

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

In connection with monetary affairs in the city during the past week, the same steady squeeze has been maintained. Short rations is the order of the day at the banks, and while leading houses have not experienced any serious inconvenience, some smaller concerns have felt keenly the pressure, and one assignment made during the week traced its immediate cause to a bank's refusal to discount paper, which would probably have passed muster all right two months ago. The volume of money in circulation is very slender for this season of the year, and must remain so until the C. P. R. can make heavier movement of grain east. The fact that grain shipped east early in December has not yet reached its destination, shows what a strain the banks have stood and still are standing, and this and other circumstances make their present conservative course appear in reality a liberal one. With the present strained monetary state in Ontario no relief is expected from eastern influences, and in fact the only relief that can be looked for with any confidence must come from the marketing of our own crop, and that depends upon the ability of the C. P. R. to do so. Of course the minimum discount rate is still firm at 8 per cent, and we hear of high rates being paid to private parties on business which the chartered banks cannot afford to touch at present. In real estate mortgage loan, business is about at a standstill. No city loans are heard of, and farmers are too much disheartened with the continued grain blockade to think of incurring any new liability. In fact, enterprise among this class seems to be crushed out for the present. Loan companies, too, are not inclined to push new business as affairs now stand, and are not unnaturally disappointed, if not disgusted, at the slowness with which payments are coming in from men who are well able and willing to pay if they could find a ready market for their products.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

The past week has been a somewhat eventful one in the commercial history of the city, not owing to a trade revival or to an easing up in the financial stringency, but rumors of pending failures. The prolonged dullness in the retail trade of the city, combined with the financial stringency, has been apparent to all interested for some time. Owing to the fact that this state of affairs was known to exist, the announcement of several failures, and rumors that other houses were in financial difficulties, created quite an unsettled feeling among the business community. Incidents which would have been overlooked at other times were given more than usual importance, and they gave rise to further rumors, some of which were undoubtedly foundationless. The general feeling of nervousness tended to show the strain caused by the financial stringency. As to the state of trade, there is little change since our last report. Dealers who are now sending out spring stocks, realize fully the unsatisfactory state of affairs arising from the long credit system in vogue. Before payments are due on fall stocks, spring stocks have to be sent out, and with

payments so backward as they have been lately, the position of the wholesaler is not a happy one. Such a state of affairs is very trying upon legitimate trade, but there is nothing but to grin it and take the risks, as there is little prospect of remedying matters regarding long credits in the immediate future.

ROOTS AND SHOES.

The very mild weather induced quite an active demand for rubber goods and general sorting lines last week. Spring stocks are also going out, though there is a disposition to hold back to some extent.

CANNED GOODS.

Prices unchanged and are: Tomatoes, \$3.25; peas, \$3.25 to \$3.45; beans, \$2.75 to \$3.00; corn, \$3.25 to \$3.40; peaches, (Canadian) \$7.00 to \$8.00; apples, \$3.25 to \$3.50; pears, \$3.25 to \$3.50; plums, \$4.50 to \$5.00; strawberries \$5.25; raspberries, \$4.75 to \$5.25; peaches (California) \$8.50; pears, \$8.60; Plums, \$7.50; apricots, \$8.00.

DRY GOODS.

In dry goods and clothing the movement in shipping out spring stocks is going on. The very mild weather of last week has made retailers anxious to secure their stocks. In dry goods there was some little improvement in the call for present wants, but generally considered business was quiet.

DRUGS.

Business keeps on fairly active, and with prices steady. Quotations were as follows: Howard's quinine, 75 to 90c; German quinine, 65 to 75c; morphia, \$2.75 to \$3.25; iodide of potassium, \$4.25 to \$4.75; bromide of potassium, 65 to 75c; American camphor, 40 to 45c; English camphor, 45 to 50c; glycerine, 30 to 40c; tartaric acid, 70 to 75c; cream of tartar, 35 to 40c; bleaching powder, per keg, \$3 to \$10; bicarb soda, \$4.50 to \$5; sal soda, \$2.25 to \$2.50; chlorate of potash, 25 to 30c; alum, \$4 to \$5.00; copperas, \$3 to \$3.25; sulphur flour, \$4.50 to \$5.00; sulphur, roll, \$4.50 to \$5.25; American blue vitrol, 7½ to 9½c.

FRUITS—GREEN, VEGETABLES, ETC.

There is only about the same staple sorts in the market in quotable quantities. Quotations remain steady and as follows: Apples, \$5 to \$5.50 with a few poor quality at \$4.50; Florida oranges are worth \$7 to \$7.50 a box; Mesinas, \$6.50 to \$7; Messina lemons, 360 count boxes \$7 to \$7.50; 420 count boxes \$8.50 to \$9; cranberries, \$10.50 to \$12 a bbl.

