

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

The present month is winding up without any improvement in the financial situation, but this can hardly be said to be disappointing, as it was difficult to see what there is to bring about a very radical change at present. Still this is one of the matters in which there is always a hope that things will improve. Wholesale dealers tell the same story of closeness in collections, and with business at a standstill almost in country towns, while seeding progresses, any improvement could not be looked for. The real estate market shows signs of considerable activity, and following the movement in farm land, city properties have also begun to change hands more freely. Quite a number of sales of good city properties have been reported during the last week or two, but prices obtained in most instances have been really below a reasonable value upon the properties. In farm lands frequent sales are reported, and at good prices in many instances, where the better class of properties were purchased for actual settlement.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

Matters have moved along steadily in wholesale trade circles. Textile lines have shown a little better demand in a sorting way for seasonable dry goods, but the clothing branch is yet rather dull. The feature in the grocery trade has been the "boom" in sugar prices. Receipts of country produce were very light last week, as farmers cannot spare the time from their seeding operations to market produce, and all the horses are kept working on the farms, so that even the female population are prevented from driving in with their customary supply of butter, eggs, etc. Business at country towns was therefore dull. Other wholesale branches in this city were without any important feature. Retail trade in the city is not altogether satisfactory, and so far this season trade has not been active.

DRY GOODS AND CLOTHING.

The local dry goods trade has shown some signs of movement during the last week or so, and a little sorting trade was doing. There is a great deal of complaint, however, about very great difficulty in making collections. The clothing branch is still quiet. The Gray Cotton Manufacturers' Association met on April 25 at Montreal and decided to continue the combine. An advance of one or two cents was made in prices. The raw material has advanced from 6 to 7 per cent., which gives occasion for an advance in the manufactured goods. The long-credit system is under consideration by eastern houses in the dry goods trade, and it has been suggested that dating ahead be stopped, and credits be restricted to not over four months. Though shorter credits would be in the interest of both wholesalers and retailers, yet it is to be feared that concerted action, so necessary to success in this matter, will hardly be taken to correct the evil. The cotton trade is declared to be in a healthy condition. Nearly \$500,000 worth of cotton was sent to China last year, and the trade promises great developments.

FRUITS—GREEN.

Stocks of apples were rather low last week, and especially so for good qualities. It is ex-

pected, however, that further supplies may come in yet this season. Oranges were in good supply at last quotations. There was not much new stuff in the market, and prices were steady for old lines. Quotations were: Apples, in good condition, \$1.00 to \$1.00 per barrel. All apples are now picked over. Damaged lots were selling as low as \$1.00 per barrel. Messina lemons are quoted at \$5.00 to \$5.50 per box. Messina oranges, \$4.00 to \$4.50 per box. California fancy Riverside seedless oranges, \$4.50 to \$5.00 per box. California Washington Naval oranges, \$6.00 per box. Bananas, \$3.00 to \$4.50 per bunch. Malaga grapes in 50 to 65 pound kgs are quoted at about \$16 per keg. Cranberries are quoted \$7 to \$8.00 per barrel for sound fresh fruit. Pie plant, or rhubarb, 8c per pound. Southern red onions, \$1.25 per crate of 50 pounds; Spanish onions, \$1.50 per crate of about 50 pounds. Cider, rectified, in barrels, 35c per gallon. New maple sugar, cakes, 13 to 14c per lb. Maple syrup, in tins or bulk, \$1.25 per gallon.

GROCERIES.

The sugar market has continued to "boom" in prices since our last report, and one advance has followed another in rapid succession, both in foreign and domestic markets. The advance appears to be perfectly legitimate, and due to the strong statistical situation of the commodity generally. Rio coffee is quoted 1c higher in this market from the causes previously noted, but other coffees are unchanged. Quotations here are: Sugars, yellows, 8½ to 8¾c; granulated, 10 to 10½c; lumps 10½c. Coffees—Rios, from 22 to 25c; Java, 25 to 30c; Old Government 33 to 34c; Mochas, 32 to 35c. Teas, Japan 23 to 46c; Congous, 22 to 60c; Indian teas, 35 to 60c; young hyson, 26 to 50c. T. and B. tobacco, 56c per pound; P. of W., butts 47c; P. of W. caddies, 47½c; Honaysuckle, 7s, 55c; Brier, 7s, 53c; Laurel Bright Navy, 3s, 56c; Index d. thick Solace, 6s, 48c; Brunette Solace, 12s, 48c. Special brands of cigars are quoted: Reliance, \$50; Gen. Arthur, \$50; Mikado, \$40; Terrier, \$30 per 1000.

