

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, May 28.

Business with the city jobbing houses continues good. There is a large movement in hardware, paints, oils, building materials, etc. The crop outlook has been improved by rain in a good many districts, but it appears the rain came in the nature of showers, being much lighter at some places than in other districts. Unless we have plenty of rain during the next two weeks, the hay crop will be light. Grain crop reports are generally favorable. There is some movement in farm lands. Quite a number of sales have been reported recently in the Winnipeg district. There is talk about a British syndicate being formed to buy up Manitoba farm lands. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week show almost double the figures of the same period in previous years.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

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BINDER TWINE.

The rapid upward tendency has continued on binder twine, and prices show a further advance of 1-2c over a week ago. There is scarcely any business doing in twine, however, as orders were mostly placed some time ago, and dealers are completely sold out. Holders of twine are independent about selling. If the crop should be heavy, so as to consume large quantities of twine, prices may range very high toward the tail end of the season.

DRUGS.

Opium and morphia are firm at the recent advances in leading markets. Glycerine has been advanced 2c by manufacturers in the States. Sulphur is very strong and the market is excited.

FUEL.

Business is quiet. The tendency of prices is firmer for wood fuel, but there is very little doing in car lots, and it is difficult to make sales of car lots here.

GREEN FRUITS.

A few naval oranges are still obtainable, but the season for navals is about over and California Mediterranean sweets are taking their place. Apples are getting down pretty fine. They have to be picked over very closely to get a barrel of fair quality. Bananas are selling lower. Pine plant is now supplied by local growers. California cherries are offering more freely. Strawberries are again lower. Prices are: Navel oranges, \$3.75 to \$4. California Mediterranean sweets, \$3.75 to \$4 a box; seedling oranges, \$2.75 to \$3; bananas, bunch \$1 to \$1.50 as to size; Messina lemons, \$3.75 to \$4.25 per box, as to quality; apples, \$4 to \$5.50 per barrel for best sorts, as to quality; off quality, \$2 to \$3.50 per barrel, as to condition; pineapples, \$3 to \$4 per dozen, as to size and quality; pine plant 2 1-2c; strawberries \$4 to \$4.50 per case; of twenty-four quarts; tomatoes \$3.75 to \$4 per crate of

six baskets; California cherries \$1.75 per ten pound gross box; cocoanuts, \$1 per dozen; Sicily filberts, large 11c to 12c per lb; Grenoble walnuts, 14c; figs, clemes, 10 lb boxes, \$1.25 to \$1.40, as to quality; 50 lb boxes, 17c per lb; dates, 6 1-2 to 7c per lb; Tarragona almonds, 12 1-2 to 13c; peanuts, green, 9c; peanuts, roasted, 12c; pecans, 14 to 15c; strained honey, 7 1-2 to 10c per lb; maple sugar 11 to 12c; syrup per dozen 1-2 gallon tins, \$7; apple elder, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels; Egyptian onions, 4 to 4 1-2c per lb.

HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.

Business in this line is quite active. The movement continues heavy. Large sales of linseed oil are reported for shipment to all points west. The local scarcity of turpentine has been relieved by recent arrivals. Turpentine is easier, and we reduce quotations 2c this week to 55c and 60c, for barrels and less than barrels, respectively. The "boom" in rope continues. There have been several advances within the week, aggregating 11-2c altogether, and making the bare price quotation now 11c for seal and 12 1-2 cents for Manila. These prices, however, may be altered any time by a further advance, as the market still has an upward tendency.

LEATHER.

There is no change in this market, but advice from other markets note a firmer tendency again since the upward turn in hides. Business is good.

LUMBER.

Winnipeg dealers have not yet followed the advance of \$1 at the mills, announced last week, but it is expected an advance will be decided upon very soon. When they begin to replenish their stocks the necessity of an advance to meet the advance made by manufacturers will be brought closely home to them. Business is good.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—The range in wheat has been about the same as last week, running from \$1.32 to \$1.35 afloat Fort William for No. 1 Manitoba hard. On Tuesday, when the markets were declining, as low as \$1.32 was quoted, and again yesterday at the close \$1.32 was about as high as buyers would offer. No transactions, however, were reported yesterday and there was simply nothing doing. On Wednesday the highest point was reached when a sale was made at \$1.35, and this price was again paid Thursday morning for a lot of seven cars, but at the close of Thursday \$1.34 was quoted. The sharp decline in United States markets yesterday caused a very fall feeling locally. There has been some demand for Manitoba wheat for export at about \$1.30 to \$1.31 for No. 1 hard afloat Fort William, which was about the export value. United States markets are of course much above export values. With all the talk about scarcity of wheat shipments are enormous. World's shipments last week were nearly 12,000,000 bushels, while only in one week last year did they touch 10,000,000 bushels and that was in September when the movement is usually heavy. Atlantic port exports were very heavy this week. Crop reports are good everywhere, both in Europe and America.

The receipts of wheat at the Fort William elevators last week aggregated 199,000 bushels. The shipments were 50,000, and the amount in store on Saturday last 851,000 bushels.

FLOUR—A continued good export demand is reported for Manitoba flour at good figures compared with domestic prices. The market has been steady this week and prices are unchanged. We quote patent \$3.30; best bakers, \$3.10; second bakers \$2.75, and XXXX \$1.70 per sack of 98 lbs; 5c discount from these prices net cash.

MILLFEED—Quiet. We quote bran at \$12.00 and shorts \$14.00 per ton in bulk. Large lots \$1 per ton less.

GROUND FEED—Grain feed is quoted at \$27 to \$30 per ton as to quality. Ground corn \$20 per ton. These prices show a sharp advance.

OATMEAL—The market is easier owing to the recent decline in oats east and south. Still the local market prices are low compared with what oatmeal could be laid down here for. We quote rolled \$2.20 to \$2.25 per sack.

CORN—Corn is easier south and at quotations yesterday it could be laid down here at about 44 1-2 to 45c per bushel of 56 pounds. Several cars sold in one lot at 43 1-2c on track here, but this was below the market value on a forced sale to stop demurrage charges.

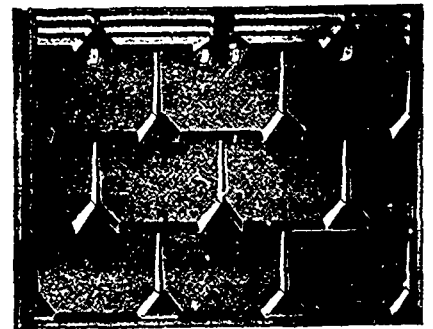
BARLEY—Absolutely none offered. Nominal at 45 to 50c per bushel of 48 lbs.

OATS—Oats are held steady at about 47c on track here for car lots. Oats are practically at an import price here now, and therefore they are not likely to advance any further unless prices east and south advance considerably. Any material advance here would permit of imports from the United States and from Eastern Canada. It is only this feature that probably prevents a further advance, as practically all the

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