

Correspondence.

WINNIPEG.

To the Editor of the Monetary Times :

Just sixteen years since, Winnipeg was a mere hamlet of 215 inhabitants. What do we find now? A city of some 30,000 inhabitants with the surroundings of civilization which cannot be surpassed, taking the short period of its existence into consideration, by any city on the globe. What was pronounced, a few years ago, an uninhabitable desert is now one of the most progressive and prosperous portions of this Dominion. Such a well organized fire brigade as this city has; such a fine police force, telephone, electric light, every modern appliance.

And then the main street! The like is not to be found in the Dominion, to my thinking; and the business blocks of wholesale dealers in dry goods, groceries, hardware &c. would be an ornament to any city. One of the largest and most conspicuous of these is the immense block of the Hudson's Bay Company. The stock in which cannot be less than \$150,000.

The growth of Winnipeg's trade, like that in most new countries, has been, perhaps, fluctuating, nevertheless there has been a steady advancement in every direction, keeping pace with the extension of its boundaries. At the time of the commencement of its development mentioned above, there were only sixteen trading establishments outside of the Hudson's Bay post. Now there are some eighty-seven houses in Winnipeg, doing more or less of a wholesale or jobbing business. The leading firms in dry goods, ready-made clothing, groceries and hardware have fine shops scattered over the best parts of the city, and the business this year, although in quantity, it does not exceed some of the past years, is better than the two preceding years, and is on a much firmer basis. Owing to the inferior quality of the grain harvested last year, money is a little tight, yet fair collections are being made, and the present prospects of a bountiful harvest give a buoyant tone to the hopes for the future.

According to the statistical report of the Board of Trade the wholesale business foots up some \$13,848,075, and the retail trade to \$5,500,000 for last year.

In former years the land around the city was held, for the most part, by speculators. This has been a serious drawback to the rapid settlement of the province contiguous to the city. Now, however, this is being overcome, for the best lands can be had for from \$3 to \$6 per acre. The many privileges a settler has in being contiguous to such a large city as Winnipeg, deserve consideration. Also, again quoting from the report of the Board of Trade, I find that this city sent out 2,220,000 bushels of wheat at a value of \$1,422,690; oats 110,500 bushels, at a value of \$42,230. The exports of barley, peas and other grains reach an aggregate value of \$49,200 and the year's export of flour 210,765 bags, valued at \$416,000 while in oatmeal, bran, shorts and other grain products \$85,000. Miscellaneous products, such as linseed oil, oil cake, potatoes, butter, hides, furs and fish approximate \$165,000.

The milling establishments, although not so large as some, are equal to anything else of the kind, so far as new machinery is concerned, in the Dominion. The large flouring mill of the Ogilvie Milling Co. turns out from 880 to 900 barrels per day when in full operation. It is well built and contains five floors, with 38 rollers besides the ordinary stones for middlings. Two other mills in the city turn out some 350 barrels daily. At present there is not a very brisk local demand for flour, and the full capacity is not reached. Mr. Stephen Nairn has a well-built oatmeal mill, most of the product of which goes to Montreal. Farm machinery is represented by some of the best manufacturers of the Dominion, and the business generally is in a prosperous condition. So is the trade in wagons and carriages. Mr. VanAllen, of the Chatham Manufacturing Co., informs me the entire stock was sold last year and that they have already sold some 300 this year, besides a number of carriages. E. T. Hutchins, in addition to his wholesale saddlery hardware business, gives employment to 30 hands making harness and saddles.

There is a good deal of iron ore in this vicinity—millions of tons it is said—and principally situated on Big Island, Lake Winnipeg. The secretary of one of the companies, Mr. Proud-

foot, says it has the fluxing material inherent in the ore, saving immensely the cost of production. New furnaces are about to be erected at Selkirk, and I hear that others are being erected at Fargo.

