

## WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

There has been a feeling of monotony connected with the money market of the city during the past week. Banks have had no difficulty in supplying all the demands for commercial discounts, and no doubt could have given attention to more than reached them. Even the part renewals from good borrowers were not unwellcome. On the other hand loans have been refused in most cases, and paper, bearing the taint of accommodation, has great difficulty in being discounted even at the fixed rate of 12 per cent. Good commercial paper is still acceptable at from 8 to 10 per cent., and ordinary is received at from 1 to 2 per cent. above this latter figure. The small amount of money in circulation at present makes a tight feeling in the city, but with the commencement of railway construction the circulation is expected to increase greatly. Loans on real estate have not been numerous, but are easily obtained on good improved property. A few cases of foreclosure for loans made in boom days are going on, but the number is very small compared with what might be expected. Rates of interest still range from 8 to 10 per cent., very few loans being made at the latter figure. Altogether, the money market is in a lifeless, although safe state at present.

## WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

The state of the wholesale trade of the city has changed very little since our last issue, and matters are still in an undecided state. Some few houses have placed their travellers on the road during the past week, and have shown more of a disposition to push matters. Still, a great number of others hold to their cautious policy, and are determined to wait until the immediate demands of the country necessitate their sending out representatives. In this course some of their best customers concur, and believe in its wisdom. The scare cause by last year's overstocking make both wholesalers and retailers anxious to avoid a similar, and others of a more sanguine opinion believe that this policy may be carried too far, that in the event of an early spring setting in, which is not at all unlikely after the steady winter we have had, the country would be found quite short in many lines of staple goods. This argument is usually met by its opponents with the statement that it is better to err on the safe side. There is certainly some encouragement to extend operations at present, as, during the week, trade in the country has livened up not a little, while the city trade has held very quiet, and promises to until the advance of the season starts it. The most cautious of the wholesalers believe that a good average and safe trade will be done for spring, but are determined to hold off until the demand forces them to advance. A few insolvencies in far western points during the week has shaken them a little; but these have occurred where trade depended, during the winter, upon the work of railway extension, and as that has not been carried on during the past season, these insolvencies are not to be wondered at. With the prospect of active construction on the C. P. R. being resumed soon, matters in the far western points will no doubt

improve rapidly. On the whole the week has shown a slight improvement in trade, and a steady improvement during the current week is expected.

## AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

In this branch of trade very little is being done in the way of sales, the season not having opened up yet, and the rather hard experience of last year make farmers cautious about incurring any fresh obligations. Still, active preparations are being made by houses here, and a good season's trade is confidently expected by all. Importations may not be so heavy as last year, owing to the quantity of machinery that was rushed into the country before the increased tariff of last year went into force, and a considerable share of this is still in stock. Collections are reported still rather irregular, but as good as could be expected under the circumstances.

## BOOTS AND SHOES.

There has been a slight improvement in the state of trade in this line during the week, and wholesalers speak a little more hopefully. Still business is slow, and is expected to remain so until March opens up. Collections are reported fair, and might be considered good but for two insolventcies that have been felt in the trade during the week.

## CLOTHING.

In this line the report of the past week is rather a mixed one. Some houses complain a little, while others report an improvement. The city trade is still very quiet, and the improvement that has taken place has been altogether in the country, some points having shown considerable life. Collections have not been too good since the fourth of the month, but cannot be considered bad under the circumstances.

## CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

In this line business is down to supplying immediate demands for the most staple goods, and these demands are not very heavy. In fancy lines nothing is doing, but a general improvement is looked for with the opening of March.

## DRY GOODS.

From this branch of trade the report of the past week is rather hopeful. There has been only a slight improvement in sales, but hopes of a good spring trade have risen much during the week. Some more travellers have gone out and the whole force will be out in a few days. Orders, so far, show cautious buying on the part of retailers, and are, as a rule, much lighter than those of a year ago. Collections are reported fairly good and inclined to keep improving. Altogether, the report of the week is an encouraging one.

## DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

There is very little change in the state of trade in this line, everything moving in a steady but rather slow manner.

## FANCY GOODS AND SMALL WARES.

This is the slow time of year in this line of business; still, the report of the week shows trade in a better state than could be expected. Fancy lines are not much in demand, and will not be for a month or so, but staples are selling with considerable freedom. The report as to collections is quite an encouraging one.

## FISH AND POULTRY.

The fish trade of the past week has not been quite so one-sided as it was the previous one. The tons of jack fish which were coming into market daily have fallen off greatly, and only an occasional load is now to be seen there. The city is thoroughly stocked, however, and while cold weather lasts dealers find no difficulty in storage. The price of jack is now about 5c, with occasionally a lot at 2½c. Lake Superior trout are still worth 7c. Poultry is still too scarce in town to admit of wholesale quotations.

## FRUIT.

A fair and steady business has been done in this line during the week, and there has been almost no change in prices. Amberlees alone having made an advance to \$1. a box. There is quite a scarcity of lemons and some other fresh fruits at present, but the fact that several car loads of these are expected to arrive at any time, keeps the prices from rising. Quotations are: Lemons, \$7 to \$7.50; Valencia oranges, \$12 to \$12.50 per case. Malaga grapes, \$9.50 to \$10.50 per box; apples, \$7 to \$7.50; figs in boxes, 12c per lb.; Klono layers at 10c; Peanuts are the only variety of nuts in the market, and these are quoted still 20c per lb. Raisins are quoted: loose muscatel \$3.25; black baskets \$4.40; dates sell at 10c per lb.

## FUEL.

There has been no change in the price of coal during the week, although a great falling-off in the demand has taken place. Anthracite still sells at \$14; bituminous at \$13; and Saskatchewan lignite at \$10 delivered. Good dry tamarac wood sells from \$4.50 to \$4.75 and poplar ranges from \$3 to \$4. The demand has fallen off greatly during the week.

## FURNITURE.

Business in this line is still in a slow state, and no improvement is looked for for some weeks to come.

## GROCERIES.

Groceries in this staple branch has been ordinarily good during the week, although a few complaints have been heard. The city trade has not been lively, but from the country orders have been reasonably heavy. There have been few changes in prices, although in sugars the feeling is now much easier, owing to general consignments having reached the city during the week. Tens have advanced very much during the week in the east, and have been firm here in consequence. The advance in the Montreal market has been at least 20 per cent. during the past two weeks, and although a similar rise has not taken place here prices must soon advance to correspond. Coffees hold about the same in price. Quotations are as follows: Sugars—Yellow 0½ to 10c; granulated 10½ to 11½; Paris lumps 12c; Coffees 15 to 18c for Rios; 22 to 27c for Javas; teas—Japan 20 to 45c, Moyuno gunpowders 30 to 75c; Young Hyson 25 to 70c; new season Congous 24 to 55c; last season's do 18c to 35c. Tobaccos have advanced—Prince of Wales is quoted at 39c to 40c per lb.; Myrtle Navy \$10 per caddie. Syrups are quoted at \$3.50 per keg; half barrels 90c per gallon. Boneless fish is worth 9c per lb for 40 lb boxes; 10c for 5 lb