

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

Since last issue monetary affairs in Winnipeg have shown considerable activity, and the slow feeling so general a week or two since has disappeared. With the opening of May there was an increased demand for commercial discounts, and banks have been much livelier. There has been a readiness to attend to all wants in this line, and it is now an easy matter to make a change of a discount account from one bank to another. Yesterday being the fourth, or rather the fifth, the results in paper met were of the most satisfactory description, and with the exception of some extra work for bank employees the day developed nothing of an unusual character, and was quite an uninteresting day altogether. Every symptom now indicates that commercial affairs are flowing in a steady, safe channel, and funds for such purposes are quite free. Rates have not changed. A few houses, with eastern connections, do business at 7 per cent., but the general range for first-class paper is from 8 to 9. Ordinary paper runs from 9 to 10. Promiscuous discounts range from 10 to 12, and small loans, at short dates, are to be had at the same rates of interest. Real estate mortgage loans have not been in heavy demand during the week, the farming community not being in the market during seeding operations. Rates have not changed, and still range from 8 to 10 per cent., loans being freely obtained on first-class improved property.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

There has seldom been a time in the Northwest, when weather so seriously affected the state of mercantile affairs. In wholesale circles there has been a general dullness all round, especially during the early days of the week, when weather of the most depressing character prevailed. The best reports received give a slight improvement towards the close of the week, but none give a good aggregate for the whole week. The supplementary revival in season's goods generally looked for about this time has not yet made its appearance, and until weather is fairly settled it cannot be expected to. Even in the most staple lines there has been considerable of a lull, and in fancy goods there has been quite a choke-off in sales. One or two heavy buyers from far western points who have been in town, have assisted materially in swelling the aggregate sales of the week, but the general business has been altogether light. Wholesalers do not seem to have been disappointed with these results, but have perfect faith that the business for the remainder of the season will be quite satisfactory. It is expected that during the coming week railway construction will be fairly under weigh throughout the country, and that will materially increase demands from the country. At present retail merchants' stocks in country towns are by no means heavy, and anything like reasonable demands upon them must necessitate their replenishing in different lines. The city retail trade has made almost no demands during the week, and that has added greatly to the slow feeling. Over all these circumstances their still rides the feeling of uncertainty about the future, amounting to almost a conviction, that the present season's trade is in a great measure an

experiment; and almost every adverse symptom develops a movement of extreme, if not unnecessary caution on the part of traders, both wholesale and retail. The fact that collections keep so steadily improving should check this over ready tendency, but after the year that has been passed through it must be expected that a sensitive feeling would pervade trade.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

In this line the business of the past week has shown quite a falling-off. Demands from the country have been very light, and a general lull has taken place. The trade in spring machinery is over, and circumstances have rather thrown a blight upon the preparations that were being made for harvesting goods. Collections have not shown any improvement, and are not expected to now for some months to come.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

Quite a slow feeling pervades this branch, and the business of the past week has been rather limited. There have been a few special calls, but general sales have been very light indeed. Travellers are now about to start out for the sorting trade, and their starting is expected to soon cause activity. The report from collections is very satisfactory.

CLOTHING.

As in all other season's goods there has been a quiet feeling in this branch during the week, although from some travellers still out very encouraging returns have been received. The city trade has been nothing during the week, and with but the country demands, resulting from the immediate efforts of travellers on the road, the aggregate of sales have naturally been light.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

As in other branches dependent greatly upon fancies, business has been rather dull in this line during the week. Sales have been confined to the most staple goods, and the volume has been rather light. Improved weather will doubtless make a stir in this line, and the current month may be expected to bring out some more encouraging developments. Collections are reported fair to good, and better than sales would indicate.

DRY GOODS.

As yet there have been no signs of renewed activity in this staple branch, and the trade of the week has been rather scattered, and not heavy in the aggregate. Demands have been for goods for immediate wants, and prospective purchases have been very few. Until business livens up in retail circles, and retailers begin to discover more wants the sorting trade will continue light, and no movement of that nature can be expected until steady, good weather sets in. The cold winds and rain of the past week proved quite a damper upon business all over the country, and called for a little more patience. As stocks are very light, both in the city and country, a very moderate demand will cause some stir in the sorting trade. Collections are reported quite good, and May opened with scarcely any irregularities.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALL WARES.

Business in this branch has been better than could have been expected under the circumstances, although it has been anything but rushed.

Sales have held in a steady stream, and although their volume has not been heavy, their aggregate for the week, considering the backward weather has been quite encouraging. Collections have been good, and give full evidence of the season's trade progressing on a solid foundation.

FISH AND POULTRY.

The fish trade of the past week has been almost a blank. The winter catch on the lakes is over, and until navigation sets in summer operations cannot be commenced. The only fresh fish reaching the city during the week have been sturgeon goldeye, and other river fish, and these have not been in quantities sufficient to admit of wholesale quotations. If the supply was at hand there is a demand for small lots for markets in the United States, but there has scarcely been enough to meet the very limited local demand. Prices cannot be given, as sales have not been heavy enough to base them on. Poultry is only to be had in retail lots, and a few wild ducks are offered in a similar manner.

FRUIT.

There has been a lively business done in fruit during the past week, and the variety of fresh fruits has been larger than for several months back. The novelties of the week are pine apples at \$5.50 per dozen; bananas from \$5 to \$7 a bunch, according to size and quality; and Bermuda onions at \$3.50 to \$4 a crate; coconuts are steady at \$10 a sack; a few good apples are still to be had at \$8 a bbl.; oranges are worth \$6 a box, and lemons from \$5.50 upwards. Tomatoes are again on the market at from \$2 to \$2.25 a box; raisins are quoted, Valencias \$2.60 to \$2.75 a box, and loose Muscatels \$2.75; peanuts, pecans and Brazil nuts are unchanged in prices.

FUEL.

There has been no change in this trade during the week. The demand for both wood and coal is light, except for summer delivery of the latter. Poplar sells from \$3 to \$4, in car lots; tamarac from \$4 to \$5. Anthracite coal sells at \$10.75 on track, for summer delivery, and bituminous at \$9.50. Saskatchewan lignite is now out of the market.

FURNITURE.

A good, steady business is still being done in this line, although the real activity of a few weeks ago does not continue. Trade has now reached that steady level at which it is expected to continue during the greater portion of the summer.

GROCERIES.

There has been a temporary lull in this branch of business during the past week. No reason can be given for the change, except the weather, which has had a depressing effect upon business generally. One or two heavy buyers, who have been in the city have added materially to the aggregate of the week's sales, but general business has been decidedly slow. There have been no changes in prices of staple goods and ranges are as follows: Sugars are quoted, yellows 8 to 9c; granulated 10 to 10½c; Paris lumps 11 to 11½c; Coffees still range 15 to 18c for Rios; Javas 22 to 27c; teas have about the former range, Japan 20 to 45c,