

Retail Association Formed.

A fairly representative gathering of Winnipeg retailers was held in Rialto hall on Tuesday to discuss further details of the abolition of trading stamps, and to receive reports of canvassing committees. Mr. George Craig was selected to act as chairman and Mr. Watson, who has been engaged by the committee to act as permanent secretary, read the minutes of the previous meeting, which were approved and adopted.

The reports of the committees, also of the secretary, who have been canvassing the various branches of retail trades, reported most satisfactory progress and are sanguine that the agreement will be unanimously signed in the near future. A committee consisting of Messrs. Francis, Coltart and Christie was appointed to continue the work of canvassing. The various fuel dealers, coal oil vendors, milkmen and others who are using stamps will also be waited upon.

It was also suggested that the Retailers' association take such action as shall secure the enactment of such legislation as shall be a protection against a revival of the practice, the legislation to be similar to that in force in Vancouver and which imposes a special tax on both the stamp companies and their customers.

It was decided to rigidly adhere to the agreement not to give any stamps after the 31st inst., even upon the current accounts, and any retailer who feels in duty bound to do so in order to keep faith with his customers was authorized to make an equivalent cash discount.

All lists of traders who sign the agreement will be advertised as they are completed.

It was unanimously decided to revive the Retailers' association on a more aggressive and comprehensive basis, and to have suitable club rooms fitted up as a place of meeting. These will be made as attractive as possible, and a strong committee was appointed to take charge of the preliminary details.

The next meeting of the dealers will be held in the same hall on Tuesday evening next at 8.30 p. m., when the final reports will be received from the canvassing committees.

New Fishing Company.

The new fishing company recently organized in Manitoba, to operate on Lake Winnipeg, is arranging to be ready to commence operations in the spring. The company, which will be known as the Northern Fish Co., has purchased the steamer Lady of the Lake, which is one of the largest boats on Lake Winnipeg. This steamer is fitted with refrigerating plant, and is therefore specially suited for the fishing industry. A freezer and ice house, formerly the property of the Winnipeg Fish Co., at Selkirk, has also been purchased. Several sail boats will be built this winter and ice houses and ice will be put up at suitable points on the lake. W. J. Guest, fish merchant, of Winnipeg, is one of the members of the company. The others composing the company are all residents of Selkirk.

Winnipeg Money By-Laws.

At the municipal elections in Winnipeg this week three money by-laws were submitted as follows: To raise \$60,000 for the Main street subway. To raise \$9,000 for the paving of Market square. To raise \$75,000 for an electric fire alarm, suburban police and fire halls. All three by-laws were defeated, though a majority vote was recorded in favor of the first two, but not sufficient to carry them, as a two-thirds majority is required. A considerable majority vote was recorded against the fire alarm by-law.

Growth at the Sault.

The phenomenal growth of Sault Ste. Marie during the present year is reflected in the returns of the town census, which were made public recently, says the Globe. On April 30 the population, according to figures compiled by town officials, was 3,495. Five months later, on September 30, this had increased to 6,118, a gain of 2,623, or 75 per cent. Even since the latter date it is known that four or five hundred more people have taken up their residence in the Sault. These figures represent bona fide residents, and do not include transients. The great increase has, of course, been due to the development of the various

industries projected. There are at present a number of large factories in operation, with many more in course of construction, at a total estimated expenditure of about twenty million dollars. The impetus this year has followed rapidly upon the heels of the concessions made by the Ontario legislature last session.

There are in addition to the above fully one thousand persons residing in the Michipicoten district, who are employed in connection with the mining enterprises there.

THE LUMBER TRADE.

SHINGLES TOO DRY.

A Vancouver paper says: Col. T. H. Tracy, city engineer of Vancouver, who has been on a professional trip to London, Ont., returned yesterday, and brings news that will be of interest to British Columbia manufacturers of shingles. "While in London," remarked the Colonel, "I was told by prominent lumber dealers whom I called upon to renew acquaintance, that the demand for British Columbia cedar shingles was on the decrease. I, naturally, wondered, and on inquiring the reason was told that to save transportation charges the weight was reduced by drying the shingles in kilns. This the eastern builders affirm destroys the utility of the article, and a heavy rain literally washes them off the roofs. Taking a single one of my informants rolled it into splinters in his hand, as if it were paper board. The trouble is in the attempt to save weight, the shingle is spoilt by over-drying.

