

## THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

Winnipeg, Saturday Afternoon, Dec. 4  
Navigation is still open at our lake ports. The recent sharp weather indicated an early closing of navigation, but yesterday it turned quite mild again, and as we have now had a cold spell, we may have a week or so of moderate weather, in which case wheat shipments will continue via the lake route. The last steamers of the season on the regular lines cleared from Fort William on Tuesday, for Owen Sound and Sarnia, but boats have been clearing with wheat all week, and a number of boats are chartered to carry wheat, which have not yet arrived. Bulk clearings at Winnipeg for November were \$13,550,761, compared with \$8,895,175 for November last year and \$503,272 for November, 1895. Clearings for this week were 2,275,360 compared with \$2,151,399 for the corresponding week last year and \$1,573,870 for the week two years ago. A summary of live stock exports for the season will be found in another column.

## WINNIPEG MARKETS.

Winnipeg, Saturday Afternoon, Dec. 4

### CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

Mr. Porter, of Porter & Co., wholesale crockery, etc., Winnipeg, says they are now closing up their orders for the holiday trade and in a week or ten days the jobbing trade will be about wound up for the season. Their business has been about 20 per cent. greater than last season.

### DRY GOODS.

The outlook is for a firm market in woollens, wool markets being firm generally. Cotton is steadier, but the general tendency of the market has been weak and downward. A good sorting trade is doing in the local market.

### FISH.

Winter fishing will commence on the Manitoba lakes next week, the close season on Lake Winnipeg ending Nov. 30 for white fish. Haddies are 1-2c lower this week, notwithstanding that they have been somewhat scarce, as they have been coming forward somewhat slowly.

### GROCERIES.

The market for sugars and molasses is firm. Slightly higher prices have been reported on some brands of sugar in the East, but there has been no general advance, and no change in prices here. Domestic canned goods are firm, particularly for tomatoes, and advances on some brands are reported from the East. Evaporated apples are quoted 1c higher here, and are very scarce. Dried fruits are firm. In cereals pot barley is quoted 10c per sack higher and oatmeal is quoted 5c higher on the inside price for rolled and 10c higher for granulated and standard meal.

### GREEN FRUITS.

Jamaica oranges are now out of the market and are replaced by Mexican oranges which are of fine quality and offering at lower prices. Bananas are costing very much higher, as they now have to come in by express. Some

brought in so-called heated ears were frozen on arrival. California lemons are now arriving. They are good stock, though on the green side. Cranberries are 50c lower. Some choice imported celery is offering. No dates or Grenoble walnuts are to hand yet but they are expected soon. Prices are as follows: Mexican oranges, \$5 to \$5.50; bananas, per bunch, \$3 to \$1; California lemons, \$5 to \$5.50 a box; Washington and Oregon pears, \$2 to \$2.25 per box; apples, Ontario stock, \$4 to \$4.75 per barrel; southern apples, \$4 to \$4.25 per bbl.; Cape Cod cranberries, \$8.50 to \$9 per bbl.; sweet potatoes, \$5.25 to \$5.50 per barrel; Malaga grapes, \$9 per keg; for medium, and \$8.50 for heavy weights; Ontario butternuts 9c lb; Ontario black walnuts, 8c lb; coconuts, \$1 per dozen; Sicily filberts, large 11c to 12c per lb.; fles. fancy elemes, \$1.40 to \$1.50 per 10lb box; celery, 60c dozen.

### HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.

The feature of the market is the strength in glass, and the advance predicted by The Commercial recently, has gone into effect, quotations this week having been marked up 5c. The market is very firm at the advance, and a further upward movement would not be surprising, as the Winnipeg market, as we explained last week, was 14c below a parity with Montreal, and is still 9c below the latter market. A great scarcity of cement is reported from the East, which will be a big thing for Canadian manufacturers, as the winter rates now in effect would make new importations cost higher.

Sisal rope has been advanced in this market 1-4c to 7c base, and Manila rope is quoted at 81-1c base. These are close prices in comparison with eastern markets. Horse shoes have also been advanced and are now held at \$4.15 iron and \$4.40 steel. See quotations on another page.

