

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, May 16, 1896.

Another week of showery weather has had a dampening effect on business, though trade has been fairly brisk in some branches. Country roads are in very bad shape and farm work has suffered further serious delays. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week show an increase of 16½ per cent over the like week of 1895. There were 31 business failures reported throughout Canada this week. Last week the total was 38, and in the same week one year ago it was 28.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, May 16.

[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.]

**DRUGS.**—Cream of tartar has taken a turn downward dropping about 2s abroad. Glycerine is firm. Following prices are for parcels and will be shaded for full package orders: Alum per pound, 3½ to 4½c; alcohol, \$5.25 gal; ble ching powder, per pound; 6 to 8c; bluestone, 4½ to 5c; blue vitrol, 5 to 8c; borax 11 to 18c; bromide potash, 65 to 75c; camphor, 85 to 95c; camphor, ounces 90 to 1.00; carbolic acid, 40 to 65c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chloride potash, 23 to 35c; citric acid, 55 to 55c. copperas 3½ to 4c; cocaine, per oz., \$3.50 to \$7.00; cream tartar, per pound, 28 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; epsom salts, 3½ to 4c, extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 18c; do., boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 40 to 50c; glycerine, per pound, 30 to 35c; ginger, Jamaica, 30 to 35c; do., African, 20 to 25c; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 45 to 55c; iodine, \$5.50 to 6.00, insect powder, 35 to 40c; 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 \$2.25 to 2.75; oil, peppermint, \$1.00 to \$1.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.25 to 3.25 per gallon; oxalica acid, 18 to 16 potass iodide, \$1.25 to 1.50; paris green, 18 to 20c lb; saltpetre, 10 to 12c; sal rochelle, 30 to 35c; shellac, 45 to 50c; sulphur flowers, 3½ to 5c; sulphur roll, per keg, 3½ to 5c; soda bicarb, per keg of 112 pounds, \$3.75 to \$1.25; sal soda, \$2 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55c; strychnine, pure crystals 80c to \$1.00 per oz.

**GREEN FRUITS.**—Oranges hold firm. Naval oranges are becoming scarce, and few if any more will be brought in the season for them being about over. California Mediterranean sweets are now in. A few Ben Davis apples have been offering at \$7 per barrel. Strawberries are arriving fairly freely now, and sell at \$1.50 per case. Native pie plant is beginning to come in and prices are dropping fast. Other lines are about the same. Prices are: Lemons Messinas \$4 to \$1.75 per box; California navel oranges \$1.75 to \$5.00 per box; California seedlings, \$3.75 to \$1.00; California Mediterranean sweet oranges, \$1.50 per box; Bananas, \$2.50 to \$3.50 per bunch as to size, a few very small bunches sell as low as \$2.00; strawberries, \$1.50 per case; pineapples, \$3.50 to \$5 per dozen as to size; Apple cider, 35c per gallon, in 30 gallon barrels; comb honey \$5.25 per case of 24 sections. New maple sugar, 12c per lb; maple syrup, \$1.10 per wine gallon, in gallon tins; pie plant, \$1.00 to \$1.25 per box of 50 pounds.

## GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

**WHEAT.**—GENERAL SITUATION. — Prices in leading markets here ranged about the same as last week. Crop reports have been the principal feature of the markets. There have been reports of damage in the winter wheat states by chinch bugs, and wet weather in the hard spring wheat districts has

delayed seeding operations, but otherwise crop reports have been favorable, and European crop reports are very favorable. Exports of wheat, flour included, from both coasts of the United States this week, amount to 1,827,000 bus., compared with 1,882,000 bus. last week; 2,397,000 bus. in the corresponding week one year ago; 2,210,000 bush. two years ago, and as compared with 8,895,000 in the like week in 1893.

**WHEAT.**—LOCAL SITUATION.—Holders are generally firm and refuse to make concessions to induce business, consequently very little trading has been done. Receipts at Fort William for the week ended May 9 were 231,903 bushels; shipments 625,149; in store 3,821,000 bushels. Stocks in store a year ago were 530,000, and two years ago 1,513,998 bushels, an acre years ago 3,353,000. Receipts at Fort William for the corresponding week last year were 27,304 bushels and shipments 102,470 bushels. Heavy shipments were being made from Fort William this week, so that the next statement will show a further large reduction in stocks. No. 1 hard wheat was held most of the week at 61c, delivery afloat Fort William, but there were very few buyers, and with the drop in prices yesterday (Friday) buyers' views were about ½c lower. No. 2 hard sold on Thursday at 62c and No. 3 hard at 59c, afloat Fort William, but yesterday, after the decline, was nominally ½ to 1c lower.

**FLOUR.**—Prices are still unchanged. Sales by millers here are made at \$1.85 to \$1.90 for patents and \$1.65 to \$1.70 for strong bakers per sack of 98 pounds, delivered to city retail dealers; second bakers \$1.40 to \$1.45; XXXX \$1.15 to \$1.20, delivered. Brands of country mills are offered at 5 to 10c under these quotations.

**MILLSTUFFS.**—City mills are still selling at \$8 per ton for bran and \$10 for shorts, delivered in the city, in small lots.

