

## WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

There was quite a little bustle in the banks during the early part of last week, and commercial financing was temporarily brisk. The payments on the fourth were not so well met as could have been wished, and the extra renewals and part renewals, added to a regular demands for discounts, which was the heaviest with which any month since November has opened, caused quite a call upon the banks; but it was met by them with seeming ease and willingness. The volume of paper passed in up to Wednesday was certainly heavy for this early period in the spring; but since then the demand on the banks has steadily eased off, and this week opens about normal, or, if anything, below that state. Considerable funds could have been used for outside transactions not considered commercial, but for such purposes they were difficult to obtain at the banks. Rates of discount are unchanged, being 8 per cent for first-class paper, 9 to 10 for ordinary, and 10 to 12 for irregular discounts and one-name paper. Although money is none too free at present in the east, it is thought that there will be no difficulty in securing plenty of funds for the increased discount demand which will naturally set in with April. In real estate loans, the complaint that nearly all transactions are small is still heard; but applications have been quite numerous during the past ten days, and the firm which attends to such transactions reporting their fees for February heavier than for any month since last summer. A few companies who have troublesome boom loans on hand are careless about letting out more funds, but others are eager and willing for business; and that loans on good improved property are easily obtained. Rates of interest still range from 8 to 10 per cent., and the latter is seldom paid except in cases of renewals.

## WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

It has been rather difficult to get to the bottom of facts in connection with trade affairs in the city during the past week, owing to the excitement caused by the South Winnipeg election, and the wholesale interests have been more or less disturbed by that circumstance. As far as facts could be reached, it would seem that there has been a slight improvement generally, and an increasing activity in spring goods sales. The improvement has been considerable in connection with some lines of season goods, and the steady spring business may now be looked for in these. In goods of everyday consumption there has also been a better feeling; and if sales have not greatly increased, the number of country merchants who have been in the city and making inquiries about goods gives promise of a liberal business during the balance of March. Even in lines connected with building and outdoor contract work there have been indications of early improvement; and should mild weather continue, the inquiries now being made will soon take the shape of transactions. The lowering of freight rates on the all-rail route from the east has had rather a checking effect upon some lines of heavy goods, as intending purchasers are inclined to hold off a little in hope of securing

slightly lower figures. But as no advances on account of winter freight have been made in almost any line during the winter, and prices of all goods are inclined to stiffen from this onward, the hopes of reductions are likely to meet with disappointment. The report from collections does not give the same encouragement as that from sales. The fourth did not show anything like as satisfactory results as the fourth of February, and cash returns have not been as free as could be wished, or even might be expected. Still, quite a number of houses report collections satisfactory, so that the average all round has not been discouraging. Altogether the week has not been a very bright one; but it has shown that we are entering upon what will doubtless prove an extended period of activity in sales.

## AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The meeting of the Farmers' Convention, held in the city during the past week, brought in quite a number of people from the country; but it does not seem to have added materially to sales in this trade. Dealers have had any number of inquiries after goods; but they have had little else, and intending purchasers are very slow and cautious about investing. The week's business has been confined to a very limited sale of machines for spring use. Collections are moving about the same as they have been for some weeks past, but so free as they should be.

## BOOTS AND SHOES.

Business has enlivened quite a little in this branch during the week, and spring's activity has fairly commenced. Wholesalers are busy sending out orders taken last month, while fresh demands are daily coming in. Collections falling due have not amounted to enough upon which to base a report; but the trade altogether is in a very satisfactory condition.

## CLOTHING.

There is very little improvement to note in connection with this trade during the week. The shipping out of goods sold during the past month has been going on, but very few new orders were received. Improvement is now looked for, and with continued mild weather will no doubt soon set in. The report on collections is rather mixed, varying from good to very unsatisfactory. The average is only fair.

## CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

Al' is quietness in this trade at present, and spring business has not opened up yet. There are symptoms of some activity further on in the month; but spring will be fairly opened up before there is any rush. No complaints are being made about collections, the report being good.

## DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

Although there has been a little improvement in this trade, matters are still rather quiet; but more stir is expected as spring advances. Collections are reported moderately good.

## DRY GOODS.

In this staple branch it may be said that the sale of spring and summer wear has set in; but as yet the aggregate of goods disposed of is not heavy. Buying is evidently going to be done as cautiously as it was last year, and in anything outside of staple lines purchasers will

not move until the spirit compels them. Still, quite a heavy volume of sales is anticipated during the balance of the month. Collections have not been so free as they might, and this fact has made wholesalers less anxious to swell the number of sales by pushing.

## FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

There is still no real activity in this trade, although a scattered, irregular business has prevented actual quietness during the past week. With a continuance of the present mild weather a rapid improvement is looked for, and its influence for good has already been slightly felt. The report from collections is not so good as it might be, although not actually bad.

## FISH.

There has been a lively local demand for small lots of fresh fish, and a few car-lots have been shipped to points south. The mild weather has made holders of stocks a little more anxious to sell, and prices have been easier. Car-lots of white-fish have been offered as low as 4½c, although prime lots are still held at 5c. Jack-fish have been offered in car-lots at 2 to 2½c, and small lots at 2½ to 3c. Small lots of white fish range from 3½ to 6c. Oysters are unchanged in price: Standards, 30 to 35c; select, 40 to 45c.

## FRUIT.

There has been a fair business in this line during the past week, while collections are reported good. The most noteworthy feature is the upward tendency of apples. Prices are as follows: Apples, \$5 to 6 a bbl; Messina oranges, \$5 to 5.50 a box; lemons, \$4.50 to 5.50; Malaga grapes, \$7.50 to 8 a bbl; Eleme figs, in boxes, 16 to 20c per lb; Malaga figs, in 14lb boxes, 11 to 13c; prunes, in kegs \$7.50 to 8; and in 50lb boxes, 8 to 8½c per lb; golden dates, in 50lb boxes, 10c; raisins and currants, unchanged.

## FUEL.

Mild weather has had a bad effect on this trade, and last week was a very quiet one. Some holders of stocks of poplar have been eager to sell, and round lots were offered in the city at \$2.50 to 3; tamarac is scarce, and is held at \$4.50 to 4.75 delivered. Coal is unchanged in price, quotations, delivered, being: Anthracite, \$12; bituminous, \$9 to 10.50; Saskatchewan, \$7.50.

## FURNITURE.

There is still a quiet report from this trade, and the wholesale orders shipped during the past week would not reach a couple of car-loads. Collections are also reported far from satisfactory.

## GROCERIES.

Very little improvement has been made in this staple trade during the week. An unusual number of country merchants being in the city, sales show an increase over those of the previous week; and but for the dead state of the city, the gross aggregate would have been quite encouraging. Collections are still reported rather slow. Prices of goods are unchanged; but the recent reduced freights from the east have caused an easier feeling. Quotations are as follows: Sugars—Yellows, 6½ to 7c; granulated, 8 to 8½c; Paris lump 10c and a further advance is still looked for. Coffee and Teas