WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

The stringency which has been felt in eastern monetary circles during the past month, is beginning to affect this country, and the past week has been one of scraping and gathering in the city, and fears were expressed by many, that a period of monetary tightness, which would hamper trade affairs is not at all unlikely to come immediately. In fact unless a freer movement of grain sets in very soon, such a period, let it be long or short in duration, will be difficult to avoid. A rather significant omen is the opening up of saving's bank departments in the Bank of Montreal branches, a bank which six months ago would allow no interest on deposits, and in no way gave encouragement to depositors. This, however, is a symptom of eastern and not western stringency, though it has its sympathetic effects here. Money for grain handling is by no means free at the banks, unless where the borrower is able to put up liberal margins, and most grain men have been carrying such a load since the drop in prices of last month, that their powesr of margining are limited if not nearly exhausted. Only a material advance in prices in both eastern and export markets can relieve this, and even a five cent rise would give material assistance in that respect. Thus grain men are neither too willing nor too able to act with vigor in the handling of the crop, and farmers are equally unwilling to sell what they hold, even at prices higher than will admit of profitable exporting. There is, therefore, nothing to stimulate a free movement of grain, and that is the only thing which would cause a free circulation of money throughout the province, and relieve the country of all fears of financial stringency. As yet there has been no advance in discount rates, and there is reason to hope that a better feeling in eastern markets will come before any advance becomes necessary. Banks have met the wants of all general trade discounts at the rates of last summer, namely, 7 to 8 per cent., and there is no unsafety in the outlook to prompt them to making any change upward. In real estate mortgage business affairs are not moving with any freedom. There are very few new loan applications from the city, and farm loans are not numerous, and are not likely to be until farmers are in better humor with grain prices. There is quite a volume of payments of interest and principal coming in from the country, but by no means as heavy a one as should come at this season of the year. The interest rates on farm loans is 8 per cent., and in the city there is not enough business to fix rates here.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

The quiet feeling general in mid-winter is beginning to creep down over quite a few branches of wholesale trade in the city, and there is that lack of push and effort beginning to show itself which is usual for a few weeks before and after the Christmas time. This is the case in all season lines of goods, where houses are nearly all taking stock and getting matters in shape for spring operations as soon as the new year is fairly opened. Building operations now in the city are about finished up for the year, and unless in a few minor details for finishing there is an end for a season to any demand for lines dependent upon such operaions. In the few fancy branches dependent on holiday trade there is a little rush and bustle, which will subside in about another week, and which, in comparison with the volume of business generally, is of little importance. In the regular staple branches handling goods of every day consumption sales have been about normal, and the feeling on the whole a little better than noted in our last report. Cash returns are still the guiding barometer, and while the past week has shown a slight improvement upon its predecessor, and a very decided improvement on the two last weeks of November in this respect, the volume of money coming in from the country and goiog into circulation is very far short of what it ought to be at this time of the year. The outlook after 1891 opens is certainly much brighter so far as cash returns are concerned than it was a year ago, but for the sale of spring season goods it is not so hopeful. Continued mild weather has made bad work for retailers all over the country, and with heavy unsold winter stocks on their hands, these retailers will not be in the hopeful mood to make them buy freely for spring requirements. Really cold weather until the close of 1890 might yet help the prospect in this respect.

BURNING OILS.

The demand is steady but not above normal in volume. Prices steady as follows: Water White, 31c; Eocene, 33c; Sunlight, 28c; Naptha, per case, $3 50; deoderized gasoline, $3.50.

DRUGS.

This branch holds fairly active, and no complaints are heard. Prices steady as follows: Howard's quinine, 55 to 65c; German quinine, 45 to 55c; morphia, $2.25 to $2.50; iodide of potassium, $4.25 to $4.75; bromide potassium, 60 to70; English camphor, 80to 90c;glycerine, 30 to 40c; tartaric acid, 65 to 75c; cream of tartar, 35 to 40c; bleaching powder, per keg, $6 to $8; bicarb soda, $3.75 to $4.50; sal soda, $2.50 to $3; chlorate of potash, 25 to 30c; alum, $4 to $5; copperas, $3 to $3.25; sulphur flour, $4.50 to $5; sulphur roll, $4.50 to $5; American blue vitrol, 10 to 12c.

DRY GOODS, CLOTHING, ETC.

Business is down to a very low ebb, and last week's sales consisted of a few straggling sorts. Even orders from spring samples have dropped off temporarily. Most houses are now finishing up stock taking, and are content to be quiet until the opening of 1891. Collections are reported a little better, but there is still room for great improvement in that way.

