

## WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

The state of the money market in the city during the past week may be put down as slightly easier than during the preceding week. There have been practically no changes in rates of interest or discount, but the steady growth of a confident feeling in all branches of trade has had its effect in monetary circles, and financial affairs are gradually dropping into line as auxiliaries to business affairs generally. There has been for some time more or less of an unsatisfactory feeling in the East, the result of which is a disposition towards caution on the part of banks, but the feeling does not seem to have any sympathetic symptoms here, especially in connection with commercial affairs. On the contrary, while it is rather strengthening in the East, uneasiness is gradually relaxing here, and the time is but short, until in this city and province will work with the unity of sections of the same piece of machinery. The demand for commercial discounts has been reasonably active, but can be all attended to without any special effort on the part of banks. Rates still range from 7 to 9 per cent. for first-class paper, 9 to 10 for ordinary, and 10 to 12 for promissory papers. Small loans, at short dates, are made at 12 per cent., and in a few instances at a shade lower. In loans on real estate mortgage the demands of the week have not been very heavy, and are not expected to be until the growth of crops is further advanced. There is a better feeling, however, on the part of loan and investment companies, and the steady flow of immigration for the past few weeks has been gradually wiping out any fears they might have had before about the prospects of the country. Taken altogether the financial affairs of the city are in a safe and promising state, and are gradually drifting into an even, uneventful flow.

## WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

The wholesale trade of the city has experienced in several branches something of a lull during the past week. There has been in season's goods a falling-off in demand, attributable to the fact that the first spring supply orders have been filled, and as yet the sorting trade has not set in. The state of the weather has also had something to do with the lull, for it has cut-off the city retail demand entirely, and until streets are in a better state than they now are, there will be little improvement in the same. Seeding operations all over the country have been in order, and that having lessened in a temporary way the sales of country merchants, the demand from the country has also been rather light. In staple, every day goods, matters have been much more encouraging. There has been a slight but steady increase of sales in these lines, and as the season advances there is every probability that the increase will be kept up. There has been no improvement in fancy lines, but rather a slower feeling, which may be attributed to weather influences. The reports of collections are on the whole encouraging, and, although a little nursing is still necessary, there are evident signs of steady improvement. With the opening of May the actual wants of the country will begin to make themselves felt, and

new life will be general in every branch. Already in the city there is a famine in several lines of staple goods, which will only be relieved with the opening of navigation and reduced freight rates. Summing the trade situation of the week up, there is a rest at present, with a clear prospect of renewed activity within a few days, and a feeling of safety pervades every branch of trade.

## AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

There is no change to report in this line. The work of spring distribution is now pretty well over, while the trade in harvesting machinery has not yet got set a going. Every week has increased the hope that after all this season's sales will compare very favorably with those of last. Few, if any, consignments of harvest machinery have been sent out during the week, but preparations for the trade are now general. Collections are reported rather slow, which is no more than was expected at this time.

## ROOTS AND SHOES.

Although the bustle of two weeks ago is over in this line, a good, steady trade is still being done. Travellers are out and returns from them are encouraging. The city demand also keeps active so that the volumes of sales all round is liberal. Collections are reported fair, and altogether as good as can be expected.

## CLOTHING.

The clothing business seems to hold about as active as any branch of the city's trade, the most unfavorable report being one of improvement. Last week has been as good if not better for sales as any of the season, and there seems at present to be no prospect of any falling-off. Several irregularities in connection with collections are reported, although the report in that line, is on the whole not a discouraging one.

## CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

In these goods the business done during the week has been reasonably heavy, and there is a prospect of a steady increase. Staple lines are still the bulk of the sales, although fancy goods begin to move a little. A report of collections cannot be given, as the amount now falling due is so limited as to form no basis for a report.

## DRY GOODS.

There has been quite a lull in this business during the past week, and houses are getting ample time to prepare for the sorting trade. The spring's business has been much lighter than that of last year, although the number of parties sold to has been greater. Dealers have started in with small expectations this season, and consequently small stock. Already there are symptoms appearing that many have bought short, and it is fully expected that the season's sales will extend over twice the space of time they do in other years. Collections are reported fair to good, and with very few irregularities.

## DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

Business in this line moves along in a very uneventful manner, and the report of the past week shows no new features. The volume of sales has been fairly satisfactory, and there are no unfavorable symptoms coming to the front. It is rumored round, however, that a leading house in the trade is about to give up business in this city.

## FANCY GOODS AND SMALL WARES.

The feeling in this branch of trade has been rather slow during the past week, and in fancy goods it has been particularly so. Sales have been lighter than for a few weeks previously, but as spring progresses an improvement is looked for. The bulk of the trade of the season has yet to be done, and the lateness can only be attributable to caution on the part of buyers, as collections are still reported good, and a hopeful feeling pervades the whole trade.

## FISH AND POULTRY.

Business in the fish line has been very slow during the past week. With the closing of lent even the local demand has falling-off greatly, and the wholesale trade may now be said to be at the lowest level it has reached since last fall. Quotations are nominal of white fish at 7c, and jack at 2c, but the sales are scarcely heavy enough to base quotations upon. Findon haddocks are still to be had at 11c, and oysters are quoted at 50c for standard and 55c for select, but will soon be out of the market. Poultry is not to be found in the wholesale market, and is very scarce even with retailers.

## FRUIT.

There has been scarcely any change in the state of this business during the week, and none in prices, except in apples, which have advanced 50c a bbl. The sales of the week have been liberal if not extra-heavy. Coconuts are quoted \$10 a sack; bananas, \$5 to \$6.50 a bunch; tomatoes, \$2.25 a box; walnuts, 15c to 17c; filberts, 15c to 17c; peanuts, pecans and Brazil nuts at the same figures; apples are quoted \$8 a bbl. firm; oranges, \$6.50 a box, and lemons from \$6 upwards. Pine apples are expected to be on the market and quotable next week, which is the only novelty in green fruit now looked for. Raisins and other dried fruits are still scarce, and will be so until navigation opens.

## FUEL.

Wood is still selling at the quotations of last week, with the demand rather lighter. Poplar, in car lots, is quoted from \$3 to \$4, and tamarac from \$4 to \$5. Coal is very little called for, and will be slow in sale until navigation opens, when the reduced prices will take effect. Sales for summer delivery are now being made at \$10.75 on track for anthracite, and \$9.50 for bituminous. Saskatchewan lignite is now out of the market.

## FURNITURE.

There is still considerable life in this trade, and wholesalers report liberal sales for the week. Numerous new points in the country have been adding to the demand, and business is now running in a steady, healthy flow.

## GROCERIES.

The report of the week from this staple branch is a very encouraging one. Business maintains the same steady flow stated in our last report, while the volume of sales has perceptibly increased, and collections are reported good as a rule. In prices there have been scarcely any changes. Coffees are easier in eastern markets, and while quotations of ranges are unchanged here, prices can be cut a little, especially in view of summer freight rates being close at hand. There have been no changes in