

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, Oct. 26, 1895.

A larger volume of business is certainly being done this fall in seasonable goods than for the past two years. Retail merchants have been buying more freely in dry goods, clothing boots and shoes, etc. Collections, however are not as liberal as they should be at this season, but all are hopeful. The grain movement will not be crowded into a couple of months, as it was last year, but will be distributed over the year, so that collections and cash business are expected to be good right along. Bank clearings this week at Winnipeg show an increase of more than 30 per cent. over the corresponding week last year, which indicates the larger volume of trade. Cattle shipments for the season are drawing to a close. Exports of cattle will show an increase this season over last of fully 30 per cent. or more. The demand for labor is still largely in excess of the supply. Probably fully double the number of men will be employed in the woods this winter, getting out saw logs, cordwood, railway ties, etc. Considerably higher wages than ruled last year is now being offered for men for the woods. Traffic is very heavy on the railways, both outward and inward bound, the number of cars handled daily exceeding previous records here. The weather has been very favorable for weeks now for threshing the crops, but a good deal of this work remains yet to be done. Fall plowing is also backward, owing to the unusual amount of labor involved in handling the heavy crop this year. Butter, cheese and eggs have been advancing rapidly in price of late. The record was broken one day this week in the number of cars of wheat passing through Winnipeg eastward bound, the number being 13 cars. These were handled by the Canadian Pacific railroad alone, and did not include shipments out via the Northern Pacific railway.

In the United States this week bessemer pig iron has advanced \$1 per ton, anthracite coal advanced 25c per ton, whiskey advanced at Louisville. Cereals were stronger. Cotton and print cloths were lower, and there were further declines in hides and sugar. Pork, lard and coffee were lower.

The total number of failures in Canada this week as reported by the Bradstreets agency, is 36, as against 37 for last week; 36 in the like week one year ago, and 38, 30, and 33 for the same weeks in 1893, 1892 and 1891.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON., Oct. 26

[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 big coal companies in the United States continue to advance prices. A telegram this week says: "The New York anthracite coal companies have advanced prices 25 cents to-day to the following:—Grates \$3.75; eggs \$3.90; stoves \$1.15; chestnuts \$3.90. These are f.o.b. in New York. This is the highest wholesale circular yet made and anticipates the proposed advance on Thursday next by Philadelphia companies." In Winnipeg dealers are now beginning to do quite a business, the weather having been cold enough this week to bring many stoves and furnaces into requisition which have

been idle since last spring. The expectation of higher prices later on is also inducing consumers to lay in supplies early. An authority estimates the coal consumption of Winnipeg at 80,000 tons of hard coal.

CORDWOOD.—Cordwood holds firm owing largely to the great difficulty to get cars to bring in supplies. Tamarac is held pretty firm at \$1, and pine mostly at \$9.50. We quote the following prices for car lots on track here: Tamarac \$3.75 to \$1 per cord; pine \$3.25 to \$3.50 per cord, spruce \$3 and poplar \$2.25 to \$2.50 per cord, as to quality.

DRY GOODS.—Wholesale dealers report a very fair trade the movement certainly showing a liberal increase over the last two years. Collections are not as large as they should be, but an early improvement is expected. The following advances are reported from the East: White cottons, $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ per yard higher. New Brunswick white and colored carpet warps, 1c. Embroideries have been advanced 5 to 10 per cent. Victoria lawns, muslins and all kinds of goods made from Egyptian cottons have advanced slightly. Linens and canvas have been advanced 10 per cent. Japanese silks have advanced from 15 to 20 per cent. Domestic yarns are a shade higher, and cashmere hosiery, which has advanced $\frac{7}{8}$ per cent this season, is expected to make a further advance. In the United States cottons were easier this week in sympathy with the declining market for raw cotton.

DRUGS.—Glycerine is now higher than it has been for a number of years. The big advance in cream of tartar is maintained. Borax is advancing sharply.

FISH.—Finnan haddies are $\frac{1}{2}$ c lower. Prices are: British Columbia salmon, 12 to 14c; B.C. halibut, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; Lake Superior trout, 9c; whitefish, 6c; pickerel, 3c; sturgeon, 7c; finnan haddies, 12c; kippered goldeyes, 30c dozen; oysters, \$2 for standards and \$2.25 selects, per gallon. Cans 55 and 65c.

