

## WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

As regards the money market there is nothing special to note this week from what appeared in our last issue. The railway blockade which stopped all movement of grain and consequent flow of money, has created a greater demand for bank accommodation than there would otherwise have been. Country dealers have not been able to make remittances so promptly as they anticipated, and on this account the wholesale houses have been called upon to protect a good deal of their customers' paper. It is expected, however, that this trouble will only be of a temporary character, and that in a week or two things will have returned to their normal condition. The banks have plenty of funds on hand, but business generally being dull, they are very careful as to whom they grant accommodation. Gilt-edged commercial paper is discounted at from 8 to 10 per cent., and in some cases it has been negotiated at as low as 7 per cent. Ordinary commercial paper discounts at 10 to 12 per cent. The loan companies are well supplied with cash, but report a light demand for desirable loans. On first-class real estate mortgage security the rate for loans is generally from 8 to 10 per cent. Money for speculation is hard to get, and private lenders generally charge a high rate for accommodation.

## WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

The past week has been one of more than ordinary quiet in wholesale circles, at least it has not been characterized by that activity which had been anticipated immediately previous to the holiday season. The chief cause of this unlooked for condition of things is the trouble which has existed in connection with the railway traffic. Leading dealers tell us that many of their customers from whom they expected to have received heavy orders, have been unable to visit the city at the time they expected, and as the season became advanced they have been obliged to content themselves with orders sent in by mail, as under the circumstances it was impossible to tell whether goods would reach their destination in time for the holiday trade or not. Orders have been much lighter than they otherwise would have been, dealers not caring to carry any stock over till another season. There is no doubt the wholesale Christmas trade of the city has been very seriously interfered with by the railway difficulties, but it is confidently hoped that now that traffic has again been resumed there will be some briskness in general trade immediately after the New Year. Remittances, especially from the country, have been slow owing to the fact that no grain has been moving for the past week, which means a direct check on the flow of ready cash.

## AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The agricultural machinery trade so far as sales are concerned, are at a standstill at present. The agents are actively engaged in attending to collections for last year's sales, and in spying out the land for next season's operations. So far collections have not been of a very satisfactory character, and the past week has been no improvement upon its predecessors. Of course, owing to the check given to the grain

movement by the stoppage of freight traffic on the railway, there was but little in the way of remittances to be expected for the past week, but judging from present indications the outlook for collections during the winter is not so encouraging as it might be.

## BOOTS AND SHOES.

The leading houses have been kept tolerably busy during the past week in filling orders which had accumulated during the railway blockade. Considerable quantities of goods have been shipped during the past few days to country dealers and city trade is keeping up better than was expected. Collections are slow.

## CLOTHING.

There is not much doing in clothing at present. Country dealers were well stocked up early in the season and what is done now is confined to sorting-up orders, generally for the heavier classes of goods. Collections are slow but not more so than was anticipated under existing circumstances.

## CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

Business in this line continues to keep up very well, city trade being especially good. Country trade is very fair, and there has been a very satisfactory demand for the finer classes of goods suitable for Christmas trade. After New Year a quiet period of business is expected. Collections are very satisfactory, and quite a large percentage of goods have been sold for cash.

## DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

There is no particular change to note in the drug business. This line of trade is not so subject to spurts according to the season of the year, as many others, remaining steady the whole time. Collections are fair.

## DRY GOODS.

What with the hindrance to trade caused by the railway trouble, and this being a dull season of the year, under any circumstance, things in the dry goods line may be said to have been almost at a standstill. Had the railway been running there would have been considerable doing in sorting-up orders, but even this has been curtailed by the blockade. There have been no travellers on the road for the past week, and they will not start on regular trips for a month yet. Collections are still slow, and show but little signs of improvement. When the grain again begins to move it is expected, however, that there will be a generally improved tone in that direction.

## FANCY GOODS AND SMALL WARES.

This is a branch of trade which depends upon the holiday season for the best run of trade of the year. Up till two weeks ago a brisk business was being done. After that the railway trouble commenced and business has been very much curtailed thereby. The leading houses report having heard from their country customers stating that they had expected to visit the city and make their purchases personally, but owing to the difficulty in travelling and uncertainty in obtaining delivery of goods, they have contented themselves with sending in small orders by mail. It is safe to say that for the reasons given above the trade in fancy goods for the past two weeks has been cut down to almost

one-half of what it would otherwise have been. Collections for the same reason are slow.

## FISH AND POULTRY.

There is a good demand for goods in this line. The supply of fish is liberal and are quoted the same as last week, viz.: White fish 7c; Lake Superior trout 8c; Oysters are in good supply at 70c for counts, 60c for selects, and 50c for standards. Game is in fair supply at 50 to 60c per pair for prairie chickens; 40c to 50c for ducks, and 25c for rabbits. The close season for prairie chickens begins on Jan. 1st, after which the market will be without that popular species of game. Turkeys, geese and ducks are being brought in in considerable quantities. Quotations range from 17c to 20c per pound.

## FRUIT.

The past week has been a very brisk one in the fruit line, and collections are reported good. Heavy consignments have been received and have sold quickly. Other shipments are on the way and expected every day. Lemons are very firm and advancing in eastern markets. There is no change in prices here, but they are firm at \$9 to \$9.50. Oranges have been received. Floridas are inclined to be weak and unsettled in Chicago owing to the large quantity of poor and indifferent fruit in the market. First-class fruit, however, is firm, and finds ready sale at \$7.50 to \$9.50, according to quality and size. Mexicanas are firm at \$7.50 to \$8. Apples continue firm at \$6 to \$6.50 per barrel. The market is not overstocked and the probability is that they will continue steady at the above quotation for some time. California fruit is in sufficient supply to meet all demands. Pears are worth \$8 to \$6.50 per case. Malaga grapes are firm and steady at \$9 to \$9.50 per barrel. Figs in 14lb boxes are worth 12c per lb.; Eleno layers 10c. Nuts are steady at old quotations, viz.: peanuts 20c per lb; almonds 20c to 22c; brazils 22c; cocoanuts \$9.50 per hundred. There is an active demand for dried fruit. Crown raisins are scarce at from \$4.75 to 5.00 for black; triple \$7.00; four crown \$8.00; loose muscatel are steady at \$3.25; black baskets \$4.40; dates are worth 10c per lb.

## FUEL.

The cold snap of the past few days has caused a keen demand for fuel. Prices remain about the same. Saskatchewan coal is worth \$9 per ton in the yard or \$10 delivered; Anthracite ranges from \$13.50 to \$14. Tamarac wood is worth from \$6 to \$7 per cord; poplar \$5 to \$6; oak \$7 to \$8.

## FURNITURE.

There is very little doing in the furniture line at present. Country dealers are ordering very cautiously and city demand is quiet. Collections are slow.

## GROCERIES.

The railway trouble has severely affected this as all other lines of business. Trade for the past week may be said to have been slow for this season of the year. A brisker trade is looked for shortly. Recent advices from Yokohama to the wholesale tea house in the city report prices advancing and firm. Quotations at present are: Sugars—Yellow 9½ to 10c; granulated 10½ to 11½c; Paris lumps 12c; Coffee 15 to 18c for lumps; 22c to 27c for Jayas;