

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

The past week has been rather an uneventful one in financial circles, and monetary affairs in the city have been down to a level flow. There has been something of an easier feeling, but money has been by no means plentiful. The demand for commercial purposes has not been as heavy, as in the early days of May, which is mainly due to the cautious policy being pursued by wholesale merchants and manufacturers, who are holding back upon every movement in their business affairs, that would be likely to create any extra necessity for funds. There has also been something of a restoration of confidence, owing to the small number of assignments or business concerns getting into difficulties which the week has shown. The confidence has not developed into an over hopeful feeling, but is more a thankfulness that the record of the week has been so free from disaster. Banks have found no difficulty in attending to all the legitimate commercial paper presented to them, but are still cautious about extending their operations. Gilt edge is still good at 9 to 10 per cent., and a few standard accounts are carried at 8. Ordinary has been accepted at 11 to 12, and has been taken more freely than for some weeks back.

In mortgage loans on landed property there has been a little more desire upon the part of companies to extend operations, especially in loans upon improved farms, which is no doubt owing to the success which has attended seeding operations, and the good prospects of a crop next fall.

Altogether the money market has not only been easier, but in a healthier state during the week than it has for a number of weeks back, and it is to be hoped that the improvement will continue.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

Reports this week are not quite so favorable as last. In fact the wholesale trade at present is characterized by general flatness. There are of course a few exceptions, but in some there has been a decided falling off since last week, while in others the same inactivity prevails. Wholesalers are convinced that the number of retail dealers and the stocks carried by them are much in excess of the requirements of the country. This coupled with the fact that collections in almost every line of trade are exceedingly slow, and renewals frequently called for has led to some want of confidence. Many wholesalers are therefore exercising a good deal of caution in selecting their customers and are not disposed to push trade. After the gloomy report of money matters and trade in most other lines it is pleasant to turn to the notable exception of the fruit trade. In this everything is sunshine. Not only is trade lively but collections are reported excellent. Stationers are also doing a first-rate trade both in the city and in the country, and they have no complaint to make about collections. The building operations are now on the increase, although by no means to be compared with the boom that existed a year ago. Wholesalers who supplied the requirements of this trade last year and expected a repetition of the same thing this year

have been disappointed. During the past week however business in this line has been steady and in some cases improving.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

There has been a quietness in this branch of trade during the week, although not to such an extent as to cause much complaint. The city trade is very limited, but the westward tide of immigration is increasing the demand in that direction. For harvesting implements a considerable number of orders are being taken, and some are doing a pretty lively trade in binders. Collections in this department are practically at a stand still. Farmers have been very busy seeding and have not yet had time to dispose of any grain that may be on hand, and their live stock is not ready for the market. Money will no doubt be more abundant in a month or two, at least this is the hope of business men. Prices of American goods have not yet been affected by the tariff, but remain firm at former figures. There is a little easiness in Canadian implements, which is said to be due to the heavy stocks held.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

The trade in boots and shoes is falling off every day. Most of the wholesalers are depending principally on orders received from the country. It is not expected that a really healthy city trade can be done till the heavy stocks of retailers have been disposed of and their numbers greatly reduced. Wholesalers are of opinion that the next six months will see a considerable reduction in the number of these stores. They are confident that so large a number as there are at present cannot be doing a safe trade, and are consequently not inclined to push business. Only one of the houses has experienced an improvement in business and also in collections since last week. Prices of goods have not altered materially except in the case of rubbers which have advanced.

CLOTHING.

There has been a marked quietness in this branch of trade during the week. One house asserts that the bottom has gone completely out of trade and does not expect any improvement till the fall. They are contented however in the meantime to hold their stocks, confident that they have only to wait till the heavy stocks on the hands of retailers since last fall are sufficiently diminished. Collections are difficult.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

This department of business shares the depression of other lines. There has been an entire absence of activity during the week and collections are reported to be very unsatisfactory.

DRY GOODS.

Trade in dry goods during the week has been exceptionally flat. Good orders in the city are exceedingly few and there is very little demand in the country. The difficulty of securing collections in this line is general. Some houses have done their principal business during the

week with railway contractors or sub-contractors. It is probable that dry goods wholesalers will be very cautious in regard to the extent of their importations for some time till a change takes place in the state of business.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

A fair business has been done in this line during the week. Some orders have been received for new stores at points in the west. But for this it is probable that the trade would have been rather quiet. Collections are not much complained of.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALL WARES.

With the exception of a few days in the early part of last week during which one of the wholesale houses in this line did a lively trade, there has been considerable quietness. The city trade is regarded as unhealthy and there is no desire on the part of wholesalers to push it. There are no serious complaints in regard to collections.

FISH AND POULTRY.

The shipments expected from Lake Superior have not yet arrived. Poultry is now completely out of the market. Counts are still to be had at 75c. No change has taken place in regard to the supply and trade is not particularly active. Prices remain unchanged since last week. White fish 8c, pickerel 3c, Findon haddocks 12½c.

FRUIT.

The trade in fruit has been good during the week. Prices remain unchanged but the feeling is stiffer. Collections in this trade are perhaps better than any other. They are reported to be very good indeed. A supply of bananas and pine apples is daily expected.

FURNITURE.

Trade has been unexpectedly quieter during this week and collections are difficult. There is considerable demand in the city for a cheap class of goods, purchasers expressing doubts as to the length of their stay and not wishing at first to incur heavy expense. A few good orders from the country are on hand, one of them amounting to \$5,000.

FUEL.

The demand for fuel of all kinds has been moderate during the week. The situation remains as nearly as possible unchanged since last week, both in regard to the volume of business and also prices. The wholesale rates are as follows: Anthracite coal, \$15, delivered; bituminous \$13.50 to \$14.50. Wood continues at \$6 for dry poplar and \$7 to \$8 for tamarac.

GROCERIES.

No change of importance has taken place in the grocery trade during the week. Quietness prevails to some extent, although reports show that the country demand is improving considerably. Collections continue slow. There is upward tendency of prices in some staples. Sugars have advanced from ½ to ¾ at the refineries, hams have advanced ¼c and bacon is also firmer. Last week's prices, may, however, be quoted: Sugars, 9½ to 10c for yellow; 11 to 11½c for granulated; 12c for Paris lumps. Coffees, 16 to 20c for Rios; 22 to 30c for Javas; and 24c for ceylon.