

## COMMERCIAL.

The general state of trade in the Dominion begins to exhibit signs of improvement. The growing crops are in a promising condition in most sections, and the season is now so far advanced that a fully average yield may be safely predicted. The value of the hay crop is all the greater because of the failure of the crop in Great Britain and on the European continent, and the consequent demand which has arisen in those parts of the world for the Canadian product. In all branches of trade a fair and a healthy trade is doing, and the prospects for a good fall trade are better than they have been for some years. Merchants are everywhere catching the inspiration, and they speak hopefully of the future. Of course none of them anticipate a "rush," but they do look for a good steady trade. With much wisdom they continue to buy with the same degree of caution that they have for some time. Of course this necessitates frequent purchases, each smaller than was customary in former years, but the aggregate volume of trade is more than well maintained—in fact, if we can accept the testimony of the wholesale trade, it is larger so far this year than in several previous seasons. The tendency to smaller and more frequent orders is a wholesome one, and indicates a healthier condition of trade. Speculative, indiscriminate buying frequently means the over-stocking of retailers' shelves with unsaleable goods, and this, in turn, means the tying up of so much capital that might otherwise be utilized in purchasing fresher or more modern goods. By purchasing in smaller quantities the retailer decreases the chances of his shelves becoming overstocked, and can always present to his customers the freshest goods and newest styles, and at the same time he obtains increased opportunities for saving his discounts—in many cases a not unimportant matter, as quite a number thus save enough to pay their rent.

An effort will probably be made to induce the U. S. Congress at its forthcoming special session to undertake a revision of the banking laws of that country. The great trouble with the United States banking system appears to be its want of elasticity at times when expansion is urgently required. At its origination it was an expedient of war finance. Still it has obtained for nearly thirty years, greatly to the detriment of the trade and commerce of that country. Some are calling for a radical change, and so high an authority as the *New York Commercial Bulletin* asserts that "the wants of the situation can be properly met only by a total abandonment of the principle of bond guarantee and its substitution by constituting the entire assets of the banks and the duplicate liability of their stockholders subject to a first lien in behalf of its notes." In the United States the bank that finds it necessary to expand its circulation is compelled to go the round-about way of purchasing government bonds to the value of something like ten per cent. in excess of the issue.

The importance of saving discounts wherever possible has long been recognized by live and energetic business men, who strain every nerve to secure them. In this connection it is worthy to note that a company was formed in New York a few days ago which is to be known as the New York Merchants' Discount Company. The object is to advance money to retail merchants to enable them to pay their bills on time and secure the discounts. A charge of 2 per cent. is to be made for the accommodation. The wholesaler, in addition to the benefit of receiving prompter payments, will be released from the possibility of loss, the company assuming all responsibility for the payment of its clients' debts on orders issued by it. The operations of this company will be watched with interest, as it tends to evolve a new principle in the insurance or guarantee line.

**WEEKLY FINANCIAL REVIEW OF HENRY CLEWS AND CO., NEW YORK, July 15th, 1893.**—"During the week, affairs in Wall Street have continued to struggle on against the adverse monetary conditions, and with some yielding in the prices of securities. Now and then, the difficulty of renewing maturing loans has stricken holders of important lines of stocks, and heavy realizations resulted, which were turned to account by the 'bears' and produced fresh breaks in quotations. One important case of this character occurred at the beginning of this week, which resulted in a heavy fall in the Grangers and other stocks, from which the market has since only partially recovered. The effect reached London also and unfavorably influenced that market for the time being, and caused the sale here of stocks held there.

The trouble of Wall Street houses with respect to the money market is declining. The late large fall in prices has reduced the amount to be borrowed against stocks, and the withdrawal of securities from the market for investment is having a like effect, so that the wants of borrowers are much more easily satisfied; while the large shrinkage in prices makes stocks correspondingly safer as collateral. The rate of interest, though still high, is not so costly as to raise a serious obstacle to buying. The difficulties with which the market has now to contend are of the character that usually follows such an extensive break as has recently happened. Some operators have been sold out; and numerous others are crippled. Thus the machinery of speculation is disabled, and the forces to resist unfavorable influences are enfeebled. But outside the ranks of the speculators there stands a force of investors watching for bargains; and the purchases of that class are now becoming a very substantial rallying power to the market. Not only are the prices of stocks very exceptionally low, but the condition of the railroads is at present unusually prosperous, making the inducement to investors one of rare advantage.

The general condition of financial affairs is improving, though the progress is slow. There has been a distinct abatement of the late apprehension, and recovery is regarded as less a question of fact than of time. The obstacles give way slowly, but still they are receding all along the line. The most stubborn difficulty is the extraordinary scarcity of currency, which keeps the reserves of the banks below the legal minimum. There are some indications of the beginning of a reflux of currency from the interior, but the amount of

such receipts is as yet small. There can be no doubt that a large amount of money has gone into hoard, not only in this locality but throughout the country. The city savings banks are also estimated to be withholding some ten millions from use in the reserves of the Associated Banks. These are difficulties of a most stubborn nature, and can only disappear when the timid hoarders have recovered from their insane fright.

