

Northwest Trade and General News.

The Commercial Bank of Manitoba has declared a dividend of 3½ per cent. for the current half year.

Fifty new coal cars for the N. W. C. & N. Co's Railway have arrived at Dunmore and are now being set up there.

J. C. Du Gayne & Co., merchants, Rat Portage, are building a large store at Keewatin, near the Ottawa Bank block.

Inglis & Smith, of Moosomin, Assa., have lately shipped to Calgary a car load of stock for Lewin & Scott, and a car load of cattle and hogs to Winnipeg.

The steamer Glendevon came to Selkirk lately, bringing with her the largest cargo of fish ever brought into Selkirk, there being three hundred thousand pounds on board.

A board of trade has been organized at Minnedosa with the following office-bearers: J. D. Gillies, M.P., president; T. A. Cuddy, vice-president; F. Boyd, secretary treasurer.

The excavation for the basement of the new Union Bank building at Lethbridge, Alberta, is completed. The building is to be of stone, two stories with basement, and will be the finest in the town.

J. E. Thomas, general merchant, Portage la Prairie, has rented another store in the Lafferty block, and is now making the necessary alterations to convert both stores into one, which will then make a fine store.

Calgary Tribune: The first train load of western cattle have been shipped by the Northwest Cattle Co. to the old country markets. The cattle which have just come off the range, are in magnificent condition, and range from 3 to 5 years of age, and will weigh at the present time about 1,500 pounds each. Of course cattle that have never eaten anything but prairie grass, will feed but poorly at the different feeding places along the line, this with loading and unloading of cattle that have scarcely had a man near them will likely be 150 or 200 pounds lighter, but looking at them to-day they are as fine a bunch of beeves as any one might wish to look at. There was some difficulty getting the first carload or so loaded, but under the superintendence of Geo. Lane and John Ware, the boys soon got into the 'hang of it', and rushed them in. The rest of the shipment (about 700 head in all), will follow as quickly as the C.P.R. can provide cars to take them.

At a public meeting held at Lethbridge, Alberta, to consider the liquor question, the following resolutions were passed: That the present system in regard to the liquor traffic in the Territories is one that has been shown, by year's of experience, to be impossible to carry out, and which, in its present condition, is injurious to both the morals and finances of the Territories; therefore, it is the opinion of this meeting that it would be advisable for our representative in the Northwest Council to lay the matter before the Council at its next session, and to take such steps to have the matter laid before the Dominion Government as will lead to its early abolishment. That the issue of the Lieut.-Governor's permit to responsible parties

in Lethbridge for the importation, manufacture and sale of beer in the district is greatly to be desired, both as leading to the establishment of a large industry and a consequent market for barley and other products; and as also leading to the diminution of the huge proportions of the present illicit trade in liquor.

Personal.

Mr. B. Johnson, of Kilgour Bros., wholesale papers, etc., Toronto, was in the city last week en route home from as far west as the Pacific coast.

Mr. W. H. Smith, resident representative at Winnipeg for Smith & Fudger, wholesale fancy goods, etc., Toronto, returned from British Columbia and the west last week. Mr. Smith goes east in a day or so.

Alberta's Fitness for Live Stock.

The summer has been the most favorable to the "stock" interests yet known, since the establishment of ranches in the district. The rain during May and June caused the growth of abundance of grass. It would be impossible to imagine finer or more abundant pasturage than that which covers the foot hills of the Rocky Mountains in the district of Alberta. The stock are in the prime condition, and the calves and foals, if not numerous, are certainly more vigorous and promising than I have ever seen them in that country; and while the ranchers may this year, on account of the severity of the winter, find their profits lessened, and their expectations, to a certain extent, unrealized, yet I am satisfied that in the end good will result, and those intending to stock range will have learned from the past winter's experiences that un-acclimated cattle, and inexperienced cattlemen, no matter what their eastern experiences as stockmen may have been are not calculated to stand the vicissitudes at which stock cattle are exposed, even in the comparatively mild winter of that country, when left to forage for themselves, as range cattle must necessarily be left to do. The past winter has demonstrated that while the district is capable of feeding in summer several millions of cattle, the area in which cattle can be safely wintered is comparatively limited so far as has yet been ascertained. The attention of stockmen of Alberta is very largely directed to horse breeding. Bands of breeding stock have been imported from British Columbia, Oregon, Montana and other territories, besides large numbers of mares sent from Ontario and Quebec. During the present year a large number of thoroughbred stallions and mares have been imported from England and Ireland, as well as from Kentucky and the Canadian provinces. These include thoroughbred, draft, Clyde, Percheron, English hackney horses and trotting sires. Severe as last winter was on cattle, mortality in horses was nothing and the whole results were such as would satisfy the most sanguine expectations. It will, therefore, be seen, that in a few years the district will not only supply the local demand, which, as emigration increases, must necessarily be large; but horses of all kinds will be sent to our eastern markets, and before many years the surplus stock will find its way for the remounting of not only the English but continental armies, as well as for carriage, tramway, saddle and other horse markets. In fact Alberta may be considered of the best, if not the very best, horse-breeding country in the world. Its capabilities in this direction are unlimited, as horses can be bred satisfactorily if judiciously managed, extending as it does north of the boundary line, 600 miles square.

FACTS, NOT ARGUMENTS.—Men who are always talking about what they are going to do, or mean to accomplish, rarely, if ever, do it. Such men do a lot of talking, but very little acting or working. Were they to practice what they preach, they would very likely be successful. The world judges men by their acts, not by their talk or promises. Arguments are good but facts are better—they convince. Deeds and acts alone count in life; not bluster or swagger. The merchant who makes a fortune in trade is a factor, while the one who intends to, is only a figure. It is what is accomplished that satisfies the world. The man who wins or is successful, whether in trade or in battle, invariably carries off the honors. —E.L.

It is understood that the Comptroller of Currency will in his next report to Congress suggest an important amendment to the national bank act with a view of preventing, under severe penalties, the compromising by any bank of any case of misappropriation, embezzlement, misapplication of funds or any other offence which renders officers or employees of national banks liable to criminal prosecution under the acts now in force. Such an amendment would be an entirely proper one. It would only be in the direction of a further recognition of the public nature of such offences against the community. Crimes of this nature are public wrongs which affect the whole community, and it ought not to be in the power of offenders guilty of them to secure immunity from public prosecution, whether by the favor of bank officials or otherwise. Bankers are particularly interested in the maintenance of a high standard of commercial morality; which acts such as those against which legislation is sought cannot but affect unfavorably, and they will doubtless be glad to see the suggestion of the Comptroller embodied in legislation. —Bris street.

As we have already pointed out, the question of the establishment of a decimal system of coinage is again attracting attention in England. Not long ago a deputation representing several of the chambers of commerce waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer to urge upon him the desirability of making the change, and both before and since the matter has been the subject of many articles in the daily press and in periodicals. One of the most recent of these, which appears in *Longman's Magazine*, goes beyond the question of decimalizing etc., and finds in the establishment of the decimal system the basis for an approximation to a uniform monetary system. The writer, Mr. W. W. Hardwicke, points out that this system forms the best basis for the reason that most of the nations of the world have a decimal coinage, the exception being confined to Great Britain, India, the Ottoman Empire and Egypt. He would not erect a decimal system in England on the existing penny as a basis with the view of furnishing approximate equivalents in the English coinage to the most important foreign coins, the dollar, the franc and the marc. When treated in this way the proposition has no interest which is not limited to the financial and commercial relations of Great Britain, extensive and important as these are, and the idea at the basis should attract attention abroad. —Bris street.