GROCERIES.—The tone of the sugar market has been easier since our last report. A decline of 1-16c at New York was quite a surprise, in view of the strong position of late, but it did not affect Canadian refiners' prices. The decline at New York was thought to mean an effort to weaken the market so that refiners could buy stocks of raw a little lower. A cable report this week says that the "International association estimates the production of sugar for the crop year of 1895-96 in Germany, Austria, France, Belgium, Holland and Russia at 3,680,023 tons, a fall of off of 851,000 tons from the previous year." A previous estimate showed a decrease this year of the European crop of about 1,160,000 tons. Canadian refiners quoted granulated at $\frac{1}{2}$ c, and yellows at $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ c as to grade. Lobsters are very strong, and eastern advices report an advance of 50c to \$1 per case, owing to the light pack. Canned peas are firmer. The pack of canned apples is large and prices are tending lower.

GREEN FRUITS.—Winter supplies are arriving freely, but over half are greenings, while the demand seems to be for red apples, spies and baldwins being preferred. Some more crabs were in, but they were more or less spotted, and sold lower in consequence. No more are expected. Lemons are still very scarce. The orange season has not opened yet. There are none in the market, and will not be for a few days yet though some are reported on the way. Florida oranges will be very scarce this year, in consequence of the damage to the trees last winter from frost, and this will shorten the winter supply of oranges. Prices are: lemons, \$9 per box; bananas \$2.25 to \$3 per bunch as to size; California peaches \$1.25 to \$1.35 per box; California and Oregon pears \$2.25 to \$3.00 per box; apples, fancy early winter, such as snows, kings, etc., \$1.50 to \$5 per barrel,

winter apples firm at \$3.50 to \$3.75; Ontario concord grapes 50c per basket of 10 lbs; Ontario white Niagara and Red Roger's grapes 65c per basket of 10 lbs; Catawba grapes, 65c per basket; Ontario pears 60 to 90c per basket; California grapes, tokays, \$3.00 to \$3.50 per crate; Malaga grapes, \$7.50 per keg; cranberries, \$9.50 to \$10 per barrel; tomatoes 70 to 80c per basket; Figs, 14 ounce boxes, 1.50 per dozen; new figs, 10 lb. boxes, 15c per lb; dates 7 to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c a lb; Sweet potatoes, \$5.50 per barrel; Spanish onions, \$1.35 per crate.

LEATHER AND BOOTS AND SHOES.—Hides have declined 1 to 2c in the United States and Canadian markets, and leather as reported last week is also off considerably. Manufacturers are buying leather in small lots to meet immediate wants, fearing further declines. This is causing an accumulation of stocks in the hands of tanners, and causes anxiety among the latter, which may lead to further declines, though the stock held by them now is manufactured from deer hides, bought before the decline, and a break in prices of leather would result in serious loss to tanners. Shoe men are now taking orders for the spring on price lists based on the top price for leather, and which are said to be 15 to 20 per cent higher than prices ruling before the boom in hides and leather set in. Of course the remarkably high prices reached were never expected to hold out long, but neither tanners nor shoe dealers would desire a decline just now—the former because they hold stocks of high-priced leather, and the latter because they are in the middle of the spring trade.

LUMBER.—The lumbering companies are now preparing for the winter cut of logs, and men are being engaged and supplies are being forwarded to the woods. Owing to the scarcity of men, higher wages are being offered than last year. The cut of logs in the woods last winter was the smallest for many years. Stocks have now been reduced some, and as the prospect for business next year is much better than it was this time last year, the large companies will make a much larger cut of logs. Indications are therefore for an active season in the woods.

HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.—The following shows the new list on screws, as arranged by the manufacturers at the recent meeting at Montreal. The trade discounts off the price list are now as follows:—Flathead, bright, 77 $\frac{1}{2}$; round head, bright, 72 $\frac{1}{2}$; flat head, brass, 75, and round head, brass, 70 per cent. These prices make an advance of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent all around. Metals are firm. Advices from the east report an advance of 15c on Canada plates. Tinned sheets would cost 1c per lb higher to import now. Cotton waste continues upward in tone, owing to the advances of raw cotton, and prices are now ruling at high figures. Linseed oil is firm. Glass is firm and in brisk demand. Turpentine is easier. Large importations of glass are arriving. New linseed oil of local manufacture is now on the market. The market was bare of local made oil for quite a long time. Soil pipe has been advanced to 60 per cent of the list, which is equal to an advance of 10 per cent.

RAW FURS.—Interest in the trade has been revived by the holding of the regular fall fur sales in London, which opened on October 16, and continued during the following days to October 18. This closes the list of fur sales for the present year. A cable report of the sale says: "The fur sales held by C. M. Lampson & Co., were not entirely satisfactory in point of prices. 65,090 African monkey skins were offered, and 48,000 withdrawn; 17,000 skins sold from 40 to 60c per skin. African producers are reported to have held out for higher prices, which accounts for the large number withdrawn. The num-