The newspaper press of the city is in keeping with general advancement of the country. I read last Monday morning in the *Free Press* at 6.30 a.m., a sermon preached by Talmage in New York eighteen hours previously, and mind this was a verbatim report. Beat that if you can for enterprise. The *Manitoban* and *Sun* are also abreast of the times and are both live papers. There is also a very excellent and spirited journal, *The Commercial*, which is well patronized. E. J. Stanton & Co. have a complete engraving and lithographing establishment, and J. G. Woodland & Co. and R. D. Richardson's job printing departments any city would be proud to possess.

I must not forget to mention the many fine public and private buildings erected and in process of erection, especially noticeable are the houses of parliament and offices, the court house, town hall and the new post-office just being finished. It is computed that \$500,000 worth of new buildings will be erected this summer.

I saw the old Greek aphorism, "Knowledge is Power," in conspicuous letters in the very excellent provincial library under the charge of Mr. J. P. Robertson, as librarian, who gives evidence that the aphorism is even demonstrated with greater clearness than it was two thousand years ago.

THOS. GORDON OLIVER.

Winnipeg, 11th June, 1886.

—Regarding the state of trade in the U. S., the *N. Y. Shipping List* says: That a feeling of confidence is steadily strengthening is plainly indicated by the active demand that exists for all first-class railroad mortgages and regular dividend paying stocks, the steadiness with which mercantile values are maintained, the absence of fresh labor disturbances, the normal relations subsisting between supply and demand with respect to manufactured commodities, and the cheering prospects of a good harvest.

—The *Iron Trade Review* learns that preparations are under way for the experiment of using natural gas in melting pig iron in a cupola newly invented by a Pittsburger. If the experiment is a success it will be taken as a proof that natural gas can also be used in the smelting of ore in blast furnaces.

—"How much is these raisins wuth?" asked a farmer as he dipped into the box for a sample. "Five cents," said the grocer. "Five cents for how many—a pound?" "No, for those you've got in your hand."—*N. Y. Times*.

—The man who can say "no" is better equipped for the battle of life than if he had a college education.—*Philadelphia Call*.

Commercial.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

MONTREAL, June 23rd, 1886.

The trade movement is maintained at about the same level as the last fortnight, and is fairly active for the season. Retail business in country and city seems of a satisfactory character, and collections are good as a whole. Some houses report a noticeable and growing disposition on the part of retail men to avail themselves of cash discounts, and in this commendable course they are likely to receive every encouragement at the hands of the wholesale trade. The share market still rules very dull and without special feature. Crops look well pretty generally, though in the case of hay, a staple crop in this Province, indications are not so favorable as a few weeks ago, owing to a want of warm weather at the proper time to bring on the growth.

ASHES.—Pots are in fair demand and the market rules stronger; prices in first hands are \$3.45 to \$3.50, though sales of small lots have taken place at better figures; second pots \$3.20. Last sales of pearls—of which very few are coming in—were at \$5.25 for firsts, \$4.25 for seconds. Receipts are light.

CEMENTS, FIRECLAY, &c.—Considerable lots of cements are moving at \$3 for small lots of Portland, \$2.75 in quantity; Roman \$2.75; Canadian \$1.75; fireclay \$2 a bag; bricks \$22 to \$25 per thousand.

DRY GOODS.—The main feature in this line is the excitement in woollens, the advance noted last week being confirmed. All European advices say that the market is much excited and unsettled; all classes of goods made from the finer wools are held at markedly higher prices, and many manufacturers decline to book orders for future delivery.

Respecting grey flannel, the paragraph in this column last week was open to the construction that all Canadian grey flannels were lowered in price. This is not the case. One mill, it is true, reduced its price, even in face of enhanced cost of foreign wools which are used for such goods. Another mill refuses to admit any reduction in price on its goods, which it maintains to be of better quality and value than those reduced. One or two manufacturers, in order to meet the market, did reduce their prices on orders already taken; but refuse to take orders not already booked for grey flannels, which must advance.

