

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

Commercial monetary affairs have undergone very little change in the city during the past week. The feeling has been slow, and the call for discounts very light, while the collections of wholesale houses have been as good as to lessen in a great measure the necessity for discounting. Rates still stand the same, namely, first-class paper 8 to 9 per cent, ordinary 9 to 10, and promiscuous and one name paper 9 to 12. Banks profess to have abundance of funds. In loans on real estate mortgage the report is a little mixed. Some companies, whose directorates are in the east are inclined to curtail investments here, not on account of unsafety but in view of probable agricultural depression and consequent heavy demand with high rates nearer home. On the other hand some profess eagerness to lend to almost any extent on first-class security. There is certainly no scarcity of funds for investment in this manner, and, if companies are making a closer scrutiny of their securities, it is only another symptom of the desire for safe business which has become general in every line. The demand for loans is far from being active yet, although displaying a little increased life during the past ten days. Taken altogether the monetary affairs of the city are still in a rather slow condition.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

Taken altogether the report from the wholesale trade of the city for the past week shows that the volume of business done in the way of sales has been light. To this rule there are a few exceptions, and these are confined to the most staple lines of goods. Groceries and provisions, for instance, have shown steady activity during the week, and a majority of the houses in these lines of goods report a considerably heavier aggregate of sales than during the corresponding week of last year. In season goods the business for the summer is practically over, and nothing but a few more sorts are expected as the balance of the season's demands, except in a few of the extreme fancy lines, which are seldom purchased, unless as actual demands dictate. In lines dependent upon building operations activity is general, and the past week shows no falling-off from its predecessor. The most remarkable feature about the week's transactions has been the steady improvement in collections. A few reports are in this respect enthusiastic and in a large majority of cases are congratulatory. Several houses have expressed agreeable disappointment in this respect, and even in lines where calculations had been made for carrying over the bulk of customs until after harvest. Cash returns have shown a very unexpected improvement. Under such circumstances slow sales have not had any discouraging effects, but are accepted by some as another proof of the safe basis on which the season's trade has been carried on. The statement may safely be risked that the liabilities of the mercantile community in the country are lighter at present than they have been for over two years; and should the harvest prospect keep improving as it has during the last few weeks, they are probably lighter than they ever will be again. The general feeling in wholesale circles

is one of satisfaction, and the general impression is that in sales they will have to work on short rations until the harvest is about ready for cutting, and if success attends the same a lively fall and winter's trade is looked for. The week's trade, therefore, while not rushing, has been altogether cheering in its effects.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

Some houses report a quietness in this line during the past week, while others report a steady good volume of sales. This is certainly the duller point of the season, the demand for seeding goods and even breaking plows being about over, and harvesting machinery having as yet not reached its full swing. Still, the sales of the week have been considerable, and the report from collections is of the most encouraging nature, and quite a contrast to what was expected a month ago. Now that seeding is over the grain in the country is reaching market, and the improved prices, especially for oats, has told favorably on collections in this trade. It is now settled that the spring trade shows quite an increase on that of 1893.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

This is certainly one of the favored branches of season's goods at present, as the business done during the past week while not heavy has been sufficient to keep matters a little lively. June is always looked upon as a dull month in this trade, and the little activity now is therefore the more encouraging. In collections also the report is equally cheering, and wholesalers are quite hopeful about the coming season.

CLOTHING.

This business is about at its lowest ebb at present. The sale of summer goods, even in sorting orders, is over, and preparations for fall business are not yet commenced. About the only business doing is with railway contractors, and this keeps the trade from reaching the monotony of dullness. One encouraging point is the report from collections which is the best received from the clothing trade since the opening of spring trade.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

Business in this line has been very slow during the past week. Only an occasional small order by mail has been received, and wholesalers do not expect sales to increase much during the present month. Collections are reported moderately good, and better than might be expected.

DRY GOODS.

Dullness is general in this staple branch, and the aggregate of sales during the past week has been the lowest of any since the opening of spring trade. Wholesalers express no disappointment at this state of affairs, but look for a dull month in June. In the course of a week or so stock-taking will be underweigh, and dullness will not be felt. Collections are reported in marked contrast to sales, being much better than could have been anticipated a few weeks ago.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALL WARES.

In this line, as in other season goods, there is a quiet feeling at present, and the week's sales have been very light. Houses report the business quite up to that of the same period last

year, and evidently working on a much safer basis. Collections are reported good.

FISH AND POULTRY.

The fresh fish trade is yet in an undeveloped state for this season. Fishing has commenced on Lake Winnipeg, but it will be a few days before receipts will be heavy enough to cause any activity in the wholesale trade. But from this week onward shipping will be lively, if the catch is anything like an average. The only fresh fish on the market are sturgeon and other river fish, and the supply of these is only sufficient for the local trade. Wholesale quotation is not to be reached. Poultry is much in the same state, the only supply being a few chickens offered by retailers.

FRUIT.

This business is still as active as ever, and sales would be heavier only that the supply is not heavy and the variety is limited. The only green fruit to be had are oranges, lemons and tomatoes. The former have risen in price and are selling at \$3 a box, while lemons are quoted at \$6. Tomatoes are quoted at \$2.50 a box. There are no dried fruits except Valencia and loose Muscatels raisins which are quoted at \$2.25 a box; peanuts, pecans and Brazil nuts are worth 15 to 17c, and English walnuts, the only novelty in that line, are quoted at 20c. This makes up the variety on the market, and no additions are looked for in the immediate future.

FUEL.

The fuel trade holds on in the same dull state the demand being now about its lowest. Wood is still quoted: poplar in round lots \$4 to \$6 a cord; tamarac \$4.50 to \$5.50. Coal is quoted: anthracite, \$10.75 on track; bituminous, \$9.50. There is no lignite on the market at present.

FURNITURE.

From this trade there is a report of a good steady trade being done, although the rush which characterized the opening of spring trade is gone. Collections are also reported moderately good.

GROCERIES.

This staple branch still continues in a prospering state. There is no rush or irregularity in sales, but a steady volume keeps coming forward which makes the week's aggregate foot up well. There is not a complaint to be heard from the trade, and the report from collections is a very encouraging one indeed. There has been scarcely a movement in prices, and quotations are as follows: Sugars—yellows, 7½ to 8½c; granulated 9½ to 9¾c; Paris lumps 10½ to 11c; Coffees are quoted, 14 to 17c for Rios; Javas 21 to 24c; teas range, Moyune gunpowder 25 to 70c; Japans 20 to 45c; Young Hyson 25 to 70c; Congous 24 to 75c.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

This is one of the busy branches at present, although one or two of the reports for the past week are not so bright as they were in May. Still, the volume of sales has been quite up to an average, and collections are reported fair to good. Building material still holds ahead in activity of demand. There have been no changes in prices of staple