

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, Nov. 26.

Decidedly wintry weather set in at the beginning of the week, and the weather has remained cold ever since. This change has been gladly received by the dry goods, clothing and fur branches, etc. Cold weather early in the season is always desired by these branches of trade. If the weather keeps mild until a late date in the season, the consumption of heavy winter goods is always greatly curtailed. People will buy winter goods much more freely when cold weather sets in early than when it is late in the season before severe weather is experienced. The colder and somewhat stormy weather curtailed the deliveries of wheat in the country this week. Probably the lower prices now being paid also operated to the same effect. The large grain companies were trying to bring about further reduction in the price of wheat paid to farmers at country points, owing to colder weather and expected early closing of navigation, but prices have not been materially lower than was paid last week. There is some figuring on keeping up an export wheat trade via the all rail routes after the close of navigation, but dealers say wheat is costing too high to admit of all rail exports. There is a good demand for men for the woods, to get out saw logs, railway ties and cordwood; also for railway construction work, so that labor is well employed.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Winnipeg, Saturday, Nov. 26

(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.

Business is quiet in wholesale drugs and dealers are grumbling a little in consequence. There have been no radical changes in quotations, but we notice that the recent decline in cod liver oil holds good and will likely do so for some time. The demand is not very brisk and stocks are ample, hence the weakness. Vanilla beans are advancing in price in primary markets, and so is camphor. Ginger, pepper and allspice are also moving up. Mace is scarce and firm and quinine has advanced in the east.

FISH.

Flannan haddies are now quoted at 8c straight, express lots, which have hitherto been quoted at 10c, being out of the market now. A lot of haddies were destroyed this week as being unfit for use, but regular dealers are having no difficulty in this respect and their goods are in fine condition. Bloaters are in the market at \$1.50 per box. For other quotations which remain unchanged see our list on another page.

GROCERIES.

There are a number of changes in prices this week. Tomatoes have been

advanced 10c and are still very firm. Tomatoes have been selling here at less than the cost to lay down, owing to the advance at the factories east, and Winnipeg prices are still comparatively low on this line. Canned meats are again easier. Corn beef is again reduced 10c. Oatmeal is easy. B. rice is 1-1c lower. Nuts are firmer. Dried fruits are firm on almost everything. Both evaporated and dried apples have been advanced 1-2c and these lines are very firm. Evidently the high prices of last year's crop will prevail on this crop. Last year very little new fruit was put on the market, but there was a great deal of old fruit carried over by eastern holders from previous years. Fruit which had been well kept in cold storage was re-packed in some cases, and no doubt much of this was worked off as new goods. These old stocks have been largely worked off, and with another light apple crop, the high prices are being maintained. Loose Muscatel raisins have been advanced 1-4c, in sympathy with the higher prices in California, where the market is very strong, as previously reported. Valentias have been advanced 5c per box. Currants are quoted 1-4c higher all around. Some further advances have also been made on figs, as will be seen by the prices quoted on another page. Some new California prunes are coming in, but purchases have not been liberal yet, on account of the higher prices quoted on these goods. Cured meats have a lower tendency. New price lists on meats show a reduction of about 1-2c all around.

GREEN FRUITS.

In oranges the new California navels, referred to last week, have been received, and Mexican oranges are also offering. Apples are firm. Choice spies have been advanced to \$4 per barrel. Fall varieties are out. California grapes are out of the market. Prices are: New California navel oranges \$5 to \$5.50, as to size; Mexican oranges \$5 box; bananas per bunch, \$2.50 to \$3 as to size. California lemons \$7 per box; Malaga lemons \$5.50 a box; Oregon winter Nellis pears, \$2.50 to \$2.75 per box; Ontario apples, ordinary winter stock, \$3.25 to \$3.50. Fancy spies, \$4 per barrel; Almeria grapes \$8 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.; Sicily filberts, large, 11 to 12c per pound; Grenoble walnuts, 14c; 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, \$1.2 to 9c per pound; maple sugar, 11 to 12 apple cider 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels; California figs, in boxes of ten bricks, \$2 per box; celery, 40c dozen bunches.

HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.

The only change this week is another advance on glass of 15c per 50 feet. The inside price is now \$2.25 per 50 feet. There has been a corresponding advance on double glass, which is now quoted at 10 per cent off list quotations. The advance has now amounted to 33 1-3 per cent altogether. Cement is very firm east on account of light stocks. The general tendency of prices is strong all around on heavy goods.

LUMBER.

Dealers report a good demand right up to date. Owing to the bad roads early in the season, farmers could not

haul lumber in some cases, and they have been buying freely since the roads froze up.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

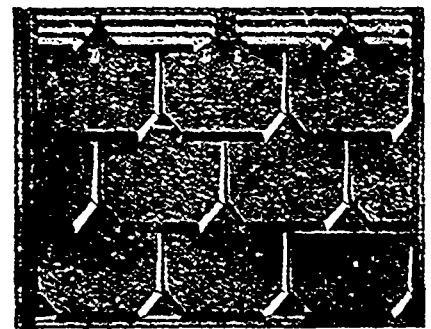
WHEAT—This has been another week of uncertainty in the wheat markets. Political matters in Europe have been quiet enough, and there has been nothing to prompt an upward movement from anything outside the trade itself, but the situation in the Chicago December deal has caused considerable nervousness. The stock of contract wheat in Chicago is very small, and on Monday and Tuesday the shorts in the December option, in making efforts to cover their short sales, raised the market a little bit, and all other markets responded in sympathy. The feeling is decidedly easier at the end of the week, and all markets closed yesterday at about an average of 1-2c per bushel over a week ago. A large primary movement of wheat continues in the United States and the demand for export and milling continues on an extensive scale. The world's visible supply increased last week 7,200,000 bushels, which is a substantial increase. A feature of the week is the publication by the London Times, of its estimate of a surplus available for export from this season's Argentine crop, (now being harvested,) of 66,000,000 bushels. As Argentine exported only 24,000,000 bushels last year, this is a matter of significance to the trade. At the same time the Liverpool Corn Trade News, estimates the exportable surplus of this season's Argentine crop at 37,000,000 bushels. Very favorable reports continue to be received on the lately sown winter wheat crops in Europe and the United States, and if no serious deteriorating influence of a widespread character comes over these crops between now and harvest, there is prospect of an abundant supply next year again.

The local market has been dull. The

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