

THE BUSINESS SITUATION

Winnipeg, Saturday, May 13.

The weather has been more favorable for seeding this week, and a large portion of the wheat crop has been sown. On heavy, flat land, however, seeding is still very backward, and in some sections the land is so wet that seeding cannot be done to advantage even yet. In such districts the wheat area will certainly be curtailed. These districts, however, include only a limited portion of the total wheat area. The week closes with most unseasonable weather, with a cold dip almost unprecedented for the time of year.

Navigation opened at our Lake Superior ports the first of the week the first steamer having arrived at Port Arthur on Sunday last, May 7, and regular steamer lines are now running. Navigation also opened this week on Lake of the Woods, and active work will at once begin at the saw mills about the lake. The strike of grain shovellers and freight handlers at Buffalo will retard the movement of Manitoba wheat from our upper lake ports, otherwise there would, no doubt have been a brisk wheat movement forward as soon as navigation opened. Buffalo is already blockaded with wheat and there is no use forwarding any more that way until the strike is settled and the blockade relieved. The trouble at Buffalo will further emphasize the need of improving the Canadian route through to Montreal, so our grain can reach the seaboard via the latter port instead of going via Buffalo and New York.

The strike of carpenters continues in Winnipeg, causing delay in building operations. The strike, combined with the scarcity of some kinds of building material and consequent high prices, may lead to the postponement of some contemplated buildings until another season. Good residence buildings are scarce now in Winnipeg and rents have advanced 15 to 20 per cent this spring. The large immigration this season is regarded as hopeful for more rapid development of the country in the future. Some further new railway enterprises are projected, and work has been renewed on some lines where it was left off last fall.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Winnipeg, Saturday, May 13.

(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.

The drug business is comparatively quiet and prices steady. If anything there is an easier tendency in regard to prices. The rush of business which characterized this trade a few weeks ago is not so apparent now. For quotations see market page.

DRY GOODS.

The unseasonable weather is having a detrimental effect on this line. Orders are much smaller and fewer in number than they would be were the weather fine. Nevertheless the general results of the spring trade have been large and there is a strong undertone to the market. A very large summer and fall trade will be done if present expectations are realized. Woollens, tailors' supplies, shirts, etc., are the principal samples shown in fall goods so far.

FISH.

Fresh whitefish appeared in the market this week, but only in limited quantities. Some difficulty has been experienced at the lakes in securing supplies. Those in the market are from Lake Manitoba. It is expected that receipts will be much more liberal next week. The quotation for this fresh stock is 6c per pound. One city concern is supposed to hold some old stock yet. Trout is not yet in the market. This variety will be obtainable next week. Pickerel and pike will also be in next week as the close season ends on the 15th. Stocks of salt water fish are light. Haddock and cod are about done and no more is expected to arrive.

GREEN FRUITS.

As the season advances the movement of green fruits increases, and from now on the market will be more active. Lemons have excited the most interest this week. The sales at Montreal on the 5th and 10th inst. were largely attended. Winnipeg buyers bought heavily and it is stated that one Winnipeg house took the largest quantity bought west of Toronto. Oranges continue firm in California. Navels are about out, Mediterranean sweets and bloods are in season and in fair supply at quotations given below. Strawberries are quite plentiful now and are down to \$1.00 to \$5.00 per case. Bananas are steady and firm. The southern combination is said to be holding up prices. Cranberries are almost done. The maple sugar and syrup business has been a disappointment. Supplies are very light. A few tomatoes are coming in. Prices are:

