

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

The 4th of the present month passed over without serious developments, and although quite a number of renewals were asked for, yet the result was fully as good as could have been expected. During the past week there has been a slight improvement in the situation, though there is still considerable stringency in financial matters. However, the feeling is undoubtedly one of more confidence generally, and the idea seems to be gaining ground that the closest season is now over. At the banks the usual volume of business has been done, and rates of discount remain steady at the old quotations of from 7 to 10 per cent. There has been more activity in the real estate loan business both on farm and city properties. Rates of interest are unchanged at 7½ to 10 per cent.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

In wholesale trade in this city during the past week there has been a greater diversity of features than for some time, and this applies both to the movement in commodities and to the state of collections. For instance in regard to the latter, several dealers report a gradual improvement, while others have not yet felt any decided change for the better. Taken all in all, however, there has undoubtedly been some improvement. Then again in regard to the movement of trade, a few lines have been quieter, while other branches have experienced quite a revival. To the former belong the two most staple branches of dry goods and groceries; but causes are assigned for the falling off in the demand for such goods. Those lines which have given evidence of decided improvement are those dependent more upon building, and these have undoubtedly been influenced by the favorable weather. Such branches include hardware, lumber and paints and oils. Other divisions of the wholesale trade have continued about as usual and reasonably active, several showing some slight improvement. Taken all together the past week has developed a better movement than for some weeks. Dealers seemed to be more cheerful and in a more hopeful mood, but this was no doubt owing to a great extent to the favorable weather for farming operations, more than to any great business activity.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

Spring operations may be said to have fairly commenced throughout a great portion of the province, and could have been carried on generally during the past week. However, there did not appear to be any very great activity in the demand for agricultural implements. The call was confined principally to plows and harrows, and in these a moderate trade was done. Sales of wagons were also made to a limited extent. The principal activity was in shipping supplies to agents and stocking warehouses at provincial points. In this way dealers were kept busy during the week. Dealers are, however, inclined to stock up more lightly than during some previous years. Collections are somewhat inclined to drag.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

There has been practically no change in this branch, though there has been perhaps a better

call for sorting lots. A few lots were taken by city merchants, and a larger number have been received from the country, but there has been little sign of activity, though trade is considered fair for the season. Collections are slow.

CLOTHING.

There has been a moderate business doing during the week, and the trade has not presented quite as desolate an appearance as during the previous week. The season is still early to expect much in the way of a sorting trade, and dealers are satisfied with the present movement. Collections are still backward, though not discouraging.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

There has been little change in this branch. The usual steady drop trade is doing in probably a slightly increased volume. Collections fairly good.

DRY GOODS.

"There is little of an encouraging nature that may be said of business this week," said a prominent dealer, and such was undoubtedly the case so far as the actual present demand is concerned. Dealers have had a quiet week all around—probably the quietest of the season. With all the spring orders delivered and scarcely anything doing in sorting, there was little to break the monotony of the regular routine of office work, and plenty of time to indulge in speculations as to the future. The present dull season, however, is not disappointing, as it is just what had been anticipated, between the completion of spring orders and the commencement of the summer sorting trade. Collections have not improved and are still rather backward.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

Trade continues fairly active and steady. Blue vitrol is easier in price. Other quotations are unchanged and are as follows: Howard's quinine, 90c to \$1.00; Gramen quinine, 80 to 90c; opium, \$4.50 to \$5.00; morphia, \$2 to \$2.50; iodine, \$4.25 to \$4.50; bromide potassium, 50 to 55c; American camphor, 33 to 40c; English camphor, 45 to 50c; glycerine, 25 to 35c; tartaric acid, 65 to 70c; cream of tartar, 35 to 40c; bleaching powder, per keg \$8 to \$10; bicarb soda, 35 to 40c; sal soda, \$2.25 to \$2.50; soda ash, \$3 to \$3.25; chlorate potash, 25 to 35c; alum, \$2.75 to \$3; copperas, \$3 to \$3.25; sulphur, flour, \$4 to \$4.25; sulphur, roll, \$3.75 to \$4; American blue vitrol, cask \$7 to \$8.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

The spring trade has commenced to set in in this line and a very fair business is now doing, though orders are not for heavy amounts. Collections are still rather slow.

FISH.

A few lots of Lake Winnipeg and Lake Manitoba frozen fish have been offered in the market during the week, but the trade in these is now considered about over for the season. A considerable quantity is still held by dealers in the city. Prices have been irregular and exact quotations cannot be given, but prices below will serve as an index to values. Fresh frozen sea fish are also in good supply and stocks are being sold off at about cost, to clean them out as soon as possible. Quotations are: whitefish, 3

to 4c; pickerel 2½ to 3c; jackfish 1 to 1½c. Salt white, \$4 per bbl; Labrador herrings, \$8 per bbl; salmon, \$17 per bbl; mackerel \$1 to \$1.75 per kit; smoked haddocks, 9½ to 10c per pound. Fresh sea fish are quoted: haddock 7c; cod 6c; herrings 5c; smelts 8c; tommy cods 4c; lobsters 12c.

FRUITS.

The weather during the past week was most favorable to this line, and an active business was done in filling orders from the country. In the city, however, there did not appear to be much improvement in the demand. In regard to the apple trade the remarks of the previous week will apply to last week with still greater force. Stocks are kept large by fresh importations, and it is difficult to dispose of anything but the choicest fruit, except at low prices. Oranges are steady and unchanged. Lemons firm. Cranberries are now nearly out of the market. The increase in the duties on some sorts of green fruits, such as strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, amounting now to 4c per pound, including the weight of the packages, will make some of these sorts rather expensive when they come in season. For instance, in the case of strawberries, it will amount to nearly 10c per quart. A package of strawberries containing 16 quarts as now packed, will weigh about 40 lbs. Peaches also fall in for a duty of 1c per lb. Dried fruits and nuts of some sorts will be slightly advanced in value from the same cause, as new stocks are imported. Quotations are as follows: oranges, Los Angeles, \$5.00 to \$5.25, per box, Messina, \$6.00; Valencia, cases, 400 to 420 count, \$9.50c \$10.00; Riverside \$6.00 to \$6.50 per box. Apples are in large supply and are worth about \$1.00 to \$1.50 for extra choice. Messina lemons, \$6.00 to \$6.50 per box; cranberries, \$2.00 to \$5.00; Valencia raisins, \$3.75; London layer raisins, \$4.00 to \$4.25; black crown, \$5.00 to \$5.25 walnuts, 15 to 20c a lb; almonds, 20c; filberts, 12½c; pecans, 16c; peanuts, 15c for roasted and 13c for raw; figs 18 to 20c; dates mats 8 to 10c; golden 10c. Apple cider, \$10 per bbl.

FUEL.

Since the sleighing has disappeared, the supply of country wood on the market has not been so large, and city dealers are holding for better prices. Quotations are: poplar \$3.55; oak \$5.50; tamarac \$4.50. Prices are for car lots, on track. Hard coal is worth \$10.00, and soft \$8. Gal't coal sells at \$7.50 on track.

FURNITURE.

There has been no change worthy of special reference in this line. Dullness continues to be the ruling feature. Only a very few small lots are occasionally going to the country, and in the city trade is neglected. Collections are slow.

FURS.

Since the London sales there has been considerable activity in furs and lots offered command ready sale. Further reports of the London fur sales state that at Lamson's sale Otter sold somewhat easier than at Hudson's Bay sales. The best qualities of lynx maintained the sharp advance previously reported, whilst the lower grades sold at a slight reduction.