

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, Nov. 12.

The fine weather of last week was broken by a general snow storm the first of this week, followed by a few days of wintry weather, but the closing days of the week have been quite mild again. Reports from the country indicate that the snow did not stop threshing. The snow came dry with frosty weather, so that it would not wet the stacks. Reports from the country, however, indicate that threshing was well advanced by the close of last week, in some sections the work having been nearly completed. The turn to more wintry weather improved business somewhat throughout the country, and a noticeable increase in the marketing of wheat has also been apparent this week, as the frosty weather put a stop to plowing. Moderately wintry weather would now be preferred to a break-up, and with continued frosty weather grain deliveries will keep up actively. Prices of wheat in Manitoba country markets were reduced 1c the first of the week, and held at the reduction during the week. As the time for the closing of navigation is drawing near, there is naturally a downward tendency in grain prices. Most of the grain purchased after this date will be subject to winter storage charges, or winter freight rates if shipped out after the close of navigation. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week were again nearly three-quarters of a million under the corresponding week of last year, but about half a million larger than for the like week of 1896.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Winnipeg, Saturday, Nov. 12

(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.)

FISH.

Haddies have now arrived in car lots and prices are much lower. Oysters have declined sharply about 25 cents per gallon. Shell oysters are now offering. The variety of fish in the market is widening as usual at this season.

FUEL.

There is no change in wood fuel, which is in fair demand. Coal also remains the same. The new Crow's Nest mines coal is now regularly quoted in this market, at \$7.50 per ton delivered to consumers and is highly spoken of as to quality.

GROCERIES.

Business has been quieter this week than had been expected, but an improvement is looked for at once. There are as usual a few changes in prices. In canned goods, peaches have advanced 25c per case and raspberries are higher, showing an advance

of 15c. Cohoe salmon are also again advanced. In dried fruits, cooking figs have been advanced 1-2c again this week, making an advance of 3c in two weeks. Valencia raisins have declined 25c a box to \$1.50 to \$1.60 and Valencia layers are 10c lower. Old stocks of raisins are exhausted. Dried apples are very firm and quoted 1-2c higher. Rolled oatmeal is 5c higher owing to the increased cost of laying it down here from the States, whence stocks now held here have been drawn.

GREEN FRUITS.

California oranges are out of the market. A few small sample lots of Mexican oranges have been received, and the quality is pronounced good. Lemons are firm at unchanged prices. Apples hold very firm. Fall apples are about cleared up, though a few may still be had. Fancy fancy stock are also about out. Good winter sorts have an upward tendency. Cranberries have sold lower locally, but prices in outside markets are higher, and it would cost \$1 per barrel higher than late purchases, to lay down new stock here. Ontario grapes are coming to a close of their season. New California figs are offering at \$2 per box. New shelled walnuts have been received. Prices are: Bananas per bunch, \$2.50 to \$3.00 as to size. California lemons \$7 to \$7.50 per box; Malaga lemons \$5.50 a box; Oregon winter Nellis pears, \$2.50 to \$2.75 per box; Ontario apples fall, \$2.50 to \$2.75 per bbl.; winter stock, \$3.25 to 3.50 as to variety; snows \$3.50; fancy fancy \$4 to \$4.25; Washington box apples, \$1.25 per 50-lb box; California grapes \$2.50 to \$2.75 for four basket crates; Ontario grapes, 10-lb. baskets, white Niagara 35c; Rogers 40c per basket; Almeria grapes \$9 a keg; cranberries, Cape Cod \$8 bbl., some have sold at cut rates as low as \$7.50; sweet potatoes \$5 per bbl.; coconuts, \$1 a doz.; Selly suberts, large, 11 to 12c per pound; Grenoble walnuts, 11c; Tarragona almonds, 12 1-2 to 13c; peanuts, green, 10c; roasted, 12c; pecans, 14 to 15c; shelled walnuts, 24 1-2 to 26c lb.; strained honey, 7 1-2 to 10c per pound; maple sugar, 11 to 12c; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels California figs, in boxes of ten bricks, \$2 per box.

HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.

In this market, the principal feature is a further advance in turpentine of 3c per gallon, making the price in barrels 63c. The market is firm. Double thick window glass has been advanced 10 per cent. above last quotations. It is now quoted at 15 per cent. discount instead of 25 per cent. as formerly, in case lots. Glass generally continues very firm, and a further advance is still looked for. The loss of a steamship bound to Montreal with a large cargo of glass, cement, etc., has further strengthened the already strong market for these two commodities. Linseed oil is very firm. It is feared the supply of seed obtainable here this year will not be sufficient for the local market. There will certainly not be sufficient to keep the mill running fully. An advance is looked for in oil. The market for heavy goods generally is firm, as usual toward the close of navigation.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—Another period of uncertainty and nervousness has characterized the wheat markets the past week. The previous week closed with an

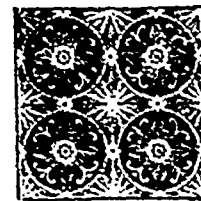
easy feeling and lower prices, and political matters in Europe seemed fairly quiet. The week opened with the prospect in view of Lord Salisbury making an important speech in London at the Lord Mayor's banquet on the evening of Nov. 9th, and the chance of his saying something that would provoke another war scare caused the markets to firm up and advance slightly, and sellers to hold on to their wheat. With Thursday morning the news was over the world that the prime minister's speech might be looked upon as rather reassuring than the signal for fresh alarm, and consequently the market declined right away and wheat lost from 3-4c to 11-1c per bushel. Yesterday the markets acted in a very sudden and unexpected manner. They opened lower as was generally anticipated, Liverpool being 5-8d down and the United States markets slightly lower than Thursday's close. The decline in Liverpool and on this side seemed to have started active buying for export and this rallied all markets in good shape, so that Liverpool closed 1-8d to 5-8d higher than Thursday, and the American markets averaged 3-4c higher at the close, thus gaining about 1c per bushel on the week.

The local market has been generally very firm, especially for wheat on spot at Fort William. Last Saturday sales were made at 70c basis 1 hard Fort William, for delivery by Nov. 15, but on Monday the tone was firmer and basis 1 hard was at 71c buyers. On Tuesday there were no United States markets, owing to the state elections being held, and in the absence of quotations little business was done here, but holders of wheat remained firm and not disposed to sell anything. Wednesday prices were higher in accord with outside markets and the tendency to hold and await developments was more pronounced. Some sales were made at 72c basis 1 hard Fort William, delivery first half November, and 4c less for 2 hard or 1 northern. On Thursday, with the

WHY NOT BE SURE

Of permanent beauty in your interior finish?

You can have it by using our



**Metallic
Ceilings
and Walls**

They suit any room, are economical, easily applied, fire-proof and sanitary, and make the most handsome, longest lasting finish you can find.

Make up your mind in their favor—we will send an estimate on receipt of outline showing the shape and measurement of your walls and ceilings.

Metallic Roofing Company, Ltd.

1195 King Street W., Toronto

THOS. BLACK, WINNIPEG AGENT