

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

There has been considerably more life in the money market during the past week, and the slow feeling of the few preceding weeks has to a great extent disappeared. Trade has during the past two weeks made rather a rapid stir, and in mercantile and especially in manufacturing circles, increased business means increased expenses, and an increase in the demand for money. Returns from the light trade of the past two months being rather limited the demand on the banks has been more active, and has been responded to with a readiness which shows that confidence in trade affairs has made great progress of late. There has been really no scarcity of funds for commercial purposes, although the careful discrimination made by banks prevents money from being really plentiful. First-class commercial paper is eagerly accepted, and although rates for the same still remain at from 8 to 10 per cent., the proportion accepted at the lower figure is much larger than it was a few weeks ago. Banks all profess to have abundance of funds, which they are prepared to lend out in safe commercial enterprise. Ordinary paper is still received at 10 to 12 per cent.

In mortgage loans on real estate the business has not been heavy during the week, and although it is not generally admitted, a good proportion of the business done has been in renewals. In such instances the straight 10 per cent. interest has been the invariable rule, but for new loans on first-class property there is no difficulty in obtaining money at from 8 to 9 per cent., and all of the companies in the city doing business in this line have plenty of funds to spare.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

During the past week there has been a general revival in the wholesale trade of this city, a happy relief from the dullness that has existed for the past few months. Orders are coming in freely, and the leading houses have all they can do to fill them as quickly as received. Reports as regards the future prospects of trade are also very encouraging, and travellers who have been out on the road say that a fine trade must of necessity be done during the next few months. Stocks throughout the country have been allowed to run very low, owing to the conservative policy exercised by dealers in making purchases. None cared to buy beyond what the actual necessities of the present demand, leaving the future for after consideration. This was no doubt a wise policy to pursue, and they will be all the better off for it hereafter. Now that their shelves have been pretty well cleared of goods they are in a position to gauge the business in prospective, and must at once purchase to a very considerable extent in order to be able to meet the wants of their customers between now and winter. Money during the past month has been somewhat tighter than it was in August. This is attributable to the fact that farmers have been so busily engaged with harvesting operations that they have not been able to bring anything they might have to sell to market, and the new crop had not yet begun to make itself felt. So far but a small percentage

of the new crop has found its way to market, and until it does money cannot be expected to flow freely in the channels of commerce. A few weeks more is all that is required to bring about this happy result. We are pleased to note the careful manner in which both wholesaler and retailer seem determined to conduct their business this season. Everything is being done on a good, sound business like basis, and this is as it should be. The "boom" days, and the days of long and often unsound credit are past, and it is to be hoped that we will never see them return. The trade feels very confident of the future, and there is no doubt but that with the pursuance of a careful policy there will be no disappointment. Let purchases be made only as business calls for and there will be no further trouble. Outside merchants can get all the goods they require for stocking up, at a few days notice, from Winnipeg, and there is, therefore, no reason why they should load themselves with goods of any description.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

As we have said before the big season's trade is over, and the dealers here express themselves as well satisfied with the results. An enormous amount of machinery has been sold—considerably in excess of other years—and the terms on which business has been transacted has been, as a rule, on a very sound basis. In fact there was no necessity for pursuing any other course. The demand has been fully equal to the supply, and except in the case of wagons there has been no competition called for. All the leading firms have had their hands full, and from what we can glean the managers here are to be congratulated upon the manner in which they have conducted their business. They have not only helped themselves but they have helped the farmers and the country generally has been benefitted thereby. The demand for threshers still continues. It has been pretty well supplied, but owing to the late harvest farmers are anxious to get through with their threshing, and for that reason are ordering more machines. Other lines such as plows, straw-cutters, grain-crushers, &c., are in active demand. Collections are still slow but not more so than was expected at this season of the year.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

For the past week there has been quite a revival in trade. Orders are coming in freely, and the prospects for future trade are considered excellent. Money is not much easier as yet but the dealers in this branch of business like all others are looking for "a good time coming," and that in the near future.

CLOTHING.

In the clothing line business for the past week has been very brisk, and the leading houses have hard work to fill orders as they come in. Some of them have been so rushed that they have had to keep some of their travellers at home to assist in getting through the work here. A splendid trade all through the fall season is looked for. Collections are fair.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

Business in this line continues very good. Orders are coming in freely, and the leading houses are kept busy filling them. Country trade is especially good, and city business is also

looking up. A very satisfactory trade is expected all fall. Collections in this branch of business have been very fair of late, and promises for the future are very assuring.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

There is a very fair steady business being done. Orders from the country are being regularly received, and travellers who have been on the road report the prospects for a continuance of brisk business as excellent. Collections are very satisfactory. In this line there has never been much cause for complaint.

DRY GOODS.

At last the depression that has hung over the dry goods trade of the city for so long has been to a great extent removed, and fall trade has fairly opened up. For the past few weeks there has been a noticeable improvement in business, and the past week it has been more marked than ever. Orders are being received very freely, and travellers on the road are doing well. They report stocks in the country as very much reduced, and this being the case there must of necessity be a large volume of business transacted in the immediate future. Trade is being conducted on a very safe basis, and although the business done may not equal that of the boom time it will be much more satisfactory to all concerned, and more profitable in the end. Money is still on the quiet side, but reports from customers in the country give assurance of prompt payment in the future. On the whole the look out of the dry goods trade may be said to be excellent, and such as to give every satisfaction to dealers.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALL WARES.

Business in the fancy goods and smallwares lines continues very satisfactory. The past week has shown quite a large improvement, and the prospects for a continuance of this state of affairs is excellent. Collections are as good as could be expected at this season of the year.

FISH AND POULTRY.

The supply of fish is liberal and the demand continues good. White fish are quoted at 9c per lb; Lake Superior trout at 10c. Oysters are becoming more plentiful and are quoted at follows: Counts 85c; standards 65c; selects 75c. Poultry is also more freely offered. Spring chickens are worth from 60c to 75c per pair; wild ducks 40c to 50c; prairie chickens 75c to 90c; quail \$1.00 to 1.50 per dozen.

FRUIT.

The fruit market is fairly well supplied, and the demand continues very good. California fruit is being regularly received, but prices are not quotable. Apples are in liberal supply, and the quality of recent consignments is the finest we have seen in the city. They are quoted at \$6 to 7.00, the latter figure being for strictly choice. Inferior qualities are slow of sale. Lemons remain at the old quotation of \$3.50 to \$9 per box. A small consignment of new oranges is expected to arrive in a day or two. Pears are quoted at \$5.50 to \$6 per box. Peanuts are firm at 20c; almonds 20c to 22c; brazils 22c; cocoanuts \$9.50 per hundred. Dried fruit quotations are as follows, viz: loose muscatel raisins \$2.75; black crown \$3.75 to 4.00; triple crown \$6.50; four crown \$7.00; dates 10c per