

THE NECESSITY OF THE DAY.

From conversation with a gentleman just arrived from Southern Manitoba we learn that the amount of produce now lying in the farmers bins is sufficient to relieve every liability if it could be marketed. This is the one drawback, and must be provided for. The sooner capitalists here, and outside as well, take note of this fact the better. We have a country here teeming with produce, and the sole difficulty lies in the expense that is incurred in finding a market. Instead of putting all their money into schemes which can obtain an existence only by the development of the country and the importation of capital, they had better turn their attention to developing the resources of the agricultural districts. The cost of railway construction in this country is so light, as compared with other countries, that there is no reason why they should not be built at once. They will prove a source of profit to not only the promoters, but to every one who takes an active interest in their furtherance.

If our farmers cannot get their grain to market, how can it be expected that they will pay their accounts as they come due. This may be considered the repetition of an old story, but still it is full of truth, and the sooner it is acted on the better.

Red River Navigation.

The Hon. Mr. Royal, Messrs. Scott, Sutherland and Watson, Manitoba members, and C. S. Drummond, Vice-President of the Northwest Navigation Company, waited upon the Minister of Public Works last week and urged upon him the necessity of dredging the channel at the mouth of the Red River. They asked for: First, enlarging the channel of the Red River at St. Andrew's Rapids, by either widening it above low water mark, or by building a canal and letting or selling the water-power; and, second, the removal of the boulders in the St. Andrew's Rapids, which, being covered at high-water, are a source of great danger to all steamers passing; the dredging of a channel at the mouth of Red River. At present steamers drawing ten feet can easily navigate both inside and outside of the bar, but only those drawing six feet and under are able to cross it. Except when the wind is from the north there are times when only four and a half feet would be found in the channel over the bar. The matter was discussed at length, and Sir Hector was favorably impressed and promised to lay the matter before his colleagues at an early date, recommending the placing of a dredge at the mouth of the river.

MOOSE JAW has now six general stores, five saloons, one drug store, two blacksmith shops, and three hotels, besides numerous other buildings.

Messrs. PERCHARD & ANDREW have purchased a stock of goods, and on Monday left for Medicine Hat, where they will start a general store.

France receives annually from England about \$20,000,000 for butter and cheese. This is suggestive to the American farmer. Many of our farmers know how to, and do make good butter, but there are many farmers who do not know how to, or at least do not make good or clean butter. If any one doubts this let him visit any city commission house, and he will find butter of every conceivable color, form and smell, and will lose his appetite for butter for a week at least. A little piece of bad butter will ruin the taste of the best bread that the skillful miller and baker can make.

Winnipeg Wholesale Markets.

The period of inactivity has not yet passed, and most of the wholesale houses report a continuance of the dullness which has been the leading feature for the last three or four weeks. Business is not being pushed with any degree of energy, and for very good reasons. There are large amounts due in the country, and notes are not being met with the promptness which could be desired. Travelers out on the road are sending in light sorting up orders, and this with orders already given for spring makes up the volume of trade. In some lines collections have improved, in others there is no decided change for the better. The fourth of March, a dismal day for many a business, will a tale unfold perhaps not looked for. Still things cannot be said to be worse than they have been.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

There is very little doing in the way of sales, but a great many farmers are making inquiries. There were but a large quantity of machinery sold this spring. Many farmers have got into a position to afford better articles, and consequently the demand will be greater and the prospect of prompt payment better. Collections have shown a decided improvement.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

Business has been quiet for the week. Beyond a few sorting up orders and filling some for spring there is little doing. Collections show some improvement.

CLOTHING.

At this particular season of the year there is but little expected in the clothing line. People have bought all the winter wear they require, and until spring opens they will not require to change their suits. Consequently there is little to report. Some spring orders are being filled. Travelers orders, however, as a rule are light, the country storekeeper's shelves being well supplied.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

The normal condition of things reported last week still continues. Very little business is being done beyond the ordinary run of local trade. Collections are about as they were.

DRY GOODS.

No better, no worse, may be said to convey the whole idea as the state of the dry goods trade for the past week. There has been some slight movement in the way of small sorting up orders, but nothing of any account. The houses are not pushing business. Good responsible men are buying very cautiously, and outside of that class of custom the wholesalers do not care to extend their business. Collections show some improvement, but there is still much to be desired in that respect. This week past and things generally will find bottom, and a general revival of business is then expected.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

Orders have been coming in moderately well, and collections are very fair. The prospects for spring trade are good, and the leading houses are well prepared for it.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

An encouraging prospect for spring, combined with a very fair trade for this season of the year, causes a general feeling of satisfaction in these lines of business. Orders from the country, while small, are not behind in numbers. Collections, although not what was expected, are fair, and accounts as a rule are considered good.

FISH, POULTRY AND GAME.

The supply of fish has been very plentiful, but there is a prospect of a scarcity in the course of a week or two. On Lake Winnipeg those engaged in catching have almost ceased operations, and this must necessarily affect the market here. The supply of white fish is limited. The ruling figure is 7c. per pound. Hung white fish can be had at 5c. Finnan haddies in cases are worth 12½ to 13c. per pound. Sturgeon are fairly supplied, and so are all the coarser grades.

FRUIT.

The usual run of city trade embraces nearly all that has been done in this line. Orders from outside are few and not large in amount. City orders have kept well up to the average. Quotations have not changed materially from last week. Apples are worth \$7 to \$8 per barrel for good fruit; oranges, \$13 to \$14. Almeria 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.

FURS AND SKINS.

Nothing doing worthy of notice beyond a few hides which sell at \$5.

GROCERIES.

The quietness which pervades nearly all other lines of business is also found here. Orders from the country are light, but at the same time as numerous as could be expected at this season of the year. Collections, although not much improved over last week's report, are still fair. The prospects for a good spring trade are encouraging. The influx of immigration will doubtless make a lively trade in a few weeks. There is no change in quotations. Sugars are quoted: Raw, 9 to 9½c; yellow, 10 to 10½c; granulated, 11½c; Paris lumps, 12½c. Coffees, Rio, 16 to 22c; Java, 22 to 31c. Dried