

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, Jan. 30

Dullness is the most prominent feature of business. There is hardly an exception to this in any direction. Jobbers are doing very little business, the grain trade is flat, and in produce and miscellaneous lines there is very little business, and receipts of produce and grain from the country are very small. Of course this is the dull season of the year, and in general wholesale trade business is always expected to be quiet at this time of the year. This year the dullness has been increased in the grain and produce lines by the bad country roads. The unusual depth of snow this winter, and the unusual number of wind storms has left country roads in an almost impassable state, and the outlook for the next six weeks or so is therefore not favorable to brisk business. Next month (February) wholesalers will begin shipping out spring stocks, but they do not expect much in the way of new business for some weeks. The Railways have had a hard time of it this winter. Railway men say it has been the worst winter they have had since railways were first operated in this country, and the lines have been kept open only with great difficulty. Collections have been slow lately, but they were very good the early part of the season. The cold snap which set in here last week, extended all over the West, and was very severe in the range country this week, but no information has come to hand regarding stock on the ranges. They have had a long spell of fine weather, and cattle were consequently in good shape to stand a few days of rough weather. Here the weather has been moderate since Tuesday last.

The total number of business failures in Canada this week is 56. Last week the total was 57, and last year it was 63, while in the week two years ago it was 56, and the corresponding period of 1891 it was 41.

Bradstreet's says of the situation in the United States this week: "There have been increased sales of hides and leather, in some instances of shoes, of coal, fertilizers, and southern pig iron for export. Eastern and middle state iron and steel industries are in an unsatisfactory condition, but southern furnaces announce nearly 12,000 tons of iron sold for export, with Russia in the market as a would-be buyer. The heavy business in raw wool within a fortnight continues, and there is still an active demand."

At New York yesterday call money was quoted at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  per cent., prime mercantile paper 3 to 4 per cent., bar silver  $61\frac{1}{2}$ ¢, Mexican dollars. 50 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Jan. 30.

[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.]

**CORWOOD**—The Winnipeg city council has accepted the tender of M. P. Peterson for green cut dry poplar at \$3.25, dry cut poplar at \$2.95, and dry cut Jack pine at \$1.10 per cord, delivered in the city. John Swanson's tender was for tamarac at \$5, half cord \$2.75; jack pine \$1, half cord \$2.25; poplar \$3.25, half cord \$1.75. There was one other tender, that of J. G. Hargrave, for poplar, season cut, \$3.35; jack

pine, season cut, \$1.50; dry cut \$1.25; tamarac, \$5, all delivered in the city as required. These tenders give a good idea of values, including cost of hauling by teams from the railways. Pine is held about \$3.50 for cars on track here; tamarac, \$1.25 per cord on track, and poplar at \$2.50 to \$2.75. Prices delivered to consumers about 75¢ advance on these quotations.

**COAL**—The cold weather this week has increased the demand, and coal dealers did more business the earlier part of this week and closing days of last week, than they did for some time previous. Prices are the same. Prices here are as follows: Pennsylvania anthracite \$10.00; western anthracite, \$9.50 per ton. Souris coal \$1.50 ton; Lethbridge \$6.50. These prices are delivered to consumers in Winnipeg. Car lots on track of Souris coal are held at \$3.85 to 3.90 per ton here, or \$1.50 per ton on cars at the mines.

**GREEN FRUITS**—California oranges and lemons are coming in freely, and the lemons are said to be fine stock. The severe weather this week has made it difficult to handle fruit and business is consequently quiet. Prices are as follows: Apples, (\$2.25 to \$2.50 per barrel as to quality. Mexican oranges, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per box; California navel, \$1.50 to \$1.75 per box; California seedling oranges \$3.75 to \$1.00 per box; Messina lemons, \$5 to \$5.25 per box; California lemons, \$1.50 box; Cape Cod cranberries, frozen, \$5 to \$5.50 per barrel; Malaga grapes, \$3.50 per keg; bananas, \$2.75 to \$3.50 per bunch; sweet potatoes, \$1.50 to \$5 per barrel; dates,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  to 7¢ lb.; figs, 13 to 15¢ lb. for layers.

**NUTS**—Tarragona almonds, 16¢; Sicily filberts, large, 15¢. filberts ordinary, 12¢, peanuts, roasted, 12¢; peanuts, green, 9¢. Ontario butternuts 9¢; Ontario Walnuts 6¢; hickory nuts, 10; Grenoble walnuts, 15¢; French walnuts, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ lb.

