

vested in other kinds of business as there is in cattle raising, thus making a town of 5,000 inhabitants worth \$65,000,000, and where can you find another city of that size in the world so wealthy.—*Pittsburg Commercial.*

The Northwestern Wheat Crop.

The Northwestern wheat crop seems to be in a bad way. Carefully collected and judiciously sifted reports from nearly one thousand points in Minnesota and Dakota confirm the general impression that has been strengthening among careful observers; that the severe and long continued drouth has destroyed beyond repair a considerable fraction of this year's wheat crop. The drouth has not been universal, nor is the gloomy prospect without exception. There has been rain in the Red River Valley and along the line of the Northern Pacific. North and west of these lines, however, and south of the Minnesota river the damage is serious, and has gone too far to be repaired by any more favorable conditions hereafter. The estimate of the amount of loss in different countries ranges from 10 to 50 per cent. Probably it is safe to conclude that the crop will be 25 per cent. less than it would have been with weather up to July 1 as favorable as that enjoyed last year. The prospect is not cheerful, but it must not be forgotten that a short crop means high prices.

The Oldest Drummer.

Mr. Israel Phillips, now living at Greenfield, Mass., enjoying a hale old age of 90 years, is the pioneer drummer of the United States.

Mr. Phillips was born in Greenfield, within a short distance of his present home. Early in life, in Leicester, Mass., he learned the trade of making cards, used principally in cotton and woolen factories. In 1835 he became the superintendent of the card factory of Stephen C. Bemis, in Springfield, and it was in this year that he first began his work as a drummer. His first trip was to the factories of Rhode Island. Taking the stage he went to Worcester, and then by stage and boat on the old Blackstone Canal he found his men, and "sold them." At this time he received \$1 per day and his expenses; large pay for those days. It is easy to see that in his prime the boys would have to get up early to get a customer away from him. The first trip was a signal success; other routes were laid out; other lines of goods taken, and still the "drummers" were very few and far between. Quite a contrast, "Uncle Israel" thinks, with these days. Then his customers would save up their orders and wait a month for his coming, but before he left the road he realized how sharp is the competition of modern trade.

One Sunday, in Syracuse, at his hotel, were forty drummers, representing almost every known industry under the sun. "For several years," said the old gentleman, "I traveled over every mile of railroad in the United States and at first there weren't many miles either." With the coming of railroads his trips were more extended. His firm had grown into a large corporation, making many kinds of tools, and over many of the middle, western and southern states Uncle Israel travelled, winning

hosts of friends, making profitable sales and dealing honorably and justly by all.

Said his employer, Stephen C. Bemis, afterwards mayor of Springfield, "I should be willing to trust millions of untold gold in Mr. Phillips' hands, knowing that every dollar would be honestly accounted for." During all these years of travel he never met with an accident of any moment.

British Columbia.

R. J. Fleming, grocer, Victoria, has sold out to Sigurd Schoen.

Teetzel & Norris, druggists, Angus, have obtained an extension of time.

Atwell, King & Co., bazaar; Thos. Carrington, crockery; M. W. Waitt & Co., books and stationery, Victoria, have been burned out, and Mr. Leuz, dry goods, has had his stock damaged by fire.

A cable is proposed from Vancouver to Australia, via the Sandwich Islands, Japan, Hong Kong and New Zealand. It is said the Imperial authorities have promised to support the scheme, in the interest of which Sandford Fleming has been in England.

General Notes.

The semi-annual record of failures in Canada ending June 30th is as follows:—

	Number.	Liabilities.
1886	699	\$5,501,697
1885	690	5,166,165
1884	752	10,742,600

The South will in a decade or two produce nearly as many cotton goods as are turned out in Northern factories. Labor is cheap in the South, water-power is abundant and constant, and the cotton is on the ground. It is against all laws of trade to transport such a bulky raw material as cotton hundred of miles to Northern factories to be manufactured into finished goods, and capitalists are becoming more awake to the possibilities of Southern cotton manufacturing.

New York city has just turned loose a big batch of prisoners who have been for years in jail for no other crime than the misfortune of owing debts which they were unable to pay. The law passed by the Legislature of New York the last session, restricting the terms of imprisonment in civil cases, places the state nearer in accord with the civilization and humanity. The limit for imprisonment for debt in New York under the new law is six months.

THE *Lake Superior and Northwestern Journal of Commerce* is the somewhat lengthy name of a new claimant in the commercial journalistic line. Volume one number one of this periodical, to be published by the Journal of Commerce Company, at Duluth, Minnesota, has reached our table. The cover is handsomely engraved and gives a bird-eye view of Duluth whilst the inside front page presents an excellent map of the entire Lake Superior country, showing the location of the different mineral deposits for which that region is famous; also timber area, etc. The Journal is handsomely printed on fine paper and contains valuable matter on money, milling, manufacturing and kindred subjects.

THE Virden flour mill has commenced running again.

BARLEY cutting was going on in the vicinity of Winnipeg last week.

A MEETING will be held at Macleod for the purpose of considering a flour mill project.

THE mail stage from Prince Albert to Qu'Appelle station, was held up and robbed by masked men, last week.

SOME farmers in the Gladstone district are preparing their barley ground for next season's wheat. Wheat is a good crop. Oats short but well headed.

THE C. P. R'y have increased the passenger fare between Winnipeg and Emerson to four cents per mile. The rate was formerly three cents per mile.

VANCOUVER has had another narrow escape from destruction from bush fires. The merchants moved their goods during the excitement, which caused a loss of many thousand dollars.

THE *St. Louis Leather Gazette* says: The cattle business of Montana, the territory being on a parallel too far north of us to affect either our cattle or hide trade, is not much thought of in this region. No doubt most people regard Montana as a cold, inhospitable region, wholly unfit for cattle ranging. Nevertheless it is true that there are a large number of herds in the territory and some of them very large. There are already over 8,000 registered cattle brands, which shows that the business is developing very rapidly. Instead of being a grassless region, unfit for cattle growing, grass grows in the valleys with a luxuriance and verdure not excelled anywhere, and the losses from lack of water and grass, and hard winters have thus far been actually less than in the Southwest.

DEALERS and jobbers who have ample funds will not lose money for stocking up with flour at present prices. Everything conspires to make prices lower than they are likely to be for a year or two at least. The transportation lines are endeavoring to cut each other's throats while cheap wheat and dull markets have pushed prices down to about the lowest point ever recorded. Unless crop conditions change materially for the worse, and bad weather comes during reaping and threshing, we do not look for a heavy advance in wheat and flour, but the latter can not well go lower; and it is fair to assume that long before the holidays there will be a marked advance in values and a strong undertone in the large markets. Millers who share this belief may not be willing to sell freely for future delivery, except at safe figures and this will prove a strengthening factor in the market conditions. The prospective early settlement of existing railway troubles, with consequent advances in rates, will not weaken the general situation.—*Northwest Miller.*

MR. RAMSAY, of A. Ramsay & Sons, Montreal, is doing the Northwest.

MR. JAMES TURNER, of Turner, McKeand & Co., has returned from the east.

MR. A. C. FLUMMERFELT, of the Amos Holden Co., will leave for Victoria, B. C. shortly, to establish a branch house in that city.