

# O'LOUGHLIN BROS. & CO.,

## HEADQUARTERS IN WINNIPEG

# FOR CHRISTMAS GOODS.

Travellers now on the road. Mail Orders Carefully and Promptly Executed.

Wholesale Paper, Stationery and General Jobbers,  
AND STEAM PRINTERS.

134 and 136 Second Avenue North, WINNIPEG, MAN.

### Growth of the Great West.

The Mississippi river has 600 affluents whose courses are marked upon the map, and a drainage area of 1,257,545 square miles. The traveller, embarking upon a steamboat, can sail from Pittsburgh, 4300 miles, to Fort Benton, Mont., and from Minneapolis, 2200 miles, to Port Eads, on the Gulf of Mexico. Should he choose to extend his voyage to the head of navigation upon its forty-five navigable tributaries, his outward journey would exceed 16,000 miles, through 23 States and Territories of the Union.

This stupendous water system is equivalent to a land locked harbor, an estuary, or an arm of the sea, penetrating into the North American continent farther than from New York to Liverpool, with a coast line of 32,000 miles, having hundreds of populous towns and cities, and innumerable ports and havens, from which the agricultural and manufactured products of one-third of the arable surface of the United States can be shipped to all parts of the globe. The territory which it drains is considerably larger than central Europe. Lying wholly in the temperate zone, equally removed from the languors of the tropics and the rigors of the pole, its climate favorable to health and longevity, its calcareous soil adapted to every variety of agriculture, it is the region where the elements of prosperity are most abundant and stable, and the conditions of happiness most permanent and secure, among the habitations of men.

One hundred years ago, the pioneers from New England, the advance guard of the great column of Anglo-Saxon immigration that has during the interval marched to the Pacific, abolishing the frontier and conquering the desert, descended the western slopes of the Alleghenies into the valley of the Ohio and disappeared into its solitudes. Chicago, Cincinnati and St. Louis were outposts of civilization, exposed to the brand and the tomahawk. A few log huts, trading stations and mission-houses were scattered along the crumbling banks of the rivers and in the profound depths of the forests. There were neither highways nor public conveyances, commerce, agriculture nor manufactures; no schools, churches nor society; nothing but nature and its vicissitudes, the savage and his prey. From that unsurveyed wilderness, in less than a century, 21 States have been admitted into the Union, having an area of 800,000,000 acres, a population of more than 33,000,000, and wealth beyond measurement or computation. Sparsely inhabited, with rude and unscientific methods, its resources hardly touched, the States of the Mississippi Valley last year produced more than three-quarters of the sugar, coal, corn, iron, oats, wheat, cotton, tobacco, lead, hay, lumber, wool, pork, beef, horses and mules, of the entire country, together with a large fraction of its gold and silver. Their internal commerce is already greater than all the foreign com-

merce of the combined nations of the earth.

China supports 400,000,000 people upon an area smaller and less fertile. The civilization of Egypt, whose monuments have for 40 centuries excited the awe and admiration of mankind, was nourished by the cultivation of less than 10,000 square miles, in the narrow valley and delta of the Nile. The delta of the Rhine, and the adjacent lands reclaimed from the Zuyder Zee, less than 15,000 square miles, have long sustained the United Kingdom of the Netherlands, and given to a dense population wealth, comfort and contentment. The delta of the Mississippi, below its junction with the Ohio, richer than the Nile or the Rhine, exceeds the combined area of Holland and Egypt, and is destined, under the stimulus of free labor and the incentives of self-government, to build a fabric of society more opulent and enduring. Add to this the inexhaustible alluvion of the streams above, and the fertile prairies from which they descend, and the arithmetic of the past has no logarithms with which to compute the problems of the economic and commercial future of the west. It will be predominant in the development, not of this country alone, but of the hemisphere, and will give direction to the destinies of the human race.

When the first furrow was broken on the prairies of Illinois, there was not an iron ploughshare in the world. Men are yet living who might have seen the first steamboat on western waters, on her trial trip from Pittsburgh, in 1811, and who were in active life when the first passenger rode in a railway train, and the first telegraphic despatch was sent. The early settlers of Missouri had to depend on flint and tinder for fire. Most of the inventions in machinery, nearly all the appliances for comfort and convenience, were unknown to the pioneers of the west. Their victories were won with few of the methods and devices now regarded as indispensable in even the humblest walks of life. When its agricultural, mining and manufacturing resources are fully developed by steam and electricity, the Mississippi valley will support and enrich, without crowding, 500,000,000 people, and be not only the granary, but the workshop of the planet.—Chicago *Industrial World*.

### Alaska Pine.

The name of Alaska pine given to what has heretofore been known as Washington hemlock is apt to be confusing, as none of the lumber will come from Alaska—at least for a good many years. Alaska has a wood which it is not improbable may some day have a commercial value. This is known as Alaska cedar, but it has none of the characteristics of cedar. It is close grained wood, white, with a yellow tint, and much heavier than cedar. It is the wood used by the Indians of that region for the building of their canoes and is unlike any wood of more southern latitudes.—Minneapolis *Lumberman*.

### The Valencia Raisins Market

Although a very large quantity of Valentias was again advertised for sale on Wednesday, a really good demand prevailed, and by far the greater bulk of the fruit found buyers at very full prices. The position of this article is as difficult to forecast as usual, and it must be admitted that the American proverb of "Don't prophesy unless you know" holds good far more in the matter of Valentias than with any other article of produce. It may further be said of Valentias, that no one does "know," and therefore it is most unsafe for anyone to prophesy. The reports of those who are, or at least should be, best informed on the subject, differ so materially that the who's question is one of more or less doubt. There appears to be a consensus of opinion, however, that the crop in the close neighborhood of 30,000 tons, and that probably nearly two-thirds of it are by this time shipped, or in process of shipping. The nation which is responsible for the above mentioned proverb is, contrary to expectations, to a large extent responsible also for having kept the market as steady as has lately been the case. It has for some time past been accepted as an inevitable result of the McKinley tariff, that Spanish raisins would before long cease to be required in the United States; and it was expected that this season the demand for this country would have shown a very serious falling-off. Up to the present time, however, America and Canada have taken between 5,000 and 6,000 tons, and the latest reports from New York are to the effect that the prospects for future business are good. Two reasons have no doubt been at work to bring about this result: the first being the unusually good quality of the Spanish fruit, and the second, and probably the most important, the "ring" or "combination," which was entered into by those engaged in the Californian raisin trade to keep up prices to a fixed point during the early part of the season. While the operations of this ring remain in force there is a good chance for the Spanish growers to get in their fruit, and they are naturally taking every advantage of it in the full knowledge that without the American demand they would have to force off upon the older consuming countries a weight of fruit which would cause in them a serious and unusual depression. With the stock left over, and the vessels just at hand, there is an ample supply for the English markets for the immediate future, but it is reported that the quantity afloat is only limited, as, during the low prices of a fortnight or so ago, shipments fell off very considerably, the growers being unwilling at that time to send on more fruit for fear of causing a further depression in prices. It remains to be seen how far the enhancement of values which has since been brought about will induce the farmers and merchants in Spain to send on further important consignments, which will beyond doubt be required to meet the demand that prevails.—*Produce Markets Review*.