**DRUGS**—Prices here for parcel lots are as follows, with liberal reductions for large orders: Alum per pound,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4¢; alcohol, \$5.25 gallon; bleaching powder per pound; 6 to 8¢; bluestone, 5 to 7¢; borax 11 to 13 cents; bromide potash, 65 to 75¢, camphor, 85 to 95¢; camphor, ounces 90 to 1.00; carbolic acid, 40 to 65¢; castor oil, 11 to 15¢; chlorate potash, 28 to 55¢; citric acid, 55 to 65¢. copperas  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4¢; cocaine, per oz., \$6.50 to \$7.00; cream tartar, per pound, 30 to 35¢; cloves, 20 to 25¢; epsom salts,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 4¢; extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 18¢; do., boxes, 18 to 20¢; German quinine, 40 to 50¢; glycerine, per pound, 30 to 35¢; ginger, Jamaica, 30 to 35¢; do., African, 20 to 25¢; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 45 to 55¢; iodine, \$5.50 to 6.00; insect powder, 35 to 40¢; morphia sul., \$1.90 to \$2.25. Opium, \$1.50 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 3.25; oil, peppermint, \$1.00 to \$1.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.50 to \$1 per gallon as to brand; oxalic acid, 13 to 16¢; potassium iodide, \$1.25 to 1.50; Paris green, 18 to 20¢ lb.; saltpetre; 10 to 12¢; sal rochelle 30 to 35¢; shellac, 45 to 50¢, sulphur flowers,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 5¢; sulphur roll, per keg,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 5¢; soda bicarb, per keg of 112 pounds, \$3.75 to \$4.25; sal soda, \$2 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55¢; strychnine, pure crystals 80¢ to \$1.00 per oz.

**FLUID BEEF, ETC.**—Following are prices of the goods put up by the Johnston Fluid Beef Company of Montreal:—Johnstons Fluid Beef—No. 1, 2-oz. tins, per dozen, \$2.70; No. 2 4oz., \$1.50; No. 3, 8oz., \$7.63; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.63; No. 5, 2 lb., \$21.30. Staminol—2oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do, 4oz. \$5.10.

**FISH**—Prices are as follows:—Finnan Haddies, 7¢ per lb.; Whitefish, 6¢; Lake Superior trout, 9¢; Pickerel, 4¢; salmon, 12¢ halibut, 12¢; Cod, 8¢; Haddock, 8¢ per lb.; smelts 10¢; herring 25¢ per dozen; Oysters, \$1.60 per gallon for standards, \$1.80 for selects, and \$2 to \$2.25 for extra selects and counts; shell oysters, \$8 per barrel; smoked salmon, 15¢ lb.; bloaters, \$1.25 to \$1.40 box; red herring, 20¢ box; pickled trout, \$7.50 per barrel of 100 lbs; pickled whitefish, \$6 per barrel; salt herring \$3.50 per half barrel; boneless fish, 5¢ lb.

**HARDWARE**—It is considered to be wise policy for dealers in this branch to buy carefully at present and only in such quantities as are required to meet their immediate wants. In view of possible tariff changes in the near future, it would no doubt be good policy for dealers to reduce their stocks as low as possible. It is not at all likely that any tariff changes which may be made will have any influence toward advancing prices, while it is possible that lower prices on some lines may be brought about through tariff changes. Any changes made in the tariff will undoubtedly be in the direction of lower duties, and consequently the tendency is toward lower prices on some lines in which tariff changes are possible. Some lines notably wire-nails, have already declined sharply.

Prices are as follows:

**TIN**, lamb and 56 and 28 lb. ingots, per lb. 19 to 20¢.

**TIN PLATES**—Charcoal plates, I. C., 10 by 14, 12 by 12 and 14 by 20, per box, \$1.50 to \$1.75; I. X., same sizes, per box, \$5.75 to \$6; I. C. charcoal, 26 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$9.00 to 9.25; I. X., per box, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$11.00 to 11.20.

**TERNE PLATES**—I. C., 20 by 28, \$9.00 to 9.25.

**IRON AND STEEL**—Bar iron, per 100 lbs. base price, \$2.35 to \$2.50; band iron, per 100 lbs., \$2.35 to 3.00; Swedish iron, per 100 lbs.; \$5.25 to 6; sleigh shoe steel, \$3.00 to 3.25; best cast tool steel, per lb. 9 to 11¢; Russian sheet, per lb. 12 to 13¢.

**SHEET IRON**—10 to 20 gauge, \$3.00, 22 to 24 and 26 gauge, \$3.25; 28 gauge, \$3.50.

**CANADA PLATES**—Garth and Blaina, \$3.10

**GALVANIZED IRON**—American, 20 gauge, \$1.00; 22 and 24 gauge, \$1.25; 26 gauge \$1.50; 28 gauge, \$1.75 per 100 lbs.

**IRON PIPE**—50 to per 60 cent. off list.

**LEAD**—Pig, per lb., 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢.

**SHEET ZINC**—In casks, 5.75 lb., broken lots, 6.00.

**SOLDER**—Half and half (guar) per lb, 14 to 16¢.

**AMMUNITION**—Cartridges—Rim fire pistol, American, discount, 40 per cent.; rim fire cartridges, Dominion, 50 and 5; rim fire military, American, not list; central fire pistol and rifle, American, 12 per cent.; central fire cartridge, Dominion, 30 per cent.; shot shells, 12 gauge, \$6 to 7.50; shot, Canadian, soft, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢; shot, Canadian, chilled, 6¢.

**WIRE**—Galvanized barb wire, plain twisted wire and staples, \$3.25 per 100 lbs.

**ROPE**—Sisal, per lb.,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  to 8¢ base; manilla, per lb.,  $9\frac{1}{2}$  to 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ base; cotton,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch and larger, 15¢ lb.

**AXES**—Per box, \$6.00 to 9.00.

**NAILS**—Cut, per keg, base price, \$2.88 for 60 d. with usual extras; common steel wire nails, 3 to 6 inch, \$3.20 per keg;  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inch, \$3.33, with usual extras for smaller sizes.