

Messrs. ALEXANDER & BRYCE, in the spring of 1882, left this province and purchased at invoice prices the retail dry goods stock of Mr. R. J. Whittle, in Winnipeg. Now they are reported as having assigned with liabilities of nearly \$150,000. This news was received with regret and some little surpris., as Messrs. A. & B. were considered prudent men who thoroughly understood the dry goods business and gave it their personal attention. They succeeded in making sales of nearly a quarter of a million in the first year. But prudent as they were, they shared in some of the inflated notions so prevalent in Winnipeg a year ago, continuing to fill their warehouses with large stocks of goods until nearly the end of the year. Up to that time there seemed to be no difficulty in disposing of them. But since the early part of this year a complete change took place; merchandise became very slow of sale, and in most houses goods were sold at prices that afforded no margin of profit. The result was that Alexander & Bryce became embarrassed and were obliged to ask for some little favors, from some of their creditors. They had no difficulty in getting what they wanted, still they were too hopeful as to the future. Business continued bad, so discouraging indeed that, some weeks ago, we heard of an instance of a few cases of new dry goods forced on the market, and could not be sold, so they had to be shipped east to their owners.

—The Chatham Loan & Savings' Company announces a half-yearly dividend of three and a half per cent.

—The opening of the Thunder Bay branch of the Canadian Pacific railway has been beneficially felt in the North-West; other railways having become much more compliant and accommodating

—The executors of the late Chas. Freeman, of Hamilton, who was drowned in Burlington Bay some months ago, have received in all \$50,000, this being the amount of insurance on the life of deceased in the different companies.

—The figures we publish elsewhere showing the rapid growth of the Canada Life Assurance company last year are very gratifying indeed. Over \$5,000,000 worth of assurance was applied for, of this sum \$4,757,234 has been accepted and 2,811 policies were issued covering this amount.

—Insurance possesses a new virtue. An American exchange argues that were it not for such an institution "the life of a detected incendiary would not be worth a pinch of salt." Speaking of incendiarism reminds us that a reward of \$200 has been offered for the apprehension of the "fire-bugs" who applied the torch with such disastrous effects in this city some few days ago.

—Our statement last week, of the number of shares of the Bank of Montreal, on the street, should have read as follows: The Caisse d' Economie de Notre Dame, a Quebec savings bank, holds 915 shares, and the City and District Savings' Bank 2,960 shares, together, 3,875. Supposing these and some other shares to be held for speculative purposes, there would be a little under 7,000 shares to be tossed about by speculators.

—The cotton crop of the United States for the current year—the crop year extends from the 1st September to end of August—is remarkably large, and the movement of cotton for the first eight months of it, ending say with 1st May last, is unprecedented, the *Financial Chronicle* of New York reports the total marketed as 6,673,051 bales this year, against 5,190,265 last year,

and 6,188,597 in 1880-81, in which latter year the production was much greater than ever before. The average weight of bales has also been greater this year, so that the number of pounds marketed has been 3,270 millions, against 2,467 in 1882 and 3,017 in 1881—an increase of 32½ per cent. over last year and of 8½ per cent. over 1881. Though there remains one third of the crop year, the production and movement of the last crop are substantially indicated in the above figures. Only a very small portion of the crop remains to be marketed after the first of May—in 1881, only about 5 per cent of it.

The relative proportions of the receipts of cotton, says the *Railroad Gazette* at the different ports vary considerably from those of last year. There is a considerable gain at the Gulf ports, and a loss at most of the South Atlantic ports—that is in percentages, for all important ports except Northern ports have a gain in quantity. Thus the receipts for the eight months this year and last were;

	1882-83.	1881-82.
At Gulf ports.....	2,684,129	1,824,685
South Atlantic ports.....	2,506,682	2,170,053
North Atlantic ports.....	439,378	443,497
Total .....	5,630,189	4,438,235

This extraordinary cotton crop was made, says the same authority in a year when the grain production of the South was much larger than ever before, and its effect on the prosperity of the people, on their purchases, the general traffic and the travel on the Southern railroads should therefore have been very great. It would have been much greater, doubtless, if it had not followed a year of very bad crops of all kinds so that part of the gains of the last crop have gone to make up for the losses by the crop of 1881.

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