

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

Any change that has taken place in monetary affairs during the past week has been a little more of a drift into a healthy safe state. In commercial circles there has been the usual activity and extracurricular discounts which marks the opening of a month, and October has shown a more marked increase than several of the preceding months. The fourth occurring on Saturday caused a little bustle also, but the days of anxiety about how the fourth would come out are past, and Saturday was remarkable only for a little extra work at the banks. Paper was well met as a rule, and the number of part renewals was much less than in September. The day altogether was an uninteresting one. Banks profess to have plenty of money for all trade demands and have acted during the week as if they had good hopes for the future. The only money difficult to obtain was small loans without security and these have still to be had mainly from private sources. Rates have not changed and are: 8 per cent. for first-class paper; 9 to 10 for ordinary, and 10 to 12 for promiscuous discounts and one-name paper. There has been very little increased activity in loans on real estate mortgage, still the dead feeling of six weeks ago has disappeared and applications are growing more numerous, while inquiries are being made which will doubtless develop into business as soon as crops are started to come to market in any quantities. Overdue interest is still a little slow in coming in, but a very decided improvement in this respect may be expected during the current month. Rates of interest are still ranging from 8 to 10 per cent., the latter figure being almost exclusively on renewals of old loans.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

The past week has been one of considerable bustle in wholesale circles in the city. The sudden increase in activity which we noted in our last report has been lasting, and there has been a steady demand for goods in most lines during the entire week. The bustle has been most marked in season goods, and the lights in wholesale establishments until late hours during most of the week showed that it required some hurry to overtake orders. The cautious feeling of the past two months is now scarcely visible, and the only trace of it left is a desire on the part of retailers to confine purchases to every-day goods, and avoid dangerous stocks as much as possible. Even country merchants who refused to order during September are now clamoring for goods in a hurry, and, should cold weather strike the country suddenly during this week, there will be a scarcity for a few lines of winter goods. In staple lines, such as groceries and provisions, sales have increased during the week, although the rash that exists in season goods is not to be found. Goods for building operations are still in good demand, but it is evident that the season's trade in such is drawing near a close. As yet the retailers throughout the country do not report much business doing, but with scarcely an exception they are thoroughly confident about a good season's trade, and are making preparations for the

same. In the city stocks are being replenished, but retailers are not rushed, and do not look for much activity until colder weather comes. In short, the wholesale trade is now in the rash of the season, but retailers have not yet entered upon theirs, and once they do there is a prospect of a good sorting trade, as stocks are still moderately light, and no doubt deficient in many lines. Collections have not improved much as yet, but the past week has given signs that better returns in this respect may be looked for very soon, and a little slowness now does not cause any anxiety as trade affairs are certainly in a safer state now than they have been for over two years.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The trade in threshers still continues although fresh orders are beginning to be few. The filling of former ones has been pushed during the week and will continue during the most of the present month. The plow trade keeps lively, and country agencies look for an increasing demand during the present and coming week. With the exception of wagons, these are the only goods selling, although houses here are preparing with sleds and other articles of winter demand. Collections are not much improved, but the first returns from the present crop returns are in, and steady improvement in this respect may now be expected.

HOOTS AND SHOES.

Business has kept active in this line during the week, and wholesalers report a good aggregate of sales. There are evidence, however, that the first rush has spent its force, and a week or two of dull pending sorting trade is close at hand. Collections are still slow.

CLOTHING.

Although the week's business in this line has been a good one, matters have been a little slower than we reported in our last. The filling of former orders has kept houses active, but a falling off in fresh ones has been general, although those received have, as a rule, been heavy. Collections are reported slow to fair.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

There is nothing remarkable to report about business in this trade during the past week. A fair volume of sales has been kept up, and has been, if anything, increasing. Country orders have been getting more numerous and have comprised a fair share of fancy lines. Collections have not improved much but are as good as could be expected.

DRY GOODS.

In this staple line business has been steadily good all week, and wholesalers have been pushed to attend to demands, so much so that night work has been found indispensable. Both city and country retailers have been making demands, and the quantity of goods sent out has probably been the heaviest of any week of the season. There is a marked contrast in the reports of last week and those of a month earlier, and the absence of grumbling now is one of the most prominent features. Collections are reported fair and inclined to improve.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

There is no change to note in this line. Business maintains an even flow, and last week was

fully up to the average. Collections pursue the same steady gait.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

From this trade we have a good report for the week. Sales are reported liberal, with plenty of new orders coming to the front, while collections are reported fair to good, and a long way better than could be expected at this time. Quite a share of fancy goods are selling, and wholesalers are all in good hopes.

FISH AND POULTRY.

Quotations in this line have changed since our last issue. The demand has been larger than last week but is still quiet for this time of the year, and present supply has been equal to the demand. Prices and quotations are as follows: white fish, 6c; Lake Superior trout, 10c; salt white fish, 4½c; smoked white fish, 10c.

Game is plentiful, especially prairie chickens, which are coming in in large quantities at 25 to 30c per brace; dressed ducks, 25c per brace; dressed spring chicken, 15c per lb.

FRUIT.

Business has been good in this line during the week, while the variety of fresh fruit has been rather limited. Apples are still plentiful and at low prices, quotations being from \$3.50 to \$4.00 a bbl. Crab apples are now out of the market. Lemons are worth \$6.50 to \$7.00 a box, and dates 12½c a lb. A few California pears are still on the market. White grapes are still to be had at \$3 a basket. Peaches are getting scarce. Dried fruits have no change in prices.

FUEL.

There is a steady increase in the demand for fuel as the season wears on, and the past week has shown a little more activity than the one before. Anthracite coal still holds at \$10.75 on track, and bituminous at \$8.50. Saskatcewan lignite is delivered at \$7.50. Wood is in fair demand at \$3 to \$4 for poplar, and \$4 to \$4.50 for tamarac.

FURNITURE.

A few scattering orders from the country are all that has been heard of in wholesale business in this line during the past week. Dealers do not look for much improvement until crops are fairly into market. No report can be given of collections.

GROCERIES.

There has been a decided increase in the volume of sales in this staple line during the past week. The quietness noted in our last report has disappeared in a great measure, still there is no rush yet. Collections are reported a little better but still with room for improvement. There have been no changes in price although sugars are quoted weak, coffees stronger and teas still firm although not so inclined to advance as they were a month ago. Quotations are as follows: Sugars, yellows, 6½ to 7c; granulated 8½c; Paris lumps 9½c. Coffees, Rios, 14 to 17c; Javas, 21 to 24c; Jamaicas, 17 to 20c, and Mocha 30 to 34c. Tea, Moyune gunpowder, 30 to 75c; new seasons, 65 to 85c; Japans, 25 to 50c, new seasons 40 to 55c; Congous 30 to 75c; new seasons 55 to 90c. Syrups, single crown \$2.50, and triple crown \$2.75 per keg.