

IMMIGRATION.

The *New York Times* has been doing some cyphering on the immigration question and says that the tide rose gradually after the close of the war until 1872 when it reached 440,000. Thereafter the tide was on the ebb until in 1877 it reached 130,000. Then began the flow, reaching 250,000 in 1879; 503,000 in 1880; 720,000 in 1881, and 734,000 in 1882. In the last half of 1882 the entries were only 270,479 and from this the *Times* infers that the ebb set in about midsummer. It says:—"The unusual prosperity of the country in 1880-81, especially in the agricultural regions, taken in conjunction with a comparatively adverse condition in Europe, sufficiently explains the vigor with which the tide of immigration set toward our shores, and the influences had not expended their force in the first part of 1882. But last year was by no means so favorable to new settlers in this country as the two which preceded, while the conditions of life in Europe were less discouraging to the class from which immigrants are chiefly drawn." While we are quite prepared to accept the opinion of the metropolitan daily in regard to the immigration which may be expected by the United States we look for something very different in store for the Canadian North-west. Judging by the number of passages already engaged in the Old Country by intending immigrants the hegira from Britain this year will be two or three times as great as last year. It is true that the immigrants of last year encountered many difficulties and discouragements, while the winter has been the severest on record, yet the sturdy common sense of the immigrants has enabled them to see that the difficulties have been inevitable, the discouragements evanescent and trials by climate and experience from which this year no country has been free and from which the residents of more southern latitudes have suffered more severely than have the immigrants in their new home. The grand secret of the great North-west is, that all who come here feel that they have elbow room and fair play. Men are willing to put up with many things when they see affluence, not like a spectre haunting their dreams, but as a mile-stone standing fixed at the end of a journey, the duration of which they can easily estimate. Not only will the motherland send us a formidable con-

tingent, but Germany and Scandinavia will send the advance guard of an industrial horde who will be warmly welcomed in their endeavors to over-run and subjugate the prairie domain beneath the sceptre of the husbandman. Canada and the United States will do their part. The army of Canadians seven hundred thousand strong, now adding strength and solidity to the neighboring republic will receive little increase to its numbers save that which nature brings, for Canadians have at last learned that their own land offers them greater advantages than her friendly neighbor. The tide of immigration across the lines may be on the ebb; but we fail to read aright the signs of the times if the tide be not only beginning to flow upon and over the Great North-west.

Winnipeg Wholesale Markets.

The business of the week has been sympathetic with the weather, the moderation in the temperature being followed by an increase in the volume of business transacted. The wholesale trade is by no means lively yet, nor will it be until travel is easier in the country and farmers feel disposed to let their grain go at the current rates, which, it must be confessed, do not offer much inducement. Until more grain is marketed collections from the country cannot be expected to show substantial improvement. At present they are not really bad, but they are not distinctly good. During the week sorting orders were fairly numerous, and in some branches of business a satisfactory spring opening is recorded, but most of the houses have to report on the part of retail buyers a certain amount of timidity in making purchases, many even of the largest houses in the province preferring to wait for the opening of immigration before ordering except in a very modest way. Quite a fair business has been done during the week for points far west, and the traders who accompany the tracklayers are taking time by the forelock and getting their supplies to the front, so as to be prepared for the early resumption of railway construction. The report for the week, taken as a whole is far from being dull, it being decidedly the best week since the new year. Business is decidedly in the ascendant.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

During the week sales were, as might be expected, merely nominal in agricultural machinery. The receipts also were very small, owing to the freight blockade in Minnesota. On the way there are ten car loads of harvesting machinery, and as many more cars of miscellaneous implements. The various houses are busy stocking provincial agencies, and preparations are being made for a busy season.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

The spring trade not having fairly opened and sorting winter trade being past, business in the boot and shoe line is decidedly dull, collections being sympathetically slow. A few good

orders for spring are being taken, and the outlook is cheerful, though present experience could be more enlivening.

CLOTHING.

A fair measure of activity prevails in the clothing business, which since the holiday season has shown strong recuperative powers. The demand at present is steady, and though collections are not up to a first-class standard they are not by any means bad. For this season of the year the trade is in a much more satisfactory condition than could reasonably be expected.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

One or two outfitting orders falling to be added to the ordinary business made the volume of trade last week much larger than that of any week since the holidays. Even the ordinary demand showed an improvement; but collections while still remaining fair, show no improvement on last week.

DRY GOODS.

The dry goods trade last week was again dull and it can hardly be said yet to have raised itself from the dead level of the holiday season. While the actual dollars and cents record does not show a material alteration the leading firms are in more cheerful spirits, and look ahead with greater confidence to a revival in the not distant future. The houses are now well prepared for the spring trade, and the signs are that its coming will not be much longer delayed. The grocery trade is being roused up, and from this the dry goods merchants may take comfort for the old maxim still holds good: "first our belly, then our back." Collections are still in a state which leaves something to be desired, retailers all doing as much time as can be given them, giving satisfactory reasons for asking accommodation.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

The volume of business transacted in drugs and chemicals during the week showed no increase on that of the preceding week, but was still a fair week's business for this season of the year. Orders from the provinces have not been quite as numerous, nor have collections shown any improvement. Still no cause for serious complaint is to be found.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

During the past week the trade done in fancy goods and small wares, while not large was sufficient to keep the wholesale houses moving at a profit. The week was quite equal to the last, and while there is no improvement to be recorded in collections this is one of the lines in which there has not been much ground for complaint this season so far. Fair orders are being received from travellers on the road, and they also report the outlook hopeful.

FISH, POULTRY AND GAME.

In the fish market, the coarser qualities continue plentiful, river jack being abundant and easily procurable, even in small quantities at 4c. White fish are very scarce, and though still selling at 8c. this price is hardly much better than nominal. Some fine sturgeon have found their way to market, but the quantity is too small to admit of quotations. The market has been so cleaned out of game and poultry that no quotations can be given. There is no immediate supply in sight.