

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

The past week has been one in which bankers might have enjoyed a holiday in the city of Winnipeg, so quiet have monetary affairs been. Among the regular mercantile houses possessing lines of discount their has been practically no demand for money. There has not, during the present year, been a time when the volume of this class of paper was lighter. Even renewals have been but little asked for although there has been a little irregularity in payments from the country, most of which have been covered without renewal paper being presented. The dullest point in the year being reached, and no increase in the demand is looked for until September opens. Rates, although somewhat nominal, are unchanged, and are: first-class paper, 3 per cent.; ordinary, 9 to 10; and promiscuous discount and one name paper, 10 to 12. In loans on real estate mortgage there has been quite a lull, and very little enquiry has been made during the week. This is owing to harvest operations having commenced, and the farming community being thus engaged. As soon as it is over, a lively demand is expected, and, with scarcely an exception, companies calculate upon having a heavy business during the fall and winter. There is very little enquiry from the city, although some good business is looked for during September. Rates of interest still range from 3 to 10 per cent., but are in a great measure nominal at present. Altogether monetary affairs in the city have been very quiet during the week.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

Throughout the wholesale trade of the city during the past week, there has been a slightly livelier feeling, and matters are gliding steadily into the flow of the fall trade, although progress in that direction has been slower than in former years. The slightest adverse circumstance or unpromising event seems to act like a check upon the cautious buyers throughout the country, and produces a timidity which is unquestionably the result of last years disappointment. In seasons goods a small proportion of country merchants have bought liberally and have evidently reached thorough confidence in the future. The great bulk of them, however, have made much lighter purchases than they did a year ago, and evidently much lighter than the demands of the next few months will call for. The orders from such men as a rule are only about half in quantity of what they were a year ago, and are made with the view of having no more stock than is absolutely necessary to open the season with. There are still a small proportion of retailers who refuse to place full orders until the harvest is safely gathered in. The situation altogether, while supplying proof of the safety of trade affairs throughout the country, is in many instances tantalizing to travellers, and these gentlemen have made up their minds that a great share of their ground will have to be doubled this season, necessitating a great amount of extra work to themselves and extra expense to their houses. The city trade is affected in a similar way, although not to the

same extent, and retailers are persistently slow in laying in fall stocks. In goods of every day consumption there has been very little change in the state of affairs, and the slightly quiet feeling of the previous week prevailed, and is expected to continue until harvest is over. Lines connected with the building trade still enjoy a good share of activity, and a little extra rush during the few weeks preceding the setting in of severe frost is confidently looked for. In the prices of staple goods, there has been a monotonous absence of change, there being scarcely a change to record. Collections for the week have not been too free, at which wholesalers are not seriously disappointed as this is the tightest month of the year. Both sales and collections are expected to improve as soon as September is fairly opened, and the safe gathering in of crops will doubtless give an impetus to trade of every kind.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The season for agricultural machinery is about coming to a close with the exception of threshers, which are still in fair demand; light implements such as plows will be in better demand in a few weeks. The leading houses express themselves highly satisfied with the season's business. They have been able to dispose of about all of their harvesters and threshers; consequently there will be little to carry over during the winter. Collections have not improved, but it is hoped that they will in a few weeks.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

Trade in this line is still improving as the season advances. Orders from the country during the week have been liberal, and travellers on the road report the prospects for a large fall business, as very encouraging. Collections are fairly satisfactory.

CLOTHING.

There is no change worthy of note in this line. Orders are numerous, but as a rule for small quantities. Country dealers are extremely cautious in their purchases, until the crops are fully secured, when trade will be active, as stocks are low, and must be replenished soon, to meet the wants of the trade. Collections are reported as fair.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

Trade in this line is still rather slow. The enquiry so far is for staple goods only. The demand in fancy lines is very limited. Travellers on the road speak hopefully of a heavy trade in the near future. Collections are very good.

DRY GOODS.

Country merchants are still slow in giving orders, save for goods that are absolutely necessary to supply the demands of their customers. This hard to mouth policy will continue until farmers commence marketing their grain when it is expected that orders will assume larger proportions. Wholesalers are satisfied with the situation, and think that heavy stocking will be the exception and not the rule this season. Collections are fair.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

There is no change to report in this line. A fair business has been transacted during the

past week. Orders are arriving freely and for fair quantities. Collections are satisfactory.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALL WARES.

Trade in this line during the week has been fair. There is considerable enquiry, both in town and country, and business promises to be good from this time out. Collections show, some improvements over last week.

FISH AND POULTRY.

There is a plentiful supply of fish in the city at present. Lake Winnipeg white fish is quoted at 8c., and Lake Superior trout at 10c.; poultry are scarce, but game, especially wild ducks are a drug on the market; they are selling at 5 to 7c. a piece; Spring chickens, 40 to 50c. a pair, and fowl range from 35. to 50c. each.

FRUIT.

The demand for fruit continues good, and the supply is fair. Apples are coming in in fine condition, and of good quality; the prospects are that they will range low this fall and winter; at present they are worth \$6.50. to \$7.50. per barrel. California pears are quoted at \$7 plums \$3.75.; grapes \$4.50. to \$5 and peaches \$4. Tomatoes are \$4.50 per basket. Watermelons are in stock and range from 80 to 90c. a piece. Dried fruits are unchanged.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

Trade in this line is still fair. Building operations are still active, and while this continues business will be good. Collections have not improved, and are very irregular. There is no change in values. Quotations are: Tin plate 10, 14x20, \$5.00 to 7.00 a box; 10, 20x28, \$13 to 13.50; Canada plates 24.35 to 4.50; sheet iron, 28G, \$4.75 to 5.25 per 100 lbs; iron pipe, 40 to 50 per cent. off list price; ingot tin, 25 to 29c per lb.; pig lead, 6 to 6½c; galvanized iron, No. 28, 7½ to 8½c, according to quality; bar iron, \$2.95 to 3.15 per 100 lbs; cut nails, \$3.60 to 3.80.

LEATHER AND FINDINGS.

Business in this line during the week has been fairly active, while there has been no rush a fair trade has been transacted. Collections have improved and are reported as fair. Prices are unchanged and quotations are: Spanish sole 33c to 35c; slaughter sole 35c French calf, first choice, \$1.40 to 1.50; domestic 85c; B Z calf \$1.00 to 1.10; French kip \$1.00 to 1.25; B Z kip 85c to 90c; slaughter kip 65c to 75c; No. 1 wax upper 55c; grain upper 55c; harness leather 34c to 36c for plump stock; English oak sole 65c.

SADDLERY AND HARNESS.

Business continues steadily to improve as the season advances. So far the season's trade has been much better than was expected. The local demand is all that could be desired, while country orders have been liberal. Collections are satisfactory. Prices are unchanged and quotations are as follows: Harness leather, 33 to 36c per lb; collar splits, 27 to 33c; sheep skins, \$7.50 to 11.50 per doz., according to quality.

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

Trade in this line shows some improvement over last week, and wholesalers are sanguine