

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET

There seemed to be a general belief at the close of last week that money was circulating more freely. Wholesalers reported good returns from the country, and much better than previously expected. This seemed to be the general opinion, though some two or three were not quite as decisive in this respect, and thought the worst fair would answer the question. None, however, complained of poor returns. From this showing it may be considered that money has commenced to circulate freely from the sales of grain and other products, and that for the next few months the situation will be easier. At the banks about the usual business was going on, with discount rates steady. In the mortgage loan line the feeling is also very satisfactory in regard to payments. During November payments of interest have been made very promptly. One leading company reported three times the amount met as in the previous month, from a large number of small loans from all parts of the province. Returns show up better than any previous year. There is not a great deal of new business doing, but all applications for advances on improved land are readily taken, at from 8 to 9 per cent. The prairie fires last fall have made little difference in returns, in a few cases the interest having been allowed to stand over, but in comparison with the total the number is very few. The inspectors of the different companies, who have been through the province during the fall, report a satisfactory state of things. A very large amount of plowing has been done, and as a rule the farmers were contented. Quite a number of farms in some of the older sections of the province, which had been mortgaged and abandoned, the owners going west to take up second homesteads, have been again settled upon. This class of land promises to come into better demand, in preference to going farther away to secure government land. Altogether the feeling in regard to farm property is greatly improved, in comparison with a year ago, and a stated value may now be placed upon farming land in all the settled districts of the province.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE

The change to weather more suited to the season has at last had a beneficial effect upon the wholesale trade. From reports during the past week it may be considered that farmers throughout the province have drawn largely on the stocks of storekeepers, and that a considerable amount of cash has been flowing into the tills of country dealers. Dealers report orders coming in freely in many lines for sorting trade for such goods as are in demand with the commencement of cold weather. The near approach of the holiday season has also induced activity in some branches. The political situation, however, attracted more attention last week than mercantile matters, and until the week following the present the same cause will operate against strict attention to business. The city retail trade has continued fairly active, but there is no question but that several leading branches are too largely represented here in a retail way. The clothing line, especially, is overdone. Some wholesalers have complained of great inconvenience through delay in the re-

ceipt of freight, to the extent in some instances of being unable to fill orders. Some lines of holiday goods are not yet to hand, which are badly wanted to complete orders.

HATS AND SHOES

Dealers have at last enjoyed an active season, which they were much in need of. During the last week in November, the trade done would be about equal to the total for the month previous. The stocks wanted have been entirely for winter wear, consisting of overshoes and felt goods. The past fall's trade has turned out a very poor one for shoe dealers, owing to the dry weather. There was no mud nor moisture, and anything in the shape of an old shoe answered the purpose, whether with holes or not. People took advantage of this and did not invest in their ordinary requirements for fall wear, continuing the use of their summer shoes until they could take up with overshoes and other winter goods. Collections are said to be very good from the country.

CLOTHING

In this branch a great many orders have been received and dealers have had an active season. The orders have been nearly all for small lots, and though in number greater than last year at this time, yet the aggregate amount has not shown much difference as compared with one year ago. This would indicate careful buying on the part of retailers. Collections are said to be very fair.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE

Dealers have been busy for some time in filling orders, largely for the holiday trade. This work is now well through with, but quite a number of orders are still coming to hand. Collections good.

DRY GOODS

The movement in this branch has not shown much change, though there has been a fair demand for seasonable goods, such as are usually taken at this season of the year. Generally, however, the situation remains quiet.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALL WARES

In small wares and staples business is rather quiet, but in fancy lines and holiday goods there is just now a great rush at the warehouses and night work is necessary to keep up with orders.

FURS

A good movement has now commenced in raw furs, several consignments having been received. A good demand exists for prime skins in beaver, badger, bear, skunk, etc. Lynx, mink and muskrat are not as active. Quotations are now as follows: Beaver, per lb, \$2.50 to \$4.00; bear, per skin, \$5.00 to \$20.00; bear, cub, per skin, \$1.00 to \$7.00; otter, per skin, \$5.00 to \$10.00; mink, per skin, 30 to 90c; martin, per skin, 60c to \$2.50; fisher, per skin, \$1.00 to \$3.50; lynx, per skin, \$1.00 to \$2.50; racoon, per skin, 40 to 60c; skunk, per skin, 40-60-80; muskrat, per skin, 1 to 7c. Fox, red, 25c to \$1.40; fox, cross, \$1 to \$10; wolf, timber, 25c to \$2.25; wolf, prairie, 25c to \$1.25.

