

WINNIPEG'S SOCIAL CONDITIONS.—It is much to be regretted that statements alleged to have been made in his pulpit by a Winnipeg clergyman should have been not only published in the newspapers of that city but re-published in periodicals all over this continent and in Great Britain. The charges and the insinuations made are so scandalous as to prove, wherever credited, exceedingly detrimental to Winnipeg. There are persons who take a morbid pleasure in hearing and repeating evil reports reflecting upon the moral character of their fellow creatures. The scandal-monger and maker has for ages been the shame of humanity and its curse. "Done to death by slanderous tongues," has been the fate of many. While it is one of the functions of the clergy to rebuke vice from the pulpit it is not to their duty, still less their privilege, to slander their congregations, or their neighbours, by making vague, general, but most offensive charges against their morals which are worded so loosely as to bring a whole community under suspicion and condemnation. It is unmanly, cruel and a most unchristianlike act for a man to use the shelter of his pulpit to throw out vile insinuations and charges indiscriminately which slander his congregation and his fellow citizens wholesale. "Judge not that ye be not judged," and, "Charity thinketh no evil," are divine utterances which need to be pondered over by the cleric who has painted Winnipeg as a modern Sodom. Writing romances is one thing, but speaking slander from a pulpit is quite another, though the practice of the former, no doubt, would tend to blind a writer to the turpitude of using slander to give sensational spice to a sermon. If the cleric in question wishes to arouse public attention in Winnipeg to some specific local evil let him hire a hall where he could be questioned and his charges subjected to tests, by the evidence for them being demanded. Certainly, a clergyman's usefulness as an exemplar of Christian charity and Christian speech is ended when he uses his pulpit for spreading sensational slanders against members of his flock, which are injurious to them, their neighbours and, by a fair inference, highly detrimental to the city generally.

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WINNIPEG REAL ESTATE.—The rise in the market price of land in Winnipeg has been very rapid in the last year or two, especially in the business thoroughfares. We have recently heard of \$2,800 per foot frontage having been given for a lot on a leading street. Suppose the lot was 50 feet by 120 feet, the total area would be 6,000 square feet. At \$2,800 per running foot frontage the cost would be \$140,000, which, divided by 6,000 would give \$23.33 as the price per square foot. This may be compared with \$18 per square foot paid for a site with building thereon, having frontage on three streets at the corner of St. Catherine and Peel Streets in this city. Winnipeg has suffered heavily by a land "boom" collapsing, so it has the lesson of experience for a guide in this matter.

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MERCHANTS' BANK OF CANADA.—Several of our daily papers have been distinguishing themselves by entering into competition with romance writers. In their overzealous efforts to "scoop" their rivals they have gone into the news manufacturing business. One day, they have the Mer-

chants' Bank amalgamated, another day they have fixed on a new manager, and they have told us more of the details of some alleged arrangements than is known by any of the officials from the president to the messenger.

Seriously it is outside the realm of reputable newspaperdom, even in these sensational days, to publish the flimsiest rumours as though they were facts.

NO DEFINITE ARRANGEMENT has been made respecting the Merchants' Bank of Canada as to amalgamation or a new general manager in succession to Mr. Fyshe. A closer alliance with the Royal is regarded by several leading citizens as being probable.

The Merchant's Bank need not go outside its head office staff for a manager for the time being. There are few men who so thoroughly understand the policy and the position of the Merchants' Bank as well as Mr. E. F. Hebden, who is a good banker and very highly esteemed by all to whom he is known in business and other circles.

The rumour in reference to Mr. Fyshe's joining the Board of the Bank of Nova Scotia is wholly without foundation.

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THE TELEPHONE COMMITTEE AT OTTAWA is eliciting a large body of evidence in regard to the telephones in use in Canada and elsewhere. The great popularity and usefulness of rural district telephones has been established. The opposition of railways to having any 'phone instruments in their stations, except those of the Bell Co., was defended on the ground of convenience.

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RAILWAY DELEGATES MEETING.—A banquet was given on 24th inst., at the Windsor Hotel in this city to the delegates to the International Railway Congress, recently held at Washington.

A noticeable feature which excited much comment, was the absence of any representative of the Canadian Pacific. Has some one blundered?

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THE CITY WATER SUPPLY is to be again discussed by the committee in a few days. The needs of the service are an electric pumping system and a re-arrangement of the present pumping apparatus as a reserve. The cost of this would not be large. The plant ought to be in a fire-proof building. The danger of a stoppage of power to work the electric pump has been minimized by the acquisition of power from the Lachine Rapids and Shaniwigan Falls. The city of Montreal should run no risks of its water supply failing.

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FOREIGN INVESTMENTS.—Several prominent financiers were chatting a few nights ago on the large investments being made by Canadians in foreign enterprises as in electrical and steam railways in Cuba. In Mexico some 10 millions of foreign money has been invested, not all, however, by Canadians. Financial institutions which have derived their resources from Canada and live on Canadian business owe a duty to this country to do all in their power to promote native enterprises. Plenty of opportunities can be found for investing funds safely in Canada, the development of whose resources needs all the money which the people can supply. Even some insurance companies are assisting foreign countries at the expense of this Do-