HIDES AND TALLOW.

Prices continue at old quotations here. Outside markets are dull and low. At Chicago green salted hides range at about 4½ to 5½c, actual prices obtained on sales. Calfskins sold at Chicago at 6 to 6½c. Prices here are: Winnipeg inspected, No. 1, 3½c; No. 2, 2½c; No. 3, 2c. per pound. Calf, 7 to 13 pound skins are quoted at 4 to 5c, Deacon skins, 10 to 20c each, the lower price for cut skins. Sheepskins 25 to 55c each as to quality, for old. New, lately killed skins, with long wool are worth 75 to 80c, but few of this sort offering. Sheared skins, 5 to 10c each. Lambskins, 15c each. Tallow quoted: rough, 27 to 3c rendered 5c.

WOOL.

A little new clip wool has already been offered, coming mostly from Southern Manitoba points. It is yet early, however, for the movement, and only a few farmers have so far sheared their sheep. The Mennonite settlers usually are in advance of other farmers in this matter. Prices quoted here are 8 to 8½c per pound for unwashed Cotswold and Leicester

wool, and about 14½c for average lots of washed wool. These prices, however, may change, as regular quotations for this season have not been fixed yet.

GRAIN AND PROVISION MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

WHEAT.

The gradual decline in wheat prices in the leading wheat markets, has not been very cheerful news to our grain men a number of whom are holding considerable quantities of grain. purchased on a basis of much higher prices than those ruling at present. If the wheat were forced to sale now, it would be at a loss to holders. Some try to maintain a cheerful disposition in the face of the adverse situation, and they argue that all the wheat held will yet be wanted at fair prices. This may be a case of the wish being father to the thought. The season throughout has been rather an unsatisfactory one to holders of wheat. Prices this year in Manitoba have all been in favor of the farmer, against the dealer, prices having ruled high during the time the bulk of the wheat was being marketed by farmers, but declining just about the time dealers were loaded up with the stuff. Prices at Chicago have declined about 45 cents from the top figure reached this season, and nearly half of this decline has been within the last few weeks. Montreal is quoted now at about 15c under the top price of a few weeks ago. Present quotations at Montreal for No. 1 hard are \$1.20 to \$1.22, but these figures are nominal, and it is doubtful if \$1.20 could be obtained for a cash sale. At any rate this would be an outside figure at present, and actual prices for cars could probably be quoted from \$1.20 downward. No sales are reported here. An occasional load was marketed by farmers during the week at provincial points, and 50c for No. 1 hard was about the usual price paid. Seeding operations progressed steadily last week. Most of the wheat was in the ground over a week ago, and is now showing up nicely. A few backward farmers, however, were sowing wheat last week. It is said that frozen grain sown is apparently coming on all right. Work on the farms last week was mostly given to plowing for later spring crops, such as oats and barley.

FLOUR.

The weakness in the wheat situation has influenced the flour market, and with some cutting, prices are lower all around. Patent and bakers are 10c lower, while the decline on low grades has been about 25c. Quotations to the local trade delivered in the city or f. o. b. cars are now given as follows:—Patents, \$2.90; strong bakers, \$2.70; XXXX, \$2.00; second bakers, \$2.15 to \$2.55; superfine, \$1.40; middlings, \$2.90; Graham flour, \$2.70.

MILLSTUFFS

Prices held unchanged at \$10 per ton for bran, and \$12 per ton for shorts.

OATS

There are so few transactions at present that reliable prices can hardly be given. There are practically no deliveries on the market in loads. About 30 to 32c would still cover the full range of values for cars on track, though the lower quotation is probably under the mark at which sales would be made.

OAT AND CORNMEAL, ETC.

Quotations are unchanged as follows: \$2.60 for standard oatmeal and 2.75 for granu-