

### Indignant Over Banks.

A representative of "The Commercial," Winnipeg, had interviews with a large number of retail merchants in that city last week, and reports considerable indignation at the action of the banks regarding the tight money situation. Quite a few retail dealers ventured the statement that the only dullness in trade throughout the country this year was caused by the refusal of the banks to give the usual accommodation to their customers. One dealer said that he knew of several merchants who had paid their indebtedness to the banks in the fall, expecting to receive loans later on if required, but when they went back they were met by a stern refusal. The banks would not let them have funds no matter how faithful or prompt they had been in the past.

A man who had been traveling over the provinces said that he saw wheat worth a dollar sold for 22 cents per bushel, simply because the funds were not available as in other years to handle it. Many farmers have still, it is said, considerable wheat for export, but are holding on to it for better conditions. These are of course farmers who are well off, and can afford to keep their produce in their granaries until it suits them to sell.

### Montreal Realty Promising.

Discussing realty conditions in Montreal, the current issue of the Craddock Simpson Real Estate Records comments as follows:

"Real estate in Montreal was never in better condition than it is now, with a good demand for all kinds of houses and dwellings and for business premises. The market has sometimes been more active, but its outlook was never brighter, and in many sections property has been put on a better income-paying basis than it has enjoyed for years past. The recent losses in the stock market will probably have the effect of inducing more people to turn to real estate as an investment, and the result of this can only be a better market in the near future.

"The supply of buildings for either residential or business purposes has

not kept up to the demand, and rents in consequence, especially as regards dwelling houses, have an upward tendency. There appears to be a scarcity of houses for people who cannot afford to pay more than twenty dollars to about thirty-five dollars a month, and for all classes the construction of new buildings must proceed with much greater activity if the yearly addition to the population of Montreal is to be properly housed.

"Any man with money who wishes to combine philanthropy with moderately profitable business has an opportunity of doing so now by erecting medium-sized comfortable houses not too far from the business centres, and renting them at rates that would give a moderate return on the amount invested. The probable increase in value would be an additional advantage to the investor.

"The conditions of the mortgage loan market are taking a more favorable turn. Money is now being offered more freely, and first-class loans are being placed at 5 1-2 per cent. Lenders are, however, inclined to be very particular as to the security."

### Canadian v.s. American Exports.

There is a striking contrast between the export freight business at St. John, N.B., and Portland. At the latter port the Thompson Line has cut out half its sailings, and will give only a fortnightly service to Liverpool, the reduction being caused by the scarcity of business. Other steamship lines have also reduced their sailings, and the freight traffic is reported as exceptionally dull. From St. John, however, the steamship companies cannot carry the freight. Every steamer is loaded to the hatches, and hundreds of car loads stand on the siding awaiting shipment. Grain shipments are particularly heavy. The first sixty steamships have carried away goods valued at \$13,434,645, which is four millions more than at the corresponding date last year.

It is the man who keeps his troubles to himself who loses them soonest.

### Always Unfortunate.

Here I stand within the hall:  
For the elevator bawl

With a frown.

"Going up?" I loudly cry,  
And the urchin makes reply:

"Going down."

Here you see me buying stocks,  
Hoping to acquire both rocks

And renown.

"Going up?" I loudly say.

But my broker answers, "Nay;  
Going down."

When old Charon I shall meet,  
Looking mystical, but neat

In his gown—

"Going up?" I'll murmur low,

And he'll doubtless answer, "No;  
Going down."

—Washington Herald.

### Painters Issue Ultimatum.

The painters and decorators of Toronto have issued a demand to their employers for 37 1-2 cents per hour, giving them until April 15th to accept. The union has made no demands for increased pay for four years past and the claim is made that this branch of skilled labor is the poorest paid of any. At present the minimum wage is 30 cents per hour and the maximum 35 cents. No change in the hours is asked. The present schedule is eight hours per day and 44 hours per week. During the past year the painters have been carrying on extensive organization work. There are now three districts, governed by a central district council. From now on the council will meet weekly instead of monthly. The membership totals 620 in the three districts.

### Increased Freight Rates on Stone.

The Canadian Freight Association have advanced the freight rates on stone five cents a ton, taking effect March 1st. Buyers who find this increase added to their f.o.b. Toronto invoices, as it will invariably be, should place the responsibility on the railways and not on the producer.