

## Freight Rates and Traffic Matters.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin of May 8 says: "There is no idle space on ocean steamers bogging for billast this year, and freights are firm all round and well they may be, with all May space engaged and nearly all June. The last engagement of grain to Liverpool reported to us was 1s 9d. London is firm at 2s, Glasgow at 1s 9d, and Bristol at 2s 3d, with no space to be had for the last named port. Flour is quoted to London at 8s 9d to 10s, to Liverpool 7s to 7s 6d, to Glasgow 7s 6d to 8s 9d. Engagements of cattle are reported for Liverpool, Glasgow and Bristol at 35s to 40s. In lake and canal freights large quantities of grain are heading for Kingston, and it is expected that a busy time will be experic at this port during the present month and well into June. A fresh charter was made here yesterday for wheat from Fort William to Montreal at 7½c per bushel for shipment last half of May, and we quote 7½c for forward and 8c for prompt shipment. Plenty of Canadian tonnage is offering, so that exporters have no cause for complaint on this score at present. Engagements of wheat have been made at 2½c from Duluth to Buffalo. Freight rates from Buffalo to New York are 3½c wheat, 3½c corn and 2½c oats.

The new freight tariff from Winnipeg to West Kootenay points which went into effect on May 15 has been issued. The rates show an advance of about 10 cents per 100 pounds over existing rates. They are as follows: To Nelson and common points—Class 1, \$2.32; class 2, \$2.06; class 3, \$1.80; class 4, \$1.59; class 5, \$1.28. Sandon and common points—Class 1, \$2.77; class 2, \$2.44; class 3, \$2.10; class 4, \$1.82; class 5, \$1.49.

## Grain and Milling Notes.

It is stated, says the Montreal Gazette of May 1, that sales of 90,000 bushels of malting barley were made recently in this market at 45c and feed barley is offering at 36 to 37c.

The Lake of the Woods Milling Company has purchased the property between King and Princess streets, Winnipeg, south of their present flour warehouse, upon which they intend to erect a large storage warehouse this summer. Its size and capacity has not yet been decided on, but it will be in keeping with the requirements of the trade. The locations of the country receiving elevators which the company contemplates building at various points in the province should the crop of 1896 warrant, it have not yet been settled.

The Northern Elevator company's warehouse, an annex of the main building, at Glenboro, Man., dropped about four feet off the piles which supported it, spilling out 6,000 bushels of grain. Men were at once set to work moving the grain, and a special train was telegraphed for to take the wheat. At the same place on the same day the bottom of one of the bins in J. A. Smith's elevator caved in allowing about 500 bushels to run through.

The by-law providing for the early closing of retail flour and feed stores in Winnipeg was passed at the last meeting of the city council and notice was given of its coming in force on May 22. This will bring this line of business into accord with other stores, as to hours of closing.

## Commercial Education.

At the last meeting of the Winnipeg school board, D. W. Bole and Dr. Benson moved, and it was carried, "that the school management committee, with the mover and seconder be a committee to inquire into and report at an early date upon the practicability of

adding a course of commercial education to the list of studies on the city schools, and that the superintendent and the principal of the collegiate be asked to attend meetings of said committee." The mover added that he would like to see a practical course of commercial education, also technical education in the schools.

## Grocery Trade Notes.

A New York paper says: "Trade in future Columbia river salmon does not seem to come up to expectations. Some of the regular buyers have placed orders for considerable quantities but they have wanted special brands as a rule, and general trade has not apparently been helped to an appreciable extent by the purchases so far made. It is understood that more liberal inducements than are usually held out by the commission houses have been made by some without awakening any marked increase in buying interest.

The German reichstag, on May 12, by a vote of 159 to 110 fixed the export bounty on sugar at 2½ marks per 100 kilos. The government proposal was 4 marks per 100 kilos.

## Considering Credits.

In accordance with an invitation of the Chamber of Commerce of Toledo, the first annual convention of the Credit Men of the United States will be held at that city on June 23, 24 and 25 next. This gathering will be composed of the credit managers of representative financial and commercial establishments throughout the United States. The scope of the work which may be accomplished by such an association is very wide, and will no doubt be elaborated as the body gathers force. For the present the projectors of the movement have set before themselves the following objects, viz: The better protection of credits, the reduction of losses from bad debts, the prevention of fraud and injustice to creditors, the making the prosecution and punishment of fraud more certain, the reform and improvement of collection laws, the improvement of commercial reporting systems and collection methods, and the improvement of present methods of handling bankrupt estates, etc. The deliberations of the meeting at Toledo will be watched with interest.—Bradstreet's.

