

Winnipeg Grocers.

A meeting of the retail grocers of the city was held in the Oddfellows' Hall, corner of Princess and McDermott Streets, on Thursday evening for the purpose of re-organizing the Grocers' Association. There were present about 40 of the retail grocers of the city. C. D. Anderson, president of the former organization, occupied the chair, and J. G. Hargrave was appointed secretary pro tem.

W. Hunter introduced the object of the meeting. D. West dwelt upon the benefits to be derived in the way of cultivating a more social feeling among merchants and business men generally, the need of measures to prevent wholesale dealers from selling at retail, also to prevent peddlers from selling without license. Other points were the want of protection against dead beats, the desirability of a board of exchange, of shortening the hours of labor and of an agreement between the grocers and the millers regarding the price of flour. W. Cummings and others spoke briefly on matters of general interest to the retail trade, especially on the injury done by wholesalers selling to consumers and the destruction to business caused by peddlars going from house to house cutting down prices and paying little or nothing to the city in the way of license, fees or taxes.

After due deliberation it was decided to re-organize the association, to be known as the Grocers' Retail Association of Winnipeg. The following officers were elected:—Wm. Hunter, president; A. R. Christie, vice-president; Herbert Thompson, secretary; C. D. Anderson, treasurer. A committee to draft by-laws was appointed, consisting of the president, vice-president and J. H. Horne, Wm. Cummings, D. West and Phillip Marrin. A committee was appointed to wait on the millers in reference to an agreement between them and the retail grocers in regard to the handling of flour, the members being W. Cummings, F. Cloutier, R. H. Wiaram and J. B. Bell.

A vote of thanks was tendered to the retiring officers of the old association for their services, and suitable replies were made by C. D. Anderson, president, and J. W. Horne, vice-president.

All present signed their names as members of the association.

On motion of A. R. Christie, D. West was elected an honorary member.

The meeting adjourned until next Thursday evening at 8 o'clock in the same place.

Fur Trade.

Large catches of seal are reported from the Pacific coast.

The fur trade is beginning to open up wonderfully, says the *Vancouver World*, beaver and deer skins being brought into the city in goodly numbers.

P. Pruden and Alex. Hamelin, traders of Lac la Biche, have arrived at Edmonton with a large quantity of fur, to be sold there. Trade has been fairly good at Lac la Biche this winter, says the *Edmonton Bulletin*, chiefly in bear skins.

A report from Lac la Biche, north of Edmonton, Alberta, says: Fur of most kinds are not so plentiful as usual, but bear is much more so,

owing to the facility with which the animals can be hunted with dogs, now that there is little or no snow. There was a fall of snow during the winter, but two days rain in January took it away.

Recent raw fur quotations at Montreal were as follows:—

Beaver, per pound, \$3.25 to \$3.75; bear, per skin, \$15, \$17.50 to \$20; bear, cub, per skin, \$4, \$6 to \$8; fisher, \$4 to \$5; fox, red, \$1 to \$1.10; fox, cross, \$2 to \$3; lynx, \$2.50 to \$3.50; marten, 75c to 90c; mink, 75c to 90c; muskrat, 8c, 10c to 12c; otter, \$10 to \$12.50; raccoon, 40 to 60c; skunk, 40c, 60c to 80c.

The *Columbian*, Westminster, B. C., says: Furs are beginning to be brought in by Indians and others, but only a small number have been marketed as yet. Yesterday W. H. Vianen purchased thirty beaver skins, which were trapped near Chilliwack this winter. Although the weather has not been cold, and therefore against handsome furs, the skins are considered prime and of fine color. As soon as the Indians begin to return from their winter quarters a lively time is expected in the fur market, as reports say trapping has been fairly good during the last three months. Deer were unusually numerous last fall and the Northern Indians killed immense numbers of them.

Fishermen on the Fraser River, B. C., say that seals are more numerous in the river this spring than for many years. They follow the salmon nets, and when a fish becomes entangled they attack it and devour it unless frightened off by the boatmen. The damage done to nets by these thieves is sometimes considerable.

Business in British Columbia.

