

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

Winnipeg, Saturday, July 24.

This has been a busy week for jobbers in one way, the feature of the week being the large number of merchants in the city from outside points drawn hither by the holding of the Winnipeg summer fair. More or less buying has been done by some of the visitors, but many of them come for pleasure rather than business purposes, and the amount of buying has not been as large as might be supposed. The heavy rains and disagreeable weather was not favorable to business, though the crops have been benefitted much by the rains. In the eastern part of Manitoba there was no great need of rain, but throughout the central and western portion the rain was need, and needed quite urgently in some sections. The fruit trade suffered the most from the unfavorable weather, large stocks having been brought in for exhibition week, which did not meet with as large a sale as expected. The lumber trade is having a very busy season. With the large number of elevators building throughout the country is an important factor in the lumber trade, it is also evident that farmers are doing more building this year. This is no doubt due to the growth of the dairy industry and the growing live stock industry. Farmers are going more extensively into these lines, and they require more buildings on their farms. The commencement of work on the Crow's Nest railway has been felt in several lines of trade. There have been large purchases of horses, contractors' outfits, such as scrapers, provisions, oats, etc. The price of oats and butter has been advanced by this demand. There has been also been a good demand for labor. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week show, as usual, a large increase over previous years.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

Winnipeg, Saturday Afternoon, July 24
GROCERIES.

No new season goods are in yet, but early shipments will soon begin to arrive. New California apricots are now being shipped and may be here very soon. Domestic canned peas and strawberries are also being shipped. New canned salmon, which have been offering at very low prices this year, offers at the coast being \$1 per case lower than a year ago, have now taken a firmer tone, owing to the light run of fish. If the fish do not come in larger number than they have been doing, the pack will be light. It is reported that some packers on the United States side have withdrawn quotation on account of the light run of fish in the Columbia river. California raisins are being offered for future shipment. A report regarding

California raisins says: Early offers for October shipment were rather higher than those for the corresponding period last year, but later offers for the earliest shipment were fully 1-2c below those prevailing last year, viz. 21-4c, 23-4c and 31-4c for 2, 3 and 4 Crown fruit Co's, Fresno. Now an advance of 1-4c is asked, still leaving them 1-4c below last sea on.

DRUGS.

Prices are the same as last reported. The advance in cream of tartar abroad, noted in a previous week has been maintained, and 75s to 76s are the lowest figures makers will accept. The feeling in tartaric and citric acids is very firm at the recent advance.
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FISH.

There was a dearth of fresh fish part of the week, owing to the washout on the railways south, which kept back supplies coming via the Northern Pacific. There is no change in prices this week. Jobbing prices are as follows: White 51-2c, pickerel 4c, trout 9c, haddock 8c, salmon 121-2 to 15c lb., kippered goldeyes, 30c doz. Oysters are quoted at 70c for selects in cans.

GREEN FRUITS.

The unfavorable weather this week has been quite a disappointment to both the jobbing and retail fruit trade. Jobbers had heavy stocks on hand for this week, expecting a big trade on account of the exhibition in the city this week, but the cool rainy weather vastly reduced sales to what they would have been, had the weather been bright and warm. On bananas considerable loss was occasioned by the unfavorable conditions, as the large stock of ripe fruit could not be disposed of as rapidly as was necessary. Southern apples are coming, but the quality is not much improved yet. Some Washington state apples arrived this week in boxes, and though fairly good for the city trade, they were rather soft for re-shipment. The cool weather has slackened the demand for lemons and prices are unchanged. California lemons are now offering, and they are very choice quality. Several cars of fruit in transit, particularly California fruit, were delayed several days on account of the washout on the Northern Pacific in Minnesota, caused by the heavy rains which covered Manitoba and the regions to the south. The delayed cars are expected to-day, but unless the cars were kept well iced the fruit will likely be in poor condition. Pineapples were scarce, being out of the market yesterday, but more will be in. Apricots are now out of season, and few if any more will be brought in. Peaches and plums are easier. Native currants are selling on the street at 75 cents per pall. Prices are: California into Valencia oranges \$6 to \$6.50 box; Messina lemons \$6 to \$6.50; bananas, \$2 to \$2.75 per bunch; pineapples, \$2.50 to \$3 dozen; California lemons, \$6 to \$6.50 a box; pea plants, 11-2 cents per pound; tomatoes, \$1.75 per crate of 4 baskets; California plums, \$1.75 to \$2; per box; California peaches, \$1.75 to \$2; California pears, \$3.50 to \$4 per box; onions, \$4 per 100 lbs; water-melons, \$5.50 per doz.

HARDWARE.

There is no change to report this week in prices. The local jobbing trade

is satisfactory. See quotations in another column.

LUMBER.

The mills report an unusually good demand. While in the city building is not particularly brisk this year, there is considerably more building than usual throughout the country. Elevators building throughout the country also take a considerable quantity of lumber. The mills are kept busy filling orders, and in many cases have all they can handle. If the demand keeps up, this will be the best season in the lumber trade for some years.

PAINTS, OILS, ETC.

Prices are steady and without change this week. See quotations in another column.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—Wheat has had an irregular and exciting week. Prices at leading markets advanced sharply on Monday and Tuesday, and made a further big gain on Wednesday. Then there was a sudden drop on Thursday and a more rapid decline on Friday, so that at the close yesterday prices were only a fraction higher than at the close on Monday. Talk of light crops in Europe is the strong card. Later advices would also indicate that the spring wheat crop in the United States will not be as large as earlier reports indicated. Here the market has been influenced by the news from other points and quite a strong influence prevailed. The advance was followed here up to 80c, sales having been made at this figure on Wednesday, and one point above 80 was said to have been realized. This showed an advance of 4c on the week, making an advance of 9c per bushel in two weeks. Yesterday morning sales were put through at 78 for No. 1 hard, afloat Fort William, a drop of 2c, but at the close yesterday buyers were offering about 76 1-2c for No. 1 hard.

FLOUR.—The flour market is irregular, there being a wide range in quotations. Some leading brands were quoted 5c higher again this week, making an advance in two weeks of 15c, but other brands were held at old prices. A good demand for Manitoba flour is reported from the east, the recent bulge in wheat having no doubt started active buying. Prices here are quoted as follows: Patent, \$1.95 to \$2.10; best, \$1.75 to \$1.90; second best, \$1.50 to \$1.65; XXX, \$1 to \$1.10 per sack of 35 pounds, to the local trade, delivered in the city.

MILLFEED—Another upward movement in bran and shorts has occurred this week, and from the lowest prices on record in this market, as a matter of short time ago, prices have rapidly run up to very profitable figures for the millers. The demand for shipment is good. Bran is now quoted at \$8.50 to \$9 per ton and shorts at \$10.50 to \$11 per ton, with large lots shaded about 50c per ton.

BARLEY—Nominal at 23 to 24c for feed grade, and very little demand of any kind.

Oats—Prices have held at about the values reported last week, the feeling being firm. At Manitoba country points 20c is being bid freely for good feed oats. In this market we quote 23 to 23 1-2c for good feed grades and 25 to 26c for fancy white oats.

CREALS.—The market is decidedly firmer for oatmeal. Stocks held