This information will perhaps explain to manufacturers and exporters any decrease in the shingle business which may have been unaccounted for. The British Columbia article has always been in particular demand in all parts of Canada and if allowed to season naturally instead of the drying being forced by artificial processes it will maintain its prestige as the most valuable of wooden roof-coverings.

MINNEAPOLIS LUMBER CUT.

From all reports of the amount of white pine cut by the Minneapolis mills during the past season it is found that practically 500,000,000 feet was turned out. To use the exact figures given by several firms, 499,605,000 feet of white pine was manufactured, but as many of these firms have given the cut only to the nearest million it is probably safe to say that the entire output is about 500,000,000. A comparison with the figures of last year shows that the decrease of this season has been slightly over 91,000,000 feet. The cut of shingles seems to have been practically about the same as last year with the exception of the McMullen mill, which manufactured nearly five times the number scheduled for last year. The lath cut also seems to have been about the same as last year except with the same mill, which manufactured 35,000,000 this year and but 5,000,000 last year. In speaking of the general cut of white pine for the year, lumbermen of the city express themselves well satisfied with the showing made. Taking into consideration the obstacles and difficulties of the past season it is considered that the showing made is fully as good as could be expected.—American Lumberman.

LUMBER TRADE NOTES.

Southern yellow pine trade has been larger this year than last.

Hardwood lumber dealers report a decided stiffening in prices since the late presidential elections. The movement of stock has not increased very much but prices have firmed up. Greater buying activity is expected after the first of the year. Stocks in the hands of manufacturers are not heavy.

The increasing value of northern Minnesota pine lands is clearly evident when comparison is made between recent sales and those of former years, says the American Lumberman. The sale of lands in the White Earth Indian reservation clearly indicates this appreciating value of northern pine. It was held at Crookston, Minn., and was attended by a large number of lumbermen from all sections of the north-west. The total sales amounted to \$214,832.31, many of the tracts selling at prices beyond the valuation placed on them by the authorities. The highest price paid for a 40-acre tract was \$1,605 and was bid by Luther Davies, of Oshkosh, Wis.

A music loving woman should acquire a husband.

Boot and Shoe Trade Notes.

A patent has been granted to W. F. Reid and E. J. V. Earle, for producing a "patent" or enameled leather which they claim will not crack as easily as the ordinary leather of this sort. Instead of boiled linseed oil the inventors employ an enamel.

The boot and shoe manufacturers of Quebec, who closed down their factories some time ago, owing to differences with their employees, resumed operations again on Monday last. In advance of the decision of the arbitrator who had been chosen to decide the questions in dispute.

It looks as though the fad for high heels was again coming upon us for a time, says an exchange. In fact the number of pairs of high heeled shoes now worn are quite noticeable in the cities among the women folk. There are indications that the high heeled shoe will, to quite an extent, supersede the "mannish" shoe.

A good deal of patent kid is being used to replace patent leather, and it has been very favorably received owing to the fact that it is not so liable to crack. Considerable difficulty is experienced, however, in lasting, especially in turn work, and some factories have discontinued making turn shoes out of this kid altogether. The trouble is that it is so thin it is almost impossible to get the wrinkles out, and in many cases the goods have had to be made over two or three times. Workmen complain a great deal about this difficulty in lasting and it is predicted by some in the trade that an extra charge for patent kid work will be the result in the next price lists.—Shoe and Leather Journal.

Freight Rates and Traffic Matters.

When charters at Seattle have been at about 55c to 45c, and wheat has stiffened correspondingly, and exporters are now offering 55 and 56c for club and as high as 50c in some cases for blue stem.

Both in the United States and Canada there seems to be a decided shortage of railway freight cars at the present time, and this state of affairs has continued for some weeks. Railway companies say that the freight traffic has been very heavy lately.

Since the opening of the Parry Sound Railway, the tolls of the Welland canal have fallen, showing that the railway route in question is doing a considerable business. For the months of April to October in 1897, says the St. Catharines Journal, the canal tolls amounted to \$119,423. The railway commenced competition in July, 1898, and the tolls for the same period, 1899, were \$72,844. For the same period this year, it is expected that the tolls will be even a little less.

