

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Saturday, October 6.

This has been a quiet week in trading circles. The wet and gloomy weather makes it difficult to keep up any interest in business. Country roads are in very bad shape, which prevents traffic, thus cutting off the little farm trade there might otherwise be. The grain movement is light and deliveries of country produce are also being interfered with. Not much headway has been made with threshing operations this week. There is a big demand for money to meet maturing obligations and for general business purposes, which has stiffened interest rates considerably. Mortgage companies report a great many loans going through. Labor of all kinds seems to be well employed and there is still some demand from the harvest fields for hands.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS

Saturday, October 6.

(All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are wholesale lot quantities and are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reduction on large quantities and to cash discounts.)

### BOOTS AND SHOES.

Shipments of goods to country points have tapered off to a decidedly small point. The sorting trade is very small owing to the bad weather which not only prevents country consumers from buying even where they have the money. Travellers started out this week with full lines of spring goods and will do the best they can to improve a doubtful situation. It is believed that spring orders would assume fair proportions if the weather was at all settled and the work of threshing what is left of the crops under way as the faith of the trading classes in the future is not at all impaired by the unfavorable present conditions. As regards prices of spring lines it may be said that they are to be firmly held at the old range. While there have been no important changes either one way or the other the tendency is if anything in an upward direction and prices will be firmly held at list figures. Makers assert that their raw material has cost them as much or more than that which went into last year's goods, and moreover they do not believe that lower prices would add much if anything to the volume of sales and it might have the contrary effect.

### DRY GOODS

Local jobbing houses find business very dull the continued wet weather having taken the heart out of the market. A few sorting orders and a little house trade constitutes the entire movement. There is little demand for woollen dress goods, underwear, hosiery, etc. for fall and winter wear, and other lines drag slowly along behind these. The strength in cottons has attracted some interest here, and jobbers are following the advances at mills. Full particulars of these have been given in our news columns recently. The difference in prices here is slight.

### DRUGS

The drug market shows a great deal more activity than any other in this market and trade is fairly brisk. The volume of business being done is considerably in excess of what it was a year ago. The feature this week in regard to prices has been the advance in quinine, which is now 1c. per ounce higher. Other lines are unchanged. For quotations see "Prices Current" page.

### FISH.

Fresh white fish are now practically out of the market, as the season closed yesterday, October 5. The market is being supplied with fish from the freezers, and the price remains the same. Pike and pickerel are plentiful and unchanged in price. Oysters are in plentiful supply at last week's prices. Finnan haddies are expected in shortly. We quote Whitefish, fresh caught, 5c per lb., pickled 4c; pike 3c; trout 10c; salmon 12c; halibut 12c; mackerel 10c; salt cod, 7c; Labrador herring, half barrel, \$4; oysters, select, \$2.40 per gallon.

### FUEL.

The cool weather is creating some demand for fuel for heating purposes, and the strike in the hard coal regions has caused many nervous peo-

ple to buy where they might not otherwise have done so. There has been no change in prices here notwithstanding the fact that in nearly all cities east and south there have been advances. With the improved prospects for a settlement of the strike there is now not so much likelihood of higher prices. Canadian coals remain unchanged in price also. Stocks of wood in the city are large and there is consequently very little demand for wood in carlots from the yards. Winnipeg quotations for both wood and coal will be found on our "prices current" page.

### GREEN FRUITS.

The demand for seasonal lines of fruit is good. Snow apples are now in the market at \$3 per barrel. Fall apples are plentiful at from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per barrel. Ontario grapes are lower. We quote: California lemons, \$0.50 per box; bananas, per bunch, \$2.10; sweet potatoes, per barrel, \$6.50. Ontario fall apples, per barrel, \$2.50 to \$3.50. snow apples, per barrel, \$3. Washington box apples, per box, \$1.75. Ontario crab apples, per barrel, \$4 to \$5. Montana box crabs, \$1.90; California peaches, per case, \$1.20; Washington blue plums, \$1.25, with a rebate of 10c per case for five case lots or over. Washington pears, per case, \$2.25. California pears, \$2.50 per case. Ontario grapes, Concord, 27c, Rogers, 40c. Niagara, 7c. Delawares, 40c. Tokay grapes, per crate, \$2.75. basket pears, 45c. basket crabapples, 60c. basket tomatoes, 50c. green tomatoes, per pound, 1 1/2c. celery, per dozen, 90c. cabbage, per dozen, 50c. cauliflower, per dozen, 60c. onions, per lb., 3c. Grenoble walnuts, 1 1/2 to 1 1/4, 1a ragona almonds, 15c. filberts 10 to 11c. peanuts, green, 9c. roasted, 12c. pecan nuts, 15c per lb., maple sugar per pound, 8 cents, maple syrup \$6.00 per case of 1 dozen 1/2 gal. tins, apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels; fruit cider put in 20 and 30 gallon kegs, per gallon 35c. cold storage figs, \$1.00. dates, 7c per lb. honey in 1-lb glass jars, per dozen jars, \$2.50. cranberries, per barrel, \$8.50. Spanish onions to arrive, per crate, \$1.50.

