

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, April 4, 1896.

The weather has been cold and backward this week, the average temperature having been much colder than last week. It now looks like a late spring, unless a decided change comes very soon. Farmers have not been able to make any progress with their spring work yet. Good Friday a year ago was about like a mid-summer day, but quite wintry looking this year. There has not been anything very startling in local commercial affairs this week. Wholesale trade is generally reported as favorable. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week were about 25 per cent greater than a year ago, and about 20 per cent greater than the corresponding week two years ago. Clearings for March, 1896, were about 46 per cent greater than March 1895, and about 22 per cent greater than March 1894.

Business failures in Canada, according to Bradstreet's, number 781 for the past quarter of 1896 against 581 in the first quarter of 1895, with total liabilities of \$5,753,000, against \$1,253,000 last year. The province of Ontario reports 83 more failures this year than in the first quarter of 1895, and Quebec 119 more. Liabilities of failing traders in Ontario, however, are smaller than a year ago, while those in Quebec have doubled.

The first quarter of 1896 presents the largest lists of failures in the United States, these in which liabilities exceed assets, ever noted for a similar period. The total, (including financial institutions), is 4,512, or 700 more than in like portion of 1895, 513 more than in 1894, and 1,148 more than in the first quarter of 1893, an increase of 18, 11 and 47 per cent respectively. The largest preceding like total was reported in 1885. Liabilities of those failing this year amount to \$52,513,000, an increase of 20 per cent, as compared with a year ago, 27 per cent, as compared with the first quarter of 1894, and 60 per cent contrasted with three years ago.

The most important feature in United States trade this week is the formation of a pool of manufacturers of steel to regulate production and maintain prices resulting in an advance of \$3 per ton in quotations for steel billets and \$1.25 per ton for Bessemer pig iron with a prospect of further advances. This must naturally tend to stimulate kindred industries. The movement in steel and iron markets during the next few weeks will attract an unusual share of attention.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, April 4.

[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—Wood is firm. Poplar particularly is scarce and hard to get. We quote prices as follows for car lots on track here; Tamarac, good, \$1.00; mixed or poorer tamarac, \$3.50 to \$3.75; pine, \$3.25 to \$3.50; spruce, \$3.00 to \$3.25; oak, dead, \$3.00 to \$3.25; oak, good, green cut, \$3.75; poplar, dead, \$2.25; poplar, green cut, dry, \$2.50 per cord.

COAL—Prices are unchanged. Winnipeg prices are as follows: Pennsylvania anthracite, \$8.50 per ton delivered to consumers; Souris lignite, \$1.25 per ton, delivered to consumers, and \$3.85 at the yard here; Lethbridge bituminous \$5.50 to consumers; western anthracite, \$3.50 per ton to consumers.

DRIED FRUITS AND NUTS—Grenoble Walnuts, 16c; Tarragona almonds, 16c; princess paper shell almonds, 22c; Sicilly filberts, large, 12c; Brazil nuts, 15c; pe-

nuts, roasted, 15c; peanuts greens, 18c; Ontario black walnuts, 8c; butternuts, 9c; hickory nuts, 10c per pound; figs, new, 9 lb. boxes, 14c; figs, superior, 35 lb. boxes, 19c; figs, fancy imperial, 55 lb. boxes, 22c per lb.; dates, new, 6 and 7c per lb., apricots, 13½ to 14c; dried apples 6c; evaporated apples 8c per lb.

DRUGS—Cream tartar keeps weak abroad, showing a further decline of 2 to 3s in England. Cod liver oil is very firm still. St. John's holders have made a sharp advance in New Foundland oil. The Canadian Pacific Railway Co. is selling bluestone through its station agents, to farmers in Manitoba at 6c per pound. This affects the trade in ordinary channels somewhat. Following prices are for small parcels, and will be shaded considerably for full package orders: Alum, per pound, 3½ to 4½; alcohol, \$5.25 gal; bla ching powder, per pound; 6 to 8c; bluestone, 4½ to 5c; blue vitrol, 5 to 8c; borax 11 to 15c; 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, 28 to 35c; citric acid, 55 to 55c. coppers 3½ to 4c; cocaine, per oz. \$6.50 to \$7.00; cream tartar, per pound, 23 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; oxalico acid, 13 to 16 potass iodide, \$1.25 to 4.50; paris green, 18 to 20c lb; saltpetre; 10 to 12c; sal rochello, 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 \$4.25; sal soda, \$2 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55c; strychnine, pure crystals 80c to \$1.00 per oz.

FISH—The market is well supplied with fresh fish. Winnipeg market, jobbing prices are: Cod, 9c a lb; haddock 9c a lb; salmon, 14c; halibut 12½c; smelts 9 to 10c; Lake Superior trout, 9c; whitefish, 5½ to 6c; pickerel 4 to 4½c; pike 2½ to 3c, perch 2 to 2½c; sturgeon 6c; finnan haddies 7 to 7½c, or \$2.10 to \$2.25 per box; kippered goldeyes 30c doz.; oysters, \$1.80 to \$2.00 per gal; shell oysters, \$7.50 per barrel. Cured fish are quoted: Boneless codfish, 40lb boxes 7c, do crates 7½c; boneless fish, 40lb boxes, 5c; smoked herrings, 15 to 20c box; dry cod \$6 per box of 100 lbs.; salt whitefish, \$5.50 per barrel of 100 pounds; salt lake trout, \$6.50 per barrel; salt herring, ½-barrel \$1.

