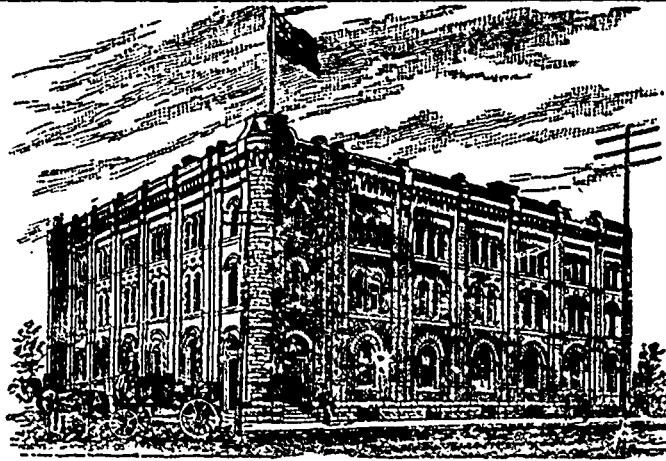


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The question of holding an industrial and agricultural exhibition in Winnipeg in September is beginning to crystallize, and hopes are running high as to the project being successfully carried out. The quantity of necessary funds to be raised by stock subscribed by citizens has been fixed, and the canvassers with requisitions for such stock are now out at work. Of course there can be no monopoly of stock secured by any clique, as no person can own more than \$10 worth of stock. On the 16th the vote of the rate-payers will be taken on the proposed aid from the city, and appearances indicate that this will be carried with but little opposition. The committee appointed to select a site have wisely decided not to fix upon any location until after the vote upon the city aid is taken, and thus sectional strife will be kept out of the contest. All the committees have been working with a right good will in the matter, and only those who have been engaged in it can comprehend the great amount of work which has been got through with. If work is carried on with such spirit all through the exhibition cannot fail to be a great success.

MOOSOMIN has added its experience to the fire record of Northwestern country towns, and the experience seems to differ very little from that of similar places which have suffered from heavy fires during the past two or three years. Early on the morning of Monday, the 7th instant, the fire broke out in a building which was being moved, and which was left for the night standing on the main street of the town where most of the business places are located. At that early hour the fire got a good start, and before it was extinguished it cut a swath down one side of the street in which half a dozen buildings were destroyed, and a loss of at least \$25,000 was incurred, less than half of which was covered by insurance. The loss would have been much greater, but the fire did not travel so quickly, but there was time for a crowd of volunteers to save much of the goods contained in some of the buildings destroyed. The fire has once more administered its lessons. Insurance was by far too light, although heavier in proportion to loss, than in most of the country town fires of late. Water was by far too

scarce and hard to get at, to enable the volunteer fire brigade to save what they otherwise might have saved, and in fact the preparation to fight fire were far short of what they ought to, and might be even in a new place like Moosomin. Some of the sufferers have received a rather expensive lesson.

CROP enthusiasm is once more rising to near boiling point in Manitoba, and the eastern press is beginning to publish glowing accounts of the prospect, most of which find their source from more or less unreliable authority, and even when but a little overcolored, have on their face evidences of being conclusions jumped at without having sufficient information to guide their framers. The crop situation near the close of last week stood pretty much as follows: The wheat and early oat and barley crops, never in the history of the province, looked more promising at this time of the year. The stand is thick everywhere, and the growth is rugged and healthy, up to date. Fears of continued hot, dry weather, were entertained, but should there be practically no more rain until harvest, a crop of a two-thirds average might be confidently expected, if no frost damage is encountered before harvest. It is almost certain, however, that we will have local showers all over the province, and if these are secured by the beginning of July, a full average yield will be realized if no frost comes before the end of August. With copious rains during this week and no fall frost to cause damage, a phenomenally large crop is certain. Frost is now the only source of serious damage to be feared. Root crops are still a little behind owing to late planting, but they have made rapid progress during the past ten days, and with a fair share of moisture during the next three weeks are likely to give about an average yield. The worst outlook is in connection with the hay crop, and unless good heavy rains fall during this week, the yield will be a very short one. Even with continued heavy rains for two weeks or more the yield would not be more than a good half crop, although quality would be very fine. Owing to the drought and prairie fires of the last two years the stand is thin, some heavy killing out having taken place. Should we have three weeks more of

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hot weather without rain, which is very unlikely, the shortness of yield would be such as to seriously inconvenience stock farmers. When it is known that the vast Boyne swamp, lying between the settlement on the west bank of the Red River and the Southwestern Manitoba country, is dry and without hay growth, some idea can be had of the unfavorable state of our hay crop.

### General Notes.

The total Inland Revenue returns, at the Port of Toronto, for the month of May was \$95,387.21.

Dealers in barley, at Oswego, are protesting against the passage of the McKinley bill as they say it will ruin the business at that city.

The amount of money collected at Montreal harbor, from the opening of navigation to the first of June by the customs department, was \$26,998.

At a meeting of the Drowry Brewing and Bottling Company, held at St. Paul, Minn., recently, Mr. E. Drowry was elected president, E. L. Drowry, Winnipeg, vice-president, and A. W. Drowry, sec.-treasurer.

Eastern dealers in eggs are very busy collecting and shipping all the eggs they can get, to the States, in anticipation of the passage of the McKinley Bill, which will impose a duty of 5c a dozen. This will be practically prohibitive. The trade in eggs with the United States last year amounted to \$2,156,725.

The United States Census office has made public the first results of the eleventh census in relation to State and local finance. The report shows that the principal of the State debts as the present time is \$228,679,817. This shows a net decrease in the total debt during the last ten years of \$54,459,484.

Letters patent have been issued by the Ontario Government incorporating the following companies: Office Files Manufacturing Company of Toronto (limited), with a capital of \$49,000; the Reliance Storage Battery Co., of Ontario (lim'd.), with a capital stock of \$400,000; and the Austin Manufacturing Company, of Toronto (limited), with a capital stock of \$50,000.