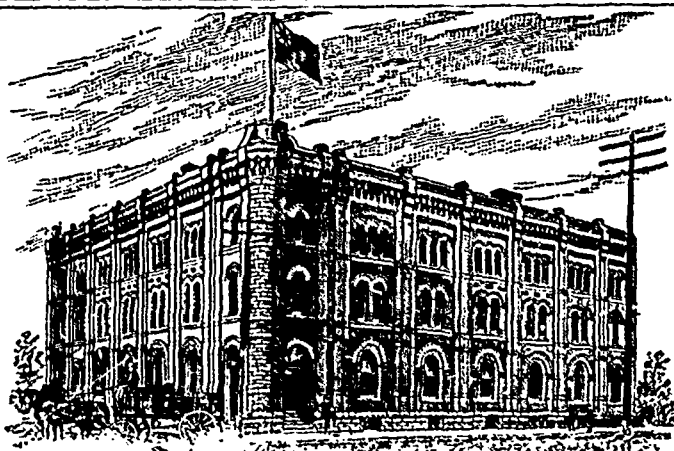


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It is not generally known that gold is one of the products of the prairies, though washing for gold has been carried on on the North Saskatchewan river for years. The *Edmonton Bulletin* says: It is estimated that last season between \$15,000 and \$20,000 worth of gold dust was taken from the Saskatchewan, of which about \$6,000 was taken from the immediate vicinity of Fort Saskatchewan. Several hundred dollars also were taken from the Macleod river, a tributary of the Athabasca, about 125 miles west of Edmonton, on the trail to Jasper House. The gold of Macleod is in even lighter flakes and is of lighter yellow color than the gold of the Saskatchewan. The skimmings of its bars are fairly rich but it does not promise as permanent diggings as the Saskatchewan.

THE third session of the seventh Legislature of Manitoba closed on Monday last. About 80 measures were formally accented to by the Governor, including the bill doing away with separate schools and the official use of the French language. The two bills entitled "an act respecting sales of land for taxes," and "an act affecting arrears of taxes in the city of Winnipeg," were held over by the Governor for reference to Ottawa. The session will be remembered as one of the most if not the most important in the history of Manitoba. Certainly in point of radical legislation, it has been the most important epoch since Manitoba became a province. The abolition of sectarian schools, the dual language system, church exemptions, and denominational holidays, make quite an imposing record in the line of radical legislation for one session.

THE resignation of Hon. Joseph Martin, Attorney-General of Manitoba, which was made public last week, occasioned general surprise. It was followed by many rumors of a more or less contradictory nature, regarding alleged disturbances in the cabinet, and reports that further changes in the political situation would follow. These statements as a rule, however, may be set down as mere speculation. Mr. Martingives as his reason for resigning, that his business requires his entire attention. Mr. Martin has been considered really the head and front of the present Government. The

radical legislation of the recent session of the House is attributed to him. He has certainly shown great energy and determination in pushing the important measures which came before the House this session, and his resignation immediately after the closing of the House, comes as a surprise. It hardly seems probable that a man of his energy and combativeness would desire to willingly give up public life so quickly, hence the disposition to look for some other reason as an incentive to such an act. Further developments in political circles will be awaited with interest.

A LETTER signed "Fair Play," which recently appeared in a local paper, gives the merchants a pointer or two which they would do well to put in their pipes and smoke. "Fair Play" deals with the exemptions allowed farmers in Manitoba, which he thinks cannot be such a bad thing, in comparison with the custom among merchants of assigning or compromising. He says: "The farmer tries to pay one hundred cents on the dollar, which is more than the retailers do, with their bankrupt act, which gives them the privilege to pay twenty-five cents on the dollar. Now, who is the more honorable, the retailers or the farmers." "Fair Play" further wants to know why farmers cannot assign or compromise at 50 cents on the dollar, and have all claims against them wiped out. Here is something for the merchants to think over. We leave it with them.

THE farmers of a district near Minnedosa have organized a grange, and they propose buying their goods in quantities in Winnipeg, instead of patronizing the local merchants. The report of the first meeting says that several hundred dollars' worth of orders were given to the secretary. This is a free country, and the farmers have a perfect right to organize and buy goods where and from whom they please. They will, however, be obliged to pay cash for goods obtained on the combination principle. The farmers of the Minnedosa district probably owe the merchants of that place not less than \$50,000. A recent failure in that town was due to book debts outstanding to the amount of about \$12,000, which it is claimed cannot be collected on account of poor crops. Now, if

the farmers can organize and pay cash for goods purchased away from home, they should be able to pay up their store bills. The merchants of Minnedosa have bought the butter and other produce of the farmers during the past year, and as a rule have paid more for butter than they can sell it for, and now the farmers talk of sending their orders away for goods. They are bound by principles of honor to pay up their store bills first, if they have any money to spare. Any farmer who sends cash away for goods and then asks for credit from the local dealer, should be refused any accommodation whatever. This point is worth while being taken into consideration by the local dealers. The farmers of Manitoba are certainly under obligations to the local merchants who have supplied them with the necessities of life during close seasons, but their efforts evidently have not always been appreciated, judging from the proposals of the Minnedosa farmers.

THE farce is to be continued. The recent changes in the duties are of a very important nature, and practically amount to a revision of the tariff, but evidently not a revision in favor of the consumers. Additional burdens are imposed upon the West by the changes. Not content with the discrimination which formerly existed against the West, our burdens have been further increased. The most important changes affecting the West are in fruits, which are again made dutiable at the rate of 40 cents per barrel on apples, 3 cents per pound on berries, the weight of the package to be included, 30 cents per bushel on plums, cranberries and quinces, 1 cent per quart on cherries and currants, and 1 cent per pound on peaches. The increase of one cent per pound in the duties on fruits will also affect the West very materially. A very general dissatisfaction has been expressed with the changes from other parts of Canada, and it is to be hoped that it may prove the last straw to the burden which the people have been forced to bear, and that they will arouse themselves and shake it off.

A. CARSON, saddler, Calgary, has formed a partnership with T. Shore, from Ottawa, Ont., and the Calgary business will hereafter be continued by Carson & Shore.

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