

## OUR WINNIPEG LETTER.

Perspiring humanity is breathing freer to-day. The wind has veered around to the north, and instead of a thermometer registering 90 in the shade, and the heat intensified by scorching south winds, as yesterday, the barometer is steadily falling, rain clouds are forming, and the first of the much-needed May rains will shortly be on us. The season in Manitoba is several weeks ahead of last year, but the warm bright weather such as we have experienced is somewhat of an uncertain blessing. It means a premature upgrowth of all cereals and garden stuff that the almost certain frosts in early May cut down, and leave us just where we started. This has been the experience this year, though no material damage has been done. Unfortunately the summer weather in Manitoba cannot be looked upon as assured till the middle of May, and oftentimes later. Did it but come earlier we would not then be so fearful of the dreaded August frosts.

From all parts of Manitoba and the North-West comes the assuring news of a vastly increased acreage under crop and the promise of a large and bountiful harvest. Manitobans are, if nothing else, a hopeful people; the reverses and hardships incidental to a new country, instead of creating despair, seem to inspire them with renewed confidence. A pleasing feature this year is the increased immigration, which is said to be nearly double that of last year. It is to be hoped that our legislators at Ottawa are at last awakening to the fact that Canada's future prosperity rests largely on the prosperity of this great North-West. Nature has done her best in portioning off to us a country of illimitable resources and fertility. The task rests with us to people it, and this can only be done by a broad, liberal immigration policy on the part of the Dominion authorities. The Canadian Pacific and Manitoba & North-Western Railways, with their liberal land grants, are showing good work this year, and the results of their labors have been most marked. It is the life of these corporations that their lands should be taken up as rapidly as possible, and if the Dominion Government would but display the same proportionate activity in the old world and elsewhere, we would soon near that era of prosperity which enthusiasts delighted to depict to us a few years back, with our teeming millions incidental to the construction of the railway across the continent, which would open up for settlement all our broad lands.

In viewing the past, many of the thoughtful ones are filled with discontent, with what might be termed a discontent of a very healthful nature. We see before us a country full of wonderful resources; the pride of possession is very marked in us, but we desire to share it. We want the "teeming millions," the more the merrier; for the prosperity of the country means the prosperity of each individual. Every able-bodied, willing settler is reputed to be worth a thousand dollars a year to the country. We do not care about accepting things as they are and to be told to go ahead slowly but surely; we feel that we ought to go ahead *fast* and "surely" as well. Many of your readers are doubtless as well acquainted with the situation of affairs up here as your correspondent, but a word about Winnipeg and I shall close. Active business operations of all kinds are rising out of the slough of winter, and trade generally is reported fair. Building permits of an extensive

and varied nature, much in excess of 1890, have already been granted. Prices of real estate are firm, and in advance of last year on all desirable property, both business and residential. The census shows an increase in our population of some 1,200 over this time twelve months. The "boom" days are pretty certainly over, and there is a feeling of confidence and substantiality in this young city such as is usually only experienced in much larger and older cities. In my next I will deal with other matters that might be of interest to your many readers.

Winnipeg, Man., May 8, 1891.

L. D.

## DAVID DYMOND'S DILEMMA.

THE TRIALS OF A DRY GOODS CLERK.

Mr. David Dymond is employed—or rather was employed until the other day—in the dress goods department in the big enterprising concern, "Yarndyed, Delaine & Plush." One day last week Dave had unfortunately allowed two customers to go out of the store without buying anything, and was warned by the floor-walker if he let another customer go without buying he would be reported. Shortly afterwards the shop-walker came up escorting a lady, and wearing one of his sweetest smiles, handed the lady a chair and said: "Mr. Dymond, show Mrs. Plumcheek the new dress goods."

Now, Mrs. Plumcheek is prominent in all the Christian guilds and associations, prison-gate missions, homes for curables—and incurables, orphans' homes and Magdalene asylums. A very good woman, by all accounts.

Mr. Dymond went carefully to work and showed the customer all the goods in his department. Some were found too light in texture, some were too light in shade; others were too dark or too heavy. None seemed to please. The salesman used all the eloquence at his command. He explained the advantage of yarn-dyed goods, the everlasting wear of merino wool, the beauty of French-dyed fabrics, &c. He talked about silk finish, in-grain colors and delicate tints, novel textures, latest patterns; but it was no use, Mrs. Plumcheek said, with a smile, "the goods don't suit," and left the establishment.

