

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, August 18.

Reports from the country this week have been gratifying, indicating a crop rather better than was considered possible. From earlier estimates. The harvest is now well advanced, and free from any damage, which causes a satisfactory feeling. Credit business has been closely restricted this year, and the expectation is that farmers will accordingly have more cash to spend from the proceeds of their crops than in previous years, instead of having to use their income to pay debts. Railway work is becoming more active. The force at the Canadian Pacific Railway shops in Winnipeg has been increased, to get the rolling stock ready to move the new crop. Some new buildings are being started in the city, though there is rather less activity in building than earlier in the season.

The adoption of the tariff bill in the United States is expected to improve prospects over there. Bradstreet this week says, No serious reductions in prices in any line appear probable, the effects of probable tariff changes apparently having been discounted.

Winnipeg Markets.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Aug. 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.]

GROCERIES.—Eastern Canada refiners advanced their prices at the close of last week 4c on all grades. This is a sharper advance than any had expected, and was the immediate outcome of another advance in New York. Canadian refiners now quote 4½c for granulated and 3½ to 3¾c for yellow. Now that the tariff situation is about settled in the States, the market will likely be maintained there at the recent advances. It is said that the United States sugar trust will make a big pile of money as the tariff now stands, as they have purchased heavily in anticipation of this result. The trust people, however, deny the reports, and say they have only their usual supply on hand. There is a good deal of grumbling about the quality of Canadian refined yellows, which are said to be not what they used to be. Nice brights and yellows are said to be scarcely obtainable, damp, soggy sugars being the rule. The Ontario Packers' Association is making quite a song about a light pack. Almost every line is declared to be short, but dealers may take this with considerable salt. Strawberries, raspberries and cherries are declared to be the lightest in the history of the trade, and peas also very light. A drop in the price of wooden tubs and pails is announced from the east. Pails are 10c per dozen and tubs 50c per dozen cheaper. The changes were decided upon at the annual meeting of the Woodware Association, held at Toronto, when the following prices were announced:—For all purchases of \$20 and over the quotations to the retail trade are now as follows: Pails, 2 hoops, clear, No. 1, \$1.50; pails, 3 do., \$1.70. Pails, 2 hoops, clear, No. 2, \$1.40; pails, 3 do., \$1.60; pails, 3 do., painted, \$1.60. Tubs, No. 0, \$9; do. 1, \$7; do. 2, \$9; do. 3, \$5.

FISH.—Prices are unchanged for fresh fish. British Columbia salmon is coming in freely, and is obtainable at 14c lb. Lake Superior trout of nice quality are being constantly received at short intervals, and held at 9c; whitefish, 6c; pickerel 3 to 4c. Smoked whitefish, 8c lb; smoked goldeyes, 30 to 35c dozen; red herrings, 20c box.

FLUID BEEF, ETC.—Following are prices of the goods put up by the Johnstone Fluid Beef Company of Montreal:—Johns,

too's Fluid Beef—No. 1, 2-oz. tins, per dozen, \$2.70; No. 2, 4-oz., \$1.50; No. 3, 8-oz., \$7.83; No. 4, 1-lb., \$12.83; No. 5, 2-lb., \$24.30. Staminol—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.

CANNED MEATS:—

Corned Beef	..... 2 lb tins, per case of 1 dozen	\$2.65
Roast Beef	..... 2 " " " 1 " "	2.75
Brawn	..... 2 " " " 1 " "	2.65
Pigs Feet	..... 2 " " " 1 " "	2.25
Lunch Tongue	..... 2 " " " 1 " "	7.65
Ox Tongue	..... 14 " " " 2 " "	7.80
Chipped Dried Beef	..... 1 " " " 2 " "	6.25
Compressed Ham	..... 1 " " " 2 " "	4.60

GREEN FRUITS.—The market was about bare of California fruits at the close of the week, but some car lots are expected to arrive about Monday. Some lines are now coming forward from Ontario. Heretofore apples in stock have come from the south; but Ontario apples have now started, and are an improvement on previous arrivals. The Dutchers variety from Ontario are very fine fruit this year. Ontario tomatoes are now coming. Lemons are firm. Oranges out of the market. No California grapes yet, but southern Concord grapes are plentiful and cheaper. Watermelons have declined again in price. Blueberries have not been as heavy in receipts as former years, and have brought a little better price this week. Prices are: Lemons at \$0.50 to \$7.00 per box. Apples, \$4.25 to \$4.50 per barrel; California fruits, peaches, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per box; pears, \$3.00 per box; plums, \$1.50; bananas, \$3 to \$3.50 per bunch; watermelons, \$3.50 per dozen; tomatoes, \$1.50 per 20 lb. basket; blueberries, 6 to 7½c per lb; southern concord grapes, 60c per 10 pound basket.

