

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET

Wholesale dealers still report collections very slow in coming forward from the country, and it is evident that the money market is suffering a long spell of more than usual stringency. In the city the circulating medium seemed also to be tight all around. However, this state of things is not long expected to endure. From present indications the expenditure of capital, especially in the city, in building and other operations, will be considerably larger than last year, and it will now be but a short time before such undertakings will be under way, which will undoubtedly have the effect of producing an easier feeling in many matters. There has also been a considerable movement in city real estate of late, which if continued to any extent, will have a good effect in increasing the circulation of money. A few batches of immigrants have already arrived, with prospects for a favorable season in this respect, which is another pleasing feature. Last but not least, there are good prospects for a considerable amount of railway building during the spring and early summer, in the immediate vicinity of the city, as well as in more distant parts of the province and territories. Indications are therefore very favorable for an early renewal of the existing financial stringency, to be followed by a period of ease in monetary circles, accompanied by a considerable expansion in the development of the country.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE

The situation has changed but very little since our last report, and there cannot be said to have been more than a very slight improvement in general business. Spring weather set in in earnest toward the close of last week, and if this continues, it will soon be felt in wholesale trade circles. In dry goods, clothing, etc., spring orders had been pretty well cleared up, though there was some delay from the slow arrival of importations of British goods. For present use there was little demand in any branch, and even in the staple line of groceries, trade was dull.

BOOTS AND SHOES

The soft weather last week brought in some demand from the city trade for rubber goods, but it was too late in the week in starting to have much influence. If the mild weather continues, there will be a livelier movement during the present week.

CLOTHING

First orders have not yet been all cleaned out but what were left were pretty well in hand. Travellers have gone on the road again for the spring sorting trade, and already a few small additional orders have been taken.

DRY GOODS

There was really nothing of a specially interesting nature in connection with this trade, beyond what was noted last week. Dealers were still fairly busy sending out spring shipments, but perhaps this work was not going on as actively as during the previous week, a considerable proportion of spring orders having already been disposed of. Prices are firmly maintained in all lines, and reports from eastern manufacturers note a good degree of activity at the mills in manufacturing to order only.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS

Quotations in this branch are now as follows: Howard's quinine, 90c to \$1; German quinine, 70c to 80c; opium, \$4 to \$4.50; morphia, \$2 to \$2.50; iodine, \$4.25 to \$4.50; bromide potassium, 55 to 65c; American camphor, 40 to 45c; English camphor, 45 to 50c; glycerine, 25 to 35c; tartaric acid, 70 to 75c; 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 30c; alum, \$3 to \$3.75; copperas, \$3 to \$3.25; sulphur, flour, \$4 to \$4.50; sulphur, roll, \$4 to \$5.25; American blue vitrol, 6 to 8c.

FISH.

There is a miscellaneous assortment of varieties in the market, consisting of Lake Winnipeg and river fish. Prices are as follows: Gold eyes, 6c; Whitefish, 8c; pickerel, 4; jackfish, 3c. Oysters are quoted at 35c for standards, and 37½ to 45c for selects, according to quality. Bulk oysters, \$1.85 to \$2.20 per gallon, according to quality. Fresh sea fish are in the market and quoted as follows: Smelts, 9c; tommy-cods, 6c; cod, 8c; haddock, 8c; lobsters, 18 to 20c; herrings, 35c a dozen. Smoked Finnan haddies, 10½c.

FRUITS—GREEN, VEGETABLES, ETC.

Cranberries were about out of the market last week, but more were on the way, with prices not likely to be greatly altered from quotations. New lines of lemons and oranges were also on the way. Business was said to be brisk for the season. Quotations were as follows: Florida oranges, \$7.00 to \$7.50; Messina oranges, \$6.00 to \$6.50 per box; Valencia oranges, in cases \$11 to \$12.00; Winter apples, \$6.00 to \$6.50 per bbl. best stock. Messina lemons, \$6.50 to \$7.00; Malaga grapes, \$7 to \$8.00 per keg; Cranberries, \$9.00 to \$12.00, according to size of barrel and quality; Southern red and yellow onions, \$5.00 per 100 lbs.; apple cider, \$10 per barrel.

FRUITS—DRIED, AND NUTS.

Prices were generally firm with dried apples higher. Quotations are now as follows: Figs, in 50-pound sacks, 12½c; new Elme figs, in layers, 16c to 20c per pound, in one lb. to ten lb. boxes; Golden dates, 10 to 11c; Valencia raisins, \$2.40 to \$2.50; London layers, \$3.30; black crown, \$5 to \$5.25; black baskets, ½ boxes, \$1.30; evaporated apples, 13 to 14c; dried apples, 7½ to 7c; new Turkey prunes, 7½c. Nuts are quoted: Peanuts, roasted, 18c; peanuts, raw, 15c; walnuts, 20c; almonds, 20c; filberts, 15c; Texas pecans, 18c.