After Mr. Dymond had cleared away the wreck, he was, according to the floor-walker's threat, sent for to the office, was paid his money and left the place. It was with a heavy heart he went home to his young wife and child. He told them there would be no excursions for them that summer; he had lost his job and did not know where to get another. Dave's was a sad little home that night.

The same evening Mrs. Plumcheek, dear lady, attended the meeting of the "Young Woman's Christian Endeavor To-get-in-at-the-narrow-gate Association." She warned her dear sisters against pride in dress. She said: "Dear friends, 'take no thought as to what you shall eat or what you shall wear.' Beware of pride. Try and do good. Every day of your lives try to make some one happy; then when you lie down at night you will enjoy a sweet, quiet rest, knowing that you have done a Christian duty."

When Dave read the account of this loving address in next evening's paper, he pulled hard at his pipe. "Pride in dress! make somebody happy every day! Consider the lilies! \* \* Great heavens! Mrs. Plumcheek, if you only knew! \* \* Oh dear, what a kaleidoscope this life is!"

## FACTORY NOTES.

It is stated that the Cape Breton collieries, with the exception of two, have booked all the orders they are capable of filling this season, and those two have received sufficient to keep them going steadily, if not with a rush.

During the past week the Strathroy Manufacturing Company are said to have shipped to various points 28,000 rakes, 16,000 snaths, 5,000 horse pokes, 2,000 curtain poles, 15,000 fork and other handles, besides upwards of a million of chisel and other handles, and still the orders are coming in.

A metallurgical authority gives it as his opinion that the reason why steel will not weld as readily as wrought iron is that it is not partially composed of cinder, as seems to be the case with wrought iron, which assists in forming a fusible alloy with the scale of oxidation formed on the surface of the iron in the furnace.—*Glasgow Engineer.*

At the time of the passing of the McKinley Tariff Law by the United States, very gloomy anticipations were indulged in as to its probable injurious effects on particular branches of the linen trade, as carried on in Lurgan, and other towns in Ulster. But in the opinion of the *Mercantile Guardian*, the operation of the McKinley Act has not been as detrimental to the prospering of the linen trade in the north of Ireland as was expected. At any rate Lurgan does not seem to feel it, for the linen business in Lurgan is in a condition of very healthy activity. In almost every department of the trade—in the weaving, veining, and hem-stitching branches—there is a general demand for additional workers.

To insure absolute safety, the Inman Steamship Company has had fitted to the engines of its steamers a contrivance which automatically stops the engines if they go beyond their normal speed. A test of this appliance was made, and when the engines of the "City of Paris" had attained a rate of speed agreed on previously, the checking apparatus quickly and effectively did the work claimed for it.

It appears that the humorous editor of the *Bobcaygeon Independent* has been immortalizing a Port Hope inventor and manufacturer, after this fashion: "It is at this period of the year that the engineer's thoughts sorely turn to remembrances of heated axles, hot boxes, and such, and he sadly wonders if a heated axle can make life in *this* world so unbearable, how must it be in the hereafter? The engineer who is worried just now about hot boxes, has not tried Spooner's Copperine, otherwise he would be wondering why earth should be unhappy while heaven leaves us youth and love, and Spooner gives us Copperine. Yes, sir. Copperine is the material that cheers the heart of the engineer, and enables him to view the depredations of his neighbor's hens, the children's measles, the visit of his wife's mother, and all the smaller troubles of life, with a sweet, calm and placid unconcern." What is Copperine, any way? And Mr. Smiff replies: "It is a non fibrous, anti-friction metal, soft, tough, and a good retainer of oil. That is what Copperine is." And he adds, with poetic license: "It is easily melted, will flow through an eighth of an inch hole like soap suds down a sewer, and retains oil like a lump of putty."

The business of Messrs. McCrea & Co., of Guelph, woollen manufacturers, has been transferred to the Guelph Woollen Mills Company, (limited), formed to carry on the business. The capital stock is \$100,000. The members of the company are: David McCrea, John