### GROCERIES.

Trade is steady. Collections slow. New pack corn is now in and is quoted at \$2.00 to \$2.10. Other lines of canned goods are unchanged. Labrador herrings in half barrels are very scarce and cannot now be obtained at old prices, the regular quotation being \$3.00 for best. The catch of herring is said to be very light. New figs are expected in shortly. New Valencia raisins are now in the market having arrived on Wednesday. They are quoted at \$2.35 to \$2.40, which is a sharp advance over opening figures of a year ago. It is expected that later shipments to this market will show still higher prices the opening markets having advanced since first purchases were made. Sugars have declined 20c per hundred during the week owing to further trouble among the United States refineries. New York prices have been cut sharply and Canadian refineries have had to follow suit. Other lines are unchanged here. For Winnipeg jobbing quotations see "prices current" page.

### HARDWARE.

Trade is quiet and prices here unchanged. Recent eastern changes have not gone into effect here. The very small volume of trading being done makes the question of prices of much less interest than it would be under normal conditions. There is a small demand for building material and also for some lines of heavy hardware. Sporting goods are moving slowly. Orders for some lines of winter goods, such as skates, have been booked. Prices are given elsewhere.

### LEATHER.

Winnipeg jobbing business is very light and the market is without feature, although there is some possibility of lower prices in the early future. Outside markets report trade light and prices unchanged. If anything they are a little firmer.

### PAINTS, OILS AND GLASS.

The situation remains unchanged. Business is as good as can be expected considering the weather, which is not favorable for anything but inside work. Prices are given elsewhere.

### SCRAP.

We quote: No. 1 cast iron, free from wrought and malleable, \$13 to \$14 per ton. No. 2, \$5 ton. wrought iron scrap, \$5 ton; heavy copper, 10c

per pound; red brass, 8c per pound. yellow brass, heavy, 7c per pound. light brass, 4 1/2 to 5c per pound; lead pipe or tea lead, 2c to 2 1/2c; rags, country mixed, 50c per 100 pounds. rubbers, free from rivets, buckles and per lb; bones, clean, dry and bleached, articles, 5 1/2c per pound; zinc scrap 1c \$0 per ton.

### GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—The market has been very steady this week with no special features attending it. The weaker tendency manifested at the end of last week did not develop further, but gave place to a firmer tone at the beginning of the week, which with slight fluctuations has continued up to time of writing, quotations showing prices unchanged to half a cent higher for the week. The weekly statistics so far as they referred to the general movement of wheat over the world and the accumulation of reserves were not favorable to the bull side of the market, as they told of large world's shipments, exceeding weekly requirements of importing countries, large increase in English stocks, and increase of amount on ocean passage, also large increase in world's reserve stock. On the other hand the situation in the United States and Manitoba would seemingly favor the expectation of higher prices, as there has been no improvement in the weather over the spring wheat country where much of the wheat is still in the field and threshing is still being delayed. The primary receipts are now showing the want of the movement of the spring wheat, in a considerable falling off in quantity as compared with a year ago. The percentage of higher grades in the spring wheat crop is going to be extremely small. The only weak feature in the American situation is the large visible supply, now amounting to over 55,000,000 bushels. Export trade is reported as fairly good. The Argentine crop is just beginning to show itself as a factor in the market situation, and the prospects and outcome of this crop will have much to do in shaping values later on. During the week reports regarding the crop have been published which state that the acreage has been increased 25 per cent, and that the wheat is doing unusually well. These reports have in some measure been contradicted by others, stating that there has been too much rain and the growth is too rank and thus the prospect is not satisfactory as in previous years such a condition at this stage has resulted in a poor crop. Reports on the Australian crop continue favorable, and the same in regard to the prospects in India. The American visible supply increased 410,000 bushels, compared to an increase of 1,065,000 bushels the previous week, and the aggregate is now 55,405,000 bushels, against 42,143,000 bushels a year ago. The world's shipments were 8,350,000 bushels, compared to 7,936,000 bushels the previous week, and 7,900,000 bushels the same week last year. The world's visible supply according to Bradstreet's increased 4,318,000 bushels against an increase of 4,631,000 bushels the previous week, and an increase of 1,561,000 bushels the same week a year ago.

The local market remains stagnant with almost no business doing, owing to the delay in the movement of the new crop, which continues to be held back by the unpropitious weather preventing threshing. Prices are unchanged on the week, a little old 1 hard changing hands at \$9 to \$9 1/4c spot Fort William. 2 hard and 1 northern. 3c less than 1 hard, and 3 hard 10 to 11c less than 1 hard, all in store Fort William. Low grade wheat is various prices according to sample and grade, but sales have been made as follows: Tough 2 hard 75c, tough 3 hard 67c, tough 3 northern 65c, all in store King's elevator Fort Arthur.