FRUITS—DRIED, AND NUTS.

Prices are unchanged: Dates, 10c per lb; in 50 lb. boxes; Valencia raisins, \$2.50 to \$2.65 per box; Morand's Valencias, \$2.50 to \$2.75 per box; Malagas, London layers, \$3.50; Eleme figs, in different sized boxes, 18c per lb.; Walnuts, 18c per lb.; peanuts, raw, 15c; roast ed, 17c; almonds, 20c; pecans, 17c; Filberts, 15c; Brazils, 17c per lb.

FURS.

Small lots of furs are commencing to come in, and several large lots are reported on the way. The following list of quotations will show a number of changes, being on account of recent London sales. The changes will be in silver and cross fox, martin, muskrat, skunk and raccoon, all to higher figures. The advance in martin is confined to dark skins. In the

following range of prices it will be understood that only a No. 1 prime skin will bring the highest figure, and that the bottom prices are for the lowest grade of upprime skins. There are usually about six grades from the lowest to the best quality. This will account for the wide range of quotations, as follows: Beaver, \$1 to \$6 per skin, badger, 10 to 50c, black bear \$3 to \$10; cubs do \$1.00 to \$5.00; brown bear or cinnamon, \$1 to \$17, cubs do. 50c. to \$3, grizzly bear, \$3 to \$10, cubs do. \$1 to 12, white bear, \$5 to \$57, cubs do, \$4 to \$17, lynx, 9c to \$2.25, cubs do. 5 to 40c, wild cat, 10 to 30c, timber wolf, 25c to \$2.50, prairie do. 20 to 60c, wolverine, 25c to \$5, panther, 10c to \$2.50, fisher, 25c to \$5, red fox, 15c to \$1.25, kit fox, 10 to 50c, silver, grey or black fox, 8c to \$50 according to color and quality, cross fox, 50c to \$5, blue fox, 25c to \$9, white fox, 10c to \$1.25, martin, 10c to \$2.00, mink 10 to 60c, muskrat, all grades, 3 to 15c, otter, \$1 to \$8, do cubs 25 to 75c, raccoon, 10 to 80c, skunk, 10 to 80c. Skins may be so badly damaged or out of season that even the lowest price stated can not be obtained.

FISH AND OYSTERS.

The market is now well supplied with white fish. Quotations are as follows: Fresh cod and Haddock are in the market, and held at 8c per pound. Fresh white quoted at 6 to 8c, and Lake Winnipeg jackfish at 3½c per pound. Finnen haddies 10½ to 11c. Oysters are steady and quoted: Selects, \$2.10, and standards \$1.90 per gallon. Cans, selects, 40c, standards 35c.

GROCERIES.

Yellow sugars were easier, and granulated firmer, the difference being about ½c in each instance from last prices. Prices were:—Sugars Dark yellow, 6½ to 7½c; bright yellow, 7½ to 7¾c; granulated, 9 to 9½c; lumps, 9½ to 10c. Coffees—Rios, from 24 to 26c; Java, 25 to 30c; Old Government 33 to 34c; Mochas, 32 to 35c. Teas, Japan Newseason's 23 to 46c; Congous, 22 to 60c; Indian teas, 35 to 60c; young hyson, 26 to 50c. Syrups, corn, \$2.25 to \$2.60; sugar cane, \$2.50 to \$2.75; T. and B. tobacco, 56c per pound; P. of W., butts 47c; P. of W. caddies, 48c; Honeysuckle, 7s, 55c; Brier, 7s, 53c; Laurel Bright Navy, 3s, 56c; Index d. thick Solace, 6s, 48c; Brunette Solace, 12s, 48c.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

Quotations are unchanged as follows: Cut nails, 10d and larger \$3.75; I. C. tin plates, \$6 to \$6.25; I. C. tin plates, double, \$12.00 to \$12.50; Canada plates, \$4.00 to \$4.25; sheet iron, \$3.75 to \$5.50, according to grade; iron pipe, 35 to 40 per cent off list prices; ingot tin, 40 to 42c per lb., according to quality; bar iron, \$3.00 to \$3.50 per 100 lbs.; shot, 6½ to 7; per lb.; tarred felt, \$2.75 to \$2.95 per 100 lbs. barbed wire, 6½ to 7c.

HIDES.

Prices are as follows: Winnipeg inspection, No. 1, 5c; No. 2, 4c; bulls, 3c; calf, fine-haired real veal, 6 to 11 pound skins, No. 1, 7c; No. 2, 5c; sheep pelts, 25 to 50c. Frozen lots of hides are taken at 3½ to 4c all around; tallow, rendered, 4c per lb; rough, 1½c per pound.

LEATHER AND FINDINGS.

Trade very slow, likewise collections. Prices are steady as follows: Spanish sole,