

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, June 20, 1896.

This being the final week in the federal election contest, political excitement is at a high heat and business is correspondingly neglected. The expression has been heard when asking about business: "Hang business, how will the elections go?" In general wholesale trade there are no important features, and in country produce the dairy trade is present the most important feature. Grain trade is very quiet. The official Manitoba crop report, issued this week, shows a smaller decrease in the area than had been looked for owing to the late spring and weather. The decreased area in wheat is about five per cent. The weather has continued a most exceptionally favorable for the growing crops, and splendid progress is being made by the crops generally. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week show an increase of about 16 per cent over the corresponding week of 1895, and about 21 per cent over the week of 1891.

There are 35 business failures reported in Canada this week, as compared with 38 last week, 30 in the week one year ago, 21 two years ago, and 20 in the third week in June, 1895.

Canadian imports and exports for May show a decided increase over those for May, 1895. In eleven months of the current fiscal year the exports increased six millions, and the imports five and a quarter. The increase in customs revenue is \$2,375,000.

Rain is reported to be needed in Ontario. Owing to the election excitement, business throughout Canada is quiet, and in the east some travellers have been taken of the road temporarily.

In the United States this week a better feeling has been caused by the adoption of a strong sound money platform by the Republican party, but the commercial situation is depressed. Bradstreet's says: "in industrial lines there is no improvement. In iron and steel prices of some varieties tend lower. Manufacturers of cotton have cut quotations to attract buyers. Quotations for wool at the interior are still above a parity with seaboard prices. Practically unchanged quotations are recorded for wheat, flour, oats, coffee, print cloths, leather iron and steel, while there are advances for corn, pork, cotton, petroleum, and spirits of turpentine."

Stocks at New York and London have been dull. At New York yesterday call money was quoted at 1½ to 2 per cent.; prime mercantile paper 1 to 5½ per cent. Bar Silver 69½c.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, June 20.

[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.]

GROCERIES.—A more active demand at the refineries is reported for sugars, owing to the beginning of the fruit season, and prices are held firmer, though there was a decline of 1-16c at New York at the end of last week. Now that the fruit season has started, with a large fruit crop in view, meaning a large demand for sugars, a firm market may be looked for for some time.

GREEN FRUITS.—Oranges have become increasingly scarce. In fact, supplies of oranges are about exhausted everywhere and the few secured lately have been held at fancy prices. Lemons are very firm, the warm weather causing a heavy demand. Bananas are in good supply. Strawberries have been out of the market most of the week, and the quotation is nominal. California fruits are

coming in greater varieties. Cherries are arriving freely, though many have been over-ripe. Watermelons are now on the way from the south. Prices are: Lemons, Messina, \$1 to \$5 per box as to quality; California oranges, Mediterranean sweets, 126 size \$5 per box; St. Michael's \$5 to 6 per box as to size; Messina blood oranges, ½ boxes, \$2.75 for 80, and \$3 for \$120 size; Bananas, fancy, Port Limon, \$2 to \$3 per bunch as to size; strawberries, 16 quart cases, \$2.75 to \$3.75 per case; pineapples, \$2.50 to \$3 per dozen as to size; California cherries, \$2.25 to \$2.75 per box; California peaches, \$2.75 per box; California apricots, \$2.50 box; California plums, \$3 ½ box; Tomatoes, \$1.75 per crate of 4 baskets, cucumbers, 90c doz. Apple cider, 35c per gallon, in 30 gal barrels, maple sugar 12c per lb, maple syrup, \$1.10 per wine gallon, in gallon tins; pie plant, \$1.75 per 100 pounds, Egyptian onions, \$3.50 per 100 pounds.

PAINTS, OILS, ETC.—Prices here are as follows.

WHITE LEADS.—Pure, ground in oil, association guarantee, 5.75 to \$6 per 100-lb; white lead, assorted 1 to 5-lb. tins, per lb., 9c.

PREPARED PAINTS.—Pure liquid colors, per gallon, \$1.15 to \$1.25.

DRY COLORS.—White lead, per lb., 8c, red lead, 5½c; yellow ochre in barrel lots, 2½c, less than barrels, 2½c, golden ochre, barrels, 3½c; less than barrels 4c; Venetian, red, barrels, 3c; less than barrels, 3½c; American vermilion, 15c, English vermilion, \$1 per lb., Paris green, 18 to 19c; Canadian metallic oxides, barrel lots 2½c, less than barrel lots, 3c; English purple oxides, 100 lb. kegs, 3½c less, than kegs, 4c lb.

VARNISHES.—No. 1 furniture, per gal., \$1; extra furniture, \$1.35; pale oak, \$1.50; elastic oak, \$1.50; No. 1 carriage, \$1.60; hard oil finish, \$1.50; brown Japan, \$1; goldsize Japan, \$1.50; No. 1, orange shellac, \$2; pure orange shellac, \$2.50.

