

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

There is still a remnant of the holiday activity left in monetary circles in the city, and with the exception of commercial affairs, there has not yet been a proper waking up. The fifth of the month being yesterday, there has been some life infused into commercial monetary affairs, although the day passed off without any unusual developments. The volume of paper falling due was not heavy, and the irregularities have been few, so that the day was rather uninteresting, and the little extra discounting done was the only unusual circumstance. Although money seems a little freer in circulation in trading circles, there has been considerable pressure among small traders without regular lines, and banks are no more than ever disposed to attend to this demand. Rates of discount are still the same, being 8 per cent. for first-class paper; 9 to 10 for ordinary, and 10 to 12 for one-name paper. In loans on real estate mortgage business has not yet recovered from the holidays, but should we be favored with a continuation of mild weather companies anticipate quite a good business from this on till the spring breaks up. Some are very hopeful in this respect, and all are expecting more or less improvement, while each company claims to have plenty of funds for good and safe business. Rates of interest still range from 8 to 10 per cent., and a few companies have now come to the unvarying 9 per cent. without any commission extra.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

Although the wholesale trade of the city during the week has been more or less affected by the New Year holiday, there have been nevertheless signs which indicate the tendency of trade in several branches. The general tone is still depressed, and the quantity of goods changing hands in any line is not heavy. Added to the holiday season has been the coldest snap Manitobans have experienced since the month of December, 1879, and everything has contributed to make business dull. The week closed with the first signs of matters getting into regular going order, and so far as any opinion could be arrived at the indications are in the direction of improvement. One or two houses in staple lines of everyday consumption report advices from country customers much more reassuring than they were two weeks ago, and lending strong color to the growing belief that January will not be the dead month which some people have predicted. There is no doubt but the city trade looks very unpromising at present so far as a prospect of sales is concerned, and that fact is what maintains the feeling of want of hope. There is at present in season goods lines none of that bustle and preparation for the spring trade which is usual about the opening of January, and the evident intention of houses in these lines is to keep from pushing the spring trade for some weeks later than is usual. With the opening of the month a few travellers take the road with spring samples, but they have no expectation of doing much business until the month is well advanced. In lines dependent upon building and outdoor contract work matters are at a complete stand-

still, the extreme cold weather having entirely stopped even the very limited demand usual in midwinter. The report from collections is more hopeful than a week ago. There is not as yet any material increase to the volume of payments coming in, and the good sleighing which is general throughout the province promises to bring money more into circulation as soon as a few days of moderate weather will allow of teaming. Already some wholesale houses report some improvement in cash returns; but the number is as yet few, but they are sufficient to indicate that the balance of the winter will not be so close and stringent as some gloomy prophets have been predicting of late. The fifth of the month has brought out no very annoying results, and there is a prospect of steady cash returns as January advances.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

There is still no word of houses sending out their canvassers for spring orders, and it is thought that this will not be done until the first of February. The only demand of the past week has been for sleighs, and that has been light, as most country agencies had supplies sent early in the season and lying unsold. Collections are reported as coming in in the same slow manner, there being considerable lagging behind. Altogether the trade is in a very quiet state at present.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

Stock-taking is now over and spring samples are being made ready. There have been during the week very few sales of goods, and winter's demands may be considered over. Collections are reported as fair, and fully as good as can be expected at this season of the year.

CLOTHING.

Travellers are again starting out with spring samples, and during the present month the country will be well served no doubt. Sales of goods for immediate wants have amounted to very little. The report from collections is fairly satisfactory, but the bulk of payments falling due has been small and will be so during this month.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

There is a very quiet feeling in this trade at present, and last week's business has been very limited. Dealers now look forward to a very quiet month during January. No attempt at pushing trade will be made until February. Collections are reported moderately good, and are reported to be on the whole satisfactory during January.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

Business in this trade has kept the slow state noted in our last report, and failure of a leading retail house in the city has not assisted much in the way of improvement. A steady improvement is looked for during January.

DRY GOODS.

There is still no improvement to report in this staple line. There is a literal stop to sales of winter goods, and no further demands in that are looked for during the season. Stocks of spring goods are arriving, and the preparation of samples and other necessities for the spring trade are being pushed. No attempt will be made during the present month at sell-

ing spring goods, and travellers will probably remain at home until the opening of February. Collections are reported much more encouraging than might be expected at this time.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

The city demand for fancies kept up a little activity until the last day of 1884, but since then wholesalers have been very quiet. The week's business, altogether, has been very limited, and wholesalers are now prepared for a few weeks quiet. The report of collections is fairly satisfactory.

FISH AND POULTRY.

Fresh fish are still in fair demand for local trade, while a few cars have been shipped to southern points. Car lots of white are quoted at 5½c and small lots at 6½ to 7c; Jack are quoted in car lots at 2½c, and in small lots at 3c. Fudon haddocks are on the market, but not in quantities to admit of wholesale quotations. Poultry are now scarce, and wild fowl, owing to the closed season, have disappeared.

FRUIT.

Business has had a slight lull in this line during the week, and is expected it be a little quiet now after the holidays. There have been but two additions to the fresh fruit on the market, namely, Palermo oranges at \$5 to \$5.50 a box, and Palermo lemons at \$6 to 6.50; grapes are still quoted at \$8.50 to 9 a bbl; pears are now out of the market; Elmer figs, in boxes, are worth 16 to 20c, and in kegs 13c; Malagas are quoted at 11 to 13c; prunes, in 100 lb kegs, are worth \$7.50, and in 50 lb boxes \$8 to \$5.50. Raisins and currants are unchanged in price.

FUEL.

There has been no let up to business in this line, and dealers had difficulty in securing the New Year holiday to themselves. There have been no changes in prices and quotations are as follows: poplar in round lots is quoted at \$3 to \$3.50 and marac at \$3.50 to \$4. Anthracite coal is still delivered at \$12 a ton; bituminous at \$9 to 11 according to quality; and Saskatchewan lignite at \$7.50.

FURNITURE.

Business in this line is at a very low ebb. There has been no improvement since our last report, and none is looked for until spring trade starts. Several weeks of quietness are still looked forward to.

GROCERIES.

One or two houses report a better feeling in the country, and express a hope that improvement will go on as January advances. There is still great quietness in this trade, however, and while faint sounds of improving collections are heard from some, complaints are heard from others. Prices of staple goods are in some instances advanced a little, which is owing to wholesalers no longer basing upon summer freights. The old prices, however, can still be bought at by first-class men and cash buyers. Sugars are quoted: yellows, 6½ to 7½; granulated, 8c; Paris lump 9½ to 9¾. Coffees still range: Rios, 14 to 17c; Javas, 21 to 24c; Jamaicas, 17 to 20c, and Mocha 30 to 34c. Tea, still range as follows: Moyune gunpowder, 30 to 75c; new seasons, 65 to 85c; Japans,