

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

The fourth of March, which came on Monday of last week, was looked forward to with considerable interest for some time previous. A considerable amount of mercantile paper came due on that date, and this made the day the principal feature of interest for the week. After the results of the 4th of February, which was also a heavy day, very good returns were not expected for last Monday. Some indeed hoped for an improvement in payments in comparison with the 4th of the previous month, but this was confined to hope, while expectations were not sanguine that the returns would be particularly bright. The daily papers, the morning after the 4th of this month, published reports to the effect that payments were very good and very few renewals were made, but careful investigation shows that these reports were entirely unreliable. On the contrary, payments were decidedly poor, and renewals were the order of the day. Of course some dealers found payments better than others, but the average portion of paper met was decidedly small, and considerably less than the amount of paper unprovided for. This means that the proportion of paper met averaged under 50 per cent., but just how much under one half cannot be determined accurately, though a liberal discount can be made from the figures stated. In some individual cases less than 25 per cent. of papers was met. This applies more particularly to the textile trade, in which branch large amounts were due on the 4th. In some other lines of trade, where payments were for smaller amounts, and not particularly heavy last week, collections were reported as fair to good.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

The mild weather which prevailed last week and the previous week, has already had quite an influence on some lines of trade, particularly in agricultural implements, hardware, paints, lumber and building lines, etc. There was quite a noticeable improvement in these branches, undoubtedly due to the signs of spring. Fruits were also moving more freely, both in receipts and shipments. Quite a number of country buyers were in the city, but some of these were perhaps induced to come in owing to the sports going on in the city last week, and they left orders which otherwise would have been given to travellers. Business in country towns continued fairly active last week, owing to fairly large deliveries of grain by farmers, who are rushing in the balance of their crop, so as to be ready to commence seeding operations. In the city retail trade, business is still quiet. The seasons' immigration has already set in quite actively; a good many new settlers having arrived during last week, and passenger traffic, which was very light on the railways a few weeks ago, is now quite heavy. Prospects for a large immigration this season are considered good, and if expectations in this direction are realized, business will be considerably benefitted thereby.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

The very mild weather of late, with every prospect of an early spring, has caused quite a bustle in this branch of trade. Supplies of

implements were being sent out to the different agencies as rapidly as possible, and not any too soon, as already implements for putting in the crop are in demand. Indeed, reports were coming in freely last week from different sections of the country that seeding had commenced. With the prospect of a large increase in the acreage likely to be sown this season, and also favorable prospects for a good immigration, the outlook for the implement trade is considered very bright. With a good harvest, the trade in agricultural implements, machinery, etc., this year will certainly be the largest in the history of the country.

DRUGS.

Business continues steady in this branch. The only change in prices to note is a reduction in tartaric acid of 5 to 10c. Quotations are: Howard's quinine, 75 to 90c; German quinine, 65 to 75c; morphia, \$2.25 to \$2.75; iodide of potassium, \$1.25 to \$1.75; bromide of potassium, 65 to 75c; American camphor, 45 to 50c; English camphor, 55 to 60c; glycerine, 30 to 40c; tartaric acid, 65 to 75c; cream of tartar, 35 to 40c; bleaching powder, per keg, \$8 to \$10; bicarb soda, \$4.50 to \$5; sal soda, \$2.50 to \$3; chlorate of potash, 30 to 35c; alum, \$4 to \$5; copperas, \$3 to \$3.25; sulphur flour, \$4.50 to \$5; sulphur roll, \$4.50 to \$5.25; American blue vitrol, 8 to 10c.

DRY GOODS AND CLOTHING.

There is very little buying yet in this market for present requirements and it is too early to look for much sorting trade, as dealers are not yet through shipping out first spring stocks. Foreign advices from Dundee and Belfast are uniform in reporting an active and strong market for nearly everything in the line of linen goods. Manufacturers are busy at all points, and prices are gradually rising, though not yet up in proportion to yarns. In Scotland there has been a genuine revival of the linen trade. Numerous mills for years standing idle have been re-started, and others are in course of getting new and improved machinery introduced.

FISH.

