

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

There is almost general complaint in wholesale circles about slow collections. The month of March just passed has not brought the improvement looked for. Earlier in the season, when collections were backward, the situation was relieved by the belief that matters would be better when the farmers had been given time to market their crops. But it must be confessed that there has not been the improvement looked for, consequently there is much dissatisfaction on this score. The farmers have disposed of their crops, and their liabilities to country merchants are still large. Country dealers, as usual, seem to be coming out of the small end of the horn in the matter of collections, and this only emphasizes what THE COMMERCIAL has so frequently urged, in regard to the necessity of keeping down credit business between retailers and consumers, and exercising eternal vigilance in the collection department. Bank discount rates are at the old figures of 7 to 8 per cent. There is a little more doing in mortgage loans, at 8 per cent. firm on farm properties.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

Last week appeared to have been a very slow one in wholesale trade generally. In textile lines, etc., it is between seasons and therefore quiet. Business it is said is working more into regular seasons of activity and dullness, in this market, than formerly. The prospects for the year point to careful buying, at least until such time as crop prospects can be estimated with some degree of confidence.

FISH AND OYSTERS.

There is very little business doing in fish. Fresh whitefish are quoted at 6c, and are about the only variety obtainable in quantities. Some small lots of B. C. fresh salmon have arrived, but have been sold mostly in a retail way, and held at 20c in jobbing way. A little halibut, Lake Superior herrings, and a few other varieties have been in the market in retail quantities. Smoked finnan haddies are quoted at 14c. Oysters quoted at \$2.25 for standards, and \$2.50 selects, per gallon.

GREEN FRUITS.

The market was very bare of fruits last week for a while, and business very slow. Country dealers are now buying in a very hand-to-mouth way, as they are waiting for safe weather to ship by freight, instead of express. Apples are unchanged at \$7 to \$8 per barrel. Lemons are higher and quoted at \$6 to \$6.50 a box. California oranges are now about the only variety of this fruit in the market, and held at \$4.50 to \$5 a box. A few malaga grapes are still on hand at \$12 to \$13 per keg. Comb honey, 23c a lb. No maple sugar or syrup had arrived yet, but is expected shortly.

HARDWARE.

There is no new feature to note in hardware. Prices are steady, and business is quiet yet. Advances dated March 25, reported further declines in pig iron warrants in the Old Country. Scotch sold down to 43s 3d, Cleveland to 38s 7d, and Hematitites to 47s 10d, despite a continued reduction in stocks in warrant stores. The depression is attributed to the unsettled state of financial affairs, which, together with inactivity in the trade and increased production, has caused more or less anxiety to realize. Preparations are made for blowing in another

Scotch furnace. The near approach of the shipping season and favorable prospects for a better export trade served to impart a better feeling during the past few days. Quotations here are: Cut nails, 10d and upwards, \$3.25; 1. C. tin plates, \$8 to \$8.25 as to grade; I. C. tin plates double, \$12 to \$12.50; Canada plates, \$4.10 to \$4.25; sheet iron, \$4 to 5.50, according to grade; iron pipe, net prices. 1 inch, 10½c; 1½ inch, 13½c; 2 inch, 16½c; 2½ inch, 25½c per foot; ingot tin, 30c per lb.; bar tin, 32c per lb.; sheet zinc, 8c per lb.; galvanized iron, 23 guage, 7 to 8½c per lb.; bar iron, \$3.50 per 100 lbs.; shot, 6½c per lb.; tarred felt, \$2 30 to \$2 40 per 100 lbs.; barbed wire, 6c net.

PAINTS, OILS AND GLASS.

Business opened out brisker last week, though orders were mostly for western points. There is no change to note in prices which are as follows:—Turpentine, in barrels, 76c per gallon; in 5 gallon cans, 81c gallon; linseed oil in barrels, raw 79c; boiled, 82c; benzine and gasoline, 50c; pure oxide paints, in barrels, 90c per gallon; coal tar \$6 per barrel; Portland cement, \$4.90 a barrel; Michigan plaster, \$3.25 to \$3.50 a barrel; putty, in bladders, 3½c a pound, bulk, in bbls., 3c; whiting, in barrels, \$1.40 a cwt; Elephant genuine white lead, \$7.25; Elephant, No. 1, do, \$6.40; Bull's Head, do, \$6.00; Royal Crown, do, \$5.00; Crown pure white lead, \$7.25; Royal Charter, \$6.50; Railroad, \$6.25; Red Star, \$5.50; Calsomine, in cases of 20 five-pound packages, \$6, per 100 pounds; Alabastine, \$7.25 per case of 20 packages. Window Glass, first break, \$2.10.

