

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

The rapid increase of business throughout the country has caused a keener demand for money. There has been no stringency, but still the financial institutions are kept busy supplying what is sought for. An increasing confidence in the future is noticeable everywhere. Renewals in whole are but seldom asked for, and part renewals are not so prevalent as heretofore. Rates of discount seem to be fixed at the figures we have given for the past week or two. The best commercial paper—gilt edged—can be negotiated at from 9 to 10 per cent, ordinary from 10 to 12. Money for real estate or other speculative purposes is still hard to get, and only from private sources. The rates for such range all the way from 12 to 20 per cent, and sometimes higher.

There has been a much freer circulation of money during the past week, and it is expected that before long a much easier feeling will pervade the market.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE MARKETS.

The better tone in wholesale circles which we noted last week continues to improve as the spring season opens up. In every department there is a decided improvement, but some branches seem so far to have shared the benefit to a greater extent than others. An impetus was given to trade by the arrivals of large numbers of immigrants. They have bought their supplies chiefly from country merchants nearest to the point where they intend to settle. This has had the effect of making country orders come in freely. City trade is as yet somewhat quiet, but there is quite an improvement noticeable over last week. Of course city merchants do not require to lay in stock ahead in the same manner that those in the country are obliged to do. Being near the point of supply they require only to purchase for immediate wants, and keep sorting up daily as their shelves become emptied. Everything promises well for a splendid spring trade, and the leading houses are well prepared for it. There is a general improvement in collections and notes maturing are generally paid in whole, or in part at least.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

There is a regular "boom" in this line of business. Large quantities of implements of all kinds are being shipped daily to agencies in the country. The reports from agents are very encouraging, and everything indicates a business this season far in excess of last year. Notes are being more promptly met. Dealers feel anxious as to what will come out of the proposed increase of the tariff on American goods coming into the Provinces.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

This is a busy season of the year for the boot and shoe houses. Heavy orders are being received from the west, several large consignments having been shipped as far as Calgary. The city demand is also good. The stock of overshoes in the city has become almost entirely exhausted, and during the past two weeks two or three hundred cases would have

found ready sale had the goods been on hand. Money is a good deal more plentiful and notes are being met on maturity with considerable more promptitude than for some time past.

CLOTHING.

The houses are kept busy supplying orders the large proportion of which are from the west. Considerable quantities have also been shipped east to Rat Portage and other places on the line between here and Prince Arthur's Landing. The city trade is picking up pretty well. Travelers on the road are sending in very encouraging reports. Collections have been very fair and show unmistakable signs of improvement.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

There is a very satisfactory country trade being done this spring. The orders are larger than at this time last year, and a much better class of goods is being inquired for. City trade is still on the quiet side, but this it is expected will brighten up shortly. Cash is rather more plentiful and will, it is expected, continue to improve as the season advances.

DRY GOODS.

The leading houses report a very much improved state of affairs in this line of business. Spring orders have been shipped, and travelers are out on the road taking orders for summer goods and report very satisfactory progress. A general feeling of confidence pervades business men, much in contrast to the somewhat gloomy state of affairs two months ago. City trade is still quiet, but there is lots of life among country merchants, especially out west. There is a decided improvement in collections. Renewals are still asked for, but only in part, a considerable proportion of cash generally accompanying the request for thirty or forty days more time on the balance. The houses show a liberal spirit in dealing with these, and where everything seems fair and above board there is no difficulty in making satisfactory arrangements. Business during the summer will, it is expected, be good. The leading houses are well stocked up and are prepared to do a large trade. They are, however, and very wisely, too, much more conservative in their dealings, and the customer has to show a pretty good record in order to obtain much on credit. The experience of the past year has taught a lesson which will not be forgotten for a while.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

Business in this branch of trade has vastly improved during the week, and the houses are taxed to their utmost to keep up to the orders that are coming in from all parts of the country. Collections are greatly improved.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALL WARE.

In this line also there is a decidedly improved feeling. Orders are coming in freely and travelers on the road report prospects as excellent for the summer. Cash is much more easily obtained. The leading houses hold heavy stocks of everything in this line, and are prepared to supply the demands of a big trade.

FRUIT.

There has been much more than the usual

amount of business done during the past week. Stocks are not very heavy, but still sufficient for the demand. Apples are becoming scarce, and are now worth from \$8 to \$9 per barrel. Other fruits remain firm at old quotations, which are: Lemons, in boxes, \$7.50 to \$8; oranges, \$11 to \$15 per case; Almeida grapes, \$9.50 to \$10.50 per barrel; figs in mats, 10; large boxes, 14c; small boxes, 20c; raisins, loose Muscatelles, \$3.50; black crown, \$3.25; triple crown, \$3.50; four crown, \$3.75.

FISH AND OYSTERS.

The supply of fish is limited, and the demand is not so great as it has been. Pike are worth 3c per pound and white fish 7c. Oysters are quoted at 35c for standards and 45c for selects.

FUEL.

The demand is becoming light as the weather gets warmer. The supply is good. Quotations are: Coal, egg, stove and nut by car-load on track, \$14; Blossburg, car lots, \$13.25; soft coal, car lots, \$10.50 to \$12, according to quality. Wood, poplar, \$5 to \$6; ash, oak and tamarac, \$7 to \$8.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

A splendid trade has been done during the past week, caused by the demand for building purposes here and out west. Quotations are unchanged and are: Tin plate, 14x20, \$7.25 to \$7.75; 20x28, \$11.50 to \$15; bar iron, \$3.75 to \$4; sheet iron, 5½ to 6c; iron piping, 25 per cent off price list; ingot tin, 32 to 34c; pig lead, 3½ to 7c; galvanized iron, No. 25, \$½ to 9c.

GROCERIES.

Business in this line is rapidly improving. Country orders are coming in freely, and the city demand is also good. Prices are about as they were, viz: Sugars, raw, 9½c; granulated, 12½ to 12¾c; coffees, Rio, 16c; Java, 20c.

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

This branch of business has been very brisk for the past week or ten days. Collections are good, very few renewals being asked for.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

There has been a rather livelier trade than for some time, and prices have not changed. Quotations to jobbers and purchasers of quantities, duty paid, are: Brandy, Hennessy's one star, in cases, \$14; V. O., in cases, \$18; Jules Robin, cases, \$10.50; in wood, \$4 per gallon, Imperial measure; Pinette, in wood, \$4 per Imperial gallon; Louis Freres, in cases, quarts, \$10; flasks, two dozen in a case, \$11; half flasks, four dozen in a case, \$12; M. Dubois, in wood, \$3.50 per gallon; cases, quarts, \$8; flasks, \$9; half flasks, \$10. Gin, Holland, in wood, \$3 per gallon; red cases, \$11; green cases, \$6; Old Tom gin, Bernard's, in wood, \$3.25 per gallon; Booth's, in wood, \$3.25; Booth's, in cases, quarts, \$8.50; Scotch whisky, Ramsay's in wood, \$4; Stewart's, in cases, quarts, \$8.50; flasks, \$9.50. Irish whisky, John Jameson & Sons, in wood, \$4.50; Bernard's, in cases, quarts, \$8; flasks, \$9.50. Jamaica rum, \$3.50 to \$4 per gallon. Domestic whiskies, Gooderhan & Wort's, in wood, \$1.65 per gallon; 65 o. p. rectified, in wood, \$3.50; W. F. L. five-year old, \$2.50 per gallon; cases, quarts, \$7.50; flasks, \$8.50.