

Winnipeg Wholesale Trade.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

There is no material change in the state of trade in this branch since our last issue. The demand from different localities is good, and the fall and winter goods for retailers are being rapidly sent out. Now winter consignments are being received, and but few further arrivals are expected for the season. Several opening stock orders have been received, and a steady trade for the present month seems certain.

CLOTHING.

Wholesalers and manufacturers report a good trade doing, and that winter goods are now in steady demand. Consignments for the season have nearly all been received, and the premises of dealers have a crowded appearance, which the present demand from the country will soon make changes upon.

DRY GOODS.

There is no material change in the state of trade in this branch, and the rush of a previous week continues. One leading house reports more goods sent out this week than during any previous week since they located in Winnipeg, and they are not the only firm who could give a similar report. Collections in the country are a little slow at present, and may be so for a week or so to come. This is to be expected, however, as crops are not marketed to any extent, and country retailers are confident of soon having heavy returns. A feeling of perfect confidence prevails.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

The city trade holds steady and country orders are still numerous. Opening stocks occasionally drop in for filling, and a steady widening of the field of operations is going on.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

Trade in this branch is generally good, and a wholesale depot for such merchandise is being formed in Winnipeg. One of the most recent additions to the trade reports a steady growing business, and during the week past they have received heavy consignments from the East and Europe, which are going out almost as fast as received.

FISH.

The supply of fresh fish during the week was very limited indeed, while the demand was pretty good. Smoked eels and salmon have been received in considerable quantities, and are selling freely. The demand for canned oysters steadily increases, and prices hold firm. No reduction from last week has occurred, and prices still remain—comets, 75c.; selects, 65c. to 70c.; standards, 60c.

FRUIT.

Numerous consignments of apples have arrived during the week, and prices of these range from \$4.50 to \$5.50 per barrel. Grapes have been plentiful, and the threatened cold weather made wholesalers anxious to reduce stocks. Sales were made from \$3 to \$4.50, according to quality. Delicate fruits were not arriving in such quantities as during the previous week. Lemons were plentiful, and not in great demand. Sales were made at \$5 a case—a dollar under last week's prices.

FUEL.

No change has taken place in the price of coal, and intending purchasers are evidently

holding off to see what the transportations via Thunder Bay will do for lowering prices. Car lots of anthracite are quoted at \$15.30 to \$15.60; bituminous, \$12.50 to \$15. Wood is in good demand, and tending upward in price. Poplar still sells at \$7.25 for good dry; but tamarac has advanced \$1, and is now quoted at \$9. Slabs still sell at \$7 for oak, \$4 for dry pine, and \$3 for wet.

FURS AND HIDES.

Shipments of furs to the East still continue, but not in such quantities as last week. Prices still hold steady, and sales are all by private negotiation. Hides have stiffened up after the good demand of the previous week, and sellers are demanding higher prices, and holding with the determination of getting them. Some few sales are reported at last week's figures. Green hides, 5c. to 7c.; pelts, 15c. to 40c.

FURNITURE.

No change has taken place in this branch during the week. Wholesale orders are coming in slowly, and country retailers are evidently waiting for an immediate demand before ordering.

GROCERIES.

Trade in this line has brisked up very much during the week, and wholesale houses are pretty rushed to fill country orders. Travellers returned from the West report good sales, and the prospect of a fine winter's trade. The numerous openings in new towns have added very materially to the volume of business done. Prices, while they have stiffened up, have not advanced. Sugars are quoted: Bright yellow, 9½c. to 10½c.; granulated, 11½c. to 11¾c. Green coffees are unchanged; Rio, 15c. to 18c.; Government Java, 25c. to 27c.; Mocha, 36c.

HARDWARE.

This branch of trade is in a healthy state. Both town and country orders come in freely, and confidence prevails all over the West. The stove department has received an impetus from the chill of the last few days, and the demands for these come in thick from the West. Collections are not so free as could be desired, but country retailers are not yet receiving their cash returns, and a speedy improvement in this particular is soon expected.

LUMBER.

The demand for building purposes increases rather than diminishes, and importers are pressed to keep pace with the same. The mills are running full power, and have a large stock of logs before them. Country orders have to be neglected to some extent, yet several heavy consignments have been forwarded to Regina and other Western points.

Prices remain the same as last week: Sheet-iron, \$28; Common dimension \$30 to \$32; Fencing, \$28 to \$34; Stock, \$33 to \$40; Flooring, \$35 to \$45; Partition, \$45 to \$50; Graded Clear, \$50 to \$70; Shingles, \$4.50 to \$6; Lath \$5.

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

Trade in this branch is generally good, although the busy season is only commencing. Travellers are now out, and country orders are expected now to come in freely.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

There is a steady good trade doing in this branch, with regular demand from the country. Collections are easy, and the trade is in a healthy condition.

The Commercial Travellers' Meeting.

The organization of a Commercial Travellers' Union, which has been advocated by THE COMMERCIAL, and ably aided by some of the leading Winnipeg travellers, culminated in a meeting at the Grand Union last evening, when it was decided to effect an organization.

At eight o'clock about 30 commercial travellers were present, when the meeting was called to order by Mr. J. T. Wilkinson, who also explained that the object was to effect a Commercial Travellers Association. He stated that there were some 70 travellers who went out from Winnipeg, and that an organization would be greatly to their mutual benefit. Through it they would be able to secure reduced railroad fare, hotel accommodation with sample rooms, that livery stables would give them special rates, and that it would aid in many ways in adding to the few comforts which the traveller enjoys.

Mr. Langridge was called to the chair, and Mr. Mackeand chosen as secretary. The following resolution was offered by Mr. Wilkinson, seconded by R. C. Hickson: Resolved, "That this meeting, in view of the increasing number of commercial travellers in Manitoba and the North-West, and recognizing the advantages of an association, take the necessary steps towards the formation of a Commercial Travellers' Association for the Canadian North-West." After this resolution a spirited discussion arose upon the advisability of organizing a separate association or affiliating with the Toronto organization. Mr. Waller stated he was a member of the Toronto Association, but saw no benefit to be derived by becoming a branch of that organization. Mr. Mulholland spoke decidedly in favor of an independent union. Speaking at length about the position Winnipeg now held as a wholesale center, and stating that he could not see why the travellers of this country could not act independent of any other organization. Mr. Johnson said he was a member of the Toronto Association, and proposed to remain one, on account of the advantages it afforded, yet he would join the Winnipeg Union. Mr. M. A. McLean advanced some very good reasons why organization here should be separated, and although no vote was taken upon the question, it was evident from the feeling expressed by the applause rendered this gentleman that he expressed the sentiment of almost every traveller present.

Moved by Mr. Mulholland, and seconded by Mr. Wilkinson, "That the organization be effected, and known as the North-West Canadian Commercial Travellers' Association." Motion carried.

It was then moved "That a committee of five be appointed by this meeting to obtain all necessary information and draft bye-laws, to be submitted to a meeting to be held on Friday evening this week at eight o'clock, in the same room." Motion carried.

Moved by Mr. Dyer, and seconded by R. C. Hickson, "That the committee consist of Messrs. Mulholland, Wilkinson, Fanning, Johnson and Peck." Motion carried.

The meeting then adjourned, to meet Friday evening.