FRUITS

New nuts will shortly be in the market, and it is expected that prices will be considerably higher, owing to advances at New York. Prices are: Florida oranges \$8 to \$8.50; Jamaica oranges, in barrels of 300 to 350 count, \$14, or \$5.00 per

100. Winter apples, \$4.00 to \$4.50 per bbl, for good stock. Malaga lemons, \$8.00 to \$8.50 per box; lemons, \$15 to \$17; Messina lemons, \$8.50 to \$9.50; California pears, \$5.00 per box; Malaga grapes, \$8 to \$8.50 per keg; Cranberries, \$10.50 to \$11 per bbl; Citrons, \$1.50 to \$2 per dozen; Figs, in 50 lb. sacks, 12½c; New Elmo figs, in layers, 18c per pound, in one lb. to ten lb. boxes; Golden dates, 12c; peanuts, roasted, 18c; peanuts, raw, 15c; walnuts, 15 to 20c; almonds 15 to 20c; filberts 13 to 15c. Dried fruits are quoted as follows: Valencia raisins \$3.15 to \$2.25; London layers \$3.75 to \$3.90; black crown \$5 to \$5.25; black baskets, ¼ boxes, \$1.30. Apple cider is worth \$10 a barrel, or \$7 per half-barrel; sweet potatoes, \$8.25 per barrel.

HARDWARE AND METALS

The movement in this branch during the week has been rather light and the feeling quiet. Prices hold steady as follows: Cut nails, 10d and larger \$3.35 to \$3.75; I. C. tin plates, \$5.50 to \$5.75; I. C. tin plates, double, \$11 to \$11.50; Canada plates, \$3.50 to \$3.75; sheet iron, \$3 to \$4.50, according to grade; iron pipe, 50 to 55 per cent. off list prices; ingot tin, 26 to 30c per lb., according to quality; bar iron \$2.50 to \$3 per 100 lb; shot, 6½ to 7c a lb; tarred felt, \$2.60 to \$2.85 per 100 lbs; barbed wire 7 to 7½c.

GROCERIES

Trade seems to have quieted down considerably. The movement has been mainly in dried fruits, for the holiday trade. New season fruits are firmer; also evaporated apples. Quotations are: Canned tomatoes, at \$3.50; corn \$3.25 to \$3.50; peas, \$3.75; yellow sugar 6½ to 7c; granulated 7½ to 8c; lump sugar, 9 to 9½c; Coffees, Rios, 13 to 13½c; Government Java, 28c, other Javas, 22c; Mochas, 31 to 34c. New season's teas are now quoted as follows: Japan season 1886-7, 25 to 45c; Congous, 1886-7, 20 to 60c; Indian teas, 35 to 50c. Old range, Moyune gunpowder 25 to 70c; panfried Japan 23 to 45c, basket-fired, 25 to 40c; Ping Sze young hyson, 25 to 35c; Moyune young hyson, 25 to 50c; Season's congous, 1885-6, 20 to 55c. Syrups, corn \$2.00 to \$2.35; sugar, cane, \$1.85 to \$2.00; T. & B. tobacco, \$10.

PAINTS, OILS AND COLORS

The only thing now moving seems to be in coal and lubricating oils. Other lines have quieted down for the season. Quotations are keeping steady as follows: Turpentine 75c; harness oil, \$1.10; Neatsfoot oil, \$1.50; linseed oil, raw 69c per gal., boiled 71c; seal oil steam refined, \$1.10; castor, 14c per lb; lard No. 1, \$1.25 per gal; olive, \$1.00 to \$2.00, according to quality; machine oils, black 25 to 40c; oleine, 40c; fine qualities, 50 to 75c. Coal oils, silver star, 20c; headlight, 28c; water white, 30c. American oils, Eocene, 36c; water white, 33c; sunlight, 30c; Eldorado, machine, 56c. Calcined plaster, \$3.75 per bbl; Portland cement, \$4.75; white lead, genuine, \$7.00; No. 1 \$6.50; No. 2 \$6.00; window glass, first break, \$2.25.

PAPERS

Dealers are experiencing an active demand for fancy lines and sundries for the holiday trade, and are obliged to keep busy overtaking in filling orders. There is also a fair movement in staple papers, bags, etc.