Wholesale trade is quiet, the business of the moment being the preparation of samples, &c., for the fall campaign, which will begin in course of a fortnight or so. City retailers are busy, the fine summer weather and the purposed celebration of the fete of "Corpus Christi" next Sunday makes sales brisk.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.—Business while quieter than a few weeks ago, shows a very fair movement for the season. Carbolic acid is firmer at the marked advance noted last week; cubebs have advanced nearly 50 per cent., being now quoted at \$1.50 per lb.; citric acid stiffer if anything; quinine dull and flat, and prices pretty much nominal. We quote:—Sal Soda, \$1.00 to \$1.10 Bi-Carb Soda, \$2.50 to \$2.60; Soda Ash, per 100 lbs., \$1.65 to \$1.75; Bichromate of Potash, per 100 lbs., \$8.00 to \$9.00; Borax, refined, 9 to 10c.; Cream Tartar crystals, 31 to 33c.; do. ground, 35 to 36c.; Tartaric Acid crystals, 60 to 65c.; do. powder, 65 to 70c.; Citric Acid 85 to 90c.; Caustic Soda, white \$2.40 to \$2.60; Sugar of Lead, 9 to 11c.; Bleaching Powder, \$2.00 to \$2.50, according to lot; Alum, \$1.60 to \$1.75; Copperas, per 100 lbs., \$1.00; Flowers Sulphur, per 100 lbs., \$2.75 to \$3.00; Roll Sulphur, \$2.00; Sulphate of Copper, \$4.50 to \$5.00; Epsom Salts \$1.25 to \$1.40; Saltpetre, \$9.00 to \$9.50; German Quinine, 80 to 85c.; American do., 90 to \$1.00; Howard's quinine, 90c. to \$1.00; Opium, \$3.50 to \$4.20; Morphia \$1.75 to \$1.90; Gum Arabic sorts, 50 to 60c.; White 75 to \$1.00; Carbolic acid, 45 to 60c.; Iodide Potassium, \$3.75 to \$4.25 per lb.; Iodine, \$5.00 to \$5.50; Iodoform, \$6.50 to \$7.50. Prices for essential oils are: Oil lemon \$2.00 to \$3.50; oil bergamot \$3.50 to \$4; Orange, \$3.50 to \$4.00.

FURS.—Receipts of raw furs are now almost nil, and the season is virtually over. Prices are unchanged and not likely to be subject to any change till September, though results of Lampton's sales in London on the 23rd and 24th inst., will be looked for with interest. We quote:—Beaver, clean \$2.75 to \$3.25; Bear, per skin, \$10.00 to \$12.00; Bear, cub, per skin, \$5.00 to \$6.00; Fisher, per skin, \$4.00 to \$5.00; Red fox, per skin, 90 to \$1.15; Fox, cross, per skin, \$2.50 to \$5; Lynx, per skin, \$2.75 to \$3.25; Marten, per skin, 90 to \$1.15; Mink, per skin, 75 to \$1; Muskrat, large winter, 10 to 12c.; spring do., 15 to 17c.; Otter, per skin, \$8 to \$10.00; Raccoon, per skin, 50 to 60c.; Skunk,

GROCERIES.—The noteworthy feature of the week is the activity and advance in sugars. Yellows have advanced 3-16ths since Saturday in three distinct rises, and 5½ is now lowest figure; granulated is quoted 6½ to 6¾c. at refinery according to lot, and makers report trade for past week as the heaviest ever done by them. New Barbadoes molasses is easier at 30 to 32c., old a cent less. Trinidad 28 to 29c. There is a more general enquiry for teas, but stocks are ample, and prices for Japans are unchanged. Lower grade blacks are slightly easier in London. Rice inclined to be firmer owing to advance at home, and good demand locally. Valencia raisins are a little easier at 8 to 8½c., Elemes 7 to 9c. according to grade; currants 7c. No quotation for new sardines yet, new lobsters quoted at \$5.25 to \$5.40 net; canned salmon scarce and wanted, price \$1.35 per dozen.

LEATHER AND SHOES.—All shoe manufacturers are not fully into the fall cut yet, but they