The mild weather has not been beneficial to the trade in fresh fish. In Lake Winnipeg frozen fish, the mild spell denormalized prices for a time, and whitefish sold as low as 3c on the market. The price henceforth will depend a good deal on the weather. Stocks of fresh sea fish are not large, but some are still held. No more will be brought in. Finnan haddies are in large supply, and it is reported that sales were made as low as 5c, dealers being anxious to get rid of stocks. Other fresh fish were generally easier. Oysters have commenced to advance, and are quoted 20c per gallon higher. Can oysters were about out of the market. Lake Winnipeg white irregular in price, owing to mild weather, and may be quoted from 5 to 7c. Pickerel are worth about 3 to 5c; pike, 2 to 3c; Lake Superior trout are quoted at 8c. Fresh salt water fish are offered as follows: Cod, 8c; haddock, 8c; tommy cods, 5c; smelts, 7 1/2 to 8c; per pound, the latter price for choice fish; herrings, \$2.00 per 100 fish. Cured fish are quoted: Boneless cod in crates of small boxes, 8c per pound; in boxes of 10 from 25 to 40 pounds, 7 1/2c per lb; Labrador herrings, No. 1, \$4.50 per barrel; No. 2, \$3.50; No. 1,

\$5.25 in half barrels; smoked finnan haddies, 8 cents per pound; smoked red herrings, 30 cents per box; St. John hloaters, \$1.60. Oysters unchanged in price and quoted in bulk at \$2.00 a gallon for Standard and \$2.20 for Select. Cans are held at 50c to 60c for the same brands.

FRUITS—DRIED.

No changes to note in the following quotations: — Valencia raisins \$2.25 to \$2.35; Larger Valencias, \$2.75 to \$3.00; London layers \$4.75; Black Basket, 4 boxes, \$1.75; Black Crown, \$6.25. Now currants 7 1/2c; evaporated apples, 9 1/2c; peaches, 30c; apricots, 22 1/2c; peeled peaches, 22 to 23c; unpeeled peaches, 17 to 19c; prupellas, 19c; dried apples, 6 1/2 to 7c. Eleme figs, in 10 to 20 lb. boxes, 15 to 18c per lb; one pound boxes, \$1.75 per dozen; Fancy Tunis dates on stem, 20c per pound; fancy golden dates in 50 lb. boxes, 9c per pound; ordinary dates, 7c per lb; walnuts, 18c per lb; peanuts, raw, 15c; roasted, 17c; almonds, 20c; pecans, 17c; Filberts, 15c; Brazils, 17c per lb; Cocoanuts, \$10 per 100.

FRUITS—GREEN.

Apples were received freely in car lots from the south last week, and also from Ontario, including a quantity of choice Ben Davis. California oranges in car lots are expected to arrive to-day. Some Florida oranges are still in the market. Prices are: Fancy Ben Davis, \$3.75 to \$4.00 per barrel; other choice varieties in good condition, \$3.50 per barrel. Messina lemons are quoted at \$5.50 to \$6.00 per box. Florida fancy blood oranges, \$7 per box. Good Floridas, \$6.50. Messina oranges, \$5 to \$5.50 per box. California Riverside seedling oranges, to arrive about \$5 per box. California Washington Naval oranges, about \$6.50 per box. Bananas, \$3.50 to \$4.00 per bunch. Malaga grapes in 50 to 65 pound kegs are quoted at \$9 to \$11 as to size of keg. Cranberries are quoted: bell and cherry, \$9 to \$9.50; bell and bugle, \$9.50 to \$10. More or less damaged cranberries, as low as \$7.00 per barrel. Southern red onions, \$1.25 per crate of 50 pounds; Spanish onions, \$1.75 per crate of about 50 pounds; cider, rectified, in barrels, 45c per gallon.

GROCERIES.

The foreign statistical position of sugar is reported strong, and the markets are reported active and higher. It was rumored, last week that the Canadian sugar combine was breaking up, and that prices were being cut in eastern domestic markets. If this is the case, it might prevent dealers from taking advantage of strong foreign markets to advance prices. Japan and Young Hyson teas, especially cheaper grades, are strong at New York and other points. Coffees are strong. Rice is reported a short crop, and prices advancing. Quotations here are: — Sugars, yellows 6 1/2 to 7c; granulated, 8 1/2c; lumps 9 1/2 to 9 3/4c. Coffees—Rios, from 21 to 24c; Java, 25 to 30c; Old Government, 33 to 34c; Mochas, 32 to 35c. Teas, Japan, 23 to 46c; Cengons, 22 to 60c; Indian teas, 35 to 60c; young hyson, 26 to 50c. T. and B. tobacco, 56c per pound; P. of W., butts, 46c; P. of W. caddies, 47c; Honeysuckle, 7s, 55c; Briar, 7s, 53c; Laurel Bright Navy, 3s, 56c; Index d. thick Solace, 6s, 48c; Brunetto Solace, 12s,