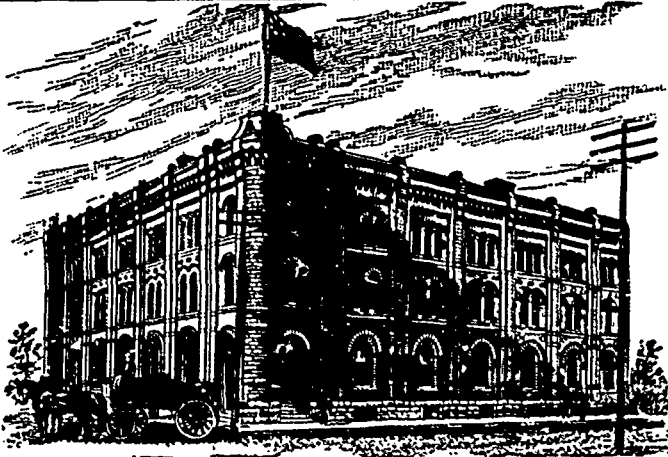


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CORNER PRINCESS AND BANNATYNE STREETS, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

It seems to be the belief among grain men that very little barley will be sown in Manitoba this year. Last year the barley crop was a poor one, and as a consequence the grain is now scarce and dear. On this account it is thought that farmers who have no seed barley will not sow any of this grain rather than purchase seed. The acreage sown to barley here in the past has been small, in comparison with other crops, and this year it is the belief that it will not be increased. Locally there has been very little demand for barley for seed. It is the opinion of the grain men that the farmers will make a grave mistake if they curtail their barley crop. There is likely to be a considerable increase in the local demand for barley for malting purposes, and besides this, barley is considered an excellent feed grain.

A GOOD many letters have been written to the papers in opposition to the recent retailers' convention. This was to be expected. No matter what the necessity might be for some united action on the part of the merchants, it was certain that the holding of a convention would provoke some opposition, either through misunderstanding the intentions of the merchants or for other reasons. The merchants, however, will have to put up with such opposition, and the best plan to get over it will be to pay little attention to it, and avoid replies calculated to continue controversies. The merchants know themselves that there was nothing proposed at the convention which would be inimical to the honest and industrious farmers, and if the reforms desired were carried out, the farmers would in the end be benefitted thereby.

In Manitoba a Government nominally known as of the Liberal persuasion, has passed a bill with a sweeping majority, providing for the abolition of separate or sectarian schools. In Ontario an alleged Liberal Government is engaged in vigorously upholding sectarian schools, against the attacks of the Conservative opposition. In Manitoba, however, it may be said that party lines have never been closely drawn, and the leaders of the present local Government have repudiated any sympathy with the so-called Liberal party of the Dominion, both

directly and indirectly. They have directly repudiated any such sympathy, by their speeches in the Legislature, and indirectly by introducing measures not in harmony with the Liberal party at Ottawa. Manitoba does not want any mixture of Dominion partyism in her provincial affairs, and the more independent the Local Government and its supporters may be of Dominion issues, the better they will please the people.

ACCORDING to the recently published reports of the loan companies for last year, there has been a heavy decline in the value of real estate in Ontario. Farm lands are estimated to have declined in value from 15 to 30 per cent., and village and town property has also declined in a good many cases. The *Montreal Journal of Commerce* says, in referring to these reports: "The disposition is for retired farmers, business and professional people to locate in Toronto, which is being built up largely at the expense of western towns. The competition for good loans has been of the keenest kind among the loan companies themselves, and is being daily intensified by the reserves of home and foreign insurance companies, and the private funds of Canadian and British citizens, seeking investment. The funds of the Court of Chancery, trusts and estates of deceased persons, all swell the ranks of the would-be mortgagees. As against this, rates for loans have been firmer."

Speaking of plans to induce immigration to Western Canada, Mr. Goidwin Smith says in *Bystander*: "What the West wants is not so much that something should be done as that something should be undone. Throw down the barrier, let the floating population of this continent, which the other day made such a rush into Oklahoma, enter freely and the Northwest will be peopled. Do away at the same time with the thirty-five per cent. on farm implements, and let the Northwest settler have a free market to buy and sell in. Bring the territory, in a word, within the commercial pale of its own continent; prosperity and population will then come hand in hand. Otherwise they will not come, apply what immigration pumps you will,

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R. H. GILHULY, postmaster, Selkirk, Man., has received advices stating that a post office savings bank will be established there.

THE annual meeting of the Northwest Land Company was held in London, England, on March 29. Several reports were adopted, including the repayment of 2½ on capital account.

W. & P. DICKSON, general merchants, Balgonie, Assa., have bought out the stock and business lately carried on by Dickson Bros. at Chater, Man., and will conduct it as a branch store.

THE North of Scotland Canadian Mortgage Company, represented in the West by Osler, Hammond & Nanton, Winnipeg, has decided to supply seed grain at cost to any of its patrons who may be short of seed and who are not in a position to purchase. Those wishing to take advantage of the offer can get terms on application to the managers of the company here.

E. A. SMALL & Co., wholesale clothing, Montreal, have recently moved into new quarters, in order to accommodate their growing trade. Their old workhouse has been found too small for the business, and as a consequence the firm has experienced considerable delay in getting out spring orders. The building now occupied is that handsome stone structure on Victoria square, erected some time ago by Geo. Winks & Co. E. A. Small & Co. now have one of the finest warehouses in Canada. W. H. Leishman, who represents the house in the West, is now on the road with fall samples.

MR. MORTON, general merchant, of Boissevain and Whitewater, Southern Manitoba, will make a new departure in the butter trade this season. He will arrange with his customers to have them bring in their butter fresh—that is without salting. Mr. Morton will salt and pack the article himself, in hermetically sealed cans. Irregular salting and the use of inferior salt is the cause of a good deal of bad butter, and this difficulty will be obviated in the plan proposed. By the use of sealed cans it is claimed the fresh flavor of the butter can be maintained for a very much longer time than by using the ordinary wooden tubs. It is said that the plan of marketing butter before salting is followed in some of the best butter districts of Europe.