

Law Respecting Small Debts.

A deputation from the Cartographers' association of Winnipeg, seventy five in number, waited on the Law Amendments committee of the local legislature on Monday last. The following resolutions presented by the deputation embody their views:

1. That some simpler and less expensive mode of obtaining judgment in the county courts be adopted.

2. That the words "may, if he think fit," in the ninth line of sub-section five of section 295 of the County Courts act be struck out, and the word "shall" be substituted.

3. That a subsection be added to said section 295 of the County Courts act, providing that when on examination of a judgment debtor under a judgment summons, it appears to the judge that such judgment debtor is in receipt of any income whatsoever, either from his earnings or otherwise, the judge shall issue an order directed to such debtor or debtors' employer for the payment into court of an amount not less than 10 per cent. of such income, such order to supersede any assignment of such income made by the debtor; and that the penalties provided for by sub-section 5 of said section 295 of the County Courts act be enforced upon refusal or neglect to comply with such order.

4. That a creditor be allowed to sue a husband and wife jointly for a debt contracted by either one or both of them for necessities.

5. That the amount exempt from garnishment under section 79, cap. 61 R.S.M. as amended by sec. 1, cap. 14 of 56 Vic., be reduced.

Several members of the deputation spoke, bringing out these points: That some cheaper method of collecting small debts be provided; that the judge be given a minimum to go by in ordering a man to pay a certain amount of his income into court, they suggest 10 per cent; that a creditor be allowed to collect from husband and wife jointly, where the debt is for necessities; and that the amount of salary exempt from garnishment be reduced from the present \$10 per month to say \$20 or \$25.

It was pointed out that dealers in furniture, carpets, hardware, etc., take a lien on the article sold and if not paid for could get it back, but those supplying provisions could not, and they therefore asked the law to be amended. The committee heard the delegates, received their resolutions and promised earnest consideration. It is likely that some of the amendments asked for will be granted.

Abattoir for Winnipeg.

At the last meeting of the Winnipeg city council, the following communication was received from Gordon & Ironside, cattle exporters: We have decided to erect an abattoir and cold storage buildings for the handling of the surplus cattle of Manitoba and the Territories. We ask that the city council grant us the following concessions:

1. We want the deed for that portion of land, bounded on the north side by the main line of the Canadian Pacific railway and Phillips street on the west, and on the south by Henry street and the Canadian Pacific yards on the east. 2. We want the sewerage extended parallel through the property from the east to the west limit of the same. 3. We want the property exempt from taxation for

the period of thirty years. Provided the above is granted to us we agree to expend \$25,000 in suitable buildings for an abattoir and cold storage. We also agree to keep a sufficient number of hands employed to keep the plant in operation, provided sufficient stock comes forward to enable us to do so. We will agree to slaughter cattle for any outsider as cheap as done by any public or private abattoir of equal capacity and accommodation. We agree to do our utmost to force the business forward, and have no doubt that we can increase the same to enormous proportions in the near future and lay the foundations of Winnipeg's future as a second Chicago, in the line of packing and exporting meats.

After considerable discussion had taken place, Mr. Gordon being given a hearing on the question, it was resolved, on motion of Aldermen H. Wilson and Andrews, that the legislative committee be instructed to procure such legislation as will permit the city to purchase property, and to give it for abattoir purposes, and to exempt same from taxation; and to provide by debentures of the city for the cost of said lands, and of a sewer to and through the property occupied by such abattoir, without submitting a by-law to the electors, the council to have the right to make regulations as to the operation of such abattoir.

The Commercial Annual.

