

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

In the money market here there are unmistakable signs of an easier feeling, consequent upon the excellent prospect for crops throughout the North-west; and an increasing confidence in the country among eastern capitalists. Still money cannot yet be said to be easy, and only those who can show themselves to be in a good position and able to weather the storm through are freely dealt with. The banks are still very cautious in their dealings in some cases, perhaps too rigidly so. There are no doubt many men in the country to-day hard pressed for available funds, who could pull through with a little assistance at the present time. Money for use in any venture savoring of speculation cannot be had at all from the banks, and private sources have to be relied upon exclusively. High rates have as a rule to be paid for it. Rates are as they were. From 8 to 10 per cent, has still to be paid on gilt edge commercial paper; while on ordinary as high as 12 is asked. Money can be obtained without difficulty on good landed mortgage security, at from 8 to 10 per cent.

The feeling generally is certainly much better than some time ago. It is the general belief that the worst has been passed, and that the easier feeling will continue to grow with the nearer approach of harvest, when it is expected, money if not so free as it was a year ago, will be in ready supply for all legitimate business purposes.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

This is a season of the year when a quiet state of trade is looked for in wholesale circles, under any circumstances. This coupled with the unusually depressed state of business throughout the country generally, serves to make things exceedingly dull. There is very little movement in any class of goods, if we except the fruit trade which is brisk and will continue to be so while the warm weather continues. The whole volume of trade for the week has been confined to small sorting up orders, chiefly from country customers. The city demand is very easily supplied, the retail business being abnormally quiet, and showing very little signs of revival. This state of affairs is likely to continue until after harvest, when a general revival is confidently anticipated. In this there is very little danger of disappointment. The crops promise well, and if the grain is secured in good order, and brought to the market in good condition, a large amount of money will be put into circulation, and the wheels of commerce will again move with as much freedom as they were wont to do in the past. Until this time comes retailers are running with as little stock as possible, so as not to be hampered with old accounts when the period of revival sets in. Collections are still close. In some cases a noticeable improvement is reported, while others say that they have found money harder to get during the two past weeks, than at any time since the depression set in. Very few notes are paid in full on maturity, and renewals are frequently asked for, both in whole and in part. Wholesalers do not feel disposed to press business strongly at

present, preferring to keep their goods in stock rather than allow them to pass into the hands of doubtful customers. There is a feeling among the trade that some agreement should be come to by which the present system of long credit could be done away with, and goods sold only for cash or on short dates. In order to accomplish this desirable object united action is necessary, and if it can be secured it will put business on a much more satisfactory basis than it has hitherto been.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

Those engaged in the agricultural implement business have their hands full just now, in attending to the wants of customers. Haying and harvesting machinery is selling well and by the time all demands are supplied there will be very little left of the heavy stocks brought in to cumber the warehouses during the winter. Considerable consignments are still being received from the east, which are shipped with all possible dispatch to country agencies. The demand for other classes of goods outside of haying and harvesting machinery is light at present, and there will not likely be much inquiry for them until the crops have been safely put in stack. Threshing machinery is, however, eagerly enquired for, and a great deal will be required to handle the crop after it is cut. Collections have been slow. During the first half of June money was tolerably free, but of late there has been considerable falling off, and until after harvest the same state of things is likely to continue.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

There has been very little doing in the boot and shoe line during the week. Country dealers are supplied with pretty near all they will require until towards fall, and the business is confined to a few small sorting up orders. City trade is very dull, and amounts to scarcely anything. Collections are in some cases reported fair, in others poor. A good fall trade is expected, and the leading houses are preparing themselves well for it.

CLOTHING.

There is very little life in the clothing trade at present. Now and then a small order comes in, chiefly from western points, and even these are fewer in number and smaller in amount than they were a few weeks ago. Collections are slow, and do not show much signs of immediate improvement.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

There has been a nice steady trade during the week, but not so much as it was the week previous. Travellers are out on the road, and until they come in with their orders, quietness is expected. Collections have been fairly up to the average of the past month or two. In this line the accounts are smaller than in some other branches of trade, and there is consequently not the same difficulty in collection. The retailer can generally square up his small accounts, while the big ones which he sees no possibility of meeting are allowed to go unheeded.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

There is no difference in the state of trade in this line from that noted last week. Quietness amounting almost to complete inactivity prevails, and it is expected will continue so until later on in the season. A few sorting up orders

for common goods have been received, but the total amounts to very little, as compared with that of a year ago. Collections although not positively bad are decidedly slow.

DRY GOODS.

"No better, no worse" about indicates the situation in the dry goods trade. Business is still very dull, and it is not expected that there will be any change in the condition of things until after harvest. Sorting up orders, considerable in number but small in amount keep coming in from the country, but the city trade amounts to very little. Travellers will soon be on the road with fall samples, and they look forward with confidence to a good trade. Business this season will be done on a much more conservative principle than it was a year ago, and the leading houses are determined only to take orders from good responsible men. If this policy is pursued, and it is in the interest of every one that it should be, a good paying business will be done, perhaps not so large in amount as last fall, but much more profitable in the end. Collections have not shown any signs of improvement, in fact they are if anything slower than they have been for some time. This is accounted for by the fact that the money in the possession of farmers throughout the country, is being used chiefly in the purchase of harvesting machinery and not in the settlement of store accounts. City trade is especially quiet, the heavy overstocks of last season still lingering in considerable quantities on the retailers shelves.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALL WARES.

This line of business like all others is suffering from the depression that exists. Still, the total of business for the month of June foots up better than was expected, and the leading houses think they have got a fair share of the business that has been done in wholesale circles. Collections are fair, but there is plenty of room for improvement.

FISH AND POULTRY.

The trade in fish has been very quiet. The warm weather interferes seriously with keeping stocks on hand, and there will not be much improvement in business until cooler weather sets in. White fish and trout sell at 8c per lb; pike are worth 3c. Very little poultry is offered.

FRUIT.

Of late the fruit business has been particularly brisk. The warm weather causes an active demand for lemons and oranges. Large consignments are being received. Car lots of lemons and oranges have been received. California oranges sell at \$9, but Messinas still hold up to \$10; lemons are worth \$10 to 10.50. Owing to the state of the weather, fruit arrives considerably damaged, and there is consequently a great deal of waste in repacking. Old apples are out of the market. Some new apples in boxes have been received, but not yet in sufficient quantity to warrant quotations. Tomatoes and strawberries are coming in freely, but the market fluctuates so much, according to the condition in which they are received, that prices are not quotable. Evaporated apples are in big supply. Dried fruit quotations are unchanged: Loos Muscatel raisins \$3; black currants \$4 75; tri-