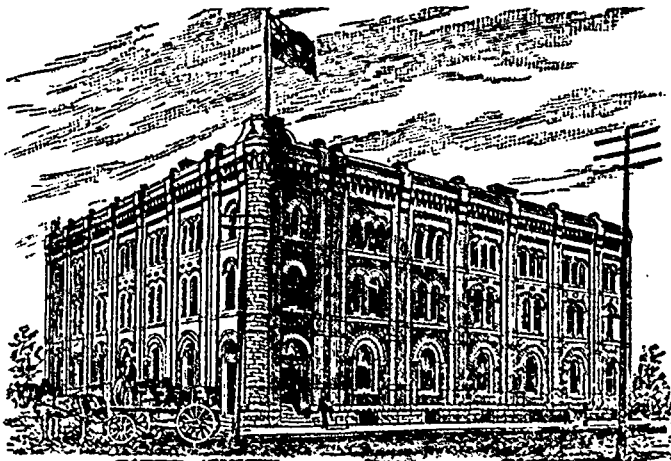


GOODS SOLD TO THE  
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**G. F. & J. GALT,**  
**DIRECT IMPORTERS**  
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 CORNER PRINCESS AND BANNATYNE STREETS, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

THE *Montreal Witness* speaks a word of caution in regard to the frost reported in Manitoba. That journal points out that in 1885 it was generally denied that there was any damage to grain from the frost experienced in Manitoba that year, yet when the grain came to market, a large portion was found to be damaged. The *Witness* sees a possibility of the same thing happening again this year, and sounds a caution accordingly. The journal even intimates that there may be systematic deception regarding the denials of serious damage from frost. The *Witness* can hardly be blamed for being a little skeptical concerning these reports. Conditions in Manitoba have certainly been misrepresented in the past, willfully by some and through ignorance by others. A great many of the "boom" crop reports, etc., sent out, for instance, are the result of ignorance more than anything else. Moreover, many of the most overdrawn of such reports are not published abroad by Manitobans, but by visitors from the east—men whose high standing gains for them publicity for their remark, but who at the same time are not at all competent to give an opinion upon such matters. Manitobans are therefore not alone to blame for false reports spread abroad. There may have been some wilful misrepresentation about the frost of 1885, but the amount of damage was underestimated more through ignorance than any other cause. It is a very difficult matter to estimate damage done by frost. In fact it is impossible to form an approximately close opinion in a case of this kind. Damage by frost is not readily discernible upon the surface, and can often only be detected by an expert. Manitoba farmers were not able to discover any damage to their grain, as farmers as a rule are not grain experts. They stated their honest belief that their grain had not been touched, but the thresher showed to the contrary. This year the frost came about same date as in 1885, but the grain was probably in a little more advanced state this season than in the year named. The effects of the frost of 1885 was very much more noticeable upon garden plants, vines and potato tops, which in many instances were entirely killed. This year the most tender plants over large sections of country, do not show the effects of frost, and where this is the case it is practically

certain that grain has not been injured. The conditions, therefore, are different from that of 1885, and there is no reason to believe that the result will be similar.

The Dominion Temperance Alliance, at their recent meeting at Montreal, stated in the report that the province of British Columbia is in a worse condition, speaking from a temperance standpoint, than any other part of the Dominion. Other charges are made concerning the Pacific province which we are sure are not borne out by the facts. The report goes on to say that "the license system there leaves the traffic practically open to all who choose to pay for the privilege of engaging in it, with the result that the cities and towns of British Columbia have an unenviable reputation for drunkenness and other immorality." It is likely that the temperance people base their charges upon the fact that the customs returns show large importations of liquors into British Columbia. That drunkenness is not more prevalent in British Columbia than in other parts of Canada, we thoroughly believe, notwithstanding what the customs returns may show. At least the indications of drunkenness are not outwardly more apparent there than in other parts of the country. There is one part of Canada which is certainly in a worse condition, speaking from a temperance standpoint, than any other, and that is sections of the western territories, where certain alleged restrictive regulations are in force. Quoting the words of the Alliance people, "the traffic there is open to all who choose to engage in it," with this difference that there is no license fee to pay. If the temperance people wish to discover in what part of Canada the effects of intemperance are most apparent in a public way, they should take a trip through certain portions of the territories.

A GREAT deal of bosh is being talked about the nominal transfer of the Northern Pacific & Manitoba Railway to the Northern Pacific Railway Company. Of course this is done for political effect, and is intended to work upon the ignorance of those who are not posted in the matter. The railways operated in Manitoba under the name of the Northern Pacific and Manitoba, were built by and owned by

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the Northern Pacific Railway Company, and the fact that they were operated under a separate management, did not change the ownership of the roads in Manitoba. This talk about foreign control of the Northern Pacific and Manitoba is therefore very silly, and people who can be influenced by it are extremely gullible. The only advantage which these railways can be to Manitoba, beyond their usefulness as colonization roads, is through their connection with the Northern Pacific. Commercially Manitoba will not suffer through the abolition of the separate management of the branches of the Northern Pacific in this province. The service and usefulness of the branches in Manitoba are more likely to be improved than otherwise through their entire consolidation with the parent road. Political capital depends largely upon the gullibility of the people, hence the rot talked about the change in the N. P. & M. We make this statement to show that commercially the conditions have not been changed; not because we take any interest in the wire-pulling either way.

THE United States census shows that the Northwestern States have all increased largely in population. The percentage of gain in Minnesota is very great. Kansas and Nebraska also show a large increase in population. The latter state has increased in ten years from 452,402 to 1,105,000. The result of the census will be a considerable increase in the number of representatives in Congress from the West. In view of the fact that the free trade element is strongest in the west, the changes which will be brought about by the census may have some influence upon the tariff question.

A ST. PAUL report places the yield of wheat in Minnesota and the two Dakotas at 93,000,000 bushels, of which 43,000,000 bushels are credited to Minnesota. The average yield to the acre in Minnesota is placed at 13 bushels. Owing to poor crops in the northern central portions of South Dakota, the average yield for that state is estimated to reach only 10½ bushels per acre. In North Dakota, the northern portion is placed at 20 bushels per acre, and in the Red river valley about 15 bushels, but the western and southern sections of North Dakota are described as very poor.