The Annual number of The Commercial, recently issued, contains the most complete report published of the recent annual meeting of the Winnipeg board of trade. Also the most complete report published of the business men's convention, recently held in Winnipeg. Every resolution passed at the convention is given in full. Several pages are devoted to mining in northwestern Ontario. There are historical articles on Western Canada and Winnipeg, a review of the trade of the city, articles on the Winnipeg clearing house, Red river valley lands, Winnipeg as a farmers' market, progress of agriculture in Manitoba, crop statistics for each year since 1873, review of the live stock trade, an interesting article on western waterways and the possibilities of making them great highways of commerce, the towns of Western Ontario, railway building in 1897, description of the great Keewatin water-power, reviews of the dairy industry, the cereal milling industry, and the grain trade, with statistics for a series of years. Articles on mining, fishing and lumbering in British Columbia, and shorter articles on crop yield in Manitoba, paying for farmers from one crop, the Winnipeg grain exchange etc. There are twenty-four pages of new engravings in the number, relating to scenes and objects of interest in Western Canada. Extra copies of this number can be had, while they last, for 25 cents each. Now subscribers sending \$2 for one year's subscription to the regular weekly issue of The Commercial, will receive a free copy of the annual.

Literary Notes.

The most interesting people of the world just at this moment are the millions of famished and plague stricken India. But little is known of this region by the people of the United States. Such reports as come to us are the things seen through British glasses. What has been the effect of British rule in India? Why these terrible famines? Why plagues? Julian Hawthorne has been

sent by the Cosmopolitan Magazine to obtain answers to these questions at hand and depict the situation as it is to an American. The March Cosmopolitan contains the first of what is probably the most important series of articles ever sent in this magazine. Nothing has been published which gives an adequate idea of the larger operations of business—at nothing by the class of men fitted for work by thorough familiarity with the facts of which they write. The article in the March Cosmopolitan on "The Method of Banking," by the President of one of the largest banks of New York—a man of business experience—former Postmaster General James—is one which every person, however humble in clerkship or high place in the financial world, will find interesting and instructive. This series constitutes a very complete course of business training, and every young man just entering business life and every old man will find it of immense value.

Winnipeg Prices a Year Ago.

Wheat prices were irregular in the country. Eggs were weak. Live hogs were 4c for following were Winnipeg prices this last year:

Wheat—About 45c to 50c for No. 1 country points, to farmers; 67½c May, afloat Fort William.
Flour.—Local price, per sack, Pa. \$1.85 to \$1.90; Bakers' \$1.65 to \$1.70.
Bran.—Per ton, \$9.
Shorts.—Per ton, \$11.
Oats.—Per bushel, Winnipeg street 10 to 17c. Car lots at country points 12 to 14c.
Barley.—Selling at 17c for feed here. Car lots at country points worth 15c.
Flax Seed.—50 to farmers at country points.
Butter.—Dairy, choice, 12c to 14c.
Cheese.—Jobbing price 9½ to 11c.
Eggs.—Fresh, 18c net price, weak.
Beef.—City dressed, 5 to 6c, unfr. country frozen, 3½ to 4c.
Mutton.—6½ to 7c, country do, 6c.
Hogs.—Dressed, 5 to 5½c.
Cattle.—Nominal at 2½ to 3½c for butch stock.
Hocks.—Live, off cars, 37c.
Sheep.—Sheep nominal at 3½c off cars.
Seneca Root.—Dry 18 to 20c lb.
Poultry.—Chickens, 8 to 11c lb; turkeys 10 to 12c, ducks, 10c, geese, 10c.
Hides.—Green frozen, 1½ to 5c.

Beans were weaker at Montreal and prices declined 5 to 10c, with cash offering at 50 to 65c, and small lots selling 70 to 80c.

A West Superior despatch says: purchase of 65,000 tons of steel rails Carnegie company by the Canadian Pacific railroad, for which \$1,000,000 is said to have been paid, gives rise to the belief that Duluth & Winnipeg railroad will be extended westward into the wheat country its present terminus at Deer river.

The first special colonist train for Eastern Canada this season to Manitoba the West left Union station, Toronto March 2 consisting of two sections averaging between 200 and 300 passengers, of them bound for the good fields. Trains of settlers' effects also went there points in Manitoba and the Territories.