

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, OCTOBER 2, 1893.

THE PANIC IN THE UNITED STATES.

It is doubtful if many observers of the late financial cyclone realized that more than 549 banks, banking institutions and mortgage loan companies in the United States were obliged to close their doors either temporarily or permanently.

Reports to *Broadstreets* concerning bank and banking suspensions from January 1 to August 31, 1893, presented in detail in that journal, are found to consist, with few exceptions, of those which succumbed to financial straits or panic incident to May, June, July and August of this year. The report does not take cognizance of banking troubles in South Dakota, as a state law there practically prohibits the gathering of information of this nature.

The following summary of totals of the number of banks suspended, the number thus far reported resumed, with estimated totals of assets and liabilities, gives in a condensed form an idea of the extent of the panic:

States.	No. sus- pended.	No. re- sumed.	Assets.	Liabilities.
New England	12	1	\$ 8,192,475	\$10,319,000
Middle	28	3	9,885,188	10,762,872
Western	199	38	63,492,009	46,382,509
Northwestern	145	14	48,963,720	50,387,306
Southern	84	11	22,477,490	21,175,539
Pacific	72	23	32,110,585	25,178,339
Territories	9	4	1,562,000	1,426,000
Totals	549	94	\$178,794,417	\$165,731,618

MUNICIPAL DIFFICULTIES.

The Rapid City town council has resigned in a body, and the town is now without any municipal government. The financial troubles of the town is the cause, brought about by railway and other business. The trouble of the town is regrettable, especially as it was hoped that the last of these incidents had been reached. A number of municipalities in Manitoba became heavily loaded with bonded indebtedness during the boom days, principally through railway bonusing, but of late years Manitoba municipalities have been cautious about assuming indebtedness, and there has been no disposition to go into debt excessively. Those municipalities in Manitoba which happily escaped the infatuation during boom days of piling up bonded indebtedness, by way of bonuses, etc., are in as sound condition as municipalities anywhere in Canada. Though the troubles which have overtaken the town of Rapid City are of long standing, they do not date back as far as the troubles which have overtaken several other Manitoba municipalities. The days of inflation, however, are past, and there is no reason to look for financial disturbances of this nature in the future.

SCAB AMONG SHEEP.

Early in the spring reports began to come in from the ranching country west, that some flocks of sheep were afflicted with that terrible scourge of the flock known as scab. It was also reported during the winter that some flocks in the Winnipeg district were suffering

from the same cause. The reports from the territorial ranges have evidently been true, as wool as well as sheep have been received at Winnipeg, from the west, showing traces of the disease.

The mutton supply of the Winnipeg market comes largely from the western ranges, and it is not remarkable, therefore, that the scab trouble should have found its way here. It is said to exist at present in flocks about the city. In view of the existence of this trouble, owners of flocks of sheep should be very watchful for any trace of the disease among their flock, and where it now exists, every measure should be taken to stamp it out. If allowed to run it will certainly destroy the entire flock. Perhaps the attention of the proper authorities should be called to the matter.

The trouble is said to have been brought into the territories by imported sheep from Montana, which were sold at a very low price last year, the purchasers not knowing what was wrong. Dipping the sheep repeatedly will eradicate the scab, and in a small flock it is not a great task to get rid of the pest, but in a large flock it is a trying operation, for if it is not entirely eradicated upon every sheep, it will spread again, and the labor will be lost. Sheep will become infected with scab by pasturing upon ground or occupying pens where scabby sheep have been, hence the trouble is quickly spread.

The scab "disease," as it is sometime called, is a small but ferocious looking insect, which works under the skin, and a crusty scab forms over the affected part. The wool begins to fall off, and the animal assumes a wretched appearance generally, eventually dying. The disease is more or less prevalent in the western sheep ranges of the United States, where immense flocks of sheep are kept. This has doubtless led to the universal custom there of dipping sheep, usually twice a year, as a preventative as well as a cure. Heretofore the custom of dipping has not been general in our western range country, but it is wisely being adopted. Sheep should be dipped regularly, especially where kept in large flocks, whether disease is present or not. It is to be hoped the present trouble will be soon eradicated, and that every effort will be made to prevent the spread of the scourge.

BROOM CORN GROWN IN MANITOBA.

Last spring Hammill, Carroll & Co., manufacturers of brooms, etc., Winnipeg, sent to Chicago for a limited quantity of broom corn seed, for the purpose of testing it in Manitoba. The seed was distributed among two or three farmers near Winnipeg, and last week the first sample of the product was brought in. This was grown at Bird's Hill, a few miles east of Winnipeg, and the result has been very satisfactory. The Winnipeg firm pronounce it a first class article of broom corn, and they are quite delighted with the experiment. They will bring in a larger quantity of seed for next season, and if the result is again favorable, they hope to induce farmers to go extensively into growing broom corn. Many tons of this product are annually consumed in Canada, though it has not heretofore been grown in

this country. It is imported from Chicago, and is grown principally in the states of Illinois, Nebraska and Kansas. From the result of the experiment this year Hammill, Carroll & Co. believe that Manitoba could grow broom corn to supply not only the local demand but also Eastern Canada. The imported product costs \$75 to \$100 per ton, at which price it is a very profitable crop where it can be grown to advantage.

Griffin's Packing House.

One of the most important industries yet established in Winnipeg is the packing house of J. Y. Griffin & Co., which was completed and put in operation two or three weeks ago. Heretofore pork packing in this city has been carried on only on a limited scale, and principally in the winter season. Some years ago an attempt was made to establish a slaughtering and packing house here on modern principles, but it proved a failure, through lack of supplies of the raw material. Since then the country has made considerable progress in population and general agricultural development has gone on apace. Of late years farmers have given more attention to raising stock, particularly hogs, for which the country is well adapted. J. Y. Griffin & Co., who have carried on business in Winnipeg as provision dealers, pork-packers, etc., for some years, decided to establish this season a first-class packing house, on the most approved plan, believing as they did, that the time was opportune for starting such an industry, and that even though the supply of hogs at the outset might not be up to their requirements, that the farmers of Manitoba are now convinced as to the profits of raising hogs, and that the supply will steadily increase from this time forward.

Acting on this belief, a splendid site was purchased, consisting of $\frac{1}{4}$ acres of ground fronting on the Red river, just across the Louise bridge, and adjoining the Canadian Pacific railway. Upon this valuable property work was at once begun in erecting the necessary buildings, which have now been completed as stated. The main building is 60 feet by 100 feet in size, with four floors. It is a most substantial structure, built of heavy, solid stone walls, for the basement portion, with brick superstructure. The bearings and supports of the building are of a massive character, the appearance everywhere being solidity and strength. The building has been fitted with the most modern appliances for packing purposes, and an experienced packer who has examined it says it is the most conveniently arranged packing house in Canada.

A switch from the Canadian Pacific affords facilities for receiving and shipping direct from the cars. The bulk of the hogs will be received by rail, and will be driven from the cars into the yards provided. A large scale will register the weight of the hogs as they pass from the cars. Dressed hogs will be unloaded from the cars directly onto the shipping floor of the factory, where another large scale is located to weigh receipts and shipments.

The plan of slaughtering and curing is such as to ensure efficiency and despatch. The hogs are driven up a gradual incline to the second floor, on the principle that it is cheaper to drive them up than to carry them. Here the work of slaughtering begins. The animals are quickly shackled and hoisted up by steam power in quick succession, by means of a friction hoist elevator, stuck, and after hanging until dead they are slid into the scalding tank, kept hot by steam pipes, then lifted by means of a