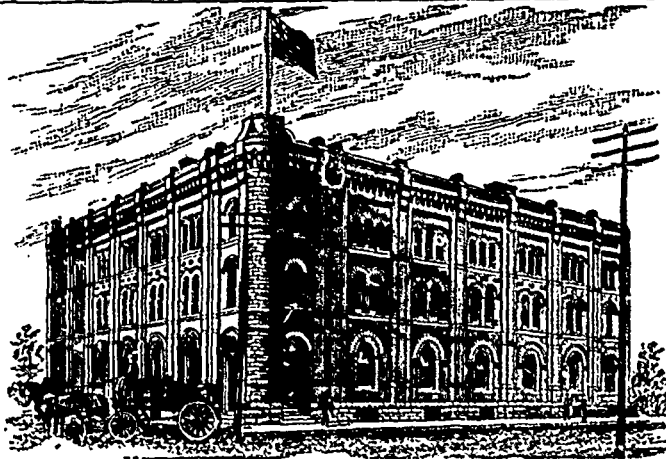


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AFTER the end of the month, quotations from the Chicago board of trade will be no longer obtainable. The board has resolved to discontinue the department of market reports, and quotations entirely. The effect of this move upon speculation in the commodities figuring in the board reports, will be watched with interest. At present there seems to be a diversity of opinions upon the point. Some predict that the board will soon go back to the old system of official reporting.

THE movement to shorten credit business is surely spreading. The cotton manufacturers are the last to take up the matter. At the recent meeting of the Dominion Grey Cotton Association at Montreal, a discussion took place on the advisability of reducing the terms of credit to sixty days. Action was deferred until next meeting, when the matter will be taken up again. Straws show which way the wind blows, and a good many straws are floating in the direction of shorter credits. It will be strange if the next year or two does not bring a great change in the way business is done in this country.

MANITOBA appears to have a worthy representative at Ottawa in the person of our new Senator, Major Boulton. Senator Boulton has shown himself active and energetic in promoting the interests of the west. His excellent speech in favor of the opening of the Hudson's Bay route, shows that he has given that important question very great study. His lengthy address contained a mass of information, which must have been a revelation to the eastern Members of Parliament and Senators who had not given the matter previous study. By the way Major Boulton has struck out during his short career at Ottawa, it is evident that he means to be something more than an ornamental appendage of the upper chamber. The new Senator for the Territories, Hon. J. A. Lougheed, has also made his mark at Ottawa. He has brought forward a resolution bearing upon the most important question affecting the west at the present time, namely; immigration. What the West wants is people, and Senator Lougheed, recognizing this fact, has proposed that the Government should undertake a vigorous

immigration policy, with a view to peopling the vast expanse of uninhabited or sparsely settled prairies of Manitoba and the Territories.

IN connection with the scarcity of feed this winter THE COMMERCIAL recently referred to the great destruction of valuable feed every year by the custom followed by Manitoba farmers of burning their straw after threshing in order to get it out of the way. Some farmers have used straw for feed for their cattle this winter, and although the winter has been a very severe one, stock fed on straw have come through all right. THE COMMERCIAL ventured the remark, that in this dry climate straw two years old would answer very well for feed, in case of a pinch. We have been since informed that straw four years old has been used for feed this winter, with success. Hereafter if Manitoba farmers suffer from a shortage of feed, it will be their own fault. They have had a lesson this year and if they will apply it, they will hereafter keep a supply of straw ahead, say to the amount of about two crops. Then if there is a shortage of hay the straw will come in very well. It may not be quite as good feed as hay, but it would be a good deal better than nothing. A leading southern Manitoba farmer stated the other day to the writer that he would not bother putting up hay again, so long as he had plenty of straw. He had used some straw this winter, and his stock did so well on it, that in future he would not be at all alarmed about a scarcity of hay, if he had plenty of straw.

THE Manitoba Government has resolved to re-open the question with the Dominion, regarding compensation for our public lands. Manitoba has been deprived of her lands by the Dominion claim of ownership, under the purchase from the Hudson's Bay Company. The province is allowed a sum amounting to \$100,000 annually, in lieu of these lands. This amount is altogether inadequate. Little Prince Edward Island is allowed \$300,000 because that province had no public lands on entering the Dominion. Manitoba should own her public lands, or should be compensated therefore to a reasonable extent. The area of the province is placed at 74,000,000 acres, while the area of

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Prince Edward Island is about 1,365,000 acres. The absurdity of the grant of \$100,000 to Manitoba for the robbery of our public lands may be shown in the following way: Supposing that we reduce the area to 25,000,000 acres, and value this quantity of land at \$1 per acre, the annual interest on this amount at 5 per cent. would give the province a revenue of \$1,250,000. Ontario and Quebec derive large revenues from their public lands, the revenue in Ontario amounting to nearly a million and a half of dollars in 1888. Manitoba has need of her lands in order to assist in works necessary for the development of the country. If we had the ownership of our public lands we would be in a position to carry out such enterprises as the Hudson's Bay railway, and pay for them from the revenue coming in from the lands. Manitobans should assert their rights strongly in this matter, until some just compensation is granted for the filching of our lands.

THE Manitoba Legislature will petition the Dominion Government in favor of unrestricted reciprocity with the United States. The preamble to the resolution bearing upon the subject, recites the disadvantages under which the people of Manitoba labor, owing to the high duties upon agricultural implements, lumber, fruits and other goods, which we are obliged to import, and which are an absolute necessity to the settlers. "Owing to the geographical position of Manitoba," the preamble states, "it would be of very great benefit to the people of this province to have closer trade relationship with the United States." As to the contention that the protective tariff bears heavily upon Manitoba, there is no ground for argument. It is almost universally conceded here that such is the case, and Manitoba can never receive justice in the matter of taxation while the present policy holds on. Whatever may be understood from the term "unrestricted reciprocity," there is no doubt but that greater freedom in trade intercourse with the United States would be a taking policy in Manitoba, especially in view of the burden imposed upon the West by the National Policy. As a relief from this policy almost any change would be popular with the people.