

Edmonton, and about 550 miles north of Winnipeg. It is near the fifty-ninth parallel of latitude, or in nearly the same latitude as Churchill, on Hudson Bay. There is no regular settlement in this distant northern region, and agriculture has been confined to experiments at the mission stations among the Indians or at Indian trading posts. It is claimed that wheat has been successfully grown at some of these mission stations for years, and the fact that a flour mill is to be established at a station so far north as Vermillion, indicates that the mission people have faith in the capabilities of the country. Small flour mills have previously been established at some of these mission stations north of the Saskatchewan, and the Indians are being taught to cultivate the soil; but this is the most northerly mill yet undertaken. If wheat can be successfully grown as far north as Vermillion, the wheat area of Western Canada will be shown to be even vaster than has been calculated upon in the past.

THE PROHIBITION WAVE

A prohibition wave appears to be sweeping over the country. Manitoba first voted favorably to prohibition, in a plebiscite taken upon the question, by a large majority. Recently a vote was taken in the large provinces of Ontario, with a similar result. Now Nova Scotia follows, with a vote of four to one in favor of prohibition. With these expressions of the popular will in favor of prohibition, it seems probable that an effort will be made to put some sort of a prohibitory measure in force, regardless of the difficulties which have always been experienced in securing support for such laws, where they have been experimented with. In Canada at the present time there is a conflict of opinion as to the jurisdiction of the federal and provincial governments in the matter of liquor legislation. As soon as this point is settled, it seems probable that legislation will be enacted in some of the provinces in the direction of prohibition or the greater restriction of the liquor business. In Ontario, the provincial premier has already promised a deputation of extreme teetotalers that as soon as the question of jurisdiction is settled by the courts, his government will take action to the full extent of their authority, in restricting or prohibiting the business. From the federal government the prohibitionists have not been able to abstract any promises, though they were recently at Ottawa in great strength. Premier Thompson told them that the government would not do anything this session, and that nothing would be done until the report of the commission, which is now enquiring into the question, had been presented. This commission has been at work for a year, and will no doubt present a very voluminous report, which is likely to be of a non-committal nature.

In the Senate at Ottawa last week Mr. Boulton moved for a return containing a schedule of the passenger and freight rates of the Canadian Pacific railway, including rates from St. Paul, Minneapolis and the seaboard. He claimed that the rates were too high; that the Canadian Pacific railway should wait for profits until the population of Manitoba was five or six times greater and that the government should take action to lessen the rates.

Fur Trade News.

The Commercial gave the cable report at the time, showing the percentage of prices realized at the Hudson Bay Co.'s March fur sales. Following shows the prices realized at the March sales in sterling money—Silver fox, dark firsts, Yorkfort, 82; Moose River, 41; Esquimaux Bay, 102; Canada, 28; Northwest, £39. Middling firsts, Yorkfort, 29; M. R., 21; E. B., 28; Canada, 20; N. W., £23. Pale first, Yorkfort, 16; M. R., 14; E. B., 16; Canada, 17; N. W., 16. Seconds, various sections, £16 to £20½. Fisher, large, Yorkfort, 38; M. R., 53; Canada, 45 shillings. Small, Yorkfort, 53½; M. R., 59; Canada, 60 shillings. Pale, large and small, 28 to 35 shillings. Seconds, 29 to 31½ shillings. Thirds, 21 to 29 shillings. Otter, firsts, large, Yorkfort, 43; brown, 41; small, 35; M. R., large, 60; small, 57; E. M., large, 73; F. G., 79; Canada, large, 50; small, 53 shillings. Seconds, Yorkfort, large, 41; small, 31; M. R., large, 55; small, 51; E. M., large, 65; small, 56; F. G., large, 66 to 71; Canada, large, 53; small, 13; N. W., large, 32; small, 26 shillings. Thirds, Yorkfort, large, 27; small, 18; M. R., large, 29½; small, 23; E. M., large, 33; small, 20; F. G., large, 35; small, 26; Canada, large, 30; small, 20; N. W., large, 25½; small, 12 shillings. Cubs, all sections, 9 to 12 shillings. Blue fox, firsts, 75 to 120; seconds, 50; thirds, 20 shillings. Cross fox, firsts, Yorkfort, 125 to 170; M. R., 130; E. B., 140; Canada, 48; N. W., 32 shilling. Pale firsts, 34 to 37 shillings. Seconds, Yorkfort, 38 to 100; M. R., 52½; E. B., 50½; Canada, 35; N. W., 38 shillings. Thirds, Yorkfort, 28; M. R., 33; E. B., 36; Canada, 21; N. W., 25 shillings. White fox, firsts Yorkfort, 10 to 11½; L. W. R., 10 to 11½; E. B., 11½ to 13 shillings. Greasy, No. 1, all sections, 9½ to 11½; and No. 2, 8 to 8½ shillings. Seconds, all sections, 8 to 10½ shillings. Thirds, all sections, 5½ to 7 shillings. Red fox, firsts, dark, Yorkfort, 11½; M. R., 17. E. B., 17½; Canada, 11; N. W., 12½ shillings. Firsts, medium, Yorkfort, 10; M. R., 14½; E. B., 16; Canada, 9 shillings. Firsts, pale, 9½ to 11½ shillings. Firsts, greasy, Yorkfort, 10½; M. R., 16; E. B., 14; Canada, 10½ shillings. Seconds, all sections, 8½ to 10½ shillings. Thirds, all sections, 6 to 7½ shillings. Kitt Fox, Yorkfort, 26 pence. Skunk, first cased, Yorkfort, 5½; open, 5; Canada cased, 4½ shillings. Seconds, cased Yorkfort, 3½; do., open, 3 shillings. Mink, large, first, Yorkfort, 9½; small do., 5½; M. R., large, 9; small do., 8½; E. B., do, do, 7½ to 11½; Canada, do, do, 6½ to 9 shillings. Seconds, Yorkfort, 5½ to 5½; M. R., 4½; E. B., 5½; Canada, 4.10; W. W., 3.11 shillings. Beaver, Northwest, seconds, 11½ to 25; thirds, 5½ to 18 shillings. Badger, Yorkfort, 1½ to 7½ shillings. Wolf, large firsts, 7½ to 26; seconds, large, 7½; firsts, white, 65; firsts, blue, 77; small, firsts, 7½; small, seconds, 4½ to 5½ shillings. Wolverine, open, firsts, 23 to 27; open, seconds, 12 to 15½; cased, firsts, 14 to 15; cased, seconds, 10½ to 11½ shillings. Hair seal, large, 44; middling, 37; small 26 pence. Muskrat, firsts, large, 77½; firsts, small, 32; seconds, 21 to 49; thirds, 20; fourths, 2½ shillings. Black bear, rough, 1.10 to 255; low, 90 to 160; woolly, 125 to 215; thirds, 22½ to 29; fourth, 6 to 6½ shillings. White bear, 72½ to 165 shillings. Brown bear, firsts, light, 280; firsts, dark, 285; woolly, 220 to 265; seconds, rough, 135 to 162½; thirds, 22 shillings. Marten, large, Yorkfort, 16; M. K. R., 14; M. R., 14½; E. M., 40; F. G., 38½; E. B., 29; Canada, 9½; N. W., 14½; small, do, 7½ to 21½ shillings; pale, do, from 7½ to 12 shillings; small, pale, Yorkfort, 7½; M. K. R., 7½; M. R., 6½; E. M., 8½; E. B., 7½; Canada, 5½; N. W., 7; seconds, all sections, 6½ to 14 shillings; thirds, all sections, 5½ to 10½ shillings. Lynx, large, Yorkfort, 17; Canada, 17; N. W., 16½ shillings. Middling, Yorkfort, 12½; Canada, 13½; N. W., 14½ shillings; small, Yorkfort, 9½; Canada, 10½; N. W., 10½ shillings; large, fine, 17 to 21 shillings; middling, fine, 14½ to 17½ shillings; open,

