

BRADSTREET'S last weekly trade report notes a further decline in the volume of trade at the leading commercial centres, owing to unseasonable weather. There has been a large demand for iron at the west and south. Bank clearings have declined $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. as compared with the previous week. Railway earnings show a gain of \$427,000 for the second week of October. Woollen goods hold firm, as also cottons, but raw cotton is weaker, owing to pressure to sell.

A FARMER has been complaining through the columns of a city paper, that he could get but 9c for good Leicester wool in Winnipeg. The quotations in THE COMMERCIAL show that from 14 to 16c is paid here for choice washed wool of the variety mentioned. Winnipeg prices for wool are the same as Toronto, less the freight from here to that place, which is the very best that could be expected in the absence of woollen mills in Manitoba. In time these will be established, greatly to the benefit of the wool market. Wool, like wheat and other commodities, has ruled exceptionally low at outside markets for some time past, but this should not discourage farmers from growing wool any more than from growing wheat.

A CORRESPONDENT of the London, England, *Times*, who had lately made a tour of Canada, in the interests of his journal, has given a very favorable account of the impressions received during his trip. In Winnipeg and the Northwest especially, he was greatly surprised at the rapid development of the country, from the information he was able to gather by comparing past history with present realities. A view of old Fort Garry as a companion picture to the Winnipeg of to day, forcibly illustrated the great changes which a few years have brought forth. It is to be hoped that the editorial writers of the *Thunderer*, who have so frequently shown such a surprising lack of knowledge in Canadian geography, will profit by the experience of their representative. It is proposed to republish the correspondence to the *Times* in pamphlet form, for distribution throughout Britain.

A WINNIPEG real estate man has been giving a reporter of a city daily some pointers as to the outlook in city properties. This would-be boomster says: "Next Monday I am going to put up my property 25 per cent., all around. The condition of affairs and the outlook for the future warrant it." This sounds very nice, and the real estate man may put up the price of his property 25 or 50 per cent., on paper, but that will not make it worth any more. The fact remains, that property is now valued too high, in proportion to the returns that may be had from rents, and when taxes, insurance, and other expenses are paid, there is mighty little left to pay dividends on money invested. Whilst some parties may be interested in keeping up the assessment to a high figure, many ominous mutterings are daily heard against the tax rates. Before property can advance much, rents must also advance considerably, which latter the state of business will not warrant, and which at the present time would be a calamity to the city.

THE town council of the corporation of Gladstone, Man., has resigned, owing to the financial difficulties in which the place has become entangled. The creditors of the town have been issuing writs and garnishees at such a lively rate, that civic distinction has lost its charms for the councillors. The difficulties of the town of Gladstone were referred to in a previous number of THE COMMERCIAL. The full amount of the liabilities of the town are placed at the sum of \$30,000. Of this amount, \$20,000 was raised for railway bonus debentures, and \$10,000 improvement debentures. Unless the Provincial Government grant some assistance, it is likely that the creditors will stand a poor chance of recovering. The list of Manitoba towns likely to take such action as Gladstone has done, may now be considered complete. It is to be hoped that these examples will prove a salutary lesson to the young and rising towns of the province, toward inducing caution in assuming heavy liabilities.

THE movement toward granting a bonus to the Hudson's Bay Railway by this city has been brought to a sudden termination for the present, owing to the peculiarities now existing in the municipal situation. The city charter provides that bonuses may be granted to railways, after certain conditions have been complied with as to time of notice for voting on by-law, etc. The new municipal bill, passed by the Legislature at the last session, takes away the power of granting bonuses to railways by the municipalities, and as this bill takes effect on the 15th inst., the time is now too short to put through a bonus scheme before the new act comes in force. A good many objections had been raised to the granting of a large bonus by the city to the railway, owing to the fact that Winnipeg would have to bear a large portion of the provincial assistance already pledged to the road, and it is likely that had a bonus scheme been practical, it would have encountered strong opposition. However, the present phase of the question puts an end to further discussion for the present.

THERE is a good deal of political agitation going on in the territories at present. At the last session of the Parliament of Canada, a bill was passed providing for the representation of the territories in the Dominion House of Commons. Since then no steps have been taken to bring on the elections in the territories, and as the time is near for the meeting of Parliament, the people are anxious to know what is going to be done. A general election for Canada must take place next year, and it is supposed that the Government concluded that it was hardly necessary to bring on the elections for but one meeting of the house, and therefore have decided to postpone the elections for the territories until the date of the general elections. Some people in the territories fall in with this view, but the great majority claim, and justly so, that since they are entitled to representation by the passing of the bill providing for that end, they should be given representation at once, and that a single Parliament should not be allowed to pass without that representation being furnished to which the country is entitled. The importance which now attaches to the Northwest

Territories of Canada, through the rapid development of the country during the last few years, makes it imperative that there should be representation from such an important portion of the Dominion at the earliest practical moment. There is no other portion of Canada which stands in need of legislation of greater consequence than the territories, owing to their vast extent, diversified interests, and the rapid transformation going on within them. At the same time it may be said with impunity, that there is no other division of Canada which is less understood and about which Ottawa legislators require more information, than is the case in regard to the territories. Therefore to deal intelligently with questions affecting the interests of this particular portion of the country, it is necessary that well-informed territorial representatives should be at Ottawa in attendance at the next Parliament. In addition to the question of representation at Ottawa, the people of the territories are commencing to agitate for a larger measure of representative local government, and it is likely that this matter will receive considerable attention during the present session of the Northwest Council.

AFTER the failure to form the proposed company for the purpose of carrying on a slaughtering and meat curing business in this city, and the subsequent withdrawal from business of the largest packing house operating in that line here, it looked as though very little would be done in the way of packing this season. Last winter three houses were operating here in curing hog products, but the amount of the home-cured product has not been in anything like sufficient quantity to supply the demand, and imported American hams, bacon, etc., have been very largely used throughout the Northwest during the past summer. At the same time that we were importing the product, we were heavily exporting live hogs, which certainly was an anomalous condition of affairs. The prospect for next season appeared even worse a short time ago, and it seemed as though we would have to import more largely than ever for next summer. However, a change has come over the outlook during the past few weeks, and from the preparations now being made for packing and curing pork, it is likely that the days for importing hog products into Manitoba, are about numbered. Carveth & Co., and D. D. Doyle, the two remaining houses that were in the packing business last winter, have already commenced operations for the present season, and it is their intention to do a much more extensive business than ever before. Mr. Doyle commenced operations for the season two months earlier than last year, and already he has prepared about half as much of the product as he did during all of last year, doing a slaughtering business as well as purchasing the dressed hogs. Carveth & Co. have been curing all summer in small quantities, and will now greatly increase their operations. In addition to the old houses, there are three new ones already formed for the purpose of packing and curing pork, and others are talking of following suit. Some of these new firms will likely go into the business on an extensive scale, and if the supply of hogs holds out, there will be plenty of the home-cured product for next season. Owing to the large number of live hogs exported to Toronto and Montreal during the last few months, it is feared by some that the supply will not be equal to the demand here. In the event of a shortage prices might reach a figure that would prevent packing here, in competition with Chicago. The general opinion, however, is that there is a plentiful supply of hogs in the country for all purposes.