

**Holiday Trade.**

An enormous holiday trade has been done by retail merchants throughout Manitoba and the Territories this season. Winnipeg merchants report a splendid business, in most cases that far exceeding previous years.

Following are reports from some provincial points which indicate the situation throughout the country generally.

**Glengoro, Dec. 25.**—As compared with last fall this fall's business shows a most gratifying increase. The volume of trade being at least double. The merchants are rushed to their full capacity and there is a general air of prosperity in the town. A very pleasing feature is the manner in which outstanding debts from last year are being collected. The collections of the Massey-Harris Co. in the Union Bank, the mill and other firms must be very considerable, although in some cases extreme measures have been necessary to force settlements, however, form a valuable object lesson to those of our people who have been somewhat careless in contracting, debtors and creditors and other business men. There is no doubt that in future farmers' purchases, and increased prosperity is bound to follow. Taken altogether, the holiday year has been viewed by a business man's point of view, very satisfactory.

**Holland, Dec. 25.**—The Christmas trade has been exceedingly brisk this season, more so than any year since the inception of trade here. Merchants have been kept very busy with an increased force, and the very heavy fall and Christmas stocks have been rapidly reduced. Machine men and lumber dealers have experienced a wave of prosperity. The oldest business man in town says: "This year is a record-breaker." Good crops, good prices and last year's general depression is the direct cause of the present brisk trade. The town and country are in a good healthy financial condition, and the people enjoying God's blessings as best they can. Many residents have come here and will make excellent immigration agents for next year's influx.

**Carman, Dec. 25.**—Merchants are well satisfied with this season's trade. Since harvest the business has been ready and good, improvement over former years. A better class of goods being asked for and the average cash trade far more satisfactory than former years. Considerable grain was loaded on the cars by farmers this year, thereby setting the farmers from six to eight and sometimes as high as eleven cents per bushel more than was being paid on the elevator companies for wheat. There was no serious shortage of cars at this point.

**Regina, N. W. T., Dec. 25.**—This has undoubtedly been the most prosperous year in the history of the Northwest Territories. All Regina merchants are doing a larger business than has been done for a number of years. This is fully evidenced by the staff each merchant has put on, and is entirely due to the very bountiful harvest and good prices obtained by the farmers.

**Yorkton, N. W. T., Dec. 25.**—Merchants' sales here have been better than last year. The collections have never been better, many farmers being able to clear themselves of all obligations and debts. Almost every farmer is securing another piece of land and negotiating improvements. This is all due to the big yield and the good prices.

**Qu'Appelle, N. W. T., Dec. 25.**—Merchants report a very large Christmas trade this year. It is fully sixty per cent. over last year, and they say it would be more than double if the farmers had been able to complete threshing earlier. As it is, there is scarcity of money, but any quantity of grain to market. Threshing is not yet completed.

**Souris, Dec. 25.**—Christmas trade here has been very brisk, but merchants claim it would have been much better if the grain blockade had not come so early in the season. The banks have benefited as the demand for advances has been enormous. A large proportion of the wheat is still in the farmers' hands.

**Brandon, Dec. 25.**—The majority of the merchants in Brandon claim to have easily doubled their sales over last year on account of the big crop and the good prices obtained.

**Saltcoats, N. W. T., Dec. 25.**—Sales are far in advance of last year and the farmers are progressing very favorably in the district. Christmas is good all round.

**Morrien, Dec. 25.**—The Christmas trade has been brisk, but not as large as other years, but merchants are well satisfied.

**Rapid City, Dec. 25.**—Merchants claim their sales this year exceed that of last year seventy-five per cent. Medicine Hat merchants report sales this fall fully 25 per cent. better than last year on account of the good crops.

**Moore Jaw, N. W. T., Dec. 25.**—Leading merchants state there was little or no increase enjoyed on account of the heavy crop and higher grain prices this year as compared with last year. The large quantity of grain is yet in the farmers' hands. There is a net increase in the account and a larger variety in the lines carried. New firms are setting up in business and on the whole the increase will amount to probably fifteen or twenty per cent.

**Manitou, Man., Dec. 25.**—Christmas trade has been exceptionally good being about fifty per cent. better than last year. The farmers paid off all old debts and a large number have gone east as a result of the good crop and prices.

