

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, May 9, 1896.

The improved weather this week has led to a considerable improvement in business in several branches, particularly in lumber and building supplies. A summer temperature has prevailed most of the week. Seeding has made good progress, though interrupted by local thunder storms and showers in sections, but no prolonged general rains have been experienced. Bank clearings at Winnipeg show an increase this week of about 15 per cent, compared with the like week of 1895, and about 45 per cent greater than the corresponding week of 1891.

There were 38 business failures reported in Canada this week, against 21 last week, 27 in the week one year ago and 31 two years ago.

Bradstreet's report this week says: "Revival of the demand for lumber from China, South America and South Africa, is showing itself at the Pacific coast, San Francisco filling the demand this week. The arrival of the first cargo of tea of the season is awaited at Tacoma, where the cotton and flour are ready to supply a return cargo."

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, May 9.

[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.]

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.—Dealers report a large demand this season for disc harrows and gang plows. The large demand for press drills was previously noted. A great deal of wheat is being sown on stubble land without plowing, hence the larger demand than usual for disc harrows and drills. It is understood according to advices from the factories in Canada and the United States, that binder twine will average about 1½¢ per lb. higher this year than last season.

COAL.—Prices are unchanged. Winnipeg prices are as follows: Pennsylvania anthracite, \$3.50 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.

CORNBROOM.—There is scarcely anything doing in car lots. Poplar is very scarce. We quote prices as follows for car lots on track here: Tamarac, good, \$1.00; mixed or poorer tamarac, \$3.50 to \$4.25; oak, dead, \$3.00 to \$3.25; oak, good, \$3.75; pine, \$3.25 to \$4.50; spruce, \$3.00 to green cut, \$3.75; poplar, dead, \$2.25; poplar, green cut, dry, \$2.50 per cord.

DRUGS.—The bluestone and strychnine season are now about over with the wholesale trade. Cream of tartar has advanced sharply again abroad, and tartaric acid is higher in sympathy. Castor oil is firm. 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; bio ching powder, per pound, 6 to 8¢; bluestone, 4½ to 5¢; blue vitrol, 5 to 6¢; borax 11 to 15¢; bromide potash, 65 to 75¢; camphor, 85 to 95¢; camphor, ounces 90 to 1.00; carbolic acid, 10 to 65¢; castor oil, 11 to 15¢; chloride potash, 23 to 35¢; citric acid, 55 to 55¢; copperas 3½ to 4¢; cocaine, per oz., \$3.50 to \$7.00; cream tartar, per pound, 23 to 35¢; cloves, 20 to 25¢; epsom salts, 3½ to 4¢; extract logwood, bulk, 11 to 18¢; do., boxes, 18 to 20¢; German quinine, 40 to 50¢; glycerine, per pound, 30 to 35¢; ginger, Jamaica, 30 to 35¢; do., African, 20 to 25¢; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 45 to 55¢; iodine, \$5.50 to 6.00; insect powder, 35 to 40¢; morphia sul., \$1.30

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; oxalica acid, 13 to 16 notas iodide, \$1.25 to 4.50; paris green, 18 to 20¢ lb; saltpetre, 10 to 12¢; sal rochelle 30 to 35¢; sulphac, 45 to 50¢; sulphur flowers, 8½ to 5¢; sulphur roll, per keg, 8½ to 5¢; soda bicarb, per keg of 112 pounds, \$3.75 to \$1.25; sal soda, \$2 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55¢; strychnine, pure crystals 90¢ to \$1.00 per oz.

GROCERIES.—There is still a good deal of talk about the frost damage to the fruit crop in California, which, if as serious as reported, will affect California dried and canned goods which are handled largely in this market. A reliable San Francisco circular says that the frosts occurred at intervals for a month, and extended to all the important fruit districts in the state, doing damage to the extent of fully 40 per cent of the crop. Almonds, apricots, cherries, peaches and prunes, suffered the most. Pears and plums were not so seriously hurt. Grapes suffered the most of all, in consequence of which raisins are held higher. Owing to the high price of sugar and the frost damage, canned California fruits are expected to average higher next season. In Canadian canned goods the recent drop of about 15¢ per dozen in corn is the most conspicuous change. Corn is now offering as low as 55¢ at the factories. Tomatoes, on the other hand, are firm and held about 5¢ higher, which will affect this market, stocks being light. Canned meats are beginning to move more freely. Prices for the latter line are remarkably low, and it is believed that present low prices cannot endure long. There is still much complaint about the syrup duty. The amount of duty charged against some recent importations of United States corn syrup are out of proportion to the value of the commodity.

