

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, Jan. 4, 1896.

Wholesale trade is characterized by the usual after holiday quiet, and there is very little stir in any branch. The first severe spell of cold weather set in the day after New Years, and the latter part of the week has been very cold. Up to the first of the year the weather has been moderate in temperature and free from bad storms, and there has been nothing to interfere with railway traffic. Some wheat has begun to move through all rail to Atlantic ports, but only in limited quantity. Prices are too high here to permit of shipping out on the basis of winter freights, except for low grade, such as No. 3 hard and under. There is a considerable quantity of damaged wheat which ought to be shipped out during the winter, as it is risky stuff to handle in warm weather. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week show an increase of 1.6 per cent as compared with the corresponding week a year ago, and an increase of 54 per cent as compared with the corresponding week two years ago. Bank clearings at Winnipeg for December show an increase of about 28 per cent over December 1894, and an increase of about 34 per cent as compared with December of 1893.

There were 38 business failures reported by Bradstreets in Canada this week, compared 30 a week ago, 33 one year ago, and 36 two years ago. Bank clearings at Winnipeg, Hamilton, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax, for the calendar year 1895, amount to \$937,251,000 as compared with \$918,951,000 in 1894; \$976,163,000 in 1893, and with \$1,013,530,000 in 1892.

In the United States prices for staples tend upward, and for the first time in many weeks a large majority of staples closed higher than one week ago; flour, wheat, corn and oats, are all up, also pork and sugar, both raw and refined; cotton, wool, (the latter from half to one cent.) and leather. Lumber and coal remain firm and unchanged. Pig iron and steel are off 25 to 50 cents per ton, with quotations still in the buyers favor. The prospect does not favor a relief from the existing weakness in the iron market, as production is ahead of all records, with an output of about one million tons per month, and stocks are accumulating. Some furnaces may have to shut down soon to relieve the pressure. Coffee is also lower.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Jan. 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.]

**CEREALS.**—National Food preparations in cartons: Dried rolled oats, 2 doz., 2 lb pkgs, per case, \$2.90; dessicated rolled wheat, 2 doz. 3 lb. pkgs per case, \$3.25; Dessicated wheat, 1 doz., 2 lb pkts., per case, \$2.75; Snowflake barley 2 doz., 2 lb pkgs., per case, \$2.90; Buckwheat flour, 1 doz., 5 lb pkgs per case \$2.75; Buckwheat flour 2 doz., 2 1/2 lb pkts., per case \$2.90; breakfast hominy, 1 doz., 3 lb pkts., per case, \$3.25; prepared pea flour 1 doz., per case, \$2.50; gluten flour, 1 doz. per case, \$3.50; rolled wheat, in bbls., 150 lbs. \$1.50.

**CORDWOOD FUEL.**—The tenders for 500 cords of jack pine and a like quantity of tamarac for the Winnipeg school board were

let to D. D. Wood & Co., and Thos. D. Robinson respectively. The price for tamarac was \$3.91 and for jack pine, \$3.58. The Canadian Pacific Railway have announced a new freight traffic on cordwood to take effect January 1. Hereafter freights will be computed by the 100 pounds. We quote the following prices for car lots on track here. Tamarac \$1 per cord; pine \$2.50 per cord, spruce \$3.25, poplar \$2.25 to \$2.50 per cord. oak, \$3.75 to \$4; birch, \$1 to \$1.25. There is a little variation from these prices as to quality, poor quality being sometimes obtainable at a little lower. Some are holding good tamarac at \$4.25.

**COAL.**—Winnipeg prices are the same, and we quote: 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 \$6.50 to consumers; western anthracite, \$8.50 per ton to consumers.

**DRUGS.**—Following prices are for small parcels, and will be shaded considerably for full package orders: Alum per pound, 3 1/2 to 4 1/2; alcohol, \$1.75; bleaching powder, per pound; 6 to 8c; bluestone, 4 1/2 to 5c; blue vitrol, 5 to 8c; borax, 11 to 13c; bromide potash, 55 to 75c; camphor, 75 to 85c; camphor, ounces 80 to 90c; carbolic acid, 40 to 65c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chloride potash, 28 to 35c; citric acid, 55 to 65c. coppers 3 1/2 to 4c; cocaine, per oz., \$7.50 to \$8.00; cream tartar, per pound, 28 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; epsom salts, 3 1/2 to 4c; extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 18c; do., boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 30 to 40c; glycerine, per pound, 20 to 25c; ginger, Jamaica, 25 to 40c; do., African, 20 to 25c; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 35 to 45c; 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 2.75 per gallon; oxalide acid, 13 to 16c; potash iodide, \$1.25 to 1.50, paris green, 17 to 18c lb, saltpetre, 10 to 12c, sal rocnelle, 30 to 35c; sheliac, 45 to 50c; sulphur flowers, 3 1/2 to 5c; sulphur roll, per keg, 3 1/2 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.

