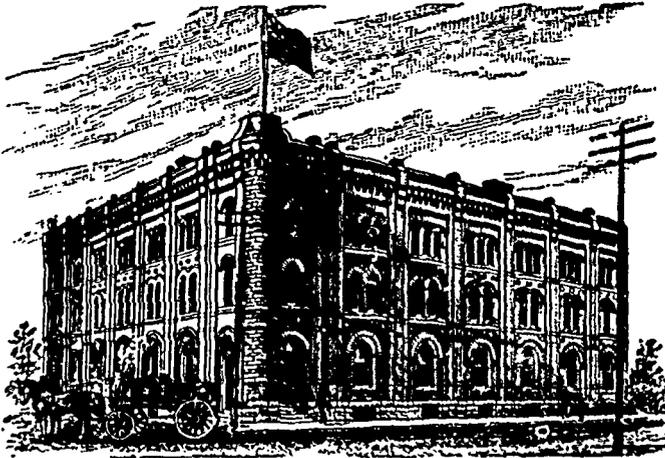


GOODS SOLD TO THE
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DIRECT IMPORTERS
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CORNER PRINCESS AND BANNATYNE STREETS, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

In our issue of November 17th was published the correspondence with the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture, by which the hog quarantine in Manitoba has been abolished. Inquiries have since been coming in as to the duty on live hogs, and where to procure a supply of the same. The first answer is, two cents a pound live weight, a duty which is practically prohibitory in connection with heavy fat hogs, but which comes in very appropriate in connection with growing pigs and small half-fed porkers, such as our farmers require at present. Animals of 50 to 75 pounds weight are the kind, and the duty on such would be only \$1 to \$1.50. As to where they can be procured, we may say anywhere in Southern Minnesota and Iowa, states easily reached from this province. Here is an extract from a private letter of a well-to-do farmer in Traer, Central Iowa, to the publisher of this journal, and it shows the state of affairs south there:—

"I got THE COMMERCIAL yesterday, and read your letter to the Minister of Agriculture. Now I think it was just to the point and had the desired effect. I hope the farmers of Manitoba will take the advantage of it, for there are thousands of pigs shipped from here that are not half fatted. Farmers here have too many pigs this year. The last two years have been big corn crops, and people thought they were always going to have such crops, but this year the corn throughout the country here is not half the yield it was last year. Mine will yield 40 bushels to the acre, what I put in myself, but there is plenty of corn that will not yield 20 bushels to the acre, so there are more pigs here than there is corn to feed them with."

Such is the hog and corn situation in Central Iowa, and the advantages there and elsewhere in the States for new settlers, the writer in the same letter refers to as follows:—

"Lyman —, has rented his farm for five years, at \$600 a year, or \$3 an acre, county roads and creek bottoms included in the 200 acres. A. —, has rented his 200 acres for \$550, and there are ten acres of county roads taken off it. Now, how these poor people are going to live and pay their rents, I don't know. I don't know that there is much government land in the United States now, that is worth

anything. Lots that has been settled, is not fit for settlement. But they might cross the line up into your country. I don't know about North Dakota, but there is South Dakota not fit for anything but Indians and buffalo. There is not enough rain fall any year to raise crops. They are moving away from it this fall, all that can. There has been more grain sent to them for charity these years past, than they have raised."

This last extract should, we think, make every Manitoban feel satisfied with the country he is living in.

THE rapidity with which American stocks and American grain declined in price from the opening of November up to the 20th, finds few parallels since the famous crash of Jay Cooke & Co., in 1873, but fortunately the crash has not been anything near so paralysing on general trade as might have been expected. In fact there seems to have been but little rottenness in general trade or the financial crash would have laid it bare. South American stocks seem to have commenced the trouble in London, resulting in the suspension of Baring Bros., and had much to do with the trouble in New York. Other stocks suffered a big decline in the whirl of excitement, and grain got a knock down along with other affairs. The rapid recovery from the crash during the past week goes to prove that in connection with those other stocks, with the exception of a few that were well known to be boomed, there was no unnatural inflation at the time the financial whirlwind swept down, and as a result but little was swept away, for the blast was such, that anything hanging loosely had to go. In grain prices this was notably the case, and the drop therein was not the result of any speculative inflation thereof. It is well that such was the state of affairs when the crash came, for had it struck an inflated fabric of trade and finance, such as existed in 1873 before the panic of that year, the contemplation of probable results would give reason for a shudder. The financial cyclone of 1890 will be long remembered on account of the suddenness with which it swept down, and it now looks as if it was likely to be equally

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well remembered on account of the rapidity of recovery from its effects.

Trade Conditions.

R. G. Dunn & Co.'s weekly review of trade says: Those who have long expected a severe reaction in the stock market have now seen the average of prices thrown back to a lower price than has been touched at any other time for more than four years. It remains the fact that the legitimate business throughout the country is the largest ever known, not much inflated or endangered by speculation, and so far sound that complaints in regard to collections have been much fewer than usual. The check now sustained may not improbably produce some shrinkage in transactions and diminution of profits, but the industrial and commercial conditions have been so far favorable that speculative disturbances are the less likely to affect general business seriously. Reports from other cities show that at most points the events in Wall Street have had little or no effect as yet. It is not to be forgotten that the demand for money is largely due to the unprecedented volume of business thus far.—*Market Record.*

Frog Catching.

The following amusing paragraph we clip from the *Monetary Times* of Nov. 21st.—"A new handicraft is to be noted of late days. Not altogether new elsewhere, of course, but newly brought into play and prominence in central Ontario. This trade, or profession, call it which you will—in view of the context it cannot be called sport—is that of frog catching. The Campbellford *Herald* is disposed to confer upon H. Pollock, of Trent Bridge, the title of the most successful frog catcher in this province. His latest catch was in Lake Seugog. Beginning on the 27th of September and continued until the 21st October—about three weeks—he took from the water 2,023 pounds, which when sold netted him \$500. The only assistance he had was one man one week, and two men another week. How he catches them we are not told. Mr. Pollock is also an expert in skinning frogs. He says that he recently took the pelts of 5,754 in four hours, 24 minutes. Five hundred dollars in three weeks! For rapid accumulation of wealth this may be said to beat the plumbing business."