GREEN FRUITS.—There is no important change in this branch. Bananas are abundant. Oranges are firm at the recent advance. Apples are cut of the market. Pineapples are obtainable occasionally, as they are arriving only in small lots. The first direct steamer with Mediterranean fruit has arrived at Montreal, and sold well, there being many buyers from western states points as well as from Canadian centres. Prices realized for lemons, however, were 5¢ to 60¢ per box lower than last year for the first cargo. The lemons sold at from \$1.50 to \$3 per box as to quality. Oranges sold at \$2 to \$3.50 per box. Prices are: Lemons Messina \$1 to \$1.75 per box; California navel oranges \$1.75 to \$5.00 per box; California seedlings, \$3.75 to \$10; Bananas, \$2.50 to \$3.50 per bunch as to size, a few very small bunches sell as low as \$2.00; Apples, eastern Canada \$5.50 to \$7 per barrel; pineapples, \$3.50 to \$5 per dozen as to size; Apple cider, 35¢ per gallon, in 30 gallon barrels; comb honey \$5.25 per case of 24 sections. New maple sugar, 12¢ per lb; maple syrup, \$1.10 per wine gallon, in gallon tins; pie plant, \$1.50 to \$1.75 per box of 50 pounds.

LUMBER.—There has been a brisk demand for lumber and building material this week, owing to the improved weather which has enabled contractors to push building operations more actively. Tenders were received this week for supplying Winnipeg city with plank, and the prices put in were the lowest ever offered here. D. E. Sprague, Winnipeg saw mills, received the contract at \$13.25, being the lowest tender.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—GENERAL SITUATION. — There has not been much change in wheat this week, the average being rather lower than last week. The principal feature has been crop reports. The winter wheat crop in the

United States is generally regarded as favorable and in a few weeks harvest will begin in the southern districts, the crop being well advanced. United States exports continue light, but exports from all countries last week were 6,550,000 bushels, showing a fairly large movement notwithstanding small American exports. There is still a large surplus of old wheat in America and a now crop almost in sight, so that the outlook cannot be regarded as bullish at the moment, while the future depends on the outcome of the crops, which so far look favorable. Exports of wheat, flour included, from both coasts of the United States this week, amount to 1,892,000 bus., compared with 1,250,000 bus. last week; 2,875,000 bus. in the first week of May, 1895; 2,850,000 bus. in the corresponding week of 1891, and 2,712,000 bus. in the like week of 1893.

WHEAT—LOCAL SITUATION.—Stocks are now decreasing here, owing to shipments since the opening of navigation from our lake ports. There has also been a considerable demand for cars to ship wheat from interior points to lake ports. Receipts at Fort William for the week ended May 2nd were 38,993 bushels; shipments 329,486; in store 3,612,292 bushels. Stocks in store a year ago were 559,902, and two years ago 1,513,998 bushels, and three years ago 3,353,000. Receipts at Fort William for the corresponding week last year were 65,240 bushels and shipments 374,469 bushels. Though the movement has been larger, there has not been much business doing. Buyers are cautious, and holders refuse to make concessions sufficient to ensure sales. On Friday morning, after the bulge of Thursday and a strong opening, No. 1 hard was held at 65½¢, but when the decline set in, values were lower, buyer's views being about 64 to 64½¢, as the top, for No. 1 hard, at Fort William delivery. At the same time sellers generally held higher. Frosted wheats about 51¢ for No. 1 and 49½¢ to 50¢ for No. 2, all at basis, Fort William.

FLOUR.—There has been no change in prices. Sales by millers here are made at \$1.85 to \$1.90 for patents and \$1.65 to \$1.70 for strong bakers per sack of 48 pounds, delivered to city retail dealers; second bakers \$1.40 to \$1.45; XXXX \$1.15 to \$1.20, delivered. Brands of country mills are offered at 5 to 10¢ under these quotations.

MILLSUTS.—City mills are still selling at \$8 per ton for bran and \$10 for shorts, delivered in the city, in small lots.

OATS.—Oats are duller than ever so far as the shipping demand is concerned, and prices are lower east. In Manitoba, values are about the same, as the lower freight rates will make up for the easier tendency in prices East. We quote car lots on track, country points at 10 cents to 13 cents as to quality and freight rates. A No. 2 white would be worth about 12½ to 13¢ in the country and No. 2 mixed 11 to 11½¢ for car lots. In the Winnipeg market, for local consumption, about 18¢ per bushel of 34 pounds is paid to farmers, this price showing an advance of about 1¢, owing to light local offerings. Cars could be bought on track Winnipeg, local freights paid, at 15 to 19¢ per bushel as to grade.

BARLEY.—There is no movement. We quote car lots nominal at 13 to 15¢, in the country for No. 3 and under. For local trade 17 to 18¢ would be paid, per bushel of 45 pounds, for loads, to farmers.

WHEAT.—Local farmers' market.—The price paid at the city mills for farmers' loads is nominal at 50¢ per bushel of 60 pounds for best quality.

GROUND FEED. Prices range from \$10 to \$12 per ton, as to quality, the top price for rolled oat feed, and the lowest price for mixed mill feed.