

The Commercial

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WINNIPEG LUMBER INTEREST.

From time to time, during the past summer and fall, statements of a misleading nature have appeared in print regarding the lumber interest of Winnipeg, much to the annoyance of the manufacturers and dealers connected with that branch of business, and some of these same statements have been of such an exaggerated character, that an inquiry into the actual facts places them in the position of the most awkward kind of guessing. Lumber mills have as a rule shut down for the season, and the exact figures regarding manufactures and importations are not a matter difficult to obtain, especially as every facility has been afforded the representatives of THE COMMERCIAL in securing the same by the dealers and manufacturers interested.

In reaching statistics on this branch of trade we cannot give exact figures regarding lumber that may have been imported by private individuals or firms for their own use, nor do we include the different classes of hard wood used in carriage and furniture manufacture, but our figures only represent sawed and dressed lumber, which has been or is being used for building and such purposes.

In local manufactures only one saw mill has run steadily during the season, and its products, since the opening of 1882, amount to 9,000,000 feet, 1,000,000 of which was oak. Other two manufacturers who have only run for a small portion of the season, have produced 4,500,000 feet, making the total product 13,500,000 feet. The lumber purchased at other mills in the North-west and handled by parties in Winnipeg figures up to 12,500,000 feet, making the gross trade in domestic lumber for this city during the present year 26,000,000 feet.

In reaching figures on lumber imported from Ontario and the United States, we have consulted the lumber dealers and manufacturers of the city, and their aggregate importations for the season reach 29,500,000 ft. The heaviest importer of the twelve has a gross of 10,000,000 feet, and the lightest was 750,000 feet. The amount imported by private parties we can only approximate, but we believe we are safe in fixing the figures at 3,000,000, which would bring the gross imports of

the season up to the present date to 32,500,000 feet. In these figures we do not include importations made by the Canadian Pacific Railway direct, and the aggregate of these which have passed through Winnipeg must reach several million feet for building purposes, not to mention the millions of ties and other rough lumber. The total lumber trade for Winnipeg for 1882 up to the present date is somewhat in the neighborhood of 58,500,000 feet, when we confine ourselves to transactions of purely commercial parties, and it must be remembered that the importations for the year are not completed, and when they are the figures will probably reach 65,000,000 feet.

Accepting these figures as representing the lumber business of 1882, let us look ahead and see what the prospect is for 1883. The local dealers and manufacturers have arrangements made for getting out the following quantity of logs during the present winter. For the use of the mills of the city about 16,000,000 feet, to which must be added 7,000,000 feet now on hand, with which to commence operations as early in spring as possible. Thus a total of 23,000,000 feet of logs will be at the disposal of city manufacturers, which is within 3,000,000 feet of the capacity of their mills. There are seven mills who have contracted their products for the Winnipeg market for 1883, and the gross capacity of these for the season is somewhere near 70,000,000 feet. Arrangements have been made to get out for these mills during the winter over 57,000,000 feet, or within 13,000,000 feet of their capacity. These figures give a grand total of 78,000,000 feet of lumber manufactured in the North-west, which will be available for the Winnipeg market during 1883. Should the importations from the United States and Ontario for that year show a corresponding increase over 1882, they would reach over 97,000,000 feet, which would raise the total lumber trade of Winnipeg for the coming year to 175,000,000 feet, or nearly three times as great as that of the present year. There is reason to believe, however, that the imports of 1883 will not increase as rapidly as local manufactures. The milling capacity of the North-west has made rapid growth during the present year, and railway communication has, and is still opening up lumber districts of the country which have hitherto been closed to the Winnipeg market. Making a liberal

allowance for the gain which local manufactures will make on imported goods there is every reason to believe that the supply of lumber available for the Winnipeg market in 1883 will not be less than 130,000,000 feet. These figures seem almost fabulous, but they are based upon carefully collected statistics, and are certainly not in any way exaggerated. The lumber trade of a new city is one of the most reliable indexes to its prosperity, and with the foregoing figures before us we may with safety challenge any city on the American continent, or in fact in the Universe, to show such unmistakable signs of rapid growth and development.

OUR RIVAL STOCK EXCHANGES.

If competition is the life of trade Winnipeg is going to have some life in connection with the establishment of a Stock Exchange. Two companies are in the field for the honor of attending to the city wants in that line, and from the notices in the *Gazette* of October 3d, the aims and objects, and even the names, of the two companies are so much alike, that it is difficult to see how both can secure a charter. The most marked difference between the two is the amount of capital stock in each, one being \$50,000 and the other \$10,000. It is unnecessary to state to those who have had any experience in stock exchanges that the capital of either is altogether inadequate to what the wants of the city will be within a short time from the present date, unless the operations of both institutions are to be very limited in their scope.

In the organizing of both of these companies, it is evident that sufficient publicity has not been given to the proceedings, and sufficient opportunity has not been allowed for the general business public to express their views upon what the city requires. No person will deny the right of a number of men, under the laws of this province, to join themselves together and apply for a charter for the conduct of any legitimate business, but the moment these men attempt the organization of a stock exchange, they are touching a matter in which every business man in the city holds certain rights, and the rights of the public must be looked after in preference to those of any limited number of individuals wishing to form a company for the purpose of making profits on their investments. One of the companies made an attempt to remedy the evil we com-