

DANGER OF FLOOD.

This year, so far, has an extraordinary record for disasters by flood. Large American cities, such as Cincinnati and Pittsburg, have suffered in a manner hitherto unparalleled in their history. The loss of life has been large, and the destruction of property unprecedented. Their experience comes home to ourselves. We have not yet had time to look upon the floods that inundated this city last spring as a thing of the past. Although unaccompanied by loss of life or serious disaster, their serious aspect will for many a year to come be a vivid recollection.

The danger of flood from Colony Creek which inundated the north side of the city will not occur again. That was owing to the turning of the water from its natural channel by the railway track. Sufficient culverts had not been provided, and the dam created by the grading sent the water down over the city.

But the danger from an overflow of Red River still remains. But even this is not so great as in the past. The record of the past shows that every year high water serves to diminish the prospect of harm from that point. Fifty years ago a tree could be felled and thrown over Red River so as to provide a sufficient pathway on which to cross. The channel has since then widened with every succeeding freshet, until it has reached the dimensions it now assumes. Where only the red man's canoe could find room to navigate, magnificent craft of five hundred tons burthen ride with ease, and carry to market the produce of our country. Last year the channel was greatly widened by the flood, and the possibility of a repetition was consequently diminished. If the river could be straightened so that the stiff bend around Point Douglass would be abated there would not at any time be the danger that exists. The strong current drives the ice up against the bank, and this by accumulating, the jams are so formed. With a straight channel this would be obviated. We commend this matter to the attention of our city fathers.

But the chances of escape from the flood in Winnipeg this spring are said to be good. The ice in the river is very rotten and will break up easily, so that no danger is expected. Still it is well to be prepared for the worst.

STONEWALL is to have a bank very soon. Two or three local capitalists are the promoters.

Winnipeg Wholesale Markets.

During the past week business in wholesale circles has been quiet. It was only what was to be expected at this time of the year. The season for the sale of winter goods has passed, and the spring trade, except in a few branches, has not yet set in. Wholesale houses are busily engaged in making preparations for the coming season. Large instalments of goods are being received and the hands are busily engaged in putting them in order. A certain number of sorting up orders are continually coming in, but these are only small in amount. No general revival of trade is expected for a month to come, and then it is expected that the demand for goods will be active. Collections are still sluggish, but show some improvement over the past few weeks. The milder weather of the past few weeks has facilitated the marketing of grain in the country, and considerable money has thus been put into circulation. Those who ask for renewals shew that if they are allowed a month or two longer they will be in a position to pay without difficulty. There is plenty of grain in the country, which if turned into money will give general relief. The prospects for spring trade are excellent, and men in business feel correspondingly encouraged.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

There is very little being done in the way of selling at present. The manufacturer's houses are busily engaged stocking their country agencies. Large quantities of goods have arrived during the week, and there is a heavy stock in transit. There is little chance of the supply being unequal to the demand this summer. Collections are still slow, and so but little improvement. This is owing to the cold weather and the consequent difficulty experienced in marketing the products of the last harvest.

ROOTS AND SHOES.

Spring orders in this branch of trade to a large extent have been taken, and the houses are busy filling them. Shipments from the eastern Provinces are being received daily. Beyond the filling of orders there is but little doing. Some of the houses report collections very fair, while others complain that they are not up to the mark. Still there is not much reason for complaint on this score, and a few weeks more will, it is expected, bring things back to a satisfactory condition.

CLOTHING.

Quiet, is the unanimous report from the clothing houses. Business in their line has not yet fairly opened, and beyond the filling of some spring orders business is literally at a standstill. A good trade is confidently expected to open up with the advent of spring. Collections are only middling, and cannot be said to have improved any since last week.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

There is no particular change to note in this line of business. The wholesale men are laying on their oars and are not pressing business at all. Beyond the ordinary run of city trade there is nothing doing. Collections show but little improvement, but the accounts are mostly

in good hands. With the opening of spring a general revival of trade is expected.

DRY GOODS.

The dullness which has been the leading characteristic of the dry goods trade for the past few weeks still continues to be its chief feature. Travelers in the country have sent in very little beyond small sorting up orders. It is not expected that there will be any change in circumstances to report for fully a month yet. Dealers in the city and country as well have in many cases overstocked themselves, and do not feel at liberty to make further additions to their stocks until their shelves have been more thoroughly cleared. The wholesale houses, recognizing the existing condition of things, are not pressing business eagerly, but are content to hold off till nearer the end of the season. Collections are very slow, in fact only a small percentage of notes is paid as they come due. Still many of them are being reduced in amount by small degrees, customers showing a disposition to do the best they can under the circumstances. The stocks of goods on hand are heavy, and all the leading houses are well prepared for the spring trade.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

During the past week a better business has been done than for some time past. Considerable orders are being received from the country, and the city trade keeps well up to the average. Collections are very fair, there being but little ground for complaint in this respect.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

Dealers in this line report a very satisfactory trade. Orders coming in, though not large, show no falling off in numbers. The demand from the country has been fair, and collections are by no means bad. Travelers report a good prospect for spring trade.

FISH, POULTRY AND GAME.

During the lenten season the demand for fish is greater than at any other period of the year. The supply has, however, been sufficient of late and prices are reasonable. Considerable quantities of white fish and sturgeon are on hand, and the coarser qualities have been well supplied. Finnan haddies by the case sell at 12½ cents per pound. Very little poultry is offering, and game, being out of season, is not expected. There is a good supply of cod on hand at \$13 per barrel.

FRUIT.

There is no change in prices from last week's quotations. A very fair trade is being done in all lines. Apples hold firm at \$6.00 to \$7.50 per barrel; Valencia oranges, \$12 to \$13. California grapes, \$10 to \$11 per barrel; figs in mats, 10c; large boxes, \$14c; small boxes, 20c. Raisins, loose Muscatels, \$3.50; black crown, \$5.25; triple crown, \$8.50; four crown, \$8.75. Extensive additions to stock are expected in a week or two.

FURS AND SKINS.

No change to report in prices from that given last week. Very little doing. A few green hides are coming in. The price quoted is \$5. No salted offering.

GROCERIES.

Business, although still quiet, shows an im-