**Virden, Dec. 25.**—Merchants here all report a big increase in sales this year and are all satisfied.

**MEDICINE HAT.**

The Medicine Hat News, Christmas number, contains elaborate articles, illustrating the present position and prospects for the future of that Assiniboian town of salubrious name. Natural gas comes first in the writing. It is characterized as "Nature's gift to Medicine Hat," and the Hat is described as "The vantage point for Northwest manufacturing, and 'the municipal heating system.'" A list is published of between forty and fifty of the enterprising citizens of 1881 who were the originators of the natural gas development. The use of this gas at the waterworks power house is estimated to save the town ten dollars a day for fuel. A well has been put down at Purman's brick yards this summer, and the gas there is used for supplying power, heating a dry kiln, and burning brick. The town has voted \$25,000 for a natural gas system; contracts for three wells have been let, and about four miles of pipe will be laid so that any householder can get the gas for light and heat. The gas field, it is stated, has been proved

for forty miles, north and south, and seventy miles east and west.

An article which opens with the words "Medicine Hat is growing," states that \$121,000 had been spent on improvements in 1901. The town has spent during the year about \$10,000 in improvements and extensions to the waterworks system, and it is estimated that different citizens have spent \$10,000 in small improvements. Lanchers are believed to have spent \$25,000 in building.

During the year 1901, the Canadian Pacific Townsite company disposed of seventy-six town lots, at a figure of \$7,065, to persons who contemplate making homes.

**Stock Shipments.**

The stock business for the year 1901 in the Medicine Hat district, is regarded, taking it all through as in splendid condition. As compared with last year the exports of cattle have fallen off, while the exports of horses, sheep and wool have increased. The number of cattle and sheep required to supply the local market is increasing. Over 10,000 head of stocker cattle were put upon the ranges this season. The following figures are given from the report of Mr. Bray, stock inspector:

	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.
Medicine Hat West (State).....	12	12	12
Medicine Hat (Dunmore).....	12	4184	12
Med. Hat East (Dunmore).....	384	460	117
Wainch.....	14	1022	117

**EXPORTS.**

	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Wool (lbs.)
Med. Hat West.....	134	848	12	12
Medicine Hat.....	353	384	270	62750
Med. Hat East.....	100	2329	1408	10000
Wainch.....	32	573	2280	10000

**TOTAL IMPORTS.**

Horses.....	1237	head
Cattle.....	10568	head
Sheep.....	117	head

**TOTAL EXPORTS.**

Horses.....	799	head
Cattle.....	3821	head
Sheep.....	117	head
Wool.....	117,500	lbs.

**COMPARED WITH FORMER YEARS.**

	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Wool.
1890.....	102	1813	117	10000
1897.....	41	4131	5450	10000

1890..... 509 5458 504 10000  
1891..... 1002 5042 520 10000  
1900..... 100 4821 108 10000

Of the exported animals over 90 per cent. were exported for breeding purposes. Of the imports 86 pure bred bulls, 200 pure stallions and 117 sheep was brought in.

Another paragraph says "Medicine Hat is a sports town." It has a baseball club, golf club, tennis club, curling club, hockey club, and a curling association, football club, and a hockey club. Medicine Hat Lacrosse club this year defeated Calgary, Nelson, Grand Forks and Wolsley, won the championship of the Northwest, and held the trophy.

**Maple Creek.**

The stock shipments this year for Maple Creek were: Cattle, 430; Horses, 446. The numbers are being falling off from last year, some at the Medicine Hat district.

"The tide of prosperity sweeping over the west has not failed to reach Maple Creek. The town can boast of a fine valuation to real estate, the erection of new buildings and improvements amounting to \$20,000. The new buildings are mostly of brick and stone, and add to the architectural beauty of the town to no little degree. The corporation has not failed to do its duty as will be told by the neatly graded streets and well laid sidewalks."

**Liquor in Candy.**

Miss A. Miller, who was charged in Montreal with keeping for sale a bottle which contained brandy, was declared guilty. There was no penalty inflicted, nor any cost awarded as it was a first case. "The judge said that he considered the case clearly proved by the police and the evidence of Mr. M. Hersey, city assessor, and in his judgment the amount of alcohol in these candies was sufficient to have sustained the contention of the prosecution, and is quoted from authorities in support of the evidence. The danger was open to the fact that these candies are sold to young girls and boys and in honor commented on the fact that they were other stores where identical and similar confections were offered for sale. It alleged that candies containing alcohol had been twice manufactured and sold.

A box of "Jumbo" cigars, as fine a quality as great in size, was received by The Commercial, with the compliments of Thos. Lee, of the Western Cigar Factory.

# The Beautiful Snow

about which the poet sang is not more pleasing to the experienced observer than to enjoy-to-date Cnutts. The first thing needed to enliven the snow with comfort is a



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