

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, Nov. 10.

After a long and comparatively mild season, colder weather has set in, following a snowstorm on Thursday which extended all over the country. There has been nothing to interrupt plowing up to Thursday, and the farmers no doubt have a large area of land prepared for crop, which augurs well for next year. The colder weather will start buying in winter lines of goods, and on this account will be acceptable to the trade interested. Grain shipments are still active, though not as heavy as earlier. Cattle export business is being wound up, though there will likely be some further shipments during the next ten days or so. The season shows a large increase all around in live stock exports, particularly from the Manitoba Northwestern railway districts. Grain exports will also be the heaviest on record to the close of navigation, and the large quantity of wheat already marketed, exceeding 10,000,000 bushels, would indicate that the Manitoba crop will exceed estimates by one to two million bushels. This is quite a pleasing feature of the situation. Payments are improving and a larger business than usual is being done on a cash basis. Winnipeg Clearing house returns this week, \$1,650,810, are the largest on record.

Winnipeg Markets.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Nov. 10.

[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.]

GREEN FRUITS.—The principal business has been in apples. A large quantity of apples from Ontario have come in, a number of cars being received by parties who are not regular dealers. For some unknown cause, the apples do not appear to be keeping well this year, perhaps owing to mild weather and getting heated in transit. At any rate, a good many apples even of the best winter varieties have shown a tendency to spot, and with large arrivals, sales have been pushed freely. As a consequence there has been much cutting in prices. Prices have ranged from \$2.50 to \$3.50 as to quality and condition, and up to \$3.75 has been obtained for a few fancy, such as snows. However regular dealers are firm for their choice fruit, and with colder weather setting in, receipts will fall off and no doubt prices will advance again. Tokay grapes have been out of the market, but more may be received, so we let quotations stand. A few eastern grapes are still to be had. The high price of cranberries this year is partly due to the heavy increase in the duty. The old duty was 30c per bushel, but this was advanced to 25 per cent., or equal to \$2.50 per barrel at present prices. Other lines of fruit are much the same as reported last week. Following are quotations for sound fruit fit for re-shipment to country points:—Florida Lemons, \$3.25 to 6.50 per box; apples, \$3.00 to 3.75 per barrel; snow apples, \$4.50; California tokay grapes, full crates, \$5.50; California winter pears, \$3 per crate; bananas, \$3 to 3.50 per bunch. Malaga grapes, \$8 per keg. Cranberries, \$11.50 to \$12 per barrel for fancy Jerseys. Spanish onions, \$1.25 per crate of 50 lbs. New layer figs, 15 to 22c per pound, as to quality and size of boxes. Eastern grapes, 50 to 60c per basket.

GROCERIES.—Canned goods are steady. Several brands of domestic canned goods not previously handled in this market, have found their way here to a considerable extent this year. This is probably the result of the formation of the packer's association, which includes the large packers. Previous to the formation of the association, the large packers had their agents here, and the smaller fry were not able to introduce their goods in this market. Under the combine arrangement, however, some of the smaller packers, who are outside of the association, have managed to place considerable orders here this season, no doubt their prices having been the principal inducement to try the new brands. If these brands turn out fairly good, no doubt the factories outside of the association will be able to do a larger business here next year. In dried fruits, new season goods continue to arrive and the market is well supplied with raisins, currants and figs. Teas are quiet but strong. Sugars are unchanged. Refiners quote 4½ to 4¾-16 for granulated, add 3½ to 8½ for yellows, dark to bright. A cut is announced in the price of woodenware. The decision was arrived at on Monday last at a meeting of the Canadian Woodenware Association. The object is to prevent the importation of United States woodenware, which has been coming into the country pretty freely of late.

COAL.—The coal managers met at New York and decided on an advance of 25c per ton on egg and stove and 10 cents on grate sizes of Anthracite coal. Prices at Chicago, Duluth and other western wholesale points have been advanced 25c on all sizes except pea. This makes the price f.o.b. at Duluth as follows; Egg, stove and nut, \$5.25. Retail price \$6. These advances went into effect on November 1. A month ago, it will be remembered, prices were also advanced 25c. The advance naturally makes the feeling firm in the Winnipeg market, but no change has occurred in local prices yet for imported anthracite, though some dealers said they would not make any new contracts under \$8.75. The freight rate from Duluth is \$3 per ton, so that \$5.25 at Duluth is equal to \$8.25 cost on track Winnipeg. Present prices therefore give a margin of only 25c per ton for handling and delivery retail to consumers. Of course local dealers contracted earlier in the season for specific quantities, and if they were buying at the present wholesale prices they could not sell under \$9 at a reasonable profit here. When their contracts run out, however, they will have to pay the advance. On the other hand a cut has been made in the price of western Canadian Anthracite of 25 to 50c per ton. Quotations in Winnipeg are \$8.50 to 8.75 per ton for Pennsylvania anthracite as to quantity, \$8.25 for western anthracite, and \$7.50 for Lethbridge bituminous. These are retail prices delivered to consumers in the city, for egg, stove and nut. Small sizes, called pea coal, suitable for steam and furnace, \$7.00 for imported anthracite, and \$6.50 for western. Western furnace coal, or lumps, \$7.75. Souris coal sells at \$4.25 retail, and \$3.75 on track here, and at \$1.50 to \$1.75 on cars at the mines.