### LEATHER.

Prices are about the same here, though eastern markets are higher. All leather markets, both in the United States and Canada, are very firm, and prices have tended upward. Leather has been selling, and is still quoted below a parity with hides, so that the outlook is for higher prices. Saddle lines, in both sole and black leathers, have advanced about 1c in eastern markets within a few weeks.

### GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT — Leading United States markets have been irregular, with a lower tendency this week, on most days. In this market there has been scarcely any business doing during the week. Shippers as a rule had plenty of wheat at Fort William to fill all the space engaged and with the cash market much higher than futures, there was no disposition to buy wheat to hold. Local dealers have been very anxious to get their wheat shipped out before the close of navigation, owing to the same reason that cash wheat is worth a good deal more than futures. On this account it does not look favorable to carry wheat over until next May, with carrying charges to be added to its cost, when it can be sold now at an advance on May quotations. Freight rates have advanced sharply. Latest charters have been made at 5c per bushel, Fort William to Buffalo. Some boats, which were chartered earlier at 2c, have been trying to work an advance, since

the increase in rates. Clearances of wheat from Fort William were fairly large this week, and several boats are yet to arrive to load. The mild turn in the weather yesterday indicates that navigation may remain open for some time yet. Last year, the inner harbor at Port Arthur was frozen over on December 1, and on the same date the steamer Sauber was frozen in at the elevator at Fort William. Several other steamers arrived to load wheat about the same date, but they were frozen in the river at Fort William. The Algonquin got away from Port Arthur on December 2, being the last boat of the season. In 1895 the last boat from Fort William cleared on December 5, and in 1894 the last boat cleared on December 2.

The value of wheat here is very uncertain, in the absence of buying. Yesterday car lots at country points were quoted at 76 to 77c for No. 1 hard, equal to 89 to 90c afloat Fort William. These prices are high compared with May quotations, and above a parity with Duluth.

FLOUR — No change has occurred in the flour market here. We quote patent, \$2.55 per sack of 98 lb.; Strong Bakers, \$2.35, second bakers, \$1.80 and XXXX \$1.40. Prices to local dealers here less 5c per sack for net cash.

MILLEFEED — The demand is good on local account, and owing to the high price of coarse grain, shipments of millfeed are being made freely to country points west. Prices are more profitable to ship west to country points than to ship east. Millfeed is being shipped west even from the Keewatin mills to country points, and delivered at a cost of \$10.50 to \$11.50 for car lots of bran and \$2 per ton higher for shorts. Here ton lots are held at \$10 for bran and \$12 for shorts, and \$9 per ton less in large lots, and the market is very firm.

GROUND FEED. — Pure grain feed is quoted at 20 to 22c for oats and barley, the outside price for rolled oat feed. Anything under \$20 per ton is inferior mixed mill feed. Corn feed is quoted at \$16 to \$17 per ton. Oil cake \$17 per ton.

CEREALS — Pot barley is 10c higher. Oatmeal is 10c higher for standard and granulated, and 5c higher on the inside price for rolled meal. The local mills are doing very little and the market is mainly supplied with meal imported from the south. A car or two of Ontario meal has also been brought in, but it can hardly compete with the imported article.

OATS — Have been offering rather more freely, at about the same prices as were quoted last week. The demand for corn has greatly checked consumption of oats as much corn is now being used locally for feed as other varieties of feed grains, and at all points where oats are subject to local freights the corn is the cheaper feed. From 36 to 37c is quoted here for cars of feed oats, per bushel of 54 pounds. The street price to farmers here is 34 to 36c as to quality. In Manitoba country markets 27 to 30c per bushel has been paid to farmers.

CORN — Corn is coming in freely from the south. It can be laid down here at 39 to 41c per bushel of 56 pounds in cars lots on truck as to grade. This makes it a cheaper feed than oats. There is a considerable demand from country points also for corn for feed purposes, and car lots are moving freely to many provincial points.