

General Notes.

SOME surprise is expressed by dry goods men that the cotton goods market fails to respond to the advance in the raw article. It is now pretty apparent that the drouth of last summer cut the crop short nearly 1,250,000 bales, compared with 1882 and 1883.

The *Dry Goods Bulletin* review for the week says business continues light and unsatisfactory. There has been too much crowding of manufacture, and the Southern makers of cotton goods have called a meeting at Augusta, Ga., April 3, to devise means of curtailment to avoid the evils of a glutted market.

In the lead production of different countries, Spain still holds the first rank, the amount reaching some 120,000 tons in one year, or one-sixth more than America, which comes next on the list, while Germany follows with 90,000. Of Spain's total production, some 67,000 tons are derived from one district, that of Linares, in which more than 800 miners are registered.

Glucose.

The enormous proportions attained by the glucose industry in the United States, and probably some disquieting rumors that have found currency concerning the wholesomeness of the product, appear to have induced the American Commissioner of Internal Revenue to ask the aid of the National Academy of Sciences in investigating the subject. The Academy entrusted the inquiry to a committee, which has recently reported its opinion that the processes at present employed in the manufacture of sugar from starch are unobjectionable, and leave the product uncontaminated; that the starch sugar thus made and sent into commerce is pure and uniform in composition, and contains no injurious substances; and that although possessing, at most, only two-thirds of the sweetening power of cane sugar, nevertheless, starch sugar is not inferior to it in healthfulness, no evidence having been met with that maize starch sugar, either in its normal condition or when fermented, has any deleterious effect upon the constitution, even when taken in large quantities. It is estimated by the committee that the industry in the United States gives employment to twenty-nine factories, which together represent a capital of \$5,000,000, consume about forty thousand bushels of maize daily, and produce "glucose" and "grape sugar" to the value annually of \$10,000,000.

Antiquity of Luminous Paints.

The luminous paints, of which so much was written a few years ago, and for which a great future was prophesied, appear to have been known many centuries ago to the Chinese. The *North China Herald* has an article on the subject, stating the Emperor Tai Tsung, who flourished toward the tenth century of the Christian era, received a picture which was luminous at night. The picture represented by night a cow lying within a fence; while by day the cow appeared as browsing outside the inclosure. His majesty asked for an explanation from his ministers, but they were not better informed than

he. At length some explained that the effect was produced by mixing South Sea pearl paste with a pigment which at night became luminous, and that the day picture was attributed to the genii, while some denied its existence altogether. The author of the article shows by extracts from Chinese writers of three centuries ago that the tradition of the art had not died out.

MINNEDOSA.

The benefits derived from regular railway communication have been forcing themselves more and more upon the notice of the people here and the daily increasing traffic has helped to inspire a large degree of confidence in the future of this town; already we are receiving a share of the immigration and the M. & N. W. railway have had to provide an additional passenger coach for the regular train.

With an energetic and active class of farmers located around us on the best of prairie soil, everything is now favorable for a rapid but steady and healthy progress, and we have abundant evidence that this will be the order of the season; there is not, as in some places, any rivalry between different parts or sections of the town, but with business streets already well established in a central location, all outside arrangements radiate from these, the City Fathers work together in harmony for the best interests of the place, and in making public improvements they keep in view the principle, "the greatest good to the greatest number."

Negotiations are now going on between the Council and the lumbering firms for the immediate construction of several miles of plank sidewalk, and the Town Engineer is at work ascertaining the proper grades for the principal streets, which will be further improved as soon as the frost is out of the ground.

The shipment of grain from this point has been to some extent hindered by reason of insufficient storage accommodation; this disadvantage will be this season swept away by the building of a large elevator on the railway grounds.

Mr. George Harvey, of Winnipeg, is in town, with a view to building on his Mill street property opposite the Grand Central hotel.

A large store and workshop for S. Fairbairn, furniture dealer, is to be erected on Main street near the bridge.

The frame building formerly occupied by S. Hartford & Co., grocers, has been sold to make room for a block of stores to be erected by Jas. Jermyn; the purchaser, Mr. Roche, will at once remove it to one of his Main street lots and fit it up for a shop; Mr. Jermyn has had plans prepared for a handsome residence on Minnedosa street, this will be commenced at once, and when completed, his present residence on Main street will be re-arranged as a drug store and dwelling for Mr. John K. Patton. Adjoining this Mr. Rigney, formerly of Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie, has opened a wholesale liquor store.

The hum of the Douglas flouring mill is heard once again; McDonald & Lamont have taken a three years lease and will make extensive improvements.

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DISSOLUTION OF PARTNERSHIP.

The partnership heretofore existing between G. C. Read, G. M. Donaldson and J. F. Wood, under the name of Wood & Co., General Merchants, Keswatin Mills, was dissolved on March 11th, 1881. G. C. Read accepts all liabilities of said Company, and will carry on the business in future.

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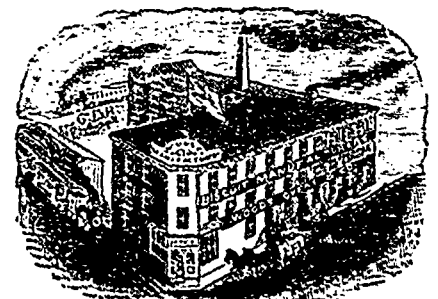
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