Yorkfort, 11½; seconds, all sections, 9½ to 14½ shilling; thirds, all sections, 9½ to 10 shillings.

The London correspondent of the New York Fur Trade Review, writing on March 12, says: "The depression in the trade during the last six months has had its effect upon the auction now being held, and although easier prices were expected, some of the articles have declined very much more than was at all anticipated; for instance, marten, which has been in pretty good request all last season here and has a fair prospect for another run this year, to decline forty per cent., which some of the good skins have, is a very big drop indeed. The commoner skins, however, have not come down so much, on the average the decline upon seconds and thirds is about twenty per cent. One of the best articles at these sales is bear, which has maintained the high prices established last year, and although prices were a little easier at the Hudson Bay Company's sale, when the quality of the skins is taken into consideration they are decidedly firmer than last spring. C. M. Lamson & Co.'s sale of bears has taken place this day and prices have ruled very high, one lot of large, dark grizzly skins fetching the extraordinary figure of 280s per skin, and there was a very spirited demand for all the good lots offered. Lynx, on account of the large quantity coming forward and the demand not being very brisk, had a drop of about thirty per cent. Wolverine was very much neglected, and in the Hudson Bay Company's sale had a big drop of over fifty per cent. The same may be said of the musk-ox, these having declined about the same rate. In the minor sales last week a very unsatisfactory result was experienced. Many of the French and German buyers not having arrived, a greater part of the goods offered had to be withdrawn. These sales mostly comprised Australian opossum, wallaby, wombat and Thibet coats, crosses and skins; also some parcels of slink lamb crosses, which sold at the ridiculously low price of 3s 9d to 4s per cross, most of these goods costing from 12s to 15s. Thibet crosses—Only the good ones were in demand, and fetched 46s to 49s, good Thibet skins 7s 6d to 8s 3d, and some very fine Thibet coats changed hands at 87s 6d and 95s. The few lots of goat rugs that sold prices remained about the same as our quotations last month, the owners preferring to withdraw the goods rather than take lower prices."

Winnipeg Clearing House.

Clearings for week ending April 5, were \$781,226; balances, \$127,831. For the previous week clearings were \$607,556.

Following are the returns of other Canadian clearing houses for the weeks ended on the dates given:

	Clearings.	
	March 20th.	March 22nd.
Montreal	\$9,449,163	\$10,116,916
Toronto	3,829,536	5,018,178
Halifax	892,553	1,047,580
Winnipeg	607,556	821,174
Hamilton	572,944	584,855
Total	\$15,241,752	\$17,591,783

Live Stock Market.

At the Montreal stock yards at Point St. Charles the receipts of live stock at these yards for week ending March 31 were:—Cattle, 317; sheep, 319; hogs, 325; calves, 233; left over from previous week, 16 cattle; total for week, 357 cattle, 319 sheep, 325 hogs, 233 calves; on hand 13 cattle. Trade in general during the week was good, the supplies not being extra heavy everything was cleaned out at fair prices. The supply of hogs fell off considerably, thus relieving the market, which closed firm, 5 cents best value. Sheep, lambs and calves of good quality sell well. We quote the following as being fair values:—Cattle, butchers', good 3½ to 4s; medium, 3 to 3½; culls, 2½ to 3c. lambs, 4½ to 4½c; hogs, 4½ to 5c; calves, \$2 to \$10.