

## WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

There was a general lull in monetary affairs in the city last week, and banks and other financial institutions were but little troubled with work, unless that of making up monthly or yearly balances. On Saturday morning the first ripple spread over commercial financial affairs, and some of the transactions of December began to go into paper. Still the whole week was a quiet one in this respect, and even the fourth coming on Monday seemed to awaken very little interest, and not the slightest anxiety. The results of yesterday's payments were of the most satisfactory character. The aggregate falling due was light for a fourth, but it was sufficient to cause a little stir at the banks, and at three o'clock there was scarcely an irregularity to record. Banks are looking forward to a rather quiet time in January, and it is probable that funds for handling the crop will be the only source of demand of any consequence. This still holds out well and is only limited by the carrying facilities of the C.P.R. Rates of discount are still the same and may be considered as fixed for some time to come, being as follows: first-class paper 7 per cent.; ordinary, 8 to 9; promissory and one-name 9 to 10; but all outside of regular discounts are merely nominal. Loans on real estate mortgage have not been moving much during the week. Applications have been few, and holiday has reigned supreme. Agents with scarcely an exception express great satisfaction with the recovery in this line of business, which has taken place during the latter part of the past year, and each and all confidently expect, that 1886 will be a prosperous year for them. A comparison of the arrears now due with what was due at the close of 1884, furnishes a very encouraging contrast, and gives good ground for the hopes of the present year. Rates of interest are nominal, and quoted at 8 to 10 per cent.

## WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

The wholesale trade of the city was last week down to the last flickers of a season, and was confined to the first four days of the week, Saturday having been as much a holiday as Friday as far as sales are concerned. About the limited amount of business done during the early days of the week, it was a matter of no small difficulty to obtain definite reports, and in many branches they furnished no indication of the tendency of trade. When we consider that scarcely one out of the hundred and odd travellers who hail from this city, left the city on business during the week, we can make a rough guess at the small number of calls received from the country, and in the city matters were very little if anything better. In provisions and fires of every day consumption there was naturally more or less of a constant demand for goods. But even this was down to as small a volume as possible. A few calls for fancy lines for New Year's day trade was also heard on Monday and Tuesday, but beyond that there was literally no business of any kind doing. In season goods lines houses were a day at a stretch without a customer or an order of any kind, and lines dependant upon building and

contracting were entirely silent. The principal employment in season lines was the preparation of samples of spring goods, and this week travellers generally will be out with these so that "the drummer" will be as rare a person in the city this week, as he was plentiful last week. Cash returns have been rather light, as no particular effort was being put forth in the way of making collections. Still money was much freer than sales, showing that matters are in a healthy state, although business has been a little neglected on account of the annual Christmas and New Year festivities. We may expect to hear of a sudden livening up this month, as there will be some determined pushing of sales from spring samples, while the mildness of the winter has had the effect of making retailers make early provision for their spring wants.

## AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

There has been no business doing in any kind of machinery during the week, and the only sales have been a few cutters and fancy sleighs. Collections have also had a lull owing to the holiday time, but are expected to liven up again immediately after business is resumed. The question with the trade now is, when will canvassers for the spring trade be placed upon the road? and this will in a great measure depend upon the weather. If two weeks more of mild weather comes, then there will be a general rush to get them out, for the frost is such a short distance into the ground this year, that change from winter to spring is liable to be very sudden, and may be very early. Continued keen cold weather would no doubt delay this movement.

## BOOTS AND SHOES.

This is one of the branches in which it has been all play and no work, and business has been forsaken to a great measure owing to the holidays. The report of the week is therefore a very indefinite one, but wholesalers look forward to clearing out quite a few winter sorts yet, while travellers are again out with spring samples. There has been no reason for complaint about collections.

## CLOTHING.

This branch has also been at a standstill during the past week, and only a few trifling sales of sorts are reported. Travellers have started out this week to renew their pushing of spring sales, but winter sorting trade is over for the year. No report on collections was received and none of a reliable nature could be expected owing to the holidays.

## CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

In this trade business has been very quiet this week, the spurt of the week before having slackened down, after the Xmas demand was fully supplied, and there is not much doing at present. Although on the whole affairs in this branch are much better than at the same period the year before. Collections are reported all right.

## DRY GOODS.

Only a few sorting sales early in the week disturbed the holiday quiet of this staple branch, and matters have been about as motionless as could well be looked for. The wholesalers have now finished stock taking

while the preliminary work of preparing spring samples has been about completed. Travellers have started out with the opening of this week, and January will be a month of energetic pushing on their part. The circumstances are extremely favorable for an early opening of the spring trade, and our next report will doubtless contain news of how matters are opening up in the country. There are no complaints about collections, and no reports of any irregularities in meeting paper falling due yesterday the fourth.

## DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

In this trade the demand during the past week was fairly active, sales were fully up to the average, the principal demand being from local points in the province. Collections are also reported of having been very good.

## FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

There was a little lingering bustle in this branch during the first two days of last week, but this has subsided now, and business is as dull as in any other line. Stocks have been run down very low, and the trade express their entire satisfaction with the holiday season's business. A few weeks of quietness are now looked forward to.

## FISH.

The trade in fresh fish this week was fairly active, the supply now being rather better and on the increase, owing to the roads being pretty well opened up, while there was quite a fair local demand. Lake Winnipeg white fish is not bringing more than 5c all around, Jackfish is worth 3c in car lots. Smoked haddocks continue selling off at 11c; salt white fish still moves fairly well at \$4 per half barrel of 100 lbs in car lots; the variety of salt sea fish is not very extensive as yet, the only sorts on the market are quoted as follows: Labrador herrings, \$8 per bbl, and salmon \$17 per bbl, \$9 per half bbl, and \$5 per qr bbl.

## FRUITS.

In this trade business appears to have fallen off this week, the average of sales not being nearly so heavy since Christmas. Collections however are reported as good. Chicago grapes are out of the market now, and a new consignment of Messina lemons is expected in a few days. Fancy Florida oranges are still quoted at \$7 to \$7.50 a box; California pears \$4.25 to \$4.50; Messina lemons; \$7 to \$7.60 per box; Fancy colored apples, \$5; southern cranberries, \$9 to \$11; Valencia raisins, \$3.75; London layer raisins, \$4 to \$4.25; black crown, \$5.25 to \$5.50; walnuts, 20c a lb; almonds, 20c; filberts, 12½c; pecans, 16c; peanuts, 16c; figs 18c to 20c and dates 10c a lb.

## FUEL.

Business has been moving along in quite a steady way in this line, the average of sales during the week being good. Round lots of tamarac are still quoted at \$5.50 to \$6 delivered, and poplar at \$4 to \$4.50 delivered. The price laying on track will be 75c less. American hard coal is selling at \$10.25 and soft at \$8 delivered. Galv coal also sells at \$8.

## FURNITURE.

In this branch of business trade is not very brisk at present. The rush of sales a