

## WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

In monetary circles the past week has been of a quiet and uneventful nature, though not noticeably more so than many previous weeks for some time back. Funds are plentiful for all legitimate investments where good security can be offered. Rates of interest hold steadily at old quotations of from 7 to 10 per cent, with the bulk of business transacted on a basis of about 8 per cent. Straight commercial discounts still constitute the greater portion of business done. In advances on real property some loan companies report an increase in the calls for advances on city securities, principally to further building projects, in which direction considerable activity is being shown. Rates of interest for such loan continue at about 8 to 9 per cent, though choice securities for large advances would be taken at lower rates.

## WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

As the season advances and the crop prospect gradually improves under the influence of the favorable weather that has almost continuously prevailed since the seed was first put in the ground, the feeling of confidence seems also to proportionately expand. Nevertheless, there is a wide-spread disposition prevalent among wholesalers in leading lines to abstain from pushing business for the present at least. The feeling is that purchases by retailers last spring were larger than the country required, and that it would be unwise to crowd more goods upon retail dealers. In the long run this policy will undoubtedly prove that it is the correct course to follow. It is evident that eastern houses have worked the Northwest harder for summer and fall business than the local firms, though it is also evident that a great many eastern travellers have hardly paid expenses this summer in their Northwestern trips. Country merchants have thus shown wisdom and forethought in refusing to be persuaded into placing large fall orders before they know of a certainty what the season of 1886 will turn out in the way of a cereal crop, and in taking this course they will meet with the approval of leading local wholesalers. Even though a bountiful harvest were assured, yet there are other matters which should be taken into consideration in determining the amount of liability which may be safely assumed in purchasing stocks of goods in advance; and not the least important of these is in regard to the prices that may be obtained for our surplus grain next fall and winter. While it is not always well to take a pessimistic view of the outlook, yet it is well to be in a measure prepared for seasons of depression and low prices. Depressed values have long prevailed in nearly all kinds of manufactured goods, and have gradually extended to grains, provisions, etc. There is every reason to believe that the wheat crop of 1886 in the United States will find prices lower than for many a long year when it first comes into the market. This in itself will be a favorable feature so far as starting low is concerned, for it is better that prices should start on an export basis and advance later, than start away above export value (as was the case of 1885) and have to come down. If the markets take this course

and higher prices are to be had for the crop of 1886, Manitoba will be the gainer, as our crops will be the last on the continent to be marketed, and consequently we will get the benefit should the markets improve from the starting point on the new crop. However, as previously remarked, it is well that Northwestern merchants should take this matter into consideration and not base their calculations on the prices obtained for Manitoba wheat during the past season, which for well known exceptional reasons were higher than prices obtained in the adjoining States. In regard to the condition of business, there has been but little change since our last report, though some branches have shown steady improvement. A number of traders from the Saskatchewan country have been in the market during the week, and making their annual selections, bringing with them considerable quantities of furs. Collections have been rather slow on an average, even for the season.

## AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

Dealers are having a quiet season, which they expect to continue until the demand for harvesting machinery sets in. Of course a few reapers, harvesters, etc., are occasionally going out, but dealers do not expect much activity until such machinery is actually required for use. About the only other articles moving are breaking plows, which continue to be called for in limited numbers.

## BOOTS AND SHOES.

Dealers report a better movement than last month, and fairly good for the season. Collections are not considered slower than usual at this time of the year.

## CLOTHING

There is very little doing in the way of present sorting business, and travellers have not been sending in very large returns for fall delivery. Fur traders from the north have done considerable purchasing. Collections are slow.

## CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

Dealers report a steady and fairly good call for goods, confined principally to staple wares in crockery and glassware. Some very handsome designs in glassware are now shown at the latest thing in the line. Collections fairly satisfactory.