NUTS.—Soft shelled almonds are quoted at 16 to 18c, walnuts, 14 to 16c, peanuts roasted, 14 to 15c, filberts, 12 to 15c, pecans, 16 to 17c. Brazils, 14 to 15c. Figs, 14 to 18c; dates, 10c.

HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.—Business is quiet just now, and there are no new features to mention. Along with the report that southern turpentine men have formed a combine to regulate prices, etc., comes the news that eastern Canada dealers are to import turpentine in tank cars hereafter. If it can be worked successfully, there should be a considerable saving in this mode of transportation over the barrel system.

DRY GOODS.—Dealers are looking ahead to an early improvement in trade, as the harvest is now well in hand and crop estimates have rather improved of late. Credit business has been restricted this year much more closely than over before, and farmers will have fewer debts to pay from the proceeds of their crops, so that they will have more money to spend in making new purchases. Payments this month, which is a heavy one in accruing paper, were not altogether barren of satisfactory features, and were even better than might have been expected at a time of year when farmers are getting in very little cash, and in a close season at that.

COAL.—No further changes in prices of coal. Quotations are:—\$9.50 per ton for Pennsylvania anthracite, \$8.50 for western anthracite and \$7.50 per ton for Lethbridge bituminous. These are retail prices delivered to consumers in the city. Souris or Estevan coal sells at \$4.25 retail, and \$3.75 on track. Roche Perce mine, Souris coal is quoted 25c high per ton than from the Estevan mines, or \$4.50 to consumers and \$4 on tracks.

WOOD.—Tamarac is held at \$4.50 to \$1.75 per cord on track here in car lots as to quality. Oak about \$4, mixed pine, spruce, etc., can be had at \$3.50 to \$3.75. Poplar has sold at from \$2.50 to \$3 on track as to quality, green cut poplar brings the top price.

STATIONERY AND FANCY GOODS.—Dealers are now working on advance orders for fall and holiday trade. Wholesalers have fall and Christmas stocks now well in and placed, and are able to show full lines in the numerous

list of sundry articles which go to make up the holiday trade. There has been a tendency to select medium and cheaper priced lines for the Christmas trade than has been noticeable in past years, and this will no doubt suit the spirit of the times as well as the pockets of the purchasing public.

LUMBER.—The city lumber trade has been rather quieter, though a fair business is still doing. Building, however, is scarcely as active as it was a few weeks ago. The year's building record in Winnipeg will show up very well, but the country has not been taking much lumber. A good deal of lumber has been brought in from the United States since the reduction in the duty was made. About 125 cars have been brought into Winnipeg, notwithstanding the reduction made in prices at our mills, as reported some weeks ago. The mills say they cannot reduce the price any further, and that the only way to get prices lower to keep out imported stuff is to get a reduction in freight rates from our Lake of the Woods mills. The manufacturers say the Canadian Pacific Railway people are standing in their own light in refusing to reduce freights, as they can well afford a reduction of the present rates, which are three times as high as the rates charged in the east. By keeping up the freight rates, a good deal of business goes to the States, on which the company loses the handling, while the Canadian mills lose the business. The retail lumber association is having some trouble about prices. A Brandon member has been suspended, and it is known that some Winnipeg members have been importing lumber and cutting association prices freely of late. More suspensions from the association may therefore be heard of shortly. Now that the tariff bill in the United States has passed with the free lumber clause intact, the Eastern Canada lumbering industry will be given a great "boom," though the full benefit may not be felt until times revive in the United States. In the west the tariff changes will not make any great difference, as western manufacturers are not in a position to ship to the States. The report in a Winnipeg daily paper that the Winnipeg Retail Association had decided to reduce prices 3c on coarse dimension, is a mistake. There has been some informal talk of a reduction, but it has not been acted upon by the association, and no such a cut as 3c was contemplated.

BINDER TWINE.—The Manitoba patrons have made a bad mess again of their twine deal. Evidently they did not profit much by their experience of last year. The patrons bought their twine from a St. Paul factory this year, and they have been delivering it during the present harvest to their members. The good loyal patrons who have backed up their executive and bought their twine through the order, have had the honorable distinction of paying 1 to 2c more per pound for their twine than the regular dealers have been selling at, of about the same quality, and they have had to pay spot cash at that. A story is going the rounds that the order is making a profit of 1c per pound on the twine to provide an election fund for the Patron candidates in the next election, but this is no doubt a hoax. The twine has evidently been bought too dear, and is no doubt being sold as fine as possible to the members of the order. About 9½c we believe is the price paid by the Patron consumers for the twine, while the regular dealers have been selling twine of about the same quality, such as red cap, for 8c, in small lots at country points. The very highest priced twine in the market has sold lower than the Patrons' twine. There was some little agitation about a shortage of twine, but there was nothing in it, and there has been abundance of twine in Winnipeg all the season to meet any demands from country points. Of course in every season there will be a temporary scarcity at some points, and a surplus at other places close by. Retail dealers only take in such quantities as they expect to sell, and when farmers leave off ordering until

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