

2,000 men as soldiers, teamsters, transport men and other branches of the service. Such an exodus had a very bad effect upon the retail trade of the city, there being so many less to supply with the necessities of life, not to mention the comforts and luxuries.

On industrial affairs the effect was also unfavorable, and so many artisans went to the front, that quite a few manufacturing concerns were practically at a standstill for three or four months.

Of the wholesale trade, after the first shock was over, the effect was not so unfavorable, although the lines dependent upon building and contracting suffered very severely, as no building was undertaken until after midsummer, and heavy undertakings of every kind were postponed until after the return of the troops from the front.

The year 1885 closed with 87 houses in Winnipeg which did more or less of a wholesale or jobbing business, which shows an increase of twelve over the figures of 1884. There were no new concerns started during the year, but fourteen added jobbing to their retail trade, while two wholesale concerns went out of business.

The 87 were divided as follows: In grain, grain products and milling, 9; in groceries and provisions, 16; in dry goods, and clothing, 8; in lumber and lumber manufactures, including furniture, 12; in hardware, metals and stoves, 10; in farm machinery, 7; in boots and shoes, harness and leather goods, 4; and miscellaneous, 19.

In 1884 the grocery and provision trade showed the largest aggregate of business, but this year it had to give place to grain, grain product and milling, which came to the front with an aggregate business of \$3,518,452, divided as follows: Wheat, 3,455,400 bushels, at a cost of \$2,033,600; oats, 599,450 bushels at a cost of \$259,860; barley, flax and other grains and seeds to a value of \$141,100; flour, 474,160 bags at a value of \$923,892; oatmeal, bran, shorts, chopped grain and other grain products of a value of \$160,000.

Groceries and provisions, although taking a second place during 1885, showed an increase in aggregate over 1884, and figured up to \$3,397,846.

The third in the list in 1884 was the lumber trade, but in 1885, that place was taken by dry goods and clothing, with an aggregate business of \$1,594,450.

Lumber and timber manufactures took the fourth place with an aggregate of \$1,257,000, and were very closely followed by hardware, metals and stoves with a total of \$1,226,000.

Farm machinery took the sixth place with a total of \$1,064,327, while there is quite a wide gap between that and the next on the list, namely, boots and shoes, harness and leather goods, which footed up to \$517,000.

The remaining nineteen houses were spread over a number of branches, including paints and oils, stationery, crockery and glassware, wines and liquors, fruits, etc., and they showed an aggregate business for the year of \$1,263,000.

Thus the aggregate wholesale trade of the year footed up to \$13,848,075, or \$372,023 short of that of 1884, which reached \$14,220,098.

This deficiency was made up as follows: Lumber showed a decrease of \$1,302,300; hardware, of \$277,273; farm machinery, of \$39,200; and boots and shoes, harness and leather goods, of \$33,500; making a total of \$1,652,323 in these four branches.

On the other hand, the grain and milling business showed an increase of \$562,932; groceries and provisions, of \$243,500; dry goods, of \$5,450, and miscellaneous lines of \$458,400, giving a total increase of all lines of \$1,280,282.

The year 1886 was one of general prosperity, and the figures of the city's trade, as reported at the annual meeting were for the year:—

Wholesale mercantile	\$15,695,356
Retail mercantile	6,000,000
Unclassified	1,750,000
Building	462,000
Manufactures not included in mercantile	1,262,000
Total	\$25,169,356

The year 1887 was a year of unusual prosperity in the Northwest, the crop being the finest on record, and the average yield the heaviest. The exports from Manitoba for that year, according to an estimate carefully compiled for the Winnipeg Board of Trade, had a value of nearly \$11,000,000, the wheat export alone being over 10,000,000 bushels.

It is needless to follow this up year after year. Winnipeg's progress has been phenomenal for the past ten years, and if during the past two years of depression it has been slower than usual, it has been steady always, while the city as a place of residence has improved wonderfully during the past three or four years.

From the year 1888 to 1891 Winnipeg's progress was steady and in the right direction, and when the crash of 1892-3 over the Western States came on, there was but little trouble throughout Manitoba or the Northwest Territories. No inflation of any kind existed in the country, and the depression, which was general, caused no crash. It came upon a country down to strict principles of economy, and broke harmlessly, like a wave upon a rocky beach. One local bank went to the wall, but its failure scarcely affected the commercial affairs of the city and surrounding country.

The following compilation of business figures, made by the writer at the close of 1894, shows how the prosperity of Winnipeg went steadily on, while crash and ruin

came to many localities in the States south.

There are in Winnipeg at present about 1,100 places of business. First among these we mention the banks, as follows: The Bank of Montreal, The Bank of Commerce, The Bank of British North America, The Merchants' Bank, The Imperial Bank of Canada, The Bank of Ottawa, The Molson's Bank, The Union Bank of Canada, The Banque de Hochelaga, The Banque Nationale, and the private banking firm of Alloway & Champion. Nearly one-half of the chartered banks of Canada are thus represented in the city.

There are in the city, including the grain and milling firms, over one hundred houses doing a wholesale or jobbing business, whose aggregate annual turn-over must exceed \$20,000,000. The lines represented are dry goods, groceries, hardware, clothing, boots and shoes, farm machinery, provisions, and farm produce, fruit, crockery and glassware and furniture.

There are in the city over one hundred manufacturing institutions, a large number being small ones representing industries that will yet assume large proportions. The iron and metal industry stands first, if we except flour milling, which shows the largest turnover, although it does not furnish the most employment. Two breweries do an extensive business all over the Northwest; three cigar factories now employ over one hundred hands, while the harness and saddlery industry employs about eighty. Saw and planing mills employ about one hundred and ten hands, and the furniture and upholstery business over forty hands, while the manufacture of tents, awnings, mattresses and such like employ over sixty. The Canadian Pacific and Northern Pacific shops, with the train hands, clerks and other employees, keep located in the city over seven hundred hands, so that there is altogether in Winnipeg quite a heavy demand for skilled mechanical labor of different kinds.

The press of the city comprises three daily papers, one morning and two evening, any of which for size, variety of news and ability in conduct, could hold their own with the publications of large eastern cities. There are eight weekly papers published, one being in the German, and two in the Icelandic language. There are six monthlies published also, which makes up the entire press of the city.

There are thirteen different loan and mortgage companies doing business in Winnipeg, while several insurance companies and other corporations have agencies here and heavy investments in real estate mortgages. The aggregate funds out at interest by these corporations amounted to, a year ago, over \$16,000,000, not to mention the loans of that class made by private parties.

There are over six hundred retail institutions in Winnipeg, representing almost every line of business, while some of the