

Manitoba.

Keelo & Birby have opened a harness shop at Holmfield.

Fred Stratford has opened a grocery and confectionery store at Minto.

J. B. Pollard has bought out the tailoring business of W. Barrand at Dauphin.

The C. P. R. land department, Winnipeg, is moving to new quarters in the Forum block.

Fire damaged the dry goods store of J. Udow on Main street north, Winnipeg, on Tuesday.

Nares & Robinson, real estate and financial agents, Winnipeg, have taken in G. M. Black as a partner.

J. Lewis has started a weekly paper, The Expositor, at West Selkirk. This makes three weekly papers in that town.

F. J. G. McArthur, of Munson & Allan's law office, Winnipeg, has purchased the law business of the late Frank A. Brown, of Carman.

The Lac du Bonnet Mining and Development Company is asking the government for additional powers to those which it already possesses.

The partnership heretofore existing between Geo. W. Cowan and W. W. Colledge, music dealers, Winnipeg, has been dissolved, Cowan retiring.

The grocery store of W. J. Smith, corner King and Logan streets, Winnipeg, was damaged by fire early on Tuesday morning. A defective furnace caused the blaze.

The stock of McLeod & Rothwell, general merchants, Portage la Prairie, will be sold by auction on January 15, by the mortgagee. The stock and fixtures are valued at \$5373.72.

Nixon & Waugh, agents for the Commercial Union Fire Assurance Company, Winnipeg, are dissolving partnership. J. C. Waugh, continues the business. F. J. Nixon will move to Vancouver.

The Winnipeg school board have under consideration the erection of two more schools. By-laws to permit the raising of the necessary funds will be submitted to the ratepayers shortly.

Application for incorporation is being made by the Stuart-Arbutnot Machinery Company, limited, to take over the business of Stuart & Harper. John Arbutnot, lumber dealer, is the new member of the firm.

Herbert Boyd, of London, Ont., who is leaving that city to open business in Winnipeg as manufacturers' agent in crockery lines, was the recipient recently of a handsome present and engaged address, from his London friends.

Assinibola.

McKenzie Bros. have opened a grocery and flour and food store at Moose Jaw.

Alberta.

Franklin & Stevenson have bought out the butchering business of Maunsell Bros., at Macleod.

Northwest Ontario.

The Commercial Dock Company of Rat Portage, Limited, with a share capital of \$10,000, has been incorporated.

The Keewatin Lumber and Manufacturing Company, Keewatin, are rebuilding their mill dam and putting in a new and larger water wheel. They will also before spring replace one of their circular saws with a band saw.

FINANCIAL

WINNIPEG CLEARING HOUSE.

The Winnipeg Clearing House was organized on December 4, 1893. The first day's business showed clearings of \$183,331. Each year since then has shown a considerable increase over the previous one in the aggregate clearings. Following shows the clearings for each year since the establishment of the Winnipeg Clearing House:

1894	...	\$ 30,510,647
1895	...	55,873,630
1896	...	64,146,438
1897	...	51,435,332
1898	...	90,674,325
1899	...	107,786,314

BANK TRIALS.

Montreal, Jan. 3.—The trial of Lemieux, the accountant charged with stealing two sums of \$173,000 and \$21,000, was continued to-day and the evidence dealt largely with the appearance of James Baxter in the bank accounts. When the defalcation of \$21,000 was taken up, Weir, the late president testified that Lemieux offered \$26,000 in *Bag Des Chaleurs* railway notes, which were obtained from Baxter. Weir said the account was opened under the name of "W. Weir, special" and he was debited with \$21,000 and gave his own check for the sum, the balance of \$5,000 was carried to profit and loss.

Weir gave evasive answers when asked what he thought of Lemieux, with a small salary, being able to get \$26,000 in notes from Baxter. He admitted the firm of W. Weir and Sons, bankers, of which he was a member, constantly had their account overdrawn, the over draft running to \$51,000 on Jan. 1, 1898, and also on February, 7, 1898, but said the account was good, that the firm paid large interest and that when the bank had money he was glad to let the firm have it.

WINNIPEG BANK CLEARINGS.

Returns from the Winnipeg Clearing House for the week ending January 4th, show as follows:

Week ending Jan. 4, 1900	\$2,907,812
Corresponding week, 1899	2,695,818
Corresponding week, 1898	1,761,077

The monthly totals for this year and last are as follows:

	1899.	1898.
January	\$7,683,052	\$6,347,168
February	6,209,471	5,517,000
March	6,756,094	5,968,000
April	6,916,431	5,240,000
May	7,472,855	6,683,364
June	8,211,716	7,396,799
July	8,169,595	6,316,238
August	7,995,291	6,180,385
September	8,281,159	6,414,551
October	12,689,000	9,347,692
November	14,435,213	11,553,669
December	12,966,905	10,708,731

Totals... \$107,786,314 \$90,674,325

FINANCIAL NOTES.

Share values showed steady improvement in the Montreal market last week and there is a feeling that the recent panic will not repeat itself.

The report of the transactions of the Dominion Government Savings bank, at Winnipeg, for the month ending Dec. 31, was as follows: Withdrawals, \$24,559.77; deposits exceeded withdrawals by \$8,726.23.

Further developments have transpired in the Ville Marie bank failure affair at Montreal by the arrest of Jas. J. Herbert, the bank's teller, Jas. Baxter, a well known broker of Montreal, has also been arrested in the same connection. Herbert is charged with theft, and Baxter with assisting him to evade arrest.

INSURANCE MATTERS.**WHAT IS A BILLION?**

Dear Sir,—I was very much elated when I read in the *Hayville "Banner"* of May 23, that the G. O. M. had a billion of insurance in force.

Mrs. Amicus asked at once, "What is a billion?" and I found upon investigation that there are billions and there are billions and that they differ materially.

The reason that people don't know what a billion is results from the fact that there is no general use for the figure.

Croesus knew nothing about billions; in fact, up to the seventeenth century the word was unknown.

It was not until a Dutchman settled in New Jersey and began to compute the number of mosquitoes that were in his back garden that the need of "billion" was made apparent.

The Franco-Prussian war brought the figure into use when the French were required to settle up, but I think since then nothing has been heard of billion until The Mutual Life, on May 23, set forth the amount of insurance in force on March 31, 1899, \$1,000,831,233.

That is a thousand millions. In England, however, a billion is \$1,000,000,000,000, and that is a sum we do not care to bother with in *Hayville*.

It does give one an idea, however, of the immensity of a billion when we find two nations differing so widely in a statement of what the "demillion total" really is.

There is a fine opportunity for the professional statistician to show how nearly to the moon a line of dollar bills would go representing the insurance in force in The Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York; how many horses and carts would be required to move a billion of silver or gold dollars around, and how long it would take a man to count the dollars, working under the new State law, making eight hours a day's work.

I like to regard it in the light of a great fund for the protection of the people of this country. Just think what that sum represents, taking it according to the American formula—the amount of comfort, education, ease, if you will, that a billion of dollars represents.

How many tears, disappointments, heartaches; how much toil, grief, joy, mirth, that same billion encompasses.

Who will get that billion? I have arranged for my family to get a share of the fund. What have you done?—Amicus, in the "Weekly Statement."

INSURANCE NOTES.

The town of Dauphin is purchasing a fire engine and other apparatus for fire protection.

The new rates, adopted by the Canadian life companies, as explained in a recent issue of The Commercial, went into effect on January 1.

At the annual meeting of the Winnipeg board of underwriters held on Thursday, H. N. Lambert was appointed president and Robt. Strang vice-president for the year 1900.