SUNDRIES.—Glue, S.S., in sheets, per lb., 12½ to 15c; glue, white, for kalsomining, 16 to 18c. Stove gasoline, per case, \$1.00; benzine, per case, \$1.00; benzine and gasoline, per gallon, 50c. Axle grease, Imperial per case, \$2.50; Fraser's axle grease, per case, \$3.75; diamond, do, \$2.25 per case. Coal tar, per barrel, \$8; Portland cement, per barrel, \$1.00; plaster, per barrel, \$3.10; plasterer's hair, 90c per bale; putty, in bladders, barrel lots 2½c per lb., for less than barrels per lb., 2½c.

WINDOW GLASS.—1st break is quoted at \$1.75 per box of 50 feet.

LINSEED OIL.—Raw, per gal., 56c; boiled, per gal., 59c in barrels, less than barrels 3c per gallon extra.

TURPENTINE.—Pure spirits, in barrels, per gallon, 58c; less than barrels, per gallon, 55c.

OILS.—Range about as follows: Black oils, 25 to 30c per gallon; clear machine oils, 33 to 40c; cylinder oil, 50 to 75c, as to quality; castor oil, 10c per lb.; lard oil, 70c per gal.; tanner's or harness oil, 65c; neatfoot oil, \$1.00; steam refined seal oil, 85c; pure winter bleached sperm oil, \$2 per gallon.

REFINED PETROLEUM.—There is no change in burning oils. Prices here are as follows: Silver star, 2½c; crescent, 2½c; cleophene, 2½c in barrels. In car lots 2c per gallon discount is allowed off prices in barrels. United States oils in barrels are quoted at 3½c for cocene and 80c for sunlight.

WOOD FUEL.—There is very little business doing in car lots, city retail dealers having stocked up during the winter and early spring. There is very little poplar wood offering. Car lot prices are: Poplar, \$2.50 to \$3 per cord; pine, \$3.50 to \$3.75; tamarac, \$1.25 to \$1.50.

WHEAT—GENERAL SITUATION.—Wheat has been fairly steady and moderately firm this week. On Monday prices went a little under the lowest point of last week, but recovered again the next day. There have been heavy receipts of wheat at Duluth and Minneapolis, reaching over 500 car loads yesterday at these two points, but this has been offset by less favorable returns from the southwest, where threshing is now going on, and reports are that the yield is not turning out equal to expectations. Export demand has been light. The adoption of a solid money plank by the St. Louis Republican convention, helped the market a trifle. Shipments from all exporting countries last week were large, aggregating 8,400,000 bushels, of which under 3,000,000 bushels was from America. Exports of wheat, flour included as wheat, from both coasts of the United States this week amount to 3,020,000 bushels against 2,922,000 last week, 2,857,000 in the same week one year ago, and is compared with 1,927,000 bushels in the third week of June 1891, and with 8,533,000 bushels in the like week of 1892.

WHEAT—LOCAL SITUATION.—The local market has been very dull, election excitement detracting from business matters very materially. Prices have been steady. About the highest idea of values this week here has been 60c for No. 1 hard, delivered afloat Fort William, this price having been realized to a limited extent at the top of the market. The general basis of values here, however, has been about 59c, but a very limited business has been done. In Manitoba country markets prices have been irregular, prices to farmers varying from 40 to 44c for best samples at different points. Receipts at Fort William and Port Arthur last week were 234,516 bushels; shipments, 276,925 bushels; in store 1,825,000 bushels. Since opening of navigation up to June 13th, shipments of Manitoba wheat have been as follows: To New York for export, 1,963,398 bushels; Montreal for export, 838,473 bushels; Ontario, for local milling, 1,433,474 bushels; total shipments, 4,235,345 bushels. Stocks in store at interior points are estimated at about 2,500,000 bushels. For the corresponding week last year, receipts were 99,955 bushels, shipments, 10,483 bushels, in store at lake ports 332,832 bushels. In store two years ago 1,198,537 bushels. We quote prices today as follows: No. 1 hard afloat Fort William, 59c; No. 2 hard, 56 to 57c; No. 3 hard, 52 to 53c.

FLOUR.—There is no change in the local market, but sharp cutting in Manitoba flour is reported from eastern markets. Sales by millers here are made at \$1.75 to \$1.90 for patents and \$1.55 to \$1.60 for strong bakers per sack of 98 pounds, delivered to city retail dealers; second bakers \$1.80 to \$1.35; XXXX \$1.05 to \$1.10, delivered. Brands of country mills usually sell at 5 to 10c under these quotations.

MILLSTUFFS.—City mills are still selling at \$8 per ton for bran and \$10 for shorts, delivered in the city, in broken lots. In Eastern Canada markets, millstuffs are reported 50c per ton lower.

OATS.—The market is exceedingly dull and prices are easier. About 12½c per bushel of 34 pounds is the very outside price which would be paid for car lots of good No. 2 white, at country points on average through freights. In this market cars have been offered, local freights paid, at 17½ to 18½c as to grade. The street price to farmers here is 17 to 18c per bushel.

BARLEY.—Barley is absolutely unsaleable. The quotation of 13 to 14c in the country for car lots is nominal. There is no demand local or otherwise.

GROUND FEED. Prices range from \$10 to \$12 per ton, as to quality, the top price for