**OATS.**—There is scarcely any movement in oats at all. In Manitoba values are nominally about the same. We quote car lots on track, country points at 10 cents to 13 cents as to quality and freight rates. In the Winnipeg market, for local consumption, about 18c per bushel of 31 pounds would be paid to farmers, but none coming in owing to bad roads. Cars could be bought on track Winnipeg, local freights paid, at 18 to 19c per bushel as to grade.

**BARLEY.**—There is no movement. We quote car lots nominal at 13 to 15c, in the country for No. 3 and under. For local trade 17 to 18c would be paid, per bushel of 48 pounds, for loads, to farmers.

**WHEAT.**—Local farmers' market.—The price paid at the city mills for farmers' loads is nominal at 50c per bushel of 60 pounds for best quality.

**GROUND FEED.** Prices range from \$10 to \$12 per ton, as to quality, the top price for rolled oat feed, and the lowest price for mixed mill feed.

**OATMEAL.**—Rolled oatmeal is selling at about \$1.25 per sack of 80 pounds in broken lots to retail dealers.

**OIL CAKE.**—Oil cake holds at \$16 per ton, including bags, for nutted or ground meal.

**BUTTER.**—Scarcely any creamery has been offering yet. The continued wet weather and bad roads which have prevailed this spring, is delaying the factories in starting, as the roads are so bad that it involves too great labor to gather the milk or cream. A few factories are working on a very small scale. The grass is making a fine start and in a few days the grazing will be good, so that by the time the roads have a chance to dry up, there should be a liberal supply of cream for the factories, which will be starting up within a week or ten days. The outlook is not very bright for butter at the

moment. Creamery is selling at 14 to 14½ in Montreal, equal to say 13c here. British Columbia markets are now being supplied with fresh California butter, but they will soon be abundantly supplied with fresh grass butter from Manitoba. We quote dairy butter jobbing here at 9 to 13c as to quality. Best rolls jobbing at 12c, and very slow sale.

**CHEESE.**—A few new fodder cheese have been peddled around at about 8c, but only a very few would be taken. Old cheese is offering at 6 to 9c in a jobbing way, as to quality, some pretty poor lots being held.

**EGGS.**—Unchanged since our last quotation. Dealers and packers are paying 8c, and the jobbing price is 9c.

**LARD.**—Prices are: Pure \$1.80 for 20 lb. nails, and \$1.50 for 50 lb. pails; pure leaf lard in 5, 5 and 10 pound tins, quoted at \$6.50 per case of 60 pounds, tierces 8½c pound; cases of 30, one lb. tins, \$3.60.

**CURED MEATS.**—For canvassed meats, add ½c per pound to prices below. Smoked meats are quoted: Hams, assorted sizes, 10½c; breakfast bacon, bellies, 11c; do., backs, 10c; picnic hams, 8c; short spiced rolls, 7½c long rolls, 7½c; shoulders, 7c smoked long clear, 8½c; Fancy clear, 8½c; smoked jowls, 5½c. Dry salt meats are quoted: Long clear bacon, 7c per lb; shoulders, 6c; backs, 8c; barrel pork, heavy mess \$13.00; clear mess \$13.00; short cut, \$16.00; rolled shoulders, \$14 per barrel. Pork sundries; fresh sausage, 7c; bologna sausage, 6c; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 10c per package; pickled hocks, 2½c; pickled tongues, 5c; sausage casings, 30c lb.

**DRESSED MEATS.**—Prices are about the same. We quote city dressed beef at 5 to 5½c, a little fancy beef bringing a fraction higher. Fresh mutton sells at 9 to 10c. There is a little frozen, cold storage mutton, which is going at 6 to 7c. Country dressed hogs 4½ to 5c, Veal, 5 to 6½c.

**POULTRY.**—Prices are: Chickens, 12c per lb; turkeys, 14c; geese 12c; ducks 10c per lb, for nicely dressed stock.

**VEGETABLES.**—Following are prices on the street market: Potatoes, 12 to 15c per bushel, scarcely any sale for potatoes; cabbage 40 to 75c per dozen, as to size; celery 25 to 40c per dozen bunches; onions 40c per bushel; turnips 10 to 15c per bushel; parsnips, 40 to 50c bushel; carrots 30 to 40c; beets 25c bushel.

**HIDES, TALLOW, ETC.**—Prices irregular. The decline reported last week is not general, as some buyers are still paying 4c for No. 1 green hides. Shearling sheepskins are almost worthless, as they will hardly pay freight at present prices. Pickled sheepskins wool off, have sold as low as 75c per dozen east, so that the skins are worth very little here after shearing. We quote: Green city hides, No. 1, 3½ to 4c, No. 2, 3c; calf, 3 to 15 lb. skins, 4 and 6c per lb; deacons 15 to 20c each; kips 3 to 4c; sheep and lambskins 50 to 65c; clips 3 to 5c; tallow 3½ to 4c rendered and 2c rough.

**WOOL.**—About 9c is paid for the few lots so far arriving here and we quote 7 to 9c as to quality. Scarcely any coming yet.

**HAY.**—The wet weather this week and almost impassable condition of the roads has started another boom in hay. The weather has been too wet to allow of baling in the country and the roads have been so bad that farmers have not been able to haul loads into the city, consequently supplies are light. Hay has sold here at \$10 per ton for baled prairie, and was scarce at that.

## LIVE STOCK.

About 1,000 cattle were handled at the yards here this week, besides the usual supply for the local market. Gordon & Ironside