

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, Jan. 9.

Business is having the usual after holiday dullness, both in wholesale and retail branches. Merchants are now stock-taking and balancing up. There are no important local features to note. Bank clearings at Winnipeg for the first week in the new year show a slight decrease as compared with the corresponding week one ago, but an increase of nearly 24 per cent. as compared with the like week two years ago. Bank clearings at Winnipeg for the year 1896 were \$64,146,428, compared with \$55,873,630 for 1895, and \$50,510,647 for 1894. This shows a very gratifying expansion since the clearing house was established here three years ago.

There were 63 business failures in Canada this week, compared with 37 last week, 53 in the first week in January, 1896, and a like total in the corresponding week of 1895.

In eastern Canada mild weather is curtailing business.

In the United States a number of important bank failures have occurred during the week. In prices in the United States markets advances have occurred in hides, turpentine, coffee and tin, and firm quotations for pork, sugar, cotton, print cloths and petroleum, and reactions are reported in quotations for southern pig iron, lard and corn. The stock markets were dull and easy. At New York yesterday money on call was easy a 1½ to 2 per cent.; prime mercantile paper 3½ to 4 per cent. bar silver, 61½c.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Jan. 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.]

COAL—The weather does not seem to be able to get down to business in a shape to please the fuel dealers. This week was colder than most of December, but only moderately wintry, and it turned very mild again yesterday, consequently the consumption of fuel is lighter than usual at this season. There is no change in prices. Prices here are as follows: Pennsylvania anthracite \$10.00; western anthracite, \$9.50 per ton. Souris coal \$1.50 ton; Leithbridge \$1.50. These prices are delivered to consumers in Winnipeg. Car lots on track of Souris coal are held at \$3.65 to \$3.90 per ton here, or \$1.50 per ton on cars at the mines.

CORDWOOD—The feeling continues easy in wood fuel, owing to the mild weather. Pine is held about \$1 for cars on track here, per cord; tamarac \$1.50 for last winter's cut, and poplar at \$2.50. Prices delivered to consumers about 50c advance on these quotations.

DRUGS—Prices here for parcel lots are as follows, with liberal reductions for large orders: Alum per pound, 3½ to 4½c; alcohol, \$5.25 gallon; bleaching powder per pound; 6 to 8c; bluestone, 5 to 7c; borax 11 to 13 cents; 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; chlorate potash, 28 to 35c; citric acid, 55 to 65c; copperas 3½ to 4c; cocaine, per oz., \$6.50 to \$7.00; cream tartar, per pound, 30 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 \$2.75 to 3.25; oil, peppermint, \$1.00 to \$1.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.50 to \$4 per gallon as to brand; oxalica acid, 13 to 16c; potassa iodida, \$1.25 to 4.50; paris green, 18 to 20c lb; saltpetre; 10 to 12c; sal rochelle, 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 both sea and fresh water fresh fish. Prices are as follows:—Finnan Haddies, 7 to 8c per lb., the lower quotation only in large lots; Whitefish, 6c; Lake Superior trout, 9c; Pickeral, 4c; salmon, 12c halibut, 12c; Cod, 8c; Haddock, 8c per lb; smelts 10c; herrings 25c per dozen; Oysters, \$1.60 per gallon for standards, \$1.80 for selects, and \$2 to \$2.25 for extra selects and counts; shell oysters, \$8 per barrel; smoked salmon, 15c lb.; bloaters, \$1.50 box; red herrings, 20c box; pickled trout, \$7.50 per barrel of 100 lb.; pickled whitefish, \$3 per barrel; salt herrings \$1.50 per barrel.

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., \$1.88; No. 4, 1 lb., \$1.28; No. 5, 2 lb., \$2.30. Staminale—2oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do, 4oz, \$5.10.

