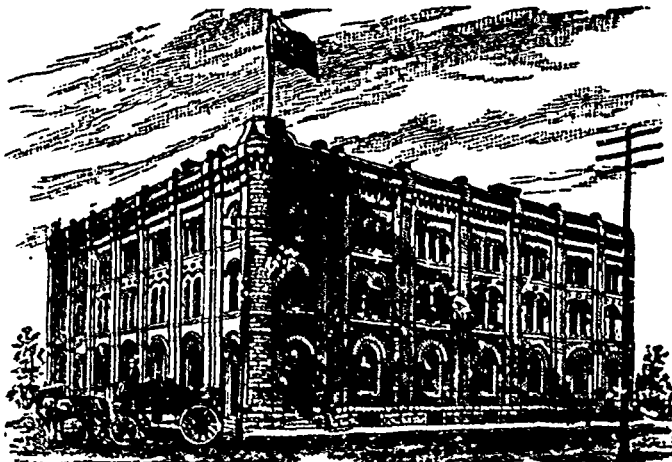


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Editorial Notes.

SPEAKING of the dry goods trade, the Montreal *Trade Bulletin* says the only "exciting feature has been the discussion aroused by the circular issued by a western house offering goods at cost price. It is said to have originated in a squabble between rival houses, one of which to injure the others has offered goods as stated." Western, as used by our Montreal contemporary, does not of course mean any house west of the lakes, but simply some Ontario house. We do not think any of our western houses would engage in such an unbusiness-like move as selling goods at cost. To sell at cost means to do business at a loss. This is biting off your nose to spite your face with a vengeance. The dry goods trade of the east must be in a terribly demoralized state, if it is as bad as represented by the Montreal journal, but we certainly think there must be some mistake about it. The thing is too incredible for belief.

THE official crop report for Ontario, which we publish elsewhere in this issue, it will be noted does not give a very hopeful statement regarding the apple crop. This crop is reported to be even less than last year. Notwithstanding the light Ontario apple crop, however, it is believed that prices for this product will be

very reasonable. A considerable portion of the apple requirements of Manitoba have in the past been drawn from the United States, and the crop in the latter country is generally understood to be good, whereas last year it was very short. If Ontario apples are scarce and dear, we can therefore rely upon importations from the south. But it is not expected that prices will be high in eastern Canada, as United States markets will influence the situation there. Considerable will depend upon the demand from across the Atlantic, as to the course of prices. Even with the light crop, there will be some apples for export from eastern Canada, and the export demand will have a good deal to do with values.

LAST week THE COMMERCIAL flatly contradicted the contention of the fishery department at Ottawa, that the southern end of Lake Winnipeg had been fished out. Indian Agent A. Muckle, states in his annual report for 1889, that "more whitefish were caught in the Winnipeg river, Fort Alexander bay, and at the mouth of the Red river last fall than has been the case for some years past. In fact," he says, "there were more caught at the mouth of the Red river, than at any similar season for thirty years." This, coming from such a source, effectually disposes of the hap-hazard statement that the southern end of the lake is

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fished out, if further argument were necessary in the premises. The statement that this portion of the lake was fished out, we believe first came from Indian agent Vanhoughnet, and now one of his own agents effectually disposes of the reckless statement. We may add, that the comments of THE COMMERCIAL upon this fishery question, have been guided by careful enquiry among leading Icelandic residents, as well as others who are posted in the matter, besides which the writer has given personal study to the Lake Winnipeg fisheries for some years.

THE Winnipeg board of trade has taken proper step in urging the drainage question upon the local government. This is a matter which has been neglected of late years, on account of the light annual rainfall experienced since 1885. It is well known that before the period of dry years set in, there were extensive districts in the province which were urgently in need of drainage. Then followed a series of years remarkable for light rainfall, during which the need of drainage was not apparent. Now that we have had a return to seasons of increased rainfall, the necessity for drainage is a number of districts has been shown. In some districts, particularly in the eastern portion of the province, there has been considerable loss this year from surface water remaining upon the land. The matter of drainage for low districts, should not have been allowed to lapse on account of the dry season. The need of drainage, though not so apparent, was just as real. It was never believed that the dry seasons would continue indefinitely, and a return of the moister years meant hardship to those located in certain districts. It is to be hoped the matter will be taken up with vigour. The present season will indicate where drains are most urgently needed, and these could be mapped out, so that in case of a return of dry seasons, the work could be continued just the same.