LUMBER.

The statements given last week about the proposed formation of a combination company, to handle the output of the Lake of the Woods mills, are not likely to be realized. One of the largest mills has refused to come into the agreement, and the whole scheme for the present is off. A meeting of manufacturers is talked of for to-day, to talk over prices, etc. Considerable cutting of prices is likely to be done this season, is the opinion of some of the mill men, as a result of the failure to carry through the association scheme. Business is quiet.

WHOLESALE PRODUCE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

WHEAT

Wheat had rather a higher range for the week and though there were weak and nervous spots, the markets have generally shown considerable strength. The situation in Europe was a strong factor. British markets were about 9d per quarter higher on Monday than a week ago, and the future indications are strong, as to the demand and supply for Europe. The weak feature on Monday was favorable crop weather on this continent, and large receipts at Minneapolis and Duluth. On Thursday the continued advance in the Chicago and other United States market was mainly due to strong cables. Liverpool was ½d higher, and Paris and Berlin were strong. On Wednesday prices took a turn downward at Chicago, mainly due to speculative offerings, though fine crop weather helped the tendency. Liverpool quoted ½ to ¾d higher, and continental cables were of a similar tone. Thursday was a continuation of strong foreign bullish news, with cash wheat advancing abroad,

while a cool dip on this continent had a strengthening influence upon the markets. On Friday about the same features prevailed.

In Manitoba the disappearance of snow and fine weather has cut off farmers' deliveries very largely, but it is likely that stocks in farmers' hands are so reduced that there would not be much done until after seeding, even had it been otherwise. As it is there will be little doing in Manitoba country markets now until after the farmers have put in their spring crops, when any surplus of grain they may have over, will be marketed. The week of very mild and fine weather which prevailed up to Thursday last, was rapidly putting the ground into condition for seeding, and a little seeding was done the first few days of the week. On Thursday a frosty spell set in, which would stop this work, but Friday was milder again, and Saturday favorable. With a continuation of this weather for the next week, considerable wheat will be in the ground by next Saturday night.

Values have continued to show a firm and upward tendency. There is a fairly good milling demand in eastern Canada for Manitoba wheat, at good prices, while the export demand keeps up. Even damaged wheat in in good request in eastern Canada, at higher prices, where it is sought for feeding, on account of the high price of feed grains. Business in the latter class of grain, however is about over. Dealers are not holding any quantity here, as they have shipped as fast as marketed, and it is not expected that farmers are holding but very little damaged stuff. On track f.o.b. here, No. 2 hard is quoted at about 88c per bushel. No. 3 hard is quoted about 12c per bushel under No. 2 hard. Cars were scarce for shipment, but this difficulty is expected to be but temporary, owing to light deliveries. Manitoba wheat in store at Fort William and Port Arthur increased 44,489 bushels for the week ended March 26, making the total 675,779 bushels.

FLOUR.

Flour holds very firm, in sympathy with wheat, but unchanged as follows:—Patents, \$2.70; strong bakers', \$2.50; Imperial, \$2.20; second bakers', \$1.85; XXXX, \$1.45; superfine, \$1.25; lower grades \$1.00; buckwheat flour, \$3.75.

MILLSTUFFS.

There is an excellent shipping demand for bran and shorts, to eastern points, and owing to the very high prices ruling in the States, some Manitoba stuff is finding a market in that direction. The shipping movement keeps down any accumulation, and renders local prices very strong. Price were advanced another notch last week, and are now quoted at \$15 for bran and \$17 for shorts, to the local trade.

NEALS, OIL CAKE, ETC.

Another sharp advance has occurred in oatmeal in this market, prices being up 25c per sack this week. Cornmeal is also 20c per hundred higher. Quotations are: Oil cake, in bag, \$21 a ton; oil cake meal in ton lots, sacked, \$26; in bulk \$25; Oatmeal, standard, \$3.15; granulated, \$3.25 per 100 pounds; rolled oats, 3.25 per sack of 80 pounds; Cornmeal is held at \$2.00 per 100 lbs. Pot barley, \$2.65 per 100 lbs. Pearl barley, \$3.00.

GROUND FEED.

Some dealers are holding higher on ground feed, and the best quality was quoted up to \$27 per ton. We quote \$25 to \$27 per ton for oat and barley chop. Mixed feeds, such as damaged wheat, can be had at \$15 to \$20 as to quality.