

LOWER COSTS TO Record Volume RATE REDUCTION

RATE REDUCTION MAY AID TRADE

By L. S. McKenna
Special Correspondent of The Journal.
St. Paul, Minn., May 13.—Action
of the ninth district federal reserve
directors in just reducing the dis-
count rate from 7 to 6½ per cent is
expected to impart a better tone to
business, and further advance the
Northwest in its readjustment to a
pre-war basis. The rate on agricul-
tural paper will be reduced as well
as that on commercial paper.

The directors decided on the reduction after a lengthy meeting. Some of the directors, it is said, opposed the reduction, asserting that the conditions of the market had not changed enough to warrant such action. The lower rediscount rate will not mean that more credit will be available to country banks as well as commercial banks, but it will result in lowering the commercial interest rate in New York and New Orleans, which is now 7 1/2 per cent.

Retail and wholesale business and the unemployment question in St. Paul and Minneapolis continue about the same as in the rest of the country. Retail stores are carrying small stocks as a result of another

Wholesalers see some improvement in trade. Many of the larger houses and a majority of the local shoe factories are sending their men out on the road again. This would seem to indicate that these merchants see a steady improvement. Crop conditions in the Northwest are better than they were at this time a year ago. Several surveys made within the past 10 days show that the farmers are planting more wheat acreage and abandoning flax growing.

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