FLOUR—There is a steady demand for flour at unchanged prices. We quote: Ogilvie's Hungarian, \$2.30 per sack of 48 lbs. Glenora Patent, \$2.15; Lake of the Woods, Five Roses, \$2.30. Patent, \$2.15; Medora, \$1.70, and XXXX \$1.35 per sack.

MILLFEED—Demand is moderate and prices unchanged from a week ago. Bran in bulk is worth \$12.50 per ton, and shorts \$11.50, delivered here.

GROUND FEED—Prices maintain their previous level and the small supply of coarse grains is keeping the volume of sales down to a very low point. We quote: Oat chop, \$25 per ton. barley chop, \$21.50, mixed barley and oats, \$22; corn chop, \$22; oil cake, \$26 per ton.

WHEAT—The very backward state of threshing operations is keeping down country deliveries to small proportions. At many of the buying points nothing at all has been done yet.

OATS—Like all other grains oats show very little movement at present. Receipts here from country points are the smallest they have been for some time and dealers find difficulty keeping up their supplies. There is, however, only a hand to mouth demand as nobody wants to buy a quantity at present figures. New oats have hardly begun to arrive. Considerable correspondence has passed between city dealers and country shippers regarding new oats and quite a few cars are booked to arrive, but so long as the wet weather continues there can be no movement to speak of. The outlook for oats is certainly gloomy. Wet, as they are, no one will want to store them in large quantities as they would not keep through a warm spell. The trade had one experience of trying to store damp oats and they do not want another. We quote carlots on track here worth 40 to 42c per bushel.

BARLEY—New barley has scarcely even been talked off yet, much less offered for purchase and there is nothing at all doing. Old barley has long been out of the market.

COIN—There is some demand for feed grades at 18 1/2 to 50c per bushel in carlots on track here.

HAY—The hay business is in bad shape. Some of the leading hay districts are partially under water and the stacks are everywhere completely soaked. Balers find it increasingly difficult to carry on their work as they cannot move their machines about, the ground is so wet. Many of the stacks are said to be more or less rotted by the rains. One man reports that he threw down several feet of one stack and found the hay completely rotten as far as he went. This would seem to indicate that marketable hay will be scarce. Others, again, report that they have plenty of good hay. The price in the city has advanced this week about \$1.50 per ton, which shows that the feeling is very firm. We quote: Fresh baled hay, in cars on track, \$8.00 to \$8.50 per ton. Loose hay, on street, \$5 to \$10. There is very little loose hay offering owing to the bad roads.

BUTTER—Creamery—There is a good demand for creamery butter for shipment and the city trade is also taking some. Choice September makes are now worth 22c per pound at the factories, an advance of about 2c over a week ago. Earlier makes do not sell so well. About 20 to 21c is the ruling price for held stock.

BUTTER—Dairy—There is nothing new to note. Offerings are fairly large, but the quality is not very choice as a rule. In fact there is no really choice dairy butter obtainable at city warehouses. We quote 12 to 11c per pound for all offerings according to quality, commission basis.

CHEESE—The feeling is somewhat weaker this week although prices here remain unchanged. The make in Manitoba has been large this year. Factory cheese is worth 9 1/2 to 10c per pound, delivered here, and dairy cheese 9c to 9 1/2c.

EGGS—Dealers are quoting 12 to 12 1/2c per dozen for case eggs, delivered here, subject to candling.

VEGETABLES—Bad country roads are retarding deliveries of potatoes, and prices are at a comparatively high level, having advanced 5c per bushel since a week ago. We quote: Potatoes, 40c to 45 cents per bushel. rhubarb, 20c per dozen. lettuce, 10c per dozen. parsley, 20c; green onions and radish, 10c per doz.; carrots, 10c; beets, 10c per dozen; turnips, 25c per bus.; cabbage, 25c to 40c per dozen. ripe tomatoes, 3c per lb; imported tomatoes, 3 1/2c per basket green tomatoes, 3 1/2c per bushel; celery, 20c per dozen.

DRESSED MEATS—In plentiful supply. We quote: Choice beef, 5c to 6c per lb. veal, 6 to 8c. mutton, 9 to 10c; lamb, 10 to 11c, hog 7 1/2 to 7 3/4c.

DRESSED POULTRY—Poultry is in a little better supply at steady prices. Live hens are worth 9c per pound, dressed fowl, 10c; dressed chickens, 12c. ducks, live weight, 8c; dressed, 10c; turkeys, live, 10c, dressed, 13c.

GAME—Wild ducks are scarce in this market. Dealers pay 25 to 30c per pair, according to size and vari-