FINANCIAL

THE FINANCIAL OUTLOOK.

Funds are now finding more steady employment than for some years, The demand for money is expanding with the steady development of the natural resources of the country. Thanks to the excellent banking system under which we are working and the plucky action of our chartered banks in anticipating, at some cost to themselves, the banking requirements of newer sections of the western country, business interests are not hampered at any point through the lack of abundance of funds for all legitimate purposes, nor through exorbitant rates of interest. A gratifying change in the nature of the markets in which the interests of the banks are largely centered is, that speculation is giving place to sound business enterprises. For a year or two it looked as if the country would suffer from excessive speculation. The Klondike discoveries seem happily enough to have diverted attention from centres in the west that appeared to have been especially chosen for the exploration of various schemes of no value to investors. Much money has been lost in such schemes, and foolish investors or speculators have been taught a bitter lesson. Now our mining ventures are going more on merit, although Yukon parties are taking big chances. Public deposits in the banks have been growing at the rate of $2,250,000 a month the past year, but recently they have shown signs of shrinking a little. If this indicates increased investment in business enterprises it is well, for it will mean more business and more banking for everyone.—The Economist.

NOTES.

Manager McCaffrey, of the Union bank, Winnipeg, has returned from a trip south.

By consent of all parties an order has been made directing Mr. Hespeler to remain as managing liquidator of the estate of the Commercial Bank of Manitoba, Mr. Cooper being appointed joint liquidator for his assistance.

The Winnipeg Securities and Agencies company has been incorporated under the laws of the province with a capital stock of $50,000. The first directors are W. J. H. Murison, D. S. Curry, Colin Inkster, George Soames, J. Stanley Hough.

The Western Co-operative Loan and Investment Co. have formed a board at Ochre River, Dauphin district, Manitoba, with the following officers: President, J.A. Waite: vice-president, W. E. Breen: secretary-treasurer, E. J. Oliver, valuator, E. Brook; directors, J. R. Dow, John McCreath.

The Lumber Trade.

The mills west of Calgary are said to be closely sold out of lumber.

Patineaud Bros. will establish a saw mill at Dufresne station on the N. P. near La Salle, Man.

J. A. Christie, of the Assiniboine lumber mills, Brandon, who was in Winnipeg this week, says he has succeeded in getting his cut of logs, amounting to 8,000,000 feet, floated down to the mill.

The Rat Portage Lumber company has received word that their logs were running in the Rainy river this week, and they expect to have the saw mills all running early next week.

Sir Louis Davies has secured the first reading of the bill amending the fisheries act by extending the time until May 1 next when the law prohibiting the throwing of sawdust into rivers should become operative.

John A. Christie, of the Assiniboine Lumber company, Brandon, Man., has received word from Russell informing him that the whole of the company's Shell river plant had been burnt in a prairie fire, which swept over the camp.

D. Ross, proprietor of the lumbering industry of Whitemouth, Man., was in Winnipeg this week. Mr. Ross had prepared to make a large cut this season, but owing to the low stage of water he has had much difficulty in floating his logs, and at latest reports was not sure as to the result, though he is in hopes of getting his logs down to the mill. If so, he will cut about 2,000,000 feet this season.

The Minneapolis Lumberman says: There is a stiffening tendency noticeable in white pine. For no particular accountable reason prices have been off probably a half a dollar from the selling point two months ago, but a number of concerns are now getting out advanced lists, and declare they will not sell under them. Manufacturers and wholesalers might well remember that there is going to be more than an ordinary fall demand for building material, and that what is not sold now, will be needed to supply the fall trade with, and very likely at better prices than are now prevailing.

Our Vancouver correspondent refers this week to lower prices at the coast for lumber. Local representatives of the British Columbia mills say they have not heard anything about any change in lumber and all their advices are to the effect that the market is very firm. Mr. Moone, of the British Columbia Mills, Timber and Trading company, who has just arrived in Winnipeg from Vancouver, says that there can be no reduction in prices to affect the local or eastern trade, as logs are scarce and prices firm. Logs are costing the mills $2 and in some cases even up to $3 more than a year ago and the demand is good for lumber and prices were firm when he left. He thinks the report of lower prices is due to a cut rate on a single cargo for foreign shipment, taken by a Puget Sound mill, which he had heard about before he left the coast.

Mr. Moone, of the British Columbia Mills, Timber and Trading company, arrived in Winnipeg this week, coming from the coast via the "Soo" line and St. Paul. He says a good local and eastern business is doing at the coast mills, but foreign business has been quiet, owing to the scarcity and high rates of freight. Recently, however, rates were tending lower and some charters have been made at reduced rates. Logs, however, he says, are scarce and the mills have not material with which to do a very large export business. Shingle bolts, he says, are scarce. Speaking about shingles, he says the shingles quoted at $2.10 at points south in the States are only about ten inch clears, and are not equal to the British Columbia standard shingles sold in Manitoba, which are all clear. A shingle equal to the standard red cedar shingles sold here at $2.25, is quoted at $2.40 at points south in Minnesota.

An item appeared in some of the Manitoba papers this week to the effect that J. Y. Griffin & Co., Winnipeg, had purchased a lot of butter from the Rapid City creamery at 20c, Knowing that this was far above the market value, The Commercial made inquiries and learned that this purchase was made over a month ago, about the beginning of May, since which date the market has changed very materially. The butter was, further, a small lot of 1-lb. creamery bricks, put up to order for a particular purpose. This purchase, of course, has no influence on the situation now, but it simply shows how misleading many newspaper paragraphs may be.

Grain and Milling News.

McCulloch & Herriot are pushing ahead, the work on their new flour mill at Souris, Man.

Two gentlemen from Treherne, W. H. Code, and S. Gable, says the Dauphin, Man., Press, are in town this week looking over the ground with a view of starting a flour mill.

A Montreal Trade Bulletin says that quite a number of Manitoba millers have sold their wheat, instead of grinding it, as there was more money in selling wheat than turning it into flour at the relative prices of the two commodities. The Commercial learns that some lots of wheat were sold by millers, but not to such an extent as would be supposed by the item in the Montreal paper. Before the recent break in wheat, there was certainly more money selling the wheat than grinding it.

When farmers go into business they have to stand the consequences of the many losses and annoyances which business men often meet with. The Farmers' Elevator company at Brandon, Man., is in difficulties. It appears, says the Free Press, that an official speculated in Chicago wheat, losing some $10,000, and that many of the farmers who sold large quantities of wheat at the recent high prices have not as yet received their money. The farmers connected with the concern see in prospect the footing of these bills. A later report says the loss only amounted to a couple of thousand dollars, and the matter has been settled.

Grocery Trade Notes.

A Toronto report says: Mail advices from London, Eng., state that the market for all grades of Indian teas, except poor stuff, is firm, while Ceylons continue to be in moderate supply only and strong in price, considering the period of the year. Broken Pekoes and broken orange Pekoes were all in good request at the last auction there. The output of Ceylon tea is much below the estimate, and lower prices are not expected for some time. Stocks of Ceylon teas in first hands on the Toronto market are light. There has been some business doing . Ceylon teas at from 13c to 13 1-2c, 15c to 16 1-2c and 20c.

D. Stewart is starting a cheese factory near Rosenfeld, Man.