

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

Monetary affairs in the city have been moving along in a very satisfactory way during the past week, and in connection with commercial financing a state of safety has been reached, which has probably never been experienced in the history of the Northwest. Banks have been finding the aggregate of commercial paper in their hands steadily diminishing during the past two months, and it has now reached the lowest state yet known. This has not been caused by any falling off in the current volume of discounts, but by an absence of renewed paper, which until very lately strained more or less the discount lines of most leading mercantile houses. Now that renewals are so few banks could attend to more regular commercial discounts than come to them, and more or less of a load of unemployed funds would be on hand, but for the fact that the crop coming to market has been making pretty heavy demands during the past week, and most of the banks are putting large amounts of funds into circulation in connection with the grain trade. The closing down of lumber mill's, and paying up for the season of those employed has also made something of a call for funds, so that although the funds employed in discounting are light, the demand for money is on the whole quite active. Still banks are well supplied, and some have given notice of a reduction of interest on deposits. Rates of discount still stand, first-class 9 per cent.; ordinary, 9 to 10; and promiscuous and one-name 10 to 12. In real estate mortgage loans, business has been fairly active, and but for the fact that fine weather has kept farmers at their plows, would have been much more so. The city business is still very light, but every week improves the prospect of a good business in farm loans. Rates of interest still range from 8 to 10 per cent.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

Reports from the different branches of the wholesale trade of the city indicate in some an improvement and in others a falling off, while the largest number report no change worthy of note. The weather has been altogether too mild and fine for the sale of season goods, and the talk of the houses in these lines report a quietness, and a few only a moderate business doing. Still the average places sales heavier considerably than during the first half of 1884, so that no complaints are heard or disappointment expressed. What has been the drawback in these lines has been an advantage to those dependant upon building and outside contracting, as the fine weather has allowed such undertakings to be pushed with vigor, and houses in these lines report a volume of sales kept up, which is not only satisfactory, but agreeably disappointing for this time of the year. In provisions and goods of every day consumption, there is very little change to report, and what there is is favorable, a few houses reporting sales a little better than the previous week, and not any falling off. Taken altogether the weeks reports show a slight improvement in sales since our last report, and any existing slowness does not cause disappointment, as all know that farmers are making good use of the

opportunity, and that the demands of retailers will soon be heard when colder weather comes. The report on collections is also very encouraging, and a few wholesalers are inclined to be enthusiastic over cash returns. It is certain that mercantile debts are being paid with more regularity now than they have been for over three years. This, added to the fact that every day the threshing machines work, helps to wipe out the fears about damaged crops, creates a hopeful feeling in all trade circles, and increases the belief that we are going to have a prosperous winter to trade.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

All is still quietness in this trade, and sales are down to a very low ebb, the only thing to break the monotony that we have heard of being the sales of some three threshers during the past ten days. There is literally no demand for any other class of goods, and none is looked for. It is still too early to form an opinion as to how collections are going to shape this winter. Farmers are all too busy at fall plowing to attend to marketing grain, and with a rising market they are not in a hurry to market. The feeling gains that collections will be free this winter.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

This trade is in a very slow state at present, and the past week has been almost a blank so far as sales are concerned. No improvement can be looked for so long as the mild clear weather of the past month continues. Collections are reported as satisfactory as could be wished, so that wholesalers are in no way annoyed at a little quietness in sales.

CLOTHING.

The report from this branch is a little mixed, some houses giving an improvement for the week and others no change. Altogether the feeling is better, but real activity can only be secured by colder weather coming. Collections are reported more satisfactory than they have been for over two years.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

In this trade the business of the last week does not show much change from our last report, although the average of sales may be said to have been slightly better. The principal trading was in staple lines with a little activity in fancies and lamps. Collections were fairly good.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

In this trade the business of the past week has continued fairly good with the amount of sales turned over about the average. Collections are also stated to have been quite satisfactory.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

There has been a very marked improvement in this branch during the week, and the volume of sales has been swelled considerably. Staples are most in demand, but quite a few fancies are being called for. Collections are reported very good and the trade altogether is in a very satisfactory state at present, while the prospect is good for the balance of this year.

DRY GOODS.

In this staple trade there is still rather a quiet feeling, and retailers are in no way inclined to call for sorts until forced to by the

demands of colder weather. Still no complaint about sales are heard, and wholesalers are content to wait a little for a renewal of activity, especially as the continued mild weather is so advantageous for the fall work of farmers. Another cause of hopefulness is the state of collections which are about as free and regular as could be desired.

FISH.

There has been a good steady business doing in fresh fish during the past week, and also an extra good trade in salt fish is reported. The supply of Lake Winnipeg white fish was about the average and has been selling at 5c to 5½c for round lots and 5½c to 6c for smaller quantities. The supply of Lake Superior trout is quite plentiful and these continue to be sold at 8c a lb. The fall catch of salt white fish has made a move, and there is a fair supply coming in and are selling off well at 4½c per lb. in 100 lb. barrels for round lots. There is also a good supply of very fine smoked white fish in the market which brings 8c a lb. The fall salt sea fish have not been received yet, but these will be on hand in the course of a few weeks or so.

FRUIT.

In this line business during the last week is stated to have been very good, the volume of sales made in that time being up to a good average. Malaga grapes continue to be sold off at \$3.25 to \$3.50 a barrel. California pears at \$4.25 to \$4.50 but with an inclination to make an advance on these figures. Ontario grapes are selling from 10c to 15c a lb. and Southern Cranberries at \$10 a barrel. Palermo lemons are sold at \$7 to \$8 a box, and a small consignment of Malaga lemons which have been received are bringing from \$6 to \$6.50 a box. Apples are worth \$3.25 to \$3.75 according to quality, while some of these do not bring more than \$3. Winter apples have not appeared yet and the supply of Canadian pears is cut. A shipments of oranges is expected in about a week. The variety of nuts continue to be sold off as follows: Grenoble walnuts 20c a lb; S.S. almonds, 20c a lb.; filberts 12½c a lb; Texas pecans, 16c a lb; and peanuts 15c a lb.

FUEL.

In this line the business of the past week is stated to have shown an improvement in the volume of sales made, due to the laying in of stocks for the approaching winter. The principal business being done is in orders for coal for fall delivery. Sales of this are made at \$9.00 for anthracite and \$7 for Mansfield, Reynoldsville and Pittsburgh bituminous. Galt mine coal is selling at \$8 per ton delivered. Round lots of poplar on track are held at \$2.25 to \$2.75 according to quality, and for tamarac \$4.50 to \$4.75.

FURNITURE.

In this branch business during the past week is not much changed from that of our last report, although the demand from the country is stated to have been somewhat better, still there has not been any very marked activity. Two car load shipments are said to have been sent to western points within the week. In the city affairs appear to be in a very quiet state, and collections are not what they ought to be.