The concentration of money at Chicago is perhaps a much more important element in this dearth of money than is generally supposed. The tens of thousands who are constantly drifting to the Fair take with them money drawn from the banks in every part of the country; and those streams drain the interior of currency which would otherwise find its way to this city. The amount thus floating in the hands of those visiting the Fair or associated with it may easily run into the millions, and it does not find its way hither because it is mainly in the pockets of the public rather than in the vaults of the Chicago bank. The evidence of accumulation of money at that point is plain in the rate of \$1.75 to \$2.00 per M. discount for exchange on New York, which leaves a large profit on shipping currency thither and is having that effect. This is a condition of things which may possibly continue as the attendance at the Fair increases during the coming months.

Per contra—there is an improving tendency in the exchanges between New York and other points. Philadelphia is beginning to reduce its large indebtedness to us in cash. The currency sent to the Pacific Coast banks is coming back, and small streams are flowing in from other sections. Some of the country banks are taking back the paper sent here for re-discount at an earlier stage of the crisis, and altogether, outside of our relations with Chicago, there are apparent the beginnings of a movement that may be expected to replenish our stock of money at an early day. The condition of foreign exchanges has brought us close upon the point at which it would pay to ship gold hither from London. Shipments would have probably been made this week, but London sales of stocks on this market, together with the unwillingness of the Bank of England to part with gold, seem to have deferred the movement for the moment. Imports of the yellow metal, however, are regarded as a probability of the near future. A turn in the domestic and foreign exchanges is the one thing needful to the revival of confidence among the banks; and that seems to be in a fair way to realization.

**LATEST ASPECTS.**—The closing symptoms of the market are hopeful. The improving tendencies noted above now show a fuller development, and both among the banks and on the Stock Exchange the feeling is much more confident than at the opening of the week. Three movements now afford distinct promise of important early relief;—the return of currency from the country, the retirement of Clearing House Certificates, and the importation of gold. This, with other improvements in the prospect, is making the 'bears' cautious and encouraging the buying of stocks. We anticipate an improving market from this time forward."

**DRY GOODS.**—The week has been rather quiet and without special features. The indications for a good fall business are improving, and orders are improving. Buyers are now mostly home from England and the Continent, and selections of fall and winter goods coming to hand so far give general satisfaction. Linings of all descriptions meet a good enquiry at steady prices. The demand seems to run especially to creams and light shades which are very scarce, and this fact is compelling buyers in many instances to seek other markets for supplies. Linen goods are firm owing to a decided scarcity of flax, and advances from 10 to 15 per cent. have been made in some cases. Importers, in consequence, complain that deliveries are tardy. Dress goods have continued in good demand in a sorting-up way—challies on light grounds fully holding their own. Many classes of summer wear have been in continued enquiry. Japanese and shot-silk blouses, fabrics, boating flannels, cream ribbons, sailor hats, silk gloves, veilings, shirt waists, cashmere and drill vests and light-colored neckwear have all received considerable attention in small quantities. Orders on fall account are very promising, and, although travellers are not all on the road, yet those who are out are securing very fair orders. Most wholesale houses claim that their sales on fall delivery are considerably ahead of this time last year.

**BREADSTUFFS.**—The local movement in flour is small and business does not give much indication of improvement. The tone rules easy with a tendency to lower prices. The demand for oatmeal is not very good, but stocks are small and, while the market is firmer in tone, there is no change in quotations. The supply of bran and shorts is very small, and dealers find it difficult to fill orders. Owing to the absence of important business prices are unchanged. The British markets are holding steady, but without excitement, so that quotations for wheat, grain and flour remain unchanged. In Chicago wheat has been weak and had declined about ½c. during the week.

**PROVISIONS.**—The local provision market holds quiet and featureless with prices nominally unchanged. The demand is decidedly slow, being strictly confined to supplying actual consumptive demands which, at this season of the year, are very much restricted. A report from Chicago says that provision dealers are experiencing the dullest market of the year. Pork is practically unsaleable. Packers manage to sell the daily product of lard and ribs, but business is difficult at even a 10c. per 100 lbs. decline. Heavy holders are anxiously looking for a market upon which to unload.

**BUTTER.**—There has been no special activity in the butter market during the past week, but good small rolls and print butters find, as usual, a ready sale. Receipts are moderate but the demand is equal to the supply, so that

## A BATTLE FOR BLOOD

Is what Hood's Sarsaparilla fights, and it is always victorious in expelling all the foul taints and giving the vital fluid the quality and quantity of perfect health. It cures scrofula, salt rheum, boils and all other troubles caused by impure blood.