

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

Monetary affairs in the city during the past week have not been in a more satisfactory state than reported in our last issue, at least so far as commercial affairs are concerned. The demand for regular lines of discount has been light as it usually is towards the end of the month. Still, the 18th brought around quite a share of due paper, and quite a number of part payments had to be made use of. Money has been loaned in circulation to a degree seldom experienced at this time of year, and this may be attributed to the slowness with which grain is coming to market, receipts being very light of late. There has been in consequence quite a strain on small traders without regular lines of discount, and these have found no assistance at the banks as a rule. Altogether, there are signs that the monetary supply is too limited for the trade demands, and the banks continue their skimming process. Rates of discount are still quoted at 8 per cent. for first-class paper; 9 to 10 for ordinary, and 10 to 12 for one name paper. In loans on real estate mortgage the report of the week is rather mixed. Some companies report a good business done, while others state that business has been rather quiet. All report payments of interest coming in with surprising promptitude, and loans for fresh loans on good security are abundant. The week shows up a decidedly better average than the previous one, and the prospect for new business is good for the next month or two. Altogether monetary affairs in real estate business is in a much more satisfactory state than in connection with commercial affairs.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

As the month of December advances, wholesale affairs in the city sink gradually into quietness. The past week has therefore been even quieter than its predecessor, and in several lines may be considered the dullness of the present season. In all lines of season goods there has been practically nothing doing, and most houses of this class are now patiently waiting until the time for spring business sets in. Even the extreme cold weather which lasted during the greater portion of the week waked up scarcely any demand for sorts, and only added to the feeling of quietness. If there existed any demand however trifling for goods connected with building work or out door contracting the late cold snap has put an end to it, and the extreme of dullness now reigns in such lines, and may be expected to continue until spring is at hand. In goods of every day consumption the trade done during the week has been it anything below an average. City demands for such goods have been light, and the country has not added much to the aggregate of sales. In fact the only lines in which there has been any movement of note are those in which goods for holiday trade are still in demand, and even in these there has been no stir, that could be described as real activity. The report from collections are somewhat mixed. A few houses report matters in that respect very satisfactory, a larger number slightly unsatisfactory, and a still larger number very slow indeed. Taken

altogether the report is not as bad as our last, and the prospect is that matters will be worse during the balance of December, unless we have good sleighing and favorable weather all over the province. Taken altogether the wholesale report of the past week is far from a brilliant one in any respect, but it must be kept in mind that the latter half of December is usually about the dullest portion of the year, and not much activity can be looked for at this time.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

It would be difficult to conceive anything duller than the state of this trade during the past week. There has been scarcely a sale of any description during the week, and the absence of snow and sleighing has taken away the demand for sleighs, cutters and so forth, which usually exists about this time. Collections are reported as coming in steadily but slowly.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

The season is over in this trade, and even extreme cold weather fails to cause any activity. The past week has been the dullest of the season, and no material improvement is looked for for several weeks. Houses have entered upon stock taking, which is the only present preventative to dullness.

CLOTHING.

There has been no improvement in the state of trade in this line during the week. The low temperature of last week caused a little sorting demand for fur goods, but the sales even of these amounted to very little. Travelers on the road find it uphill work selling from spring samples, and will have to go over their ground again with the opening of 1885. In collections a definite report cannot be given as the quantity of paper falling due this month is very limited.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

Only the continued demand for holiday goods keeps this trade from actual dullness at present. During the week the demand for staples has been very light, as has been the aggregate of sales all round. Collections are reported moderately good so far.

DRY GOODS.

Most houses have finished stock-taking and matters are down to a very dull state. The last demands for winter sorts have been heard from and the only movement in the trade now is one of preparation for receiving spring goods. The results of stock-taking show very satisfactorily for the entire year, and are altogether an improvement upon those of 1883, although the business of November has been a disappointment to almost everybody in the trade. Collections are reported fair, and fully as good as can be expected under the present state of affairs.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

The advent of extreme cold weather seems to have affected in an unfavorable way this trade, and the sales of last week show quite a falling off from those of the previous week. The business done, however, was only slightly below an average.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

This is one of the few lines in which there has been any activity during the past week. The demand for fancies for the holiday season has

held up well and has created some life. In staple lines the business has been light, but fully as good as could be expected during this month. The report from collections is quite encouraging, some houses speaking quite hopefully in that line.

FISH AND POULTRY.

There has been considerable activity in these lines, although the work of shipping car lots of fresh fish to southern points has not fairly set in yet. There has been a good business doing in dressed chickens and turkeys, packed in cases. Prices are: white fish in jobbing lots 6½ to 7c., in car lots nominal 5½c.; jack fish in small lots 3c., in car lots 2½ to 2¾c.; oysters are quoted at 35c., standards 45c., selects — Dressed chickens have sold at 13 to 14c.; turkeys 17 to 18c.

FRUIT.

There has been a much quieter feeling in this trade during the past week and affairs have been altogether slower than they were earlier in December. There are no novelties in fresh fruits to report, but Messina lemons are expected to arrive this week. California and Oregon pears are now out of the market. Quotations are as follows: Apples, \$3 to \$3.25 for fall, and \$3.25 to 3.50 for winter. Florida oranges, \$6.50 to 7.50 a case; Jamaica, \$8.00 a bin; Almeria grapes \$8.50 to 9.50 a bbl.; Malaga lemons, \$7.50 a box; Malaga figs, 13c per lb; Eleme in kegs 13c, in boxes 16 to 20c; prunes, 7½ to 8c a lb; cranberries, \$15 a bbl.; coconuts, \$10 a bbl.; filberts, 12 to 14c per lb; almonds, 20c; walnuts, 18c; peanuts raw, 15c; roasted, 20c; pecans, 16 to 17c; Brazil nuts, 14c; raisins are quoted: London layers, \$3.75 to \$4; ordinary layers, \$3.25 to 3.40; saltanas, 12c per lb; loose muscatels, \$3.40 to 3.50; black baskets, \$5. Double crown \$4. Triplo crown \$4.50 cartons in ¼ boxes, \$3.50; old valencias, \$2 to 2.25; old currants are quoted at 6½ to 7c, and new \$3 to 9c.

FUEL.

Cold weather has caused considerable activity in this trade, but has not affected prices in any way. Anthracite coal is still delivered at \$12, bituminous, \$11; Saskatchewan lignite, \$7.50. Wood in round lots is quoted, poplar \$3 to \$3.50 tamarac \$3.50 to \$4.

FURNITURE.

Wholesale business in this line is completely dead at present. The sales of the past week being almost nothing. Houses have now their winter arrangements made, and do not look for any material improvement until spring trade sets in.

GROCERIES.

Houses in this trade are far from being satisfied with the present state of affairs, and the fact that during the past three weeks four retailers have succumbed, or as many as in all other branches of trade, has not improved the feeling. Last week's sales have been below an average and wholesalers are not eager to push business at present. Collections are by no means satisfactory. Prices of staple goods are not changed, and quotations are as follows: Sugars: yellows, 6½ to 7½; granulated, 8c; Paris lumps 9½ to 9¾. Coffees still range: Rios, 14 to 17c; Javas, 21 to 24c; Jamaicas, 17 to