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., \$7.83; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.83; No. 5, 2 lb., \$24.30. Staminal—2oz. bottles per dozen, \$2.55; do, 4oz., \$5.10, do, 8 oz., \$7.65; do, 16oz., \$12.75. Fluid Beef Cordial—20oz. bottles, \$10. Milk Granules—In cases of 4 dozen, \$5.10. Milk Granules with Cereals—In cases of 4 dozen, \$4.25.

GREEN FRUITS—Apples are very firm and really choice are scarce. A further advance is not unexpected. At any rate it will soon be difficult to obtain good fruit. Oranges and lemons are unchanged, but oranges are reported very strong in California. Malaga grapes are scarce. Stocks here were exhausted, but more are expected in. Pineapples and bananas are arriving more freely. Prices are: Lemons, New Messinas, \$5.00 to \$5.50 per box; California navel oranges, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per box; California seedlings, \$3.25 to \$3.50; Bananas, \$2.75 to \$3.50 per bunch astosizo, a few very small bunches

sell as low as \$2.50; Apples, eastern Canada choice spies, \$5 to \$6.50; other red varieties, \$5.50, russots, \$5.00 per barrel; Malaga grapes \$9 per keg for large sizes; 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.

HARDWARE—There is nothing further now in the local trade. Prices are as follows:

TIN, lamb and 56 and 28 lb. ingots, per lb, 20 to 21c.

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, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$9.50 to 9.00; I. X., per box, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$10.50 to 11.00.

TERNE PLA.—I. C., 20 by 28, \$8.50 to 9.00.

IRON AND STEEL.—Bar iron, per 100 lbs. base price, \$2.50 to \$2.65; band iron, per 100 lbs., \$3.00 to 3.15; Swedish iron per 100 lbs., \$5.25 to 6; sleigh shoe steel, \$3.25 to 3.50; best cast tool steel, per lb, 12 to 13c; Russian sheet, per lb, 12 to 13c.

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, \$3.00 to 3.10.

GALVANIZED IRON.—Queen's Head, 22 to 24 gauge, per lb., 5c; 26 gauge, per lb., 5½c, 28 gauge, per lb., 5½c.

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

CHAIN.—Best proof coil, 8-16 inch, per lb. 6½ to 6¾; ¼ inch, per lb, 6 to 6½; 5-16 inch, per lb., 5½ to 6c; ¾ inch, per lb., 5½ to 5¾; 7-16 inch, per lb., 4½ to 5c; ½ inch, per lb., 4½ to 5c.

LEAD.—Fig, per lb., 4½c.

SHEET ZINC.—In casks, 5½c lb., broken lots, 6c.

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

AMMUNITION.—Cartridges—Rim fire pistol, American, discount, 55 per cent.; rim fire cartridges, Dominion, 50 per cent.; rim fire military, American, 5 per cent. advance, central fire pistol and rifle, American, 12 per cent.; central fire cartridge, Dominion, 30 per cent.; shot shells, 12 guage, \$6 to 7.50; shot, Canadian, soft, 5½c; shot, Canadian, chilled, 6c.

WIRE.—Galvanized barb wire, plain twist-ed wire and staples, \$3.50 per 100 lbs.

ROPE.—Sisal, per lb., 8 to ½c base; manilla, per lb., 11 to 1½c base; cotton, ½ to ¾ inch and larger, 16c lb.

AXES.—Per box, \$6.50 to 15.50.

NAILS.—Cut, per keg, base price, \$3 to 3.10; common steel wire nails, 5 to 6 inch, \$3.60 per keg, 3 to 4 inch, \$3.90 keg, 2½ inch, \$4.20 keg, 2 inch, \$4.50 keg.

HORSE NAILS.—Pointed and finished, oval heads. List prices as follows: No. 5, \$7.50 box; No. 6, \$6.75 box; No. 7, \$6 box; No. 8, \$5.75 box, No. 9, 10 and 11, \$5.50 box. Discount off above list prices, 45 to 50 per cent.

LUMBER—Prospects continue very favorable for the seasons trade. Following is the price list of the Winnipeg dealers, at yards or delivered in the city, prices being net.

Dimension and Timber—No. 1.

Sizes	12ft.	14ft.	16ft.	18ft.	20ft.	22ft.	24ft.
2x4 to 2x12	13.50	18.50	18.50	19.50	20.50	21.50	22.50
3x6 to 3x12							
4x4 to 4x12	20	20	20	21	22	23	24
6x6 to 6x12							
and 8x8							
8x10 to 12x12	22	22	22	23	24	25	25
2x4 - 10 at \$20.50.							
2x6 to 2x12 - 10 at \$18.							

No. 2 dimension \$2 less than No. 1.

Dimension, 26ft., 28ft., 30ft., \$23, Timber, 26ft., 28ft., 30ft., \$28. \$1 per M. advance on each inch over 12 in depth and