DRIED FRUITS.

California layer raisins are about out of the market. Mediterranean goods and dried fruits are still firm and tending upwards. Dried apples for instance have been out of the market, but will be on again this week at the advanced figure of 10c a pound. Other goods are still offered at former prices. Quotations are: Valencia raisins, $2.20 to $2.40 per box; London layer raisins, $3.75 per box; currants, 7 cents per pound. ; choice new Eleme figs in 10 lb. boxes, 16c per lb.; choice figs, 13c per lb.; fancy Eleme layer figs, 20 lb boxes, 18c per lb.; figs in 1 lb cartoons, per doz., $1.75; golden dates, in 50 lb. boxes, 9c per lb.; California evaporated fruit—apricots, 22 to 24c per lb.; peeled peaches, 27 to 30c per lb.; pitted plums, 18c; raspberries, 35c; prunes, 9 to 11c per lb. as to quality, the higher quotation for choice of best varieties; nectarines, 21 to 23c.

FUEL.

Sales are reported as rather below the average for this time of year. Prices of wood are a little easier as there is a prospect of snow for sleighing soon. Quotations here are as follows: Anthracite coal delivered, $9.25; bituminous, $8; Galt at $7.50. Tamarac wood in car lots on track, $4 25 to $4.50; poplar $2 60 to $3 10; oak, $6; maple, $6.50.

FISH AND OYSTERS.

The variety on the market has not increased, and prices are the same. Quotations are as follows: Whitefish are quoted at 7c a pound; B. C. fresh hallibut, 15c; Finnan haddock in 30 pound boxes, 10½c a pound, with some holding at 11 to 11½c. Fresh and kipperd herring in small quantities have been on the market. Fresh oysters in bulk are held at $2 to $2.20 per gallon. The first load of frozen whitefish for this year, winter catch, appeared on the market on Thursday, and sold at 5c per pound in small lots.

GREEN FRUITS.

The movement is only normal, and heated cars for shipping are now necessary. Prices are stiffening up as the winter advances. Quotations are: Apples, good to fancy, $5 00 to $6.00; some damaged stock offering under $5 per barrel; Messina lemons, $8 to $8.50 a box; Florida oranges, $5 to $6.50 a box, according to size and quality; bananas, $3.50 a bunch; winter pears, $3.50 to $3.75 a box; cranberries in barrels, Bell and Cherry, $11; Bell and Bugle, $11.50; Cape Cod. $12; Malaga grapes in 50 pound kegs, $8 to $8.50; Catawba grapes in 8 pound baskets, $1. Only a few of the latter are left in the market.

GROCERIES

The feeling in this staple branch is a little better than reported in last issue. Collections although still slow, have shown quite an improvement, and that is the real guage of business at present. Coffees still keep their high range, and give no indication of coming down. Sugars are steady and unchanged in prices: Sugars—Yellow, 6¼ to 6¾c; Granulated, 7½c; Coffees, green,—Rios, from 24 to 25c; Java, 27 to 29c; Old Government, 29 to 32c; Mochas, 33 to 35c. Teas: Japan, 23 to 46c; Congous, 22 to 60c; Indian teas, 35 to 60c; young hyson, 26 to 50c. T. & B. tobacco, 56c per pound; lilly, 7s, 52c; diamond solace, 12s, 48c; P. of W., butts 47c; P. of W., caddies, 47½c; Honeysuckle, 7s, 55c; Brier, 7s, 53c; Laurel Bright Navy, 3s, 56c; Index d thick Solace, 6s, 48c; Brunnette Solace, 12s, 48c. McAlpine Tobacco Co's plug tobacco: Old Crow, 46c; Woodcock, 52c; Beaver, 63c; Jubilee, 60c: Anchor, 59c; cut tobacco: Silver Ash, 65c; Cut Cavendish, 70c; Senator, 80c; Standard Kentucky, light, $5; do dark, 80c. Special brands of cigars are quoted: Reliance, $50; Gen. Arthur, $50; Mikado, $40; Terrier, $30 per 1000. Mauricio, $42.50; Soudan Whips, $40.00; Turkish Caps, $35.00; Commercial Traveller, $25. Special selects, $55; Selects, $45; Columbia, $45; Canucks, $40; Derby, $35; Sports, $30. Lion "L" brand mixed pickles in kegs, are quoted . Three gallons, $2.50; do five gallons, $3.50; do 10 gallon kegs, $6.50.

HARDWARE.

There is but a light business doing in shelf goods, while heavies are scarcely moving at all. Collections are reported a little better, but