

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

Monetary affairs in the city are still moving along in their steady flow, and without any marked features about them. In commercial circles the circulation of money throughout the country has been making quite a marked impression upon the volume of trade discounts. Quite a large share of the transactions which formerly went into paper with the opening of each month, were paid and discounts secured in November, and this month retailers are doing even more in that way. As a consequence commercial paper at the banks is by no means too plentiful, and by no means as much so as bank managers wish. More than one complaint has been heard during the week that business of this kind is getting much lighter. The scattered demand for promiscuous discounts is also very limited owing to similar causes, so that outside of the funds called for in the handling of the crop, the banking field is now rather circumscribed, and a competition for business is fast making headway. Rates of discount are now quoted 7 per cent. for first class paper; 8 to 9 for ordinary and 9 to 10 for promiscuous or good one name. Loans on real estate mortgage are still in steady demand in small amounts but no new heavy transactions are reported. Payments of interest generally are coming in freely, and with the exception of some old boom day business which is still in a shaky condition, affairs in this line are in a satisfactory condition. Interest rates on new loans are quoted at 8 to 10 per cent., while first class heavy transactions could be made at 7 to 7½c.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

In wholesale circles of the city during the past week the evidence was very plain that the business of the winter season was coming very near to a close, and the little activity which was apparent in many branches had attending symptoms which indicated the close at hand. In season goods the sorts called for were evidently the last wants of a season, and although varied in their extent reached a very limited aggregate. In lines dependant upon building and contracting the same was the case, and demands were those of men hurrying to complete a contract before the close of the year. Still in all these lines there was a feeling of satisfaction, and in some, which opened the spring with very poor prospects, the results of the latter half of the season have been gratifying. Goods of every day consumption have shown no falling off in the volume of sales, but in a few have slightly increased, especially in those affected by holiday demands. In fancy lines of a purely holiday character business reached quite a rush, and the aggregate of such sales promise to be far in excess of those of last year. These are the only lines in which there was any bustle, although in staples sales held up well above an average, but were made in that steady going strain which causes least trouble for the amount of business done. In collections the report is naturally much less definite than our last, as since the fourth of the month the volume of money falling due has been very light. But no complaint regarding cash returns was heard from any branch, and a few instances

came under our notice where country customers had remitted to meet obligations maturing in January. Altogether collections are unusually free, and the falling off in sales which has taken place is only natural at this time of the year.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

During the week a few cutters and bob sleds have been called for, but beyond these there were no sales reported. The work of making collections still goes on satisfactory, and each house without exception has furnished a very satisfactory report in that respect. There are some slow payments reported, but the number is very small compared with the poor expectations expressed two months ago.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

This branch has reached a very quiet state so far as sales of winter goods are concerned, and last week's aggregate was certainly a small one. There has also been a slight falling off in sales of goods from spring samples, but this is not unlooked for before the holiday time. The collections report, however, is very satisfactory.

CLOTHING.

Like other season lines there has been a quiet feeling in this branch during the week. Calls for winter sorts were few and light, and orders for spring delivery have also fallen off quite a little since December opened, and are expected to be a little slow until 1896 opens. There is still the same satisfactory report on collections, and a feeling of hope and satisfaction pervades the trade.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

In this line business during the past week has continued fairly good with the principal trading still in fancies to meet the requirements of the holiday season. In staple lines there was also a pretty fair demand, and collections are reported as having been very good.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

In this trade a pretty steady business has continued all through the past week with a fair average of sales, the demand predominating from the outlying country towns. Collections are also said to have been satisfactory.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

In this branch there has been real activity during the past week, and fancy lines for the holidays have been in big demand causing a bustle and activity which taxes the working powers of wholesalers. The sales of the week, however, have been confined almost to fancies, there being scarcely any call for staple goods. Collections are reported very satisfactory.

DRY GOODS.

In this staple branch there has been almost nothing doing in the way of sales, only an occasional sorting order being received. Stock-taking is now over with all the houses, and the work of preparing samples of spring goods has commenced, and it is very likely that travellers will be on the road with these before January is out instead of holding off till near the end of February as was done in 1884 and 1885. As yet consignments of spring goods are not coming in, but quite a large quantity of these are now on their way here. There are still the same satisfactory, and in some cases enthusiastic reports regarding collections.

FISH.

The trade in fresh fish during the past week has continued fairly active, the supply being pretty fair and apparently able to fill all wants at present. Sales are still being made at 5c for round lots and 6½c for smaller quantities. A good supply of smoked haddocks are now on the market, and these have been selling off very well at 11½c. Salt white fish continues to sell off at 4½c a lb in half barrels. The only salt sea fish as yet in the market is Labrador herrings which brings \$8 per barrel; and Salmon which brings \$17 per barrel, \$9 per half barrel and \$5 per quarter barrel. A car load is on the way and should be on hand shortly.

FRUIT.

In this trade business is reported as having been rather quiet during the past week, but matters should show a decided improvement within the next week or so as the holiday demand should set in by then. Florida oranges are now on the market and are selling off at \$7 to \$7.50 per box; California pears are easier at \$4.50 to \$4.75; and Oregon pears at \$4.25 to \$4.50; Fancy colored apples at \$5; Southern cranberries from \$9 to \$11 per barrel; Lemons \$6.50 to \$7.00 a box; Valencia raisins \$3.25; London layer raisins \$4 to \$4.25; Black Crown \$5.25 to \$5.50 and black baskets in qr. boxes \$1.35 to \$1.45; Malaga grapes \$8 to \$8.50 a barrel; Walnuts 20c a lb; almonds, 20c a lb.; filberts 12½c a lb; pecans, 16c a lb; peanuts 16c a lb; figs 18 to 20c a lb, and dates 10c a lb.

FUEL.

In this line business is reported to have been quite lively during the last week owing to the increased demand brought on by the cold weather which set in lately. Round lots of tamarac are now quoted by dealers at \$5.50 to \$6 delivered, and poplar at \$4 to \$4.50 delivered. The price laying on track would probably be 75c less. Hard coal is quoted at \$10.25, and soft at \$8 delivered. Galt coal also at \$8.

FURNITURE.

This line business is stated to have kept up fairly well during the past week owing to a good demand in the city, while country orders appear to have been rather few, and these very light. Collections are reported as satisfactory and showing some improvement.

GROCERIES.

In this staple trade there has been steady activity all week, while the approach of the holidays has added an increased demand for fancy lines. There will probably be no falling off during the balance of this year, unless during a day or two at the Christmas time. Collections are reported free and satisfactory. Prices of staple lines are still unchanged, although the quotations of last week are somewhat strained in the upward direction. They are as follows: sugars, yellow 6½ to 7½c; granulated 8½c; lump 10½ to 10¾c. Coffees, Rio 13 to 15c, Government Java 32 to 33c, other Javas 22 to 27c Mocha 31 to 34c; Teas range, Moyune gunpowder 25 to 70c pan fired Japan 23 to 45c, basket-fired 25 to 40c, Ping Suey young hyson 20 to 30c, Moyune young hyson 25 to 50c, Season's congonos, 1885-86, 20 to 55c