

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

During the past week there has been a great amount of talk about an early easing up of financial affairs in this country owing to the settlement of the United States presidential question, but as yet matters are rather stringent in connection with mercantile affairs. Banks, while they are prepared to attend all demands of regular discount lines, are in no way inclined to undertake any new or irregular business, and parties outside of that circle recognized as regular customers, have more or less squeezing to make ends meet. The regular mercantile demand for discounts has been fairly active during the week but has been promptly met at the banks. Considerable difficulty, however, has been experienced by traders wanting small loans at short dates which may be taken as an index that the banks have no loose funds notwithstanding their claims to have abundant resources. Rates of discount have not changed and are: 8 per cent. for first-class paper; 9 to 10 for ordinary, and 10 to 12 for irregular business. In loans on real estate mortgage business has been rather slow. Farmers have been too busy to pay attention to matters of this kind, and on city property the number of loans asked about have been few. Altogether business in this branch has been anything but active but with the return of snow and sleighing more inquiries from the country are looked for. There are now no companies who are not looking for new business if it is of the right class, and funds for mortgage loans are undoubtedly abundant. Rates of interest still range from 8 to 10 per cent.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

The past week has produced very few changes in the state of the wholesale trade of the city and the few that have taken place have been trifling. As stated in our last report, lines of goods of every day consumption have been in active demand and houses in these lines report quite an encouraging aggregate of sales. In provision lines in particular, business has been quite lively and promises to hold so for some time to come. In lumber and heavy goods used in building and out-door contracting, matters have been very quiet, and a winter-like feeling has been general with houses in these lines. In regular season goods matters have been decidedly flat although there has been a little ripple of activity in a few instances caused by the return of cold weather and snow, and in other lines dependent upon holiday trade there has been a little life. Altogether, however, season goods have been slow and no material improvement is looked for during the balance of the year. Travellers in most lines are now at home, the only exceptions being those who are out with samples of spring goods, and from those reports are not of the most encouraging description, and their work for the balance of the year promises to be uphill, as country merchants are very shy about buying so far ahead. The report from collections is rather a mixed one, a few houses placing them very slow while others report very good. Taken altogether the report is quite as good as that of the previous week, and so far

November has been quite an improvement upon October. Taken altogether the week has not been a very active one in wholesale circles, but it has been quite as much so as can be expected at this time of the year when trade is fairly on the lull between two seasons.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The actual machinery sales of the past week are null, there being no demand of any sort, except near the end of the week when the reappearance of snow brought out a few calls for sleds and cutters. In most cases supplies of these have been shipped to country points weeks ago but a few unfilled wants have been discovered during the past week. There is as yet no preparation being made for commencing canvassing operations with the opening of January and some houses have intimated their intention of holding back for a month longer next season. Collections are reported coming in with comparative freedom although there is quite a proportion lagging behind.

FOOTS AND SHOES.

Matters have not been very active in this line during the week, although the return of cold weather wakened up a little sorting trade. The aggregate of sales, however, has not been heavy and the dull season has practically set in. Collections are reported fair to good.

CLOTHING.

Quietness has been almost unbroken in this trade during the week and even the few orders for sorts which came in were of the most trifling description. Travellers are out upon the road with their spring samples but so far they have made but little headway, and some houses hint that this year December would be early enough to open up this trade. Collections are reported moderately good.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

Business in this line has not been very active during the week and would be actually dull were it not for the demand for goods for holiday season which has set in. Fancies are therefore the live in demand, while in staples sales have been few and light. Collections are reported a little harder to make than they were a few weeks ago.

DRY GOODS.

In this staple branch business has been very slow during the week, the only steady demand being for a few trifling fancy lines. Sorting orders in staples have been few, and the trade has settled down into the conviction that quietness must reign until the spring trade opens. There is not at present even a stray report of a little hectic rush such as sometimes occurs even in a dull period. Collections are reported fair but not so good as during the previous week.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

In these lines there has been during the week a slight ripple of activity, caused by the approach of holiday times, but the trade generally has been quiet. The country demand has subsided for a season and all the business doing is in fancy lines for the city trade. Collections are reported rather slow.

FISH AND POULTRY.

The fish business has not yet entered upon its winter activity and the demand during the

past week was from local sources only. Jack fish are quoted at 4c and white fish at 7c. Oysters are more plentiful and have eased off in price a little, quotations now being: standards 40c; select 50c. As soon as the rivers and lakes are completely frozen over, which promises to be very soon, the export trade in fresh fish will doubtless set in.

FRUIT.

Since the return of cold weather the trade in green fruits has fallen off greatly, and for the first time since the opening of summer business, the trade has had a really quiet week. Collections are reported slow and not at all as good as could be wished. The only additions to the variety on the market are double crown raisins at \$4, and triple crown at \$4.50. There have been no changes in prices of other goods. In a few days the first consignments of Florida oranges ever sent to Manitoba will be on the market. Apples are quoted at \$3 for fall, and \$3.25 to \$3.50 for choice winter. Fancy Montreal Famusee have advanced to \$5. Dried fancy sliced are worth 17c in 50 lb. boxes. Almeria grapes are worth \$8.50 to \$9.50 per bbl.; Oregon pears, \$5 to 5.50 a box; Jamaica orange, \$12 a bbl.; Messina lemons, \$7.50 a box; figs, 16 to 20c per lb; cocoanuts, \$10 per 100; filberts, 12 to 14c per lb; walnuts, 18c; almonds, 20c; peanuts raw, 15c, roasted, 20c; pecans, 16 to 17c; Brazil nuts, 14c; raisins are quoted: London layers, \$3.75 to \$4; ordinary layers, \$3.25 to 3.40; satans, 12c per lb; loose muscatels, \$3.40 to 3.50; black baskets, \$3.25; cartons in 4 boxes, \$3.50; old valencias, \$2 to 2.25; old currants are quoted at 6½ to 7c, and new 8½ to 9c.

FUEL.

Like the thermometer, this trade has been going up and down with the temperature of the weather during the past few weeks but the regular winter demand may now be considered set in, and there has been considerable activity during the past week. Coal is still quoted at \$12 for anthracite delivered; \$11 for bituminous, and \$7.50 for Saskatchewan lignite. Wood is quoted in round lots: poplar, \$3 to 4 a cord; tamarac, \$3.50 to \$4.50 on track.

FURNITURE.

There has been as yet very little improvement in this trade. Business has been decidedly quiet during the week and even the city retailers have been complaining very much. Wholesale business has amounted to very little. Collections are reported stiff and not at all encouraging.

GROCERIES.

Although this trade cannot be called quiet, business during the past week has not been anything like so active as it was during the early part of November. Collections are also reported less encouraging. In prices of staple goods there have been very few changes although an upward tendency is apparent owing, no doubt, to the increased freight rates of winter going into force. Sugars are quoted: yellows, 6½ to 7½; granulated, 8c; Paris lumps 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: Moyano gunpowder, 30 to 75c; new seasons, 65 to 85c; Japans.