

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

Business at the banks last week moved along in the usual quiet way, and without any feature whatever of more than every day occurrence. The amount of commercial paper falling due was very light and the call for discounts was in proportion. From grain circles there has been but little demand for funds, on account of the light movement and the total stoppage of exportation. The demand for money for regular commercial business has therefore been light all around. Rates of discount have not experienced any change. First class commercial paper is still quoted at 7 percent; ordinary 7 to 9; promiscuous and one name 9 to 10 per cent. In real estate mortgage loan there has been a slight increase in the number of calls, but nearly all on farm property. Interest on mortgages is still being met in a fairly satisfactory manner, and in this respect the result is beyond the anticipations of agents. Rates of interest are quoted at the old figure of from 8 to 10 per cent, with the bulk of the business done at 9.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

The wholesale trade of the city during the past week has been characterised mainly by the commencement of the movement in spring and summer goods. In several lines, namely, dry goods, clothing, small wares and fancy goods, hats etc., a start has been made in the direction of filling orders previously booked for spring delivery, and the next few weeks will witness unusual activity in this respect. In other lines, including lumber, agricultural implements, hardware, etc., a considerable inquiry has set in, and indications point toward an early renewal of activity. The mild and spring-like weather which has prevailed during the week has doubtless had its influence in this direction, and all that is wanted now is a continuation of the same favorable atmospheric condition, to insure a steadily increasing movement in all mercantile commodities. General business is still somewhat hampered by the embargo on the grain trade, and by the delay in the receipt of spring importations. However, a considerable quantity of delayed goods were received during the week, and these are being opened and put in shape as rapidly as possible. In some instances considerable inconvenience is still felt, as some of the goods not yet received are wanted to complete orders that should now be made up. It is hoped that further delays on this account will be of brief duration. In lines not depending on the season there is a slight improvement in the demand, though no particular activity has been displayed. The season's trade in winter goods is now considered about at an end, though there may be an occasional call for very small lots of some sorts, for a while yet. A considerable number of additional orders for spring goods have come to hand during the week, and the outlook continues favorable as to the probable extent of the coming season's trade. The amount of paper falling due has been very light and hardly sufficient to base an opinion as to the state of collection, but the general feeling is that money is closer than last week.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

There has been signs of returning life in this branch, the mild weather of the past week having apparently aroused farmers to the fact that it will be but a short time before spring work may be commenced. Numerous inquiries have been coming in, and already a few small orders have been filled for western points. The articles first in demand are plows and harrows. Full supplies will be forwarded to agencies through the province and territories during the present month. Collections are fair.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

There is no new feature to note in connection with this branch since our last report. Business is still very quiet and without any improvement over the preceding week. A continuation of mild weather would probably cause a renewal of the demand in some lines, but no very active season is looked for before spring goods commence to move. The amount of paper falling due was very limited, and not sufficient to form an index to the financial situation.

CLOTHING.

Dealers are now anxiously awaiting the receipt of their goods to commence shipping spring orders. Goods delayed in transit are now commencing to come to hand, but of course orders cannot be made up until stocks are complete. A few small shipments of spring goods have been made to western points, and the work will commence in earnest right away, or just as soon as the balance of stocks are in. Trade in winter goods is now considered about over for the season. Collections are light.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

Some little movement was noticed in this line during the week, which apparently indicates a steady improvement in the demand as the season advances. From this time forward a more active trade will be looked for, should the weather continue favorable. Collections have also improved some.

DRY GOODS.

There is now considerable bustle and activity about this branch. Dealers are busy receiving delayed goods and making up orders for shipment as fast as possible. Some orders have already been sent out, and the next few weeks will make a season of unusual activity in this respect, the delay in receiving goods making it necessary to push this work, now that spring importations are arriving. There has been quite an active renewal of the demand for cotton goods, in addition to the regular spring orders. In winter goods the season's trade is now considered over. Collections have been light in amount falling due.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

A very steady and fairly active trade is doing. Collections are considered good.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

There is only a very light call for immediate wants, and a few small lots are occasionally sent out. Dealers are awaiting the receipt of the balance of their spring importations before they can commence making up and sending out orders now in for spring and summer goods. This work will be actively pushed as soon as stocks are complete. Some orders have already

been forwarded to far western points from such as could be made up from goods now in stock.

FISH.

The bulk of the shipping trade in fresh Lake Winnipeg frozen fish is now over for the season. Some lots are still coming in, but the supply in the market is light. Mild weather may also be expected to interfere with shipments to southern points from this time forward. Dealers here received notice last week that hereafter all exports of Manitoba fish to the United States would be subject to a duty of 3c per pound. This new regulation will probably have quite an influence on the export trade henceforth. In salt fish there is very little doing. Prices are unchanged all around, quotations being: whitefish, 5c; pickerel 4c; jackfish 2c. Salt white, \$4 per bbl; Labrador herrings, \$8 per bbl; salmon, \$17 per bbl; mackerel \$1 to \$1.75 per kit; smoked haddocks, 11c per pound.

FRUITS.

The mild weather of the past week has given quite a stimulus to trade. Some shipments have been made to the country and a very fair demand has come from the city. There is no new variety of fruit in the market in sufficient quantity to give quotations. A few barrels of Malaga grapes have been brought in, but these are in bad condition and slow sale. Riverside oranges will arrive next week. Apples have been in good demand, at quotations. A few new lots have been received from Chicago, but stocks imported last fall are large and considered quite sufficient to supply all demands during the season. Stocks of cranberries are large and prices have been cut. Quotations are as follows: Messina oranges, \$6.50; Floridas \$7.00 to \$7.50 per box. California pears are worth \$4.50 per box; Apples are in good supply and are worth about \$4 to \$4.50 per bbl for good qualities. Messina lemons, \$6.50 to \$7 per box; cranberries, \$8 to \$8.50; Valencia raisins, \$3.75; London layer raisins, \$4 to \$4.25; black crown, \$5 to \$5.25 walnuts, 15c a lb; almonds, 20c; filberts, 12c; pecans, 16c; peanuts, 15c for roasted and 12c for raw; figs 18c to 2c; and dates 10c a lb. Apple cider, \$10 per bbl.

FURNITURE.

A few small orders have been sent out to provincial points, but business continues very quiet and with very little improvement in the demand. Anything approaching an active movement is not looked for before spring sets in in earnest. Collections are slow.

FUEL.

The mild weather of the past week has caused a decided diminution in the movement of fuel. Farmers have been offering wood extensively on the market, which has operated against dealers in the city. Prices are unchanged for both coal and wood, as follows: poplar \$3.50; oak \$5.75; tamarac \$4.75. Prices are for car lots, delivered. On track, 75c per cord less than above. Hard coal is worth \$10.25, and soft \$8. Galt coal sells at \$7.50 on track.

GROCERIES.

There has been a very steady and quiet feeling in this branch for some time, and the aggregate trade movement has not been up to the