**DRIED FRUITS AND NUTS.**—Grenoble Walnuts, 16c; Tarragona almonds, 16c; princess paper shell almonds, 22c; Sicily filberts, large, 12c; Brazil nuts, 15c; peanuts, roasted, 15c; peanuts greens, 13c; Ontario black walnuts, 8c; butternuts, 9c; hickory nuts, 10c per pound; figs, old, 14 oz. boxes. \$1 per dozen; figs, new, 9 lb. boxes, 14c; figs, superior, 35 lb. boxes, 19c; figs, fancy imperial, 55 lb. boxes, 22c per lb; dates, new Persian, 9c.

**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., \$7.53; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.53; No. 5, 2 lb., \$21.30. Staminial—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

**FISH.**—Fresh fish are quoted: Cod 1 lb a lb.; haddock 10c lb; British Columbiasalmon 12 to 14c; British Columbia halibut, 12 1/2c; Lake Superior trout, 9c; whitefish, 6c; pickerel, 4c; sturgeon, 7c; finnan haddies, 10c; kippered goldeyes, 30c doz.; oysters, \$1.75 to \$1.90 for standards and \$2 to \$2.15 selects, per gallon, extra selects \$2.25 to \$2.35; oysters, in cans, selects, 55 and standards 50c per can; shell oysters, \$7.50 per barrel. Cured fish are quoted: Boneless codfish, 40lb boxes 7c, do crates 7 1/2c; boneless fish, 40lb boxes, 5c; smoked herrings, 19c box.

**GREEN FRUITS.**—Jamaica oranges are out of the market, but there is a fair supply of California navel oranges, though the quality is on the green side. But they are the only thing obtainable. Apples are steady and firm. Some fancy stock are in and held above quotations, which are for staple goods. Prices are: Lemons, New Messinas, 6.50 to \$7.00 per box, California oranges, \$5 to \$5.50 per box, bananas, \$3.00 to \$1.00 per bunch as to size; apples, per barrel, \$3.75 to \$4, as to variety; Catawba grapes, 75c per basket, large lots 65c per basket, Malaga grapes \$7.00 to \$9.00 per keg as to size; canberries \$12.50 per barrel; Spanish onions \$1.25 per crate, apple cider, 35c per gallon, in 30 gallon barrels; fresh comb honey, 22c per lb.

**GROCERY SUNDRIES.**—Carveth's condensed mince meat, \$3 per case of 8 doz. pkgs; Carveth's horseradish, 16 oz. bottles, \$2.50 per case of 2 dozen, Comb honey, 20 to 22c lb; extracted honey, in tins, 11c; Imperial cheese, 1 doz. large, \$10.80, do, 1 doz. medium, \$5.40, do. 2 doz. small, \$3.00; Sneider's Tomato catsup, pints, \$3.95 per dozen; do. half pints, \$2.25 per doz; Tomato soup, half pints, \$2.25 per dozen.

**GROCERIES.**—Sugars have been strong lately. New York has advanced 3c. European beet markets have also been strong. Canadian refiners advanced 1/2c following the first advance at New York, and since New York has advanced 1/2c more, prices are held very firm by Canadian refiners. The destruction of plantations in Cuba through the rebellion is a cause of firmness. The advances occurred 1/2c at a time, all within about a week. A Montreal exchange says: "There has been considerable excitement and strength in the sugar market during the past few days, owing to the decidedly strong advices from primary markets, and prices here have advanced 1/2c per lb. for granulated and 3/4c to 1c for yellows. The stocks of sugars here are small, and, in fact, refiners state that yellows at present are scarce, and the prospects are that higher values will rule in the near future. Granulated has sold in 250 barrel lots and upwards at 4 1/2c, and in smaller quantities at 4 1/4c. Yellows range at 3 1/2 to 4c as to quality at the refineries.

**HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.**—Trade is very quiet in these lines, and prices more or less nominal as follows:

**TRN,** 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, \$3.50 to 9.00; I. X., per box, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$10.50 to 11.00.

**TERNE PLATES.**—I. C., 20 by 28, \$3.50 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., 5 1/2c; 28 gauge, per lb., 5 1/2c.

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

**CHAIN.**—Best proof coil, 3-16 inch, per lb. 6 1/2 to 6 3/4; 1/2 inch, per lb, 6 to 6 1/2; 5-16 inch, per lb., 5 1/2 to 6c; 3/8 inch, per lb., 5 1/2 to 5 3/4; 7-16 inch, per lb., 4 1/2 to 5c; 1/2 inch, per lb., 4 1/2 to 5c.

**SHEET ZINC.**—In casks, 5 1/2 lb., broken lots, 6c.