## In the Toils.

The charge of obtaining money under false pretences against John J. Douglas, late in the fur business, in Winnipeg, was proceeded with at the police court last week.

The prisoner pleaded not guilty and R. McLennan was called. He explained at length the incidents in connection with the sale of an order for goods amounting to \$1,200. Witness is an agent for Gneadinger, Son & Co., of Montreal. He took the order from Douglas, but his house refused to ship it. Witness saw Douglas in connection with the matter and the latter said he could not understand it as he had \$16,000 worth of stock on hand with only \$100 against it. On the strength of this witness guaranteed the payment of the order, and it was shipped to Douglas, who eventually never paid for them. Witness had to do so. He found out later that Douglas's stock was worth only about \$1,000, and the goods he said he had bought for cash in New York had been purchased in Montreal. The witness was submitted to a searching cross examination by Mr. Howell, which occupied the rest of the morning.

On the case being recalled the magistrate held that there was not sufficient evidence to warrant him in sending the prisoner up for trial and he was discharged.

The prosecution evidently anticipated this turn of affairs for on Saturday J. A. McKen-

zie swore out an information charging Douglas with fraud. The information says that the defendant "did unlawfully remove, conceal or dispose of his property with intent to defraud his creditors." Douglas was arrested but was released on bail. The case was proceeded with Tuesday. Roderick McLennan was the first witness and his examination and cross-examination lasted all morning. He related at length various dealings he had had with the defendant. C. H. Newton was also called and gave evidence concerning the stocks at defendant's two stores. The case was enlarged until Monday May 18.

## Manitoba as It Is.

The forests of the northwest are sometimes above ground on the hills and along the rivers and sometimes underground in the shape of coal, for coal is simply compressed wood and vegetable matter. The country is good on the surface, good below and good above the surface, for the air is remarkably pure as the wind passes over an exceedingly clean region.

There are no natural obstacles to be removed from field and farm, no roads to make, few bridges to construct and scarcely any stones to interrupt. In summer the rich soil of the prairies is clothed with wild flowers, crimson roses, nodding lillies, purple asters, pink and white spiraea, beautiful marigolds, honey-suckle, meadow sweet, and scores of other blossoms forming a wilderness of bloom.

The groves and the grass are full of birds. On the prairie can be noticed the lark, the redstart, the robin, red-winged and yellow-headed blackbirds, the golden and gray plover, canaries, many varieties of the sparrow family, while numerous species of swallows circle in the air. In the groves can be seen and heard the oriole, the thrush, the mocking bird and many kinds of the warbler family. There are ninety six varieties of butterfly. When evening dims the landscape, when the nighthawks are through sporting in the upper air and the fireflies come forth in the deepening gloom, the voice of the whip-poor-will is heard from the grove, and whole fields of stars begin to range themselves in groups in the sky, and the moon comes forth to look through her own light on seas of verdure that flood the prairies and cast up a foam of flowers on the blooming waves.—Pilot Mound Sentinel

## Wool.

Trade continues dull, with prices weak and in buyer's favor. Large manufacturers are well supplied with wool, and to tempt them to buy ahead very low bids have to be accepted. One large manufacturer is reported to have picked up a line of quarter-blood unwashed wool at 14½c., there being about 400,000 pounds in the purchase. The wools were bought in Boston and other leading eastern markets. This price is the lowest ever known for this grade of wool. Other fleeces are dull and, in the absence of business, quotations are nominal. Territory wools are in slow demand, and to sell any line low prices have to be accepted. Australian wools are dull but the market holds steady, in sympathy with the high values abroad. Latest reports from London auction sales note an easing there, but prices are about the same. Carpet wools are dull but steady.—Bradstreet's.

## Silver.

The London quotation for bars has declined slightly to 31d per ounce, and New York followed suit with a drop to 68c. Recent mail advices attribute the movement of silver to the operations of the Indian Treasury. Silver prices on May 8 were: London 31½d, New York 67½c.