During the past week the merchants of the city have been complaining of the closeness of money. They say that trade is dull for this time of the year and collections very hard. They are, however, sanguine that this state of things will not last for any length of time. The market has been kept fairly well supplied and in some lines merchants have overstocked themselves. The real estate market is quiet and brokers are not anxious to do business for a week or two when they expect transactions to again become lively. The fruit, vegetable and dairy market has been kept well supplied and prices remain the same with but one or two exceptions. Choice California roll butter is coming in and selling at 65c per 2 pound roll. New turnips, green onions, lettuce and water cresses are being placed on the market.—*Vancouver News*.

The Wholesale trade at Victoria last week was reported as follows:—

Flour—Hungarian, \$7.20; strong bakers, \$6.85. Oregon—Royal, \$6; premier, \$6; snow flake, \$6; superfine, \$5.

Grain—wheat, per ton, \$37; Oats, per ton, \$25.05; barley, per ton, \$30.05.

Middlings, per ton, \$28; bran per ton, \$25; ground feed, per ton, \$32.50; oil cake, per ton, \$37.50; corn meal per 100 lbs., \$2.75; oatmeal, native, per 100 lbs., \$3.50.

Potatoes, per ton, \$13; sweet potatoes per 100 lbs., \$4; onions, \$1.25.

Hay, baled, per ton, \$20; straw, per bale, \$1.25 to \$1.50.

Apples, Gravenstein, per box, 50 lbs., \$1.50; bananas, per bunch, \$4; pears, choice Bartlett,

per box, \$2; peaches, \$1.25; grapes, Muscatello, 25 lbs., \$1.50; tomatoes, California, 25 lb. box, \$1; cocoanuts, per 100, \$11.

Eggs, Island, per dozen, 20c; imported, 16c.

Butter, roll, Island, per pound, 40c; imported, 27c; tub or firkin, creamry, 29c; dairy, 24c.

Cheese, local, per pound, 15c; Canadian, 12½ to 15c; California 17 to 18c.

Hams, per pound, local, 15c; American, 17 to 18c; bacon, local, breakfast, per pound, 14 to 16c; American, 16½c; rolled, 14c; shoulders, 12½c; lard, 12½c.

Morts—beef per pound, 8c; mutton, 10c; pork, fresh, 12½c; veal, dressed, 12½ to 15c.

Hides, 4 to 7½; sheep skins, each, 25 to 35c; tallow, 2½c.

Fish—Salmon, 7c; halibut, 8c.

British Dry Goods Trade.

Mail reports to date of March 2nd speak of a fairly active business at the leading points and indicate steadiness to values for all desirable fabrics. Enquiries for the most stylish overcoatings and suitings for next winter, and some fair orders for lower-class fabrics for spring and summer wear are mentioned. Deliveries of spring goods are being pushed forward with as much despatch as possible. A Bradford report states that there is a large turnover going on for the home and American markets in dress goods and coatings, and manufacturers are kept tolerably busy. The linen markets are represented as still in favorable position. At Belfast brown power-loom cloth is meeting with fair consumptive demand, while hand-loom makes are in light supply and likely to be still further reduced as outdoor work draws near. Bleached and finished linens for home and export account moving rather better, and late full rates firmly maintained. At Dundee there was a steady business doing, with prices fully supported and manufacturers in a strong position for orders. The Nottingham lace trade seems still to be in an unsatisfactory condition. Some accounts are not of a decided improvement, while others speak of the trade as being very little better than at the close of last year. All, however, agree in affirming that prices are so low as to make it extremely difficult for sellers to realize a profit. In the hosiery trade the tendency seemed to be in the direction of improvement, and manufacturers are steadily employed.

Insurance Briefs.

Tatlow & Spinks, real estate and financial agents, Vancouver, B. C., have been appointed agents for the London and Lancashire Insurance Company.

At the last meeting of the city council of Brandon, Man., the report of the fire, water and light committee recommended the purchase immediately of a team of horses for the fire department, a chemical fire engine and the sale of the present fire engine with a view to obtaining a larger one. All of which recommendations were adopted by the whole council on considerable discussion.

A. LAUGHLIN has opened an office at Cartwright, Man., as commissioner, conveyancer, land valuator, etc.