Forests Damaged by Insects.

Prof. Lochead's paper, "A Plea for the Systematic and Economic Study of the Forest Insects of Ontario," proved a most enjoyable and thought awakening one. An interesting statement made by him, and one showing like the importance of his subject, and the resources of our province, was that of the 142,000 square miles comprised by the province 120,000 square miles, or six-sevenths of the province, are still crown lands, either still unworked or under lease by lumbermen. Prof. Lochead pointed out that the recent report of the royal commission appointed to consider the subject of forest preservation in Ontario contained no reference to injury wrought by insects. Insects, he said, were responsible in a great many ways for damage to the forests. Forest regions injured by insect depredations were more easily set on fire than regions of healthy trees. On the other hand, weak and unhealthy trees invited the attacks and proved prolific breeding grounds for the insects. Prof. Lochead advocated a system of forest rangers, who knew something of the insect pests of the forests, and who could take measures to control them as far as possible. To this end, however, it was necessary that more accurate information be obtained as to the nature of the various insects found in the forest regions, and on this he based his plea for their thorough study. Prof. Lochead's paper was followed by an interesting discussion in the course of which Dr. Fletcher made the statement that the lumbermen of the Ottawa Valley alone estimated their yearly loss from insect depredators at \$1,000,000.

Arrangements are under way for the holding of a meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association in Toronto next month. The association is a new one, and so far has held no general meeting. The meeting now being arranged will be open to all. Sir Henri Joly is president of the association.

The American Cereal Company, one of the largest concerns of its kind in the United States, has announced its intention of establishing a branch factory at Peterboro, Ontario. Its factories in the United States are located at Akron, Ohio, and Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and it has also large warehouses in Chicago.

Fire occurred on Monday morning in a group of old buildings on Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, adjoining the Queen's hotel, and did several thousand dollars worth of damage before it could be subdued. The fire started in James Collins' tailoring establishment, and spread to the premises of Chas. Downie, tobacconist, Joseph Watson, confectioner, S. Reeves, barber, and the Manitoba Auer Light Company. The stocks and buildings were severely damaged.

OVERALL CLOTHING

Overalls
Pants
Smocks
Shirts



OUR GOODS ARE WELL MADE.

They will please your customers. You will be pleased yourself. Send us your orders. Satisfaction guaranteed.

The Hoover Mfg. Co. Ltd.

Maw's Block WINNIPEG.

Bakery Business for Sale.

One of the best bakery and confectionery businesses in the Northwest for sale. Rare opening for a hustler. Capital required, \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00. Poor health cause of selling. Possession given at once. Write C. O. N., care Commercial, Winnipeg, Man.

For Sale.

A good paying general store business, in a first-class mixed farming district in Northwestern Manitoba, on the M. N. W. Ry. Stock about \$3,000.00. Store can be purchased or leased for any length of time. Apply to N. O. X., care of The Commercial, Winnipeg.

For Sale.

A general store business, thoroughly established, in good town. Good will and lease of premises to right buyer. Address X. Y., care of Commercial.

To Rent.

TO RENT—BEST STAND IN VIRDEN. Known as Joe Merrick's corner, now occupied as general store, or a good general job stock wanted to purchase. W. F. Scarth, Virden, Man.

For Sale in N. W. T.

General Store Stock, about \$2,500. No opposition. Splendid wheat-growing district, and well settled. Building brick veneer on stone foundation. Will sell or rent building. Proprietors have other interests and must sell. Apply to P. O. Box 1259, Winnipeg.

Storekeeper Wanted.

In live new town. Extra inducements to hustler with small stock and some experience. Good store building ready. Apply to G. M. Yeomans, Dryden, Rainy River District.

Agents Wanted.

In every town in Canada to handle quick money making goods used daily everywhere. Write for particulars.

KARL K. ALBERT

268 McDermott Avenue, WINNIPEG

SET AND CAP SCREWS

We are the oldest, largest and best equipped company in the Dominion manufacturing milled screws. Write for catalogue. The John Morrow Machine Screw Co., Ingersoll, Ontario.