Navel oranges, \$1.00 to \$1.50; seedlings \$3.25 to \$3.75, as to quality, per box; Mediterranean sweets, \$3.50 to \$4.00 per case; bloods, \$4.50 to \$5.00 per box; bananas per bunch, \$2.00 to \$2.25, as to size and quality; Messina lemons, fancy November cuts, long-keeping stock, \$3.75 per case, and 5 case lots, \$3.50; choice Messinas, \$3.00 per case, and in 5 case lots \$2.75; California lemons, \$3.75; apples, spies, \$6.50 per barrel; Washington box apples, \$2 box of 50 pounds; strawberries, per case, twenty-four one quart boxes, \$4.00 to \$5.00, cherries, \$2.75 per box; cranberries, \$8 per barrel; sweet potatoes, per barrel, \$5.50; cocoanuts in sacks of 100, \$5; Sicily filberts, large, 12c per lb.; Grenoble walnuts, 14c; new shelled walnuts, 25c; Tarragona almonds, 15c; peanuts, green, 9 to 5 1/2c; roasted, 12c; pecan nuts, 12c per lb.; comb honey, \$2 per dozen sections; strained honey, 8 1/2 to 9c per pound; orange marmalade in 7 lb. pails, 60c; maple sugar, 11c; maple syrup in gallon cans, \$1.10; apple cider, 35c per gallon in barrels and half barrels; fruit cider, put up in 10, 20 and 30 gallon kegs, per gallon, 40c; California figs, in boxes of ten bricks, \$1.25 per box; in 1 pound glove boxes, \$2.40 per dozen; dates 7c

per pound; native lettuce, radish, water cross, etc., per dozen bunches, 35c. California cabbage, 7c per pound; pieplant in 60 pound boxes, \$1.80; onions, 3 1/2c per pound.

GROCERIES.

Sugars are firm at the advance of last week. Beans in sacks are 5c per bushel lower. Japan rice is also slightly lower at 5 to 5 1/2c per bushel. Currants are lower owing to local competition. New provincials in barrels are now quoted at 5 1/4 to 5 3/4c as against 5 3/4 to 6c last week. In cases these are worth 5 1/8 to 5 1/2c now, as compared with 5 7/8 to 6 1/8c a week ago. Half barrels are quoted at 5 1/2 to 5 5/8c as against 5 7/8 to 6 1/8c last week. Fillaria currants in cases have declined 3/8 to 1/2c, and cleaned currants in cases are 1/4 to 1/2c lower. Fine off-stalk Valencia raisins are firmer at \$1.15 to \$1.50. Teas remain very firm. Wholesale houses are asking and getting from 2 to 4c more for India and Ceylon teas than they were a short time ago. The greatest advance is on low grades. New Japan teas are in the market at prices which range 10 per cent lower than last year's opening quotations. Other quotations are unchanged. For prices see market page.

HARDWARE.

The only changes to note in our list this week are more in the nature of revision than of actual change in values. Swedish iron is now given at \$5.00 to \$6.00 per 100 pounds, while fire steel has been changed from \$3.25 to \$3.50 per 100 pounds. Stamped tinware has been added to the list at 70 and 20 per cent. The advances of last week in the east have not affected the Winnipeg market yet. Stocks of heavy hardware in the city are low, owing to the large winter and spring demand. It is expected that with navigation open on the lakes some very large shipments will arrive shortly.

LUMBER.

Business has been quiet so far this season owing to wet weather and bad roads, as well as to the larger stocks carried over from last fall by country dealers, owing to the same trouble last fall. However, when farmers get through with their seeding and more settled weather sets in, an active business is looked for. Now that navigation has opened on the Lake of the Woods, the mills in that quarter will get to work at once. The mills will be running by Monday most likely. With the abundance of rain last fall and this spring, there should be no trouble this season about getting all the logs safely down the small streams. Prices are steady.

These prices are quotations at Winnipeg yards, and are subject to a cash discount of 2 per cent for small orders. For \$1,000 orders or upward, a cash discount of 5 per cent is allowed.

Dimensions and Timber—No. 1, 2x12, 12, 14, and 16 ft, \$19, 18 ft \$20, 20 ft \$21, 22 ft \$22; 2x14 \$21, 3x12, 4x12, 4x14, 6x8 to 6x12, 12, 14, and 16 ft \$20.50, 18 ft \$21.50, 20 ft \$22.50, 22 ft \$23.50, 24 ft \$24.50; 8x8, 1x12 to 6x12, 8x10 to 12x12, 12, 14 and 16 ft \$22.50; 18 ft \$23.50, 20 ft \$24.50, 22 ft \$25.50, 24 ft \$26.50; 2x4, 10 ft \$21; 2x6, 10 ft \$19; 2x8 to 2x12, \$20. No. 2 all dimensions \$2 less than No. 1. Dimensions 26, 28 and 30 ft \$26. Timber, 26, 28 and 30 ft \$28. \$1 per M advance on each inch over 12 inches in depth and width. Tamarac dimensions same price as pine. Spruce dimensions at \$2 per M less than