

Statistics of Winnipeg's Trade.

In once more presenting a statistical report of the trade affairs of Winnipeg for the past year, it is well at the outset to state that the same must necessarily be incomplete and wanting in many valuable details. Knowing this, the aim this year in the work of collection and compilation has been first to reach as near as possible to the volume of business and value of exports during the past year, and in the second place to draw inferences therefrom as to where our trade affairs can be stimulated and assisted.

This, year, like previous ones, the work of collecting and compiling facts and figures brings to the surface new or unnoticed features, and makes plain symptoms which are a fairly accurate guide to the state of our commercial affairs generally. These symptoms and features are referred to in detail later on in this report, but it is well to state at the outset that with scarcely an exception they point in a favorable direction.

The year 1886 has been one of moderate prosperity and steady improvement in our trade affairs, but it has not been sufficiently so to allow of any jubilant feeling, or to wipe away the lingering impression, that our commercial system is still under some pressure.

The year closed with about the same number of trading institutions in the city, with which it opened. There have been quite a number of small concerns, which have disappeared, only to be succeeded by other similar institutions, while one prominent mechanical and two important mercantile concerns have retired from the field. One or two mercantile concerns of some consequence have sprung up, while at least two have glided from a purely retail into a partial jobbing business, so that altogether on the surface of trade affairs scarcely any change since a year ago is apparent.

The year 1886 closed with some eighty-eight mercantile houses in the city doing more or less of a wholesale business, and this number is divided as follows: In grain, grain products and milling,