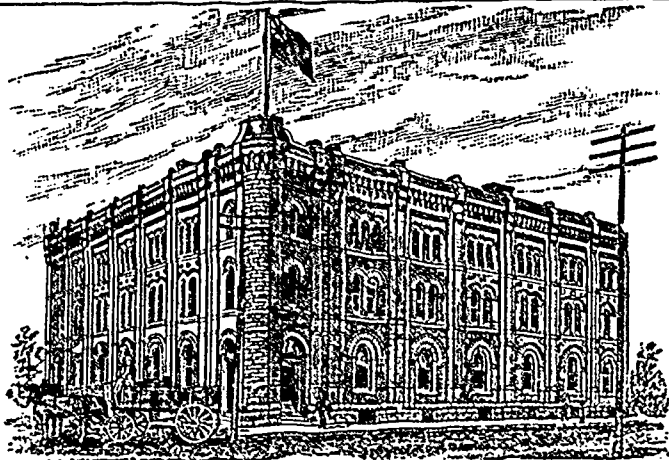


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TRADE ONLY.GOODS SOLD TO THE  
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## G. F. & J. GALT,

### DIRECT IMPORTERS

**TEAS, SUGARS, WINES, LIQUORS and GENERAL GROCERIES**  
CORNER PRINCESS AND BANNATYNE STREETS, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

SOME countries are slow to learn that it is as folly as well as a piece of tyranny to place a tax upon the bread of the masses. The Portuguese Government, however, seems to be an exception. It is less than a year and a half since in that country an import duty was put upon grain and flour, and already both are being abolished. It was the old argument of encouragement to home agriculture which prompted the imposition of such duties, and it has been discovered within one year that the encouragement did not amount to much, while the duties were an actual burden to the poor. Portugal differs from the Dominion in the fact that it is a grain importing country while Canada has yearly a surplus for export. Thus the export market rules our prices, and while duties on breadstuffs cannot be called a burden, they are no advantage to the producer. They are in fact as purely ornamental as the figurehead on a ship.

THE Dominion Minister of Agriculture has decided to make no change in the cattle quarantine provisions of the Dominion regarding the admission of ranche cattle from the United States, although pressed for a cessation of the same by Montana and other United States ranchmen. The 90 days quarantine will be rigidly adhered to, and the reason given is the fact, that Great Britain refuses to admit live cattle from the States, while there is no bar against Canadian cattle, which are considered free from disease of an infectious character. It is to be hoped that the quarantine regulations will be applied to shipments of cattle from Montana through Canada by the C. P. R. to the eastern States. There is an anomaly about the prohibition of cattle imports, while the same cattle are carried in transit over 2,000 miles through Canada in cars used alike for the transport of United States and Canadian cattle. If we are to have a thorough quarantine protection for our cattle, let us have it intact, and not attended with any special exceptions, such as have been allowed in the past, in order to increase C. P. R. traffic.

MONTREALERS are kicking with vigor against

the alleged exorbitant rates of fire insurance fixed by the fire underwriters of that city, and the latter resolutely refuse to reduce premiums. The reason given for this refusal is the inefficiency of the latter city's arrangements for fighting fires, and judging by the record of the past three years, Montreal cannot boast much of the excellency of its fire extinguishing arrangements. But when an improvement takes place in this respect, the fire underwriters will not be lost for a fresh excuse. In Winnipeg a few years ago, the civic authorities went to a great expense, materially increasing the debt of the city, and their improved arrangements were scarcely into working order, when the city underwriters hoisted their premiums from twenty to sixty above the former figures. When later a reduction had been secured no improvement in the city's fire fighting arrangements had taken place, but there had been some vigorous kicking done by premium payers. If the Montrealers care to be guided by the ups and downs of fire insurance premiums in Winnipeg, they will keep up their kicking, but be careful to make no fire department improvements. Kicking is likely to bring a reduction, but fire fighting improvements are more likely to produce an advance of rates. One Montreal alderman is expounding a scheme for the city to insure its own citizens, but it is questionable how that would work. It is to be feared ward politicians would make but poor insurance men. Better stuck to the old outfit and keep up the kicking.

THE vote of the Northwest Council last week on the question of liquor prohibition in the Northwest Territories, is the first real popular decision which has been reached on the subject, and the fact that this vote was overwhelmingly in favor of deciding the question by the voice of the people, should be accepted as an index to the drift of public opinion in the Northwest. Few laws enforced without the consent of the people are popular or command general respect, and the people of the Territories have as a rule come to look with very little respect upon the prohibition law now enforced without their consent, especially with the per-

## JAMES PYE, FLOUR MILL BUILDER

CONSULTING ENGINEER, &c.  
218 Third Avenue South,  
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### A Manitoba Testimonial.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, Dec. 8th, 1887.

JAMES PYE, Esq., Minneapolis, Minn., U.S.A.:  
DEAR SIR,—In handing you our check for \$1,301.24, in full for balance of your contract for building and enlarging our mill, we without solicitation wish to state, that you have done your work in a manner highly satisfactory to this company. The capacity which you guaranteed at 275 barrels, we find considerably under the mark, as we are at present making over 300 barrels, and the quality of the flour is all that we could wish for. Some of our largest purchasers frankly tell us, it is equal to any flour made in either Minnesota or this province. The yield also we find very satisfactory. We must also bear testimony to your pleasing and gentlemanly manner, and your willingness at all times to meet our wishes. This has made our business relations pleasant and we can honestly say, that we recommend you to any person, requiring anything in the mill building or mill furnishing line. Wishing you the success that straight dealing merits, we are  
Yours very truly,

THE PORTAGE MILLING CO.  
Jas. MacLennan, Managing Director.

mit powers in the hands of the Lieutenant-Governor to be used or abused, as his judgment may guide or misguide him. Should a plebiscite be taken on this subject in the Territories, it is very probable that the vote will go in favor of license, for after being so long forced into prohibition, it is more than likely, that public action set free, would welcome the other extreme.

In legislating in accordance with a popular vote in favor of license, great care will be necessary. A system of unguarded, much less indiscriminate license, would be nothing more nor less than a curse to a large portion of the country, and the greatest danger would be just after the pressure of prohibition was taken away. A few years afterwards moral forces will reorganize and hold in check such dangers, but these dangers should be avoided in the interval if possible.

Scarcely any unbiased man can object to the people of our Territories having the same control of the liquor traffic as is allowed those in the provinces, but it is to be hoped that if such privileges are granted, the grant will be made in such a way as will minimise if not obviate the chances of temporary evil resulting therefrom. Experience has proved in most countries, that local option governs the liquor traffic best, and should our Territorial neighbors secure local option, it is to be hoped that they will exercise it with wisdom and caution. They should remember that while this question may be a trade one, and one of local rights, it is also a social and a moral one, in which a wrong step taken at first might bring very undesirable consequences.

The prohibitionist argument, of furnishing protection to our Indians from the evils of intemperance, is one that is often greatly magnified, but it is also one that should never be lost sight of, and any granting of licensing in the Territories should be accompanied with a law, providing the severest kind of penalties for furnishing intoxicants to Indians under any circumstances.

Walter Ross is erecting a saw mill near Keewatin.