

might be expected that bubble did not last long, and a few holes in the ground on some of the islands of the Lake of the Woods are the only relics of the transactions of those jay hawks and their dupes.

It does seem as if a healthier state in connection with the mining of precious metals in the Northwest was soon to be reached. At two points in the Rocky Mountain country smelting works have been erected, and practical tests of mining will now be made. We refrain from details in connection with mining in that region, as there is at present a representative of THE COMMERCIAL in British Columbia who will make a full investigation into the mining outlook and be able at an early date to give his views in these columns. But at Rat Portage in the Lake of the Woods country works for the reduction of ore are now nearing completion and will soon be in operation. This will enable owners of mining claims around the lake to make a practical test in mining at a very small expense, and thus demonstrate the value of those claims, or cease to talk about them. People are thoroughly tired of the loquacious loafer with his imaginary bonanza; they are tired of viewing pocket specimens of ore and examining bogus assays. They want some practical proof of the value of a mining claim, and with that proof furnished, there will be no lack of capital to develop paying claims. The reduction works at Rat Portage will furnish the means of providing the proof, either of the value or worthlessness of claims, and there is every reason to believe that ere another year passes they will have done a good share of such work either in a positive or negative sense.

There is another valuable field for mining, which seems to be very slow of development, and that is the iron ore deposits of Lake Winnipeg. But the time will soon come when they will be tapped, and when that comes we hope these resources will be handled, as we wish to see all other mining resources handled, not to make a basis of wild speculation, but to create a valuable industry.

A Gloomy Report.

The following we take from an eastern trade paper, where it is published as a report from the agent of Dun, Wiman & Co. at Vancouver, B.C.:

"As the travelers are just coming out for fall orders, I wish to bring to your notice the absolute necessity there is for care in this place. The winter trade was not 50 per cent. of what most merchants had anticipated; some were short last fall—more are short now and no doubt are getting renewals. Insist on it as far as lies in your power in the almost complete cessation of business here as far as taking orders for fall goods goes, where the merchant buying is unable, with his present stock, to retire his paper at maturity, as it cannot benefit him to have his stock increased 25 or 50 per cent. when he has already more goods than he can sell or pay for. Many may possibly get through by not ordering more goods, but if they buy as freely as they did for spring and last fall, many wholesale houses will regret that a representative was sent to Vancouver for taking orders for fall 1890. You cannot place too much stress on the fact that stocks to-day in every line are out of all proportion to the actual turn-

over and the curtailment of orders should be insisted on. "Travelers come, want to do business, will do it if people take orders and these very people will reverse the order and make the wholesaler eventually take a good deal less than invoice price."

If this report ever was sent in, we have no hesitation in pronouncing it, speaking as mildly as we can, a terribly overcolored picture. Inquiry of travelers just returned from there utterly fail to corroborate such a report. As THE COMMERCIAL has an experienced and reliable representative in British Columbia at present, he will be instructed to investigate and report on the matter.

Counterfeit Canadian ten cent coins are said to be in circulation.

The monthly output of the Galt Mines Co. amount to nearly \$23,000.

Fifteen thousand trees from Nebraska have been taken to the experimental farm at Indian Head.

Qu'Appelle is offering a bonus of \$500 to any one who will start a creamery in that municipality.

William Johnston, of Brandon, brought in a car load of American binders the other day. He says there are some who will still have the American makes.

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Complete range of Samples with Andrew Callender, McIntyre Block, Winnipeg.

Special Notice.

FOR SALE—A half interest in an old established Hardware Business in the City of Winnipeg. Annual turn-over about \$50,000; Stock about \$15,000; Best connection in the City. Satisfactory reasons given for disposing of my interest.

ADDRESS: A. B. O.,

THE COMMERCIAL,
WINNIPEG.

Whitemouth Lumber Mills

WHITEMOUTH, MAN., MARCH 24TH, 1890.

To the Lumber Merchants of Manitoba and the Northwest.

GENTLEMEN,—You will please remember that from this date your orders can be filled correctly, carefully and promptly at the lowest possible prices consistent with legitimate business.

My stock is of the best quality and well assorted as you all know, I therefore ask you in all confidence to give me your orders, the execution of which will have my best attention.

Accept my most cordial thanks for your past patronage and I assure you that many kindnesses shall ever be remembered.

Permit me also to thank you for your promptness in adjusting your obligations which has enabled me to prosecute my work with the utmost vigor and at the lowest cash basis awaiting your commands, I remain,

YOURS TRULY,

David Ross.

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