## DRY GOODS.

The dry goods branch of the wholesale trade seems to be beyond the influence of any feature tending toward activity. The past week has been about as quiet as any for some time back, and orders for either sorting or for fall delivery have not come to hand in any number. Several traders and general dealers from the Saskatchewan country have been in the city and have bought liberally, but the aggregate trade has been small, and the call from the city, is if anything, slower proportionately than the country. Collections have not improved and are not satisfactory.

## DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

Trade continues about as usual and prices are still unchanged as follows: Howard's quinine, 90c to \$1.00; German quinine, 80 to 90c; opium, \$4.50 to \$5.00; morphia, \$2 to \$2.50; iodine, \$4.25 to \$4.50; bromide potassium, 50 to 55c; American cam-

phor, 33 to 40c; English camphor, 45 to 50c; glycerine, 25 to 35c; tartaric acid, 65 to 70c; cream of tartar, 35 to 40c; bleaching powder, per keg \$8 to \$10; bicarb soda, \$4.50 to \$5; sal soda, \$2.25 to \$2.50; soda ash, \$3 to \$3.25; chlorate potash, 25 to 35c; alum, \$2.75 to \$3; copperas, \$3 to \$3.25; sulphur, flour, \$4 to \$4.25; salpeter, roll, \$3.75 to \$4; American blue vitrol, 6 to 7c.

## FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

Trade in this branch has continued quiet and the movement has been in about the same proportion as for the past few weeks. Collections have been fairly good for this time of the year.

## FISH.

There is nothing new in connection with the fish trade, with the exception that Lake Winnipeg fish are now in large supply and prices lower. Other varieties are plentiful at old prices. Quotations for fresh lake fish are as follows: Lake Winnipeg white, irregular, at 5 to 7c; Columbia salmon, 22½c; Lake Superior trout, 8½ to 9c; pickerel 3½c. Fresh sea fish are in good supply and are quoted as follows: Cod 10c, haddock 10c, halibut 17c, shad 16c, flounders 15c, lobsters 17c, oysters, select, 65c per can; standards, 55c. Cured fish are quoted as follows: Salt white, \$4 per bbl; Labrador herrings \$8 per bbl; salmon, \$17 per bbl; mackerel \$1 to \$1.75 per kit; smoked haddocks, 9½ to 10c per lb.

## FRUITS.

Apples are now out of the market with the exception of a few barrels of odds and ends in the hands of retailers. Stocks of oranges were very low most of last week, and wants were supplied in a hand to mouth way by receipts per express, of Valencias and Californias. The former sold at \$16.50 for large cases, and the latter at \$8.50 to \$9 per box. Large shipments were on the way and this week the market will be well supplied with Mediterranean oranges, at \$8 to \$9 per box. Lemons are again quoted 50c higher. Dealers have been deluged with strawberries from the South, which have sold at irregular prices, and frequently at a loss to the shipper. Pineapples are now in the market at quotation. Green stuff is in fair supply at irregular prices. Green peas are the latest addition in this line and sell at \$4 per bushel. Quotations are as follows: Pineapples, \$5 per doz; oranges, \$8 to \$9.00; bananas, \$4.00 to \$6.00 per bunch. Messina lemons, \$9.00; Valencia raisins, \$2.75; London layer raisins, \$3.90 to \$4.00; black crown \$5.00 to \$5.25 walnuts, 15 to 20c a lb; almonds, 20c; filberts, 15c; pecans, 16c; peanuts, 17c for roasted and 15c for raw; figs 18c to 20c; dates mats 8 to 10c; golden 11c. Apple cider, \$10 per bbl.

## FUEL.

Prices for coal and wood are unchanged as follows: poplar \$3.25; to \$3.35; oak \$5.00 to \$5.50; tamarac \$4 to \$4.50. Prices are for lots, on track. Hard coal is worth \$9 to \$9.50, and American steam coal, \$6.85 on track. Blakemith's coal, \$12.00 per ton. Gal't coal sells at \$6.50 on track.

## FURNITURE.

There would appear to be very little doing in the furniture line, business of a wholesale