WOOD.—Prices are about the same. Tamarack sells mostly at \$4 to 4.10 per cord on track here in car lots as to quality. Oak about \$3.60 to 3.75, mixed pine, spruce, etc., can be had at \$3.50. Poplar has sold at from \$2.25 to 2.60 on track as to quality. Birch, \$4.

RAW FURS.—There is nothing to speak of doing locally in furs yet. The next London sales will take place on November 29 and 30, but only selected sealskins will be offered at these sales, as reported elsewhere in this issue. Last week we published a report of Lampson's London sales of October 17 and following days, giving a comparison of prices with the sales held in March last. Below we give a

comparison of prices realized at the recent October sales, with prices obtained at the sales last June: Black bear 10 per cent., brown bear 16½ per cent., grizzly bear 40 per cent., marten 32 per cent., red fox 5½ per cent., wolf nearly 5½ per cent. higher than in June. Mink, raccoon, wild cat, grey fox and otter, the same as in June. Lynx 8½ per cent., beaver 10 per cent., skunk 5 2-5 per cent., muskrat 8 per cent. lower than in June.

DRY GOODS.—The continual mild weather is curtailing the demand for winter goods, but it will not likely be very long before we have a change. In fact a little foretaste of winter was felt this week and such weather as prevailed at the close of this week will start active buying in winter lines.

CANNED MEATS:—

Corned Beef	 2 lb tins, per case of 1 dozen	\$2 65
Roast Beef	 2 " " 1 " "	2 75
Brawn	 2 " " 1 " "	2 65
Pigs Feet	 2 " " 1 " "	2 25
Jump Tongue	 2 " " 1 " "	7 65
Ox Tongue	 1 " " 1 " "	7 80
Chipped Dried Beef	 1 " " 2 " "	5 25
Compressed Ham	 1 " " 2 " "	4 50

NUTS.—Soft shelled almonds are quoted at 16 to 18c, walnuts, 14 to 17c, peanuts, roasted, 14 to 15c, filberts, 12 to 15c, pecans, 16 to 17c, New Chestnuts, 15c lb; Figs, new, 15 to 22c; dates, 8 to 10c. Cocoanuts, \$1 to 1.10 per doz.

DRUGS.—Following prices are for small parcels and will be shaded considerably for full package orders: Alum, per pound, 3½ to 4½c, alcohol, \$4.75; bleaching powder, per pound; 6 to 8c; blue vitrol, 5 to 8c; borax, 11 to 13c; bromide potash, 55 to 75c; camphor, 75 to 85c; camphor, ounces, 80 to 90c; carbolic acid, 40 to 65c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chlorate potash, 28 to 35c; citric acid, 55 to 65c; coppers, 3½ to 4c; cocaine, per oz., \$7.50 to \$8.00; cream tartar, per pound, 28 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; epsom salts, 3½ to 4c; extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 18c; do., boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 30 to 40c; glycerine, per pound, 20 to 25c; ginger, Jamaica, 25 to 40c; do., African, 20 to 25c; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 35 to 45c; iodine, \$5.50 to \$6.00; insect powder, 35 to 40c; morphia sul., \$1.90 to 2.25. Opium, \$4.50 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, \$4.00 to 4.50; oxalide acid, 18 to 16c; potash iodide, \$4.25 to 4.50; 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, \$5.75 to 4.25, sal soda, \$2.00 to 3.00 tartaric acid, per lb, 45 to 55c.

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., \$4.50; No. 3, 8oz., \$7.88; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.88; No. 5, 2 lb., \$24.30. Staminol—2oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do. 4oz., \$5.10; do. 8 oz., \$7.65; do. 16oz., \$12.75. Fluid Beef Cordial—20oz. bottles, \$10. Milk Granules—In cases of 4 dozen, \$5.10. Milk Granules with Cereals—In cases of 4 dozen, \$4.25.

FISH.—British Columbia salmon, 14c lb; British Columbia halibut, 14c. Lake Superior trout, 9c; whitefish, 6c; pickerel 3 to 4c. Smoked whitefish, 8c lb; smoked goldeyes, 30 to 35c dozen; red herring 20c box; finen haddies, 11c lb. Oysters, \$2 for standards and \$2.25 for selects, per gallon.

PAINTS, OILS, ETC.—It has been alleged that the cutting in white leads east is to try to force a combination in the trade, though this of course may be taken merely as a supposition of some one. Shellac is firm. The gum has advanced it is said about 10 per cent. recently, which makes manufactured shellac firm. Linseed oil is very firm.

HARDWARE.—Eastern advices report a decline of 10c per keg on cut nails, making the bare price \$1.65 in Montreal and \$1.75 Toronto, f.o.b. in quantities.