$5 per crate of 30 pounds. Pie plant, 3c per pound, California comb honey, \$5.50 per case of 48 sections. New maple sugar, 12 to 13c per pound in 1-lb. cakes. Maple syrup, 75c to \$1 per gallon in wood, and \$1 to 1.25 in tins, as to quality.

DRUGS—Following prices are for small parcels and will be shaded considerably for full package orders: Alum, per pound, 3½¢ to 4½¢—etc.; alcohol, \$4.75; bleaching powder, per pound, 6 to 8c; 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, 60 to 75c; copperas, 3½ to 4c; cocaine, per oz., \$8.50 to \$9.00; 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, 50 to 60c; iodine, \$5.50 to 6.00, insect powder, 35 to 40c; morphia sul., \$1.90 to 2.25. Opium, \$4.50 to 5.00; oil, olive, \$1.25 to 1.40; oil, U. S. salad, \$1.25 to 1.40; oil, lemon, super, \$2.75 to 3.50; oil, peppermint, \$4.00 to 4.50; oxalic acid, 13 to 16c; potash iodide, \$4.25 to 4.50; 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 lbs., \$3.75 to 4.25, salsoda, \$2.00 to 3.00, tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55c.

DRY GOODS—The local trade is very quiet. In the clothing line country traders are very slow in placing their fall and winter orders, necessitating extra trips over the ground. In dry goods sorting trade is quiet, and no progress has been made with fall orders. The grey cotton mills have been making further reductions in prices. Considerable cutting, it is said, has been indulged in, and prices have again been reduced about 10 to 15 per cent., owing, it is said, to importations from the States. The depression in the States is causing some of the mills there to sell at slaughter prices. Another reason given for the decline is that the mills were anxious to dispose of surplus stock, but the former is probably the correct reason. It is said to be likely that some of the mills will have to close down, owing to light business, and some have been running on short time.

COAL—It is said that there is likely to be some reduction in Pennsylvania anthracite for next fall and winter supplies. There is no change at present, which is quoted at \$10.50 for Pennsylvania anthracite, \$9 for western anthracite and \$8 per ton for Leth. bridge bituminous. These are retail prices, delivered to consumers in the city. Houris coal sells at \$4.25 retail, and \$3.75 on track for the Estevan mines. Roche Perceé mine, Houris coal, is quoted 25c higher per ton than from the Estevan mines, or \$4.50 to consumers and \$4 on track.

WOOD—There is very little business in car lots. Tamarac is held at \$4 to \$4.50 per cord on track here in car lots as to quality. Oak can be bought at about \$3.75 to \$4, mixed pine, spruce, etc., can be had at \$3.50 to \$3.75. Poplar has sold at from \$2.50 to \$3.00 on track as to quality, green cut poplar brings the top price.

RAW FURS—Mink, otter, wolf and muskrat are dull and easier. Fur sales begin at London on June 4 and continue to June 8 inclusive. Quotations below will about cover the range of prices in Winnipeg. The value of a skin varies as to size, color and condition of fur. The top price is for large skins, of prime quality. Occasionally an extra large, fine skin is received which will bring even more than the top quotation.—

Badger, per skin	\$ 05 to \$ 60
Rear, black	50 to 20 00
Rear, brown	50 to 20 00
Rear, grizzly	1 00 to 10 00
Beaver	2 00 to 7 00
Beaver castors, per pound	2 50 to 6 00
Ermings, per skin	01 to 02
Fisher	50 to 7 00
Fox, cross	75 to 6 00
" x, kit	10 to 00
Fox, red	25 to 1 50
Fox, silver	5 00 to 70 00
Lynx	25 to 3 00
Marten	75 to 2 50
Mink	25 to 1 50
Musquash	02 to 10
Otter	1 50 to 0 00
Raccoon	50 to 85
Skunk	05 to 50
Timber wolf	25 to 3 00
Prairie wolf, large	25 to 75
" small	25 to 55
Wolverine	50 to 3 60

HARDWARE AND METALS.

HARDWARE—No very important new features. Wire cloth is advancing sharply outside, owing it is said to shortage of supplies at a season when the demand is urgent. It is reported that a consignment of cotton rope has been brought in from the States, at Toronto the change in the tariff making it possible to import this article. Linseed oil and turpentine are very strong, and advancing in first hands.

The following are quotations for old stocks, and will be shaded on some lines for new importation or to arrive:—

Tin, lamb and 50 and 28 lb ingots, per lb, 25 to 26c.

Tin plates—Charcoal plates, brand Alloyway, I. C., 10 by 14, 12 by 12 and 14 by 20, per box, \$4.75 to \$5; I. X., same sizes, per box, \$6 to \$6.25; I. C., charcoal, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$9.50 to 9.75; I. X., per box, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$11.50 to 11.75.

Terne plates—I. C., 20 by 28, \$9.50 to 9.75.

Iron and steel—Common iron, per 100 lbs, base price, \$2.90 to \$3; band iron, per 100 lbs, \$3.50 to 3.75; Swedish iron, per 100 lbs, \$5.25 to 6; sloop shoe steel, \$3.25 to 3.50; boat cast steel, per lb, 13 to 15c; Russian sheet, per lb, 12 to 13c.

Sheet iron—10 to 20 gauge, \$3.50 to 3.75; 22 to 28 gauge, \$3.75 to 4.

Canada plates, Garth and Blaine, \$3.50 to 3.75.

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