FUEL.

Quotations for wood and coal are now as follows: Best tamarac wood, \$4.50, with some selling at \$4.25; sound poplar, \$3.50; poor, \$3.25. Prices for car lots on track. Coal on track sells at \$9.75 for anthracite, \$10.75 for smithy. Saskatchewan coal, \$7.25 on track or \$3.00 f.o.b. cars at the mine.

RAW FURS

Furs are rather quiet and prices nominal until the result of the London sales, which commenced on March 14th, are fully known. In the meantime prices are: Beaver, per pound, \$2.50 to \$4.00; bear, per skin, \$5.00 to \$20; bear, cub, per skin, \$1.00 to \$7.00; otter, per skin, \$5.00 to \$10.00; mink, per skin, 30 to 90c; martin, per skin, 60c to \$2.50; fisher, per

skin, \$1.00 to \$6.50; lynx, per skin, \$1.00 to \$2.50; racoon, per skin, 40 to 60c; skunk, per skin, 40-60-80; muskrat, per skin, 1 to 7c. Fox, red, 25c to \$1.40; fox, cross, \$1 to \$10; wolf, timber 25c to \$2.25; wolf, prairie, 25c to \$1.25.

GROCERIES

Business is still rather backward in this branch. Sugars were firmer east, and had advanced ½c, but prices here were not altered. Quotations are as follows: Canned tomatoes, \$3.75; corn, \$3.25 to \$3.50; peas, \$4.00; yellow sugar 6½c to 7c; granulated 7½c; lumpsugar, 8½c to 9c; Coffees, Rio, 19 to 20c; Government Java, 30 to 35c, other Javas, 25 to 28c; Mochas, 31 to 34c. New season's teas are now quoted as follows: Japan season 1886-7, 20 to 45c; Congous, 1886-7, 20 to 60c; Indian teas, 35 to 50c. Old range, Moyuno gunpowder 25 to 70c; panfried Japan 23 to 45c, basket-fired, 25 to 40c; Ping Suey young hyson, 25 to 35c; Moyuno young hyson, 25 to 50c; Season's congous, 1885-6, 20 to 55c. Syrups, corn \$2.25 to \$2.60; sugar, cane, 12.10 to \$2.35; T. and B. tobacco, 56c per pound.

HIDES

Prices for rail lots arriving in the city are unchanged, the quotations being for lots all around, city hides sometimes being a fraction advanced on quotations. Prices are: Winnipeg inspection, No. 1, 5½c; No. 2, 4½c; bulls, 3½c; calf, fine-haired real veal, 7 to 13 pound skins, No. 1, 8c; No. 2, 6c; sheep pelts, 30 to 65c; tallow, 3½ to 4c.

HARDWARE AND METALS

Quotations are now as follows: Cut nails, 10d and larger \$3.55 to \$3.75; I. C. tin plates, \$5.50 to \$5.75; I. C. tin plates, double, \$11 to \$11.50; Canada plates, \$3.50 to \$3.75; sheet iron, \$3 to \$4.50, according to grade; iron pipe, 45 to 50 per cent. off list prices; ingot tin, 28 to 30c per lb., according to quality; bar iron \$2.50 to \$3 per 100 lb; shot, 6½ to 7c a lb; tarred felt, \$2.75 to \$2.95 per 100 lbs; barbed wire 7 to 7½c.

LUMBER

This trade is of course still very quiet, and until closer to the time when building operations may commence, very little movement will be expected. British Columbia lumber has been finding its way freely into the country, and has been distributed at points along the C.P.R. as far east as Winnipeg. However, this Pacific coast lumber does not come into competition with the product of our home mills, as it is of a quality not produced here, and which would have to be imported from some other quarter, if not from British Columbia. It is mostly finer qualities of finishing stuff. It is not thought that the blockades from snow in the Ottawa district, which has largely interfered in getting out logs in that quarter, will make any difference in the trade here, as lumber is not imported from that direction to any extent. The only way the lumber business here could be affected by the anticipated shortage and high prices east, would be to cause a sympathetic appreciation in values here. There is said to be a general disposition here to hold prices stiffer, and there will likely be less cutting during the coming season than there has been during the past few years. The contract to supply the city council with lumber during the year has been awarded by tender at \$16.90 per M. The amount required will be about 150,000 to 200,000 feet.