

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

Monetary affairs, like all other matters have been demoralised during the past week owing to the holiday feeling. Banks like other institutions have been effected by the same, and it was difficult to get from them anything in the way of a report, beyond the generalising statement, that all were going smoothly. From other sources we know that the volume of commercial discounts was unusually light, in fact much lighter than it usually is during the quiet closing week of each month, and there seemed to be a circulation of money in all lines of business sufficient to supply all immediate wants, and beyond these no person seemed disposed to look. In banking therefore the week has been almost a blank, and about the only calls for funds were by parties handling and shipping grain. Discount rates have not changed being 7 per cent. for first class paper, 8 to 9 for ordinary and 9 to 10 for one name. But these figures were to a great extent nominal last week. In loans on real estate mortgage business was just as much demoralised as in commercial finances, and almost no business was done. Still, the prospect is, that with the opening of 1886 there will be a steady call for loans on farm lands, and a good business may be looked for during the balance of winter. The report of the past week may be summed up in no business done, and no cause for complaint. There is no prospect of any change in interest rates, which are quoted for ordinary loans at 8 to 10 per cent.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

During the past week there has been a state of chaotic carelessness in most of the branches of the wholesale trade of the city, from which it was a very difficult matter to extract anything like clear reports of what was going on, and unless in lines affected by the holiday trade, there was a languid feeling, and a truant disposition. In these holiday lines, however, there was great activity upto the eve of Christmas, which re-commenced on the morning after with calls for goods for New Year time. There has been a decided shortage in many fancy lines, and at least half of them have been entirely cleared out. Of course the lines depending upon building and contracting were entirely silent, and we need not expect that there will be any awakening in these, until some symptoms of coming spring are apparent. Houses in these branches express satisfaction at the results of the latter half of the year's business, which done much to make up for the dullness of the opening half. In staple season goods there has been active preparations going on for the pushing of spring goods sales, and before January is well entered into travellers will be over the country in swarms, each with a complete set of spring samples. The winter trading trade is certainly over, and with so much mild weather as we have had of late it has not been a heavy one, and is not likely to be extended into January. In provisions and other lines of every day consumption the holiday feeling has also been uppermost, and was only kept in check by the steady demands

which immediate wants called for. Still the week's aggregate of sales cuts but a poor figure compared with those of the few preceding weeks. The most satisfactory point about the week's business has been in collections, which have not fallen off like sales, but have maintained quite a fair volume through all the holiday time. This point shows that everything is in a healthy state, and that the slowness in sales has been the results of the holiday lull only.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The sales of the week were again limited to a few sleighs and cutters, there being no calls for any other class of implements or machines. A few of the houses have begun preparations for equipping their canvassers for the 1886 season, but it will probably be well on into January before any start out, and a general start need not be expected much before the 1st of February. The work of making collections has been moving a little slowly during the week, cash returns being light during holiday time. Improvement is looked for as soon as we enter upon 1886.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

In this branch business has been at a stand still so far as sales are concerned. Winter calls are over for the season, and there has been no attempt at pushing sales from spring samples during the week. Naturally things have been very slow, except in collections, which are reported as coming in right along with moderate freedom.

CLOTHING.

Like other branches of staple season goods quietness has reigned in this trade during the week. Sales have been down to a very low ebb, and travellers have all been in off the road. Winter sorts are no longer called for, and when travellers start out again next week, they will carry only spring samples, and devote their efforts to the pushing of that trade only. Collections are reported still satisfactory.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

In this trade business during the past week is reported to have been booming in the retail branches, sales being principally in fancies for the holiday season, while in wholesale staple lines sales have been gradually falling off, as stocks are now fully made up for the season and no more is wanted at present. Collections also appear to be fairly good.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

A pretty active demand has continued in this trade during the past week, with a fair average of sales, the demand being chiefly a local one. Collections were fairly satisfactory.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

This has been the favored branch during the week for activity. The demand for fancy lines for holiday trade kept up steadily until Christmas eve, and on Saturday was resumed for the New Year's trade. Numerous lines have been cleaned out, and in numerous cases orders left unfilled, and generally the holiday demands have been much heavier than was anticipated. Staple lines were not much called for. Collections are reported very satisfactory.

DRY GOODS.

In this staple branch sales have been down to a very low ebb all week, at which wholesalers have been in no way disappointed, as no effort at pushing has been made. Samples of spring goods are being fixed up as rapidly as possible, and instead of the pushing of spring sales being delayed until February as was the case last year and in 1883, travellers generally will start out with the opening of the year, and the present state of the country they are warranted in expecting heavy orders during the coming month. Collections are reported still free and as satisfactory in every way as can be looked for, so that altogether the trade will enter upon 1885 with good hopes and prospects.

FISH.

The trade in fresh fish has been rather quiet this week, owing to the soft weather which has prevailed for some days back. The supply is rather scarce, as very little has been received yet from the winter fishing stations. Lake Winnipeg white fish is slightly advanced in price, being now quoted at 5½c for car lots and 6½ to 6c for smaller quantities. Jackfish has been selling in car lots at 3c. There is a large stock of smoked haddocks in the market which is being sold off at 11c. Salt white fish is now moving readily at \$4 per half barrel in car lots. Labrador herrings usually bring \$8 per barrel, and salmon \$17 per barrel, \$9 per half barrel and \$5 per quarter barrel, these being the principal kinds of salt sea fish now on the market, and for which there is a pretty fair demand.

FRUIT.

In this trade business is stated to have been very good during the past week, owing to an active holiday demand, with very good cash returns. Fancy Florida oranges are quoted at \$7 to \$7.50 per box; Messina lemons at \$7 to \$7.50 per box; California pears are worth \$4.25 to \$4.50; Fancy colored apples at \$5; Southern cranberries \$9 to \$11 Valencia raisins \$3.25, London layer raisins \$4 to \$4.25; Black Crown \$5.25 to \$5.50; Malaga grapes \$8 to \$8.50 a barrel; Walnuts 20c a lb; almonds 20c a lb; filberts 12½c a lb; pecans, 16c a lb; peanuts 16c a lb; figs 3 to 20c a lb, and dates 10c a lb.

FUEL.

In this line a fairly active demand continued all through the week and the aggregate of sales was up to a good average. Round lots of tamarac are quoted at \$5.50 to \$6 delivered, and poplar at \$4 to \$4.50 delivered. The price on track will be 75c less. Hard coal is quoted at \$10.25, and soft at \$8 delivered. Galt coal also at \$8.

FURNITURE.

In this branch of trade business is reported as having been very brisk in the city during the past week, there having been quite an active demand, with a good average of sales put through in that time. From the country there appears to be but little demand for anything, while collections were very fair, taking them as a whole.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

In this line business has been rather quiet in light hardware during the past week, but considered much better for this time of year