GREEN FRUITS.—Trade is quiet in this branch since New Years. Apples are held about the same and \$2 to \$2.50 per barrel covers the general range of prices. Snow apples, in cold storage, are held at \$3.50. Oranges are in good supply and prices are lower. Lemons are also 50 to 75c lower. A few bananas are coming in occasionally, but during this changeable weather they do not always come to hand in good condition. Frozen cranberries are offering lower. No unfrozen stock in at present. Prices are as follows: Apples, \$2 to \$2.50 per barrel as to quality. Mexican oranges, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per box; California navel, \$1.50 to \$1.75 per box; California seedling oranges 4 to \$1.50 per box; Messina lemons, \$5 to \$5.25 per box; Cape Cod cranberries, frozen, \$5 to \$5.50 per barrel; Malaga grapes, \$3.50 per keg; bananas, \$2.75 to \$3.50 per bunch; sweet potatoes, \$1.50 to \$5 per barrel.

HARDWARE—Business is very quiet in this branch and prices are simply nominal. Prices are as follows:

TIN, lamb and 56 and 28 lb. ingots, per lb. 19 to 20c.

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, \$3.00 to 3.50.

IRON AND STEEL—Bar iron, per 100 lbs. base price, \$2.35 to \$2.50; band iron, per 100 lbs., \$2.85 to \$3.00; Swedish iron, per 100 lbs.; \$5.25 to 6; sleigh shoe steel, \$3.00 to 3.25; best cast tool steel, per "7, 11 to 12c; 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, \$3.10

GALVANIZED IRON—Queen's Head, 22 to 24 gauge, per lb., 4½c; 26 gauge, per lb., 4½c; 28 gauge, per lb., 5c.

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

LEAD—Pig, per lb., 4½c.

SHEET ZINC—In casks, 5.75 lb., broken lots, 6.00.

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

AMMUNITION—Cartridges—Rim fire pistol, American, discount, 40 per cent.; rim fire cartridges, Dominion, 50 and 5; rim fire military, American, net list; central fire pistol and rifle, American, 12 per cent.; central fire cartridge, Dominion, 80 per cent.; shot shells, 12 guage, \$6 to 7.50; shot, Canadian, soft, 5½c; shot, Canadian, chilled, 6c.

WIRE—Galvanized barb wire, plain twist—od wire and staples, \$3.25 per 100 lbs.

ROPE—Sisal, per lb., 7½ to 8c base; manilla, per lb., 9½ to 10½c base; cotton, ¾ to 1 inch and 1 larger, 15c lb.

AXES—Per box, \$6.00 to 9.00.

NAILS—Cut, per keg, base price, \$3.16 for 60 d. with usual extras; common steel wire nails, 5 to 6 inch, \$3.60 per keg; 3 to 4 inch, \$3.91 keg; 2½ inch, \$4.22 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 per cent.

NUTS—Tarragona almonds, 16c; Sicily filberts, large, 15c, filberts ordinary, 12c, peanuts, roasted, 12c; peanuts, green, 9c. Ontario butternuts 9c; Ontario Walnuts 6c; hickory nuts, 10; Grenoble walnuts, 15c; French walnuts, 12½c lb.

PAINTS, OILS, ETC.—There is very little doing in this branch. Prices are steady as follows:

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

DRY COLORS—White lead, per lb., 7c; red lead, kegs 5½c; yellow ocre in barrel lots, 2½c; less than barrels, 3c; golden ocre, 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, 4c; less, than kegs, 4½c lb.

YARNISHES—No. 1 furniture, per gal., \$1; extra furniture, \$1.35; pale oak, \$1.50; alatic oak, \$1.50 to \$1.75; No. 1 carriage, \$1.50 to \$1.75; hard oil finish, 1.50 to \$2; 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, 15 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, P.P. 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 and \$2 for second break.

LINSEED OIL—Raw, per gal., 55c; boiled, per gal., 58c in barrels; less than barrels 5c per gallon extra, with additional charges for caust.

TURPENTINE—Pure spirits, in barrels, per gallon, 58c; less than barrels, per gallon, 63c. An additional charge for packages for small quantities.