

# The Commercial

WINNIPEG, OCT. 31, 1882.

## SEWAGE FOR WINNIPEG.

It has invariably been the case that in rapidly growing cities of the West the provisions made in the matter of public improvements have fallen far short of what the necessities which rapid progress created, and not a few populous centers, while they rank as cities of importance in population, trade and industries, are in the matter of public improvement only overgrown villages. It would be impossible to avoid more or less of such a state of affairs in a great many new cities, and nowhere on this Continent has the impossibility been more felt than in Winnipeg. The city has grown from a village of 1,000 people to a population of nearly 30,000 within ten years, and it is not to be wondered at that public improvements have not kept pace with such an unprecedented growth.

Among all other matters of improvement none seem to be more deficient in cities like this than the sewage system. There is scarcely a growing city in either America or Europe which has not its sewage difficulty, and the cases are few where the subject has been grappled with until the providing of a system has become a matter of enormous expense. Winnipeg will soon be in this position, and it would be a wise course to adopt some scheme now, when the expense of construction would be comparatively small, which would be sufficient to meet the demands of the city for many years to come.

About three years ago a scheme for the sewage of Chicago was made public by which the waters of Lake Michigan were to flow through the sewers of the city and be carried off into the Joliet River. The scheme necessitated the construction of a discharge sewer nearly twenty miles in length, and a fall of only a few inches to the mile was allowed for carrying off sewage. It was calculated by this scheme that water entering the sewers would be about 24 hours in passing through the same, and reaching the main discharge channel beyond the city limits, thus keeping up a steady process of admitting a flow of pure water.

It seems to an unscientific mind that a scheme such as this could be easily and successfully constructed for Winnipeg

The flow of fresh water could be secured from the Assiniboine River three or four miles above its junction with the Red River, and the sewage emptied into the latter at a reasonable distance below the city boundary. A glance at the map of Winnipeg and its surroundings will show how short these two underground channels would require to be, and how cheaply the work of construction could now be done before the city has extended any further westward. A system of sewers could be branched off at some point inside of where the Assiniboine was tapped, and these could be made to again concentrate at some point in a discharge channel before entering the Red River. A fall of over 14 feet could be secured between the tap and discharge points, which would cause a flow sufficiently rapid to prevent the accumulation of sewer gases, which are the disease producers of most flat lying cities.

It is not in our power to go into details upon this subject, nor do we warrant its feasibility, although it seems thoroughly practicable. We put forth the scheme merely as a suggestion, and hope that some practical engineer will thoroughly investigate the matter, and if possible, reduce it to practicability in details. The question of how shall Winnipeg dispose of her sewage is an all important one, and opens up a problem for engineering skill which no tinkering and temporary measures can successfully solve. To grapple with the question at present means to place the city among the healthiest in the world, and to delay it means to greatly endanger the health of the community for years to come. Should the suggestions we have thrown out prove practicable in the hands of an experienced engineer, then we must conclude that nature has allowed to Winnipeg unusual advantages in connection with a matter which has caused unlimited annoyance in many cities both of the Old and New World.

## FOREIGN CAPITAL IN MANITOBA.

For the development of a new and promising country it is an absolute necessity that capital from older places be extensively employed, and nowhere are the benefits of such imported funds more felt than in the prairie Province. Wealthy as many of the old settlers have grown of late, and anxious as they are as a class to invest their funds in their own country,

their aggregate capital would go but short way in the work of settling up and developing the Province and the North-west generally. The spare funds of capitalists who live in countries where money is cheap must long play a prominent part in the great work, and it is pleasing to people here to note the confidence these classes have in the future of this country. At present a monetary stringency is felt all over the continent of America, and the business circles of Manitoba, if they do not suffer much from the same, are at best closely pressed to make ends meet. Through all this stringency the capital which seeks investment in North-western landed securities has been plentiful, and on first-class mortgage loans of that nature rates of interest have shown no tendency to advance, but gradually grow easier. It is pleasing, as already stated, to notice this, but to the class who are more intimately connected with mercantile and industrial affairs it presents rather an anomalous appearance. While the landed interest has an easy money market this class find the purse strings of the banker, to say the least, uncomfortably tight. They are forced to the conclusion that the distant capitalist, while he is anxious to have his money locked up in North-western lands, has not as yet acquired sufficient confidence in the mercantile or industrial affairs of the country to invest freely his funds in undertakings of that class.

For instance, there are in Winnipeg agencies of some ten financial companies whose business is confined to loaning money on real estate mortgage security, and the aggregate capital of these companies amounts to several million dollars, 90 per cent of which comes from distant sources. It seems strange that in the whole North-west there is not a concern outside of the chartered and private banks whose funds are available for general mercantile or manufacturing investments. To secure funds for such a purpose it is necessary to form joint-stock companies with special objects, and even for such it is not easy to secure foreign funds, as may be judged from the fact that by far the largest proportion of these are floated on local capital. The capitalist of the East and of Europe knows only of a country with rich lands, which provide a safe investment, and shuts his eyes to the advantages that are offered in mercantile or industrial undertakings.