

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

Monetary affairs in the city have been affected like all others by the excitement of the past week. Not that the rumors of rebellion have raised discount figures, or caused interest on loans to be higher. But there has been that neglect of business which has lessened its aggregate for the week. In commercial circles the effect has not been very marked, as the last days of every month are usually inactive so far as discount demands are concerned. With the opening of April there will undoubtedly be renewed activity, as a large share of the spring purchases of stock go into paper from April 1st. Banks profess to be able to attend to all this business without inconvenience, and there is no fear of any scarcity of money for regular lines of discount. Rates are still the same. First-class paper 5 per cent; ordinary 8 to 10; promissory and one name 10 to 12. The excitement has had more effect upon real estate mortgage loans, and until there is a settlement of the disturbed state of affairs throughout the Northwest, the calls for loans on farm property will no doubt be few. City business there is very little of at present, so that the week has been rather a quiet one for the loan companies. Funds for such loans are not scarce, and rates are still from 8 to 10 per cent, with plenty of funds to be had at the lower of these two figures seeking good investment. It is seldom except in cases of renewals, that 10 per cent is asked.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

Like all other branches of business in the city, the wholesale trade has been more or less affected during the week by the excitement in connection with the half-breed outbreak in the Saskatchewan district, and business has not held its usual even flow. It cannot be said that trade has been injured in a permanent or in a lasting way, but there has been a feeling of restlessness, caused by the dispatch of volunteers to the seat of trouble, quite a number of whom have been drawn from trading circles. Amid this excitement there has been some difficulty in ascertaining the exact feeling in wholesale circles, but so far as it could be reached, it indicates a slowly improving state of affairs. In most lines of season goods there has been considerable activity caused by the filling of orders for spring goods, and in some houses, where the number of military volunteers reduced the staff of employees, not a little inconvenience was experienced. Much more activity would have undoubtedly been the rule had not the weather of the past week still maintained something of a winter aspect, but in spite of this business has improved. Lines dependent upon building and out-door contracting have been moving at a steady pace of gradually returning activity, but the backward weather has also had a checking effect upon these. In lines of every day consumption there have been no new features, unless that they have been more or less interrupted by the general excitement, and have not experienced the improvement, which the close approach to spring should have produced. Once the excitement has subsided it will no doubt be found

that in almost all branches activity has been on the increase. The report from collections shows an improvement in almost all lines except farm machinery and such as are dependent for cash returns direct from the farmers, and houses in these lines are satisfied and prepared to bear with a falling off, until seeding operations are over. Altogether wholesale business in the city has maintained a healthy and encouraging tone during the week, and there is plenty of evidence, that a prosperous season is being entered upon.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

During the week there has been a steadily increasing demand for spring machinery, and reports from country agencies indicate a good trade for several weeks, which will cause fresh demands upon the central houses here. The activity is all the more encouraging as it comes without much effort, there being no inclination to push matters this season. Collections have fallen off somewhat, but this is no more than was expected, and some houses report cash returns freer than they anticipated.

ROOTS AND SHOES.

There is still no let up to the activity in this branch, and quite a heavy aggregate of goods have been shipped out during the week. Rubber goods have been in good demand, but there have also been heavy sales made of goods required for spring and summer trade. Collections are reported quite as good as could be expected at this time.

CLOTHING.

Matters are rather quiet in this trade, and the week has been anything but an active one. The fact that one house has decided to close out their branch here, and are now placing their stock on the market at reduced figures has no doubt something to do with that quietness complained of by others. Collections are reported fairly satisfactory.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

The improvement in this trade noted in our last report still holds out, and although the week has not been a very active one in sales, it has been in marked contrast with the quietness which existed in February. Collections are reported very good, and much more encouraging than sales.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

This trade keeps moving at a steady pace, and the past week has been fully up to an average. Although not a trade dependent upon seasons, it is being favorably affected by the opening of spring. Collections are reported fair to good.

DRY GOODS.

In this staple branch, there has been quite a little activity during the week. So far this spring's business has not had any of the rush and lull movement of former years, but has held to a steady state of moderate activity. The past week has been such, and the volume of orders keep regularly coming in. There is still a good share of the spring's business to overtake, and several weeks without any marked lull intervening are now looked forward to. Collections although a little slow, are as free as can be expected at this time, and are by no means discouraging.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

The approach of spring is being felt in this branch; and while there has been a moderately good business done in staple lines during the week, there have been quite a number of inquiries for fancies. Collections are reported fairly satisfactory.

FISH.

There has been very little activity in the shipping of fish during the week. Two cars, about the last straggling exports of the season, have gone south; but the warm weather acting in again in the States has stopped further demands. The local trade in small lots still keeps moderately active. The supply of both white-fish and jack-fish is still liberal, and the latter have dropped a little in price. Car-lots of white-fish are quoted at 4½ to 5c, and small lots 5½ to 6c; jack-fish, in car-lots, 1½ to 2c, and in small lots 2½c. The new duty on oysters has already raised prices, and quotations are now: Standards, 40c; selects, 45 to 50c.

FRUIT.

The fruit business is exceedingly quiet at present, and dealers have been complaining quite a little during the week. The only marked change is in apples, which have gone up to \$3.50 and 6 a barrel. Messina oranges are worth \$3.50 to 6 a box, and California Riversides, \$6 to 6.50. Lemons are quoted at \$5 to 5.50; Almeria grapes are selling at \$5 to 6 a bin; Elmer figs, in boxes, 16 to 20c per lb. Dates, raisins, and currants are unchanged in prices.

FUEL.

There is still a good business doing in wood, many parties being engaged laying in stocks before the spring break-up; but for immediate use the demand is light. Round lots of poplar have been going cheap, some in the city selling at \$2.25. Tamarac is scarce, and pine lots hard to be got. These will bring \$4.50 in the city. Coal is unchanged in price, quotations being: Anthracite, delivered, \$12; bituminous, \$9 to 10.50; Saskatchewan, \$7.50.

FURNITURE.

A little activity has been experienced in this trade during the week, but the aggregate of sales has not been heavy. Small orders have been numerous, and the filling of them has made matters lively in comparison with the dull month of February. Collections are reported dull, but inclined to improve.

GROCERIES.

This staple trade seems to have been most affected by the excitement of the past week, and the aggregate of sales shows a slight falling off, instead of an increase, as was expected. Business, however, has not been dull, and will doubtless recover all it has lost during the current and coming weeks. Teas are still on the upward tendency in the east; but our importers were fortunate enough in having bought heavily before the last rise was made. There are no changes in the prices of other goods, and quotations are as follows: Sugars—Yellows, 6½ to 7c; granulated, 8 to 8½c; Paris lumps 10c and a further advance is still looked for. Coffees and Teas are firm and unchanged quotations being as follows: Rio, 14 to 16c; Javas, 22 to 25c; Jamaicas, 17 to 20c; Mochas,