

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, July 8.

The summer season is now at its height and business of a reasonable nature is active, more so than it has been for years. Staple goods are meeting with a large demand and wholesale firms are doing a large trade. Between sorting orders, receipts, booking and shipping fall orders and preparations for a large influx of country customers next week they have been kept pretty busy. It is hard to imagine a more satisfactory state than that of the present in regard to trade. Values are firm and the prospects of further advances in nearly all leading lines makes it very easy to sell for future delivery. The only complaint heard in wholesale circles is in regard to collections, these are slow.

From the monthly trade returns which are published elsewhere in this issue it will be seen that the volume of general business and the consumption of goods in this country continues to expand. The large increase in customs collections during the fiscal year ending June 30 is a good indication of the rate of growth in the use of general merchandise.

The clearing house statement giving both weekly and monthly returns shows an exceedingly satisfactory growth in the volume of banking business. Compared with the corresponding week of 1898 clearings increased over \$300,000 for the week ended July 6, and compared with the figure for June, 1898, the month which closed a week ago yesterday showed an increase in clearings of over \$200,000, and compared with the same month of 1897, an increase of \$2,080,576. The banks report a good demand for money and rates are steady. The unusual amount of new banking and the number of new commercial enterprises is adding to the demand for funds.

Crop reports from all parts are most encouraging, although complaints of too much rain are coming from some parts and we hear of some wheat fields becoming lodged owing to the rank growth of straw.

The opening of the annual Winnipeg Exhibition on Monday will bring a large influx of country merchants to the city who will no doubt do more or less business while here.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Winnipeg, Saturday, July 8.

(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.)

BUILDING MATERIAL.

The very large demand for building material in the city and country has created a scarcity of sand and brick

and lime has also not been any too plentiful. Some of the large warehouses now in course of erection have been delayed a little for want of brick. New stacks are now being delivered from the kilns and this complaint will probably no longer be heard. The bad roads which prevented delivery at the cars delayed receipts of lime somewhat but this difficulty too is now past. The very large quantities of sand being taken by the city of Winnipeg for street paving, etc., has created a shortage of that necessary article, and the building contractors have had some trouble in keeping up their supplies. Prices of stone and lime are as follows: Ordinary building stone is quoted at \$3.50 per cord at Stonewall and \$4.00 at Stony Mountain. Footings are \$5.50 per cord at Stonewall. White lime is worth 20c per bushel at Stonewall and grey 16c at Stony Mountain, which is equivalent to 50c and 25c respectively at Winnipeg.

CURED MEATS.

Hams have advanced another 1-2c this week due to their growing scarcity. They are now quoted at 12c per pound, as will be seen by our cured meats quotations on another page. This is the only change in the list.

DRUGS.

The feature of the drug market is a remarkable advance in the price of citric acid. This has now reached the high price of 60 to 65c. All citrates are stronger in the leading drug markets. Opium has declined in price since our last report and is now quoted at \$1.50 to \$5.00 as against \$4.75 to \$5.25 last week. Other drug prices remain unchanged. Business continues good. Collections are inclined to be backward.

FUEL.

Locally, the fuel market remains unchanged. There is the usual amount of wood and coal for domestic and manufacturing purposes and supplies in the city are ample at present. Dealers are watching with considerable interest the course of hard coal in producing and shipping centres. As predicted in these columns last week, Pennsylvania anthracite coal advanced 25c per ton on all sizes on the 1st of July, and the quotation now is \$5 for broken and \$5.25 for the smaller sizes at lake ports, as against \$4.75 and \$5 during May and June. The fact that the producing and carrying companies are closely associating for the purpose of controlling the supply and price is causing many to fear that coal prices will be higher.

GREEN FRUITS.

St. Michael oranges are practically out of the market and late Valencias are also about done. Bananas hold firm at previous quotations. Lemons are firm and unchanged. Apricots are considerably lower this week and so also are plums. Raspberries are now in the market at \$3 per case and currants, both red and black are also offering. All the local dealers are busy and look forward to a specially active trade next week while the exhibition is on. We quote prices as follows: St. Michaels, \$5.50 to \$6.00; late Valencias, \$5.50 to \$6; bananas per bunch, \$2.00 to \$2.50 as to size and quality; Messina lemons, fancy November cuts, long-keeping stock, \$4 to \$5 per case and 6-case lots 25c less; currants, red or black 24-box cases, \$2.25; pears, per case \$4.50; pineapples \$2.50 per dozen according to size; strawberries per case \$3.50, raspberries \$3 per case; cherries \$1.50

to \$1.75 per box; California peaches \$1.50 per case; plums \$2 to \$2.50; apricots, \$2 to \$2.25 per case; water-melon, \$4.50 per dozen; coconuts, per dozen, 80c; Sicily filberts, large, 12c per lb.; Grenoble walnuts, 14c; new shelled walnuts, 25c; Tarragona almonds, 15c; peanuts, green, 9 to 11c; roasted, 12c; pecan nuts, 12c per lb.; comb honey, \$2 per dozen sections; strained honey, 8 1-2 per pound; orange marmalade in 7 lb. pails, 60c; maple sugar, 11 to 13c; maple syrup in gallon cans, \$1.25; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels, fruit cider, put up in 10, 20 and 30 gallon kegs, per gallon, 40c; California figs, fancy Smyrna, glove boxes per dozen, \$2.50; dates 7c per pound; native lettuce, radish, water cress, etc., per dozen bunches, 35c; Minnesota cabbage 3 1-2c per pound; preplant per lb. 1c; onions, 23-4c per pound; cucumbers 90c per dozen; tomatoes, 4-basket crates \$1.75; celery, extra fine 50c per dozen bunches.

GROCERIES.

There is practically no change in the wholesale situation this week. Business is steady in all staple lines. A good demand is being experienced for sausage, due probably to the advent of the preserving season. The only changes to note in prices are a reduction in the quotation for canned pig's feet of 10c per dozen, a reduction of 25c on canned roast beef, a further reduction of 25c on pearl barley, and a further advance of 5c on fine Valencia raisins.

IMPLEMENTS.

The implement dealers have all been busy this week preparing for the exhibition which opens on Monday. A very fine farm machinery and vehicle exhibition has been installed, and it is expected that a great many people will call on the various companies next week both at the exhibition grounds and at their city warehouses. Much new business will probably follow this special effort. The binder twine situation is unchanged and prices are steady at regular quotations.

HARDWARE AND PAINTS.

The market continues steady and prices are unchanged this week. The first rush in connection with the building trade is now pretty well over. Some large shipments of glass have arrived in the city and local stocks are now in a position to meet the demand of the busy months. This will bring welcome news to the building trades as our reports for some time past have indicated great difficulty in obtaining new supplies from manufacturing countries. Prices of paints, oils and glass are unchanged.

LUMBER.

There is a brisk movement of lumber to all parts of the west now and dealers state that trade has very seldom been better at this season of the year. Manufacturing concerns in both Canada and the United States are having all they can do to keep abreast of the demand and as a matter of fact many concerns are sold ahead for a considerable length of time. The United States mills have been experiencing an unwonted demand for white pine from the east and south, and lumber which usually goes to the prairie country has been diverted to other markets this year by the unusually keen demand. Mills around the Georgian Bay in Ontario are sharing in the general activity, United States buyers being plentiful