

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

The past week has been somewhat of a test of mercantile monetary affairs in the city, and the results are much more encouraging than the most sanguine people expected. There was a sluggish feeling in commercial discounts up to the end of March, and, as was expected, a greatly increased demand with the opening of April. There was a little of a nervous feeling about how payments would be met on the 4th, and on the results of that day depended in a great measure the action of most of the banks during the remainder of the spring. The results have been of the most satisfactory character, and all obstacles to an easier flow of money in commercial circles are now removed. Several of the banks reported not a note gone to protest, or charged back to the discount, and the few protests reported, are, with very rare exceptions, not within the scope of commercial paper. Wholesale merchants report considerable part renewing at which they were not disappointed, but there are practically no irregularities to report. With such results the increased demand for commercial discounts has been promptly met at the banks, and although rates have not been lowered the feeling is altogether easier. First-class paper is received at 7 to 8 per cent., and ordinary all the way from 9 to 12, the latter being seldom paid unless for promiscuous business, and by parties without a regular line of discount. Private parties possessed of spare funds seem to have received new confidence of late, and small loans at short dates are not at all difficult to obtain without paying the ruinous interest demanded at times during the past winter. Loans on real estate mortgage have not increased in demand during the week, and there is still an occasional complaint to be heard about slow payment of overdue interest. Rates still range from 8 to 10 per cent., and loans on first-class improved property can be easily obtained. Altogether, the monetary affairs of the city are in a more encouraging state than they have been for over a year.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

Reports from the various branches of the wholesale trade in the city agree in a still further general improvement in business. The steady good weather and the certainty of an early and good spring have had a cheering effect in every branch, and traders of every description have taken new hope and acted thereon with a little more courage than they have displayed before. There are still a few points which suggest necessary caution, but this has been well exercised both by wholesalers and retailers, and the points mentioned seem to disappear gradually as the season progresses. The rush to Calgary, Silver City and other far-western and new points adds very materially to the increasing activity, and the fact that these places must be the points of operation for two years to come, while the C. P. R. is being pushed through the Rockies, gives solidity to the trade, and obviates the drawbacks of last year, when railway construction ran away ahead of settlement. But the increased demands from the older settled parts of the country make of themselves a good volume of business

which is daily increasing. The feeling is now general that it is perfectly safe to do business with the retailers still in trade, and gradually the disposition to push matters is being manifested by wholesalers. One noticeable point about the sales of the week has been the increased proportion of fancy goods, showing that hope has now in a great measure developed into confidence. The most discouraging point of the week has been a falling-off in collections, at which, however, wholesalers are in no way disappointed. There has evidently been a general preparation for the fourth and its payments, and irregular payments have consequently been neglected. This will no doubt improve now that the test day is safely over. Altogether the developments of the week have been of a most encouraging character, and although there is no symptoms of anything boom like, business is certainly and safely moving onward.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

There has been steady activity in this line during the week, and houses here have, in some instances, been surprised at the increasing demand from country points. The rapid approach of spring operations, and the fact that farmers held off from buying until actually forced to has made matters rather pushed, and there has been some inconvenience in getting supplies out to meet demands with promptitude, and this has not been lessened by the slim service of trains which has existed up till now on the C. P. R. There is a disposition in the trade not to crowd matters any more than can be helped, but the short time now left for supplying spring machinery demands leaves no necessity for pushing. Collections have fallen-off somewhat, but no disappointment is expressed at this, and some houses will arrange to carry most of the balance of their customers over until next fall.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

The same activity mentioned in our last report continues in this business, and has, if anything, increased during the past week. There has been a lively demand for all classes of goods, and especially in rubber lines, both from the city and country, and it is now confidently expected that the spring sales of this year will be considerably in excess of 1883. The most perfect confidence in the future exists, and although collections have been a little slower than could be wished, wholesalers express satisfaction with the state of affairs.

CLOTHING.

Business is reported quite lively in clothing during the past week, and even the occasional complaint of the previous week is not now heard. There is evidently an expectation of a heavy business being done at far-western points during the coming summer, and orders from them have been quite liberal. Other country points have been making steady demands, and the city trade has shown considerable life. Collections are reported fair to good, and at least satisfactory.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

The report from this branch of trade is good for the week. The same steady demand for staples, before reported, still continues, and there has been quite a livening up in fancy

goods. The city trade has sprung into considerable life, while orders from the country have come in in a steady stream. The report of collections is also quite encouraging.

DRY GOODS.

The report from this staple line is still very encouraging, and the past week has been one of general activity. The continued mild weather and the arrival of so many immigrants have convinced country merchants of the necessity for prompt buying, and there has been considerable hurry during the week in getting stocks replenished. While there has been no falling-off in the sale of staples, fancy goods have come more into demand, and the volume of business done has, in consequence, increased very materially. Travellers are still out, and reports from them are of the most satisfactory character. Retailers report spring sales fairly commenced with them, and it is expected before the present bustle is over that the sorting trade will have commenced. The report of collections is not so bright, and a considerable proportion of renewals have been made, but, as a rule, at very short dates, and to customers whose standing makes safety

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

The report from this trade is good, and the week has been rather an active one. There has been nothing of a hectic rush, and the present satisfactory state is expected to continue for some time. Collections are reported moderately good.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALL WARES.

This branch, which has lagged behind during the past six weeks, is now about as lively as other lines, and reports for the past week are very encouraging. Fancy lines are now in full demand, and sales of these have commenced at least two weeks earlier than last year. Altogether the report in this line is very satisfactory.

FISH AND POULTRY.

The rush in the fresh fish trade is over until next winter, the shipping trade being over. There still exists a lively local demand, but the supply is abundant for this so far as jack fish are concerned. White fish are still scarce, and have stiffened a little in price during the week, 8c is now the bottom figure and 8½c have been asked during the week. Jack are quoted nominal at 2c to 2½c, but they are difficult to sell in quantities even at the first figure. There are no fresh sea fish on the wholesale market, and Fin-don haddocks at 11c are the only kind of dried or smoked to be had. Next week is expected to be even quieter in the trade.

FRUIT.

There has been a reasonably good business done in this line during the past week, while the variety of fresh fruit on the market has been rather limited. Oranges have been selling at \$6.50 a box, although a very inferior car load shipped here by a St. Paul scaler sold at \$6 to parties who are since sorry that they bought. Lemons are quoted from \$6 upward and apples still hold steady at \$7.50 a bbl. There are all the green varieties on the market, but during the current week bananas, cocoanuts, pine apples and tomatoes will be available. Raisins and other dried fruits are scarce, and