

ranches are leased for a long term of years at one cent per acre. The preliminary difficulties and losses of such enterprises have been overcome, and as the herds and flocks multiply, the profits of the ranching companies are likely to go on increasing. Doubt was once expressed whether sheep would thrive in these regions; but all doubt has been dispelled by this time. They thrive as well as cattle.

The remarkable peculiarity of these ranches is that the cattle and sheep live out on the plains, and forage for themselves during the whole winter. The snow fall is light; the winter is short; the cattle can get to the grass without difficulty; and though heavy snow storms sometimes come down from the mountains the cattle have shown that if left alone they are well able to take care of themselves. Men from the Highlands of Scotland are being brought to the country to act as herdsman and shepherds. The testimony of ranch owners is that such men are far superior to the cowboys imported from Montana. In the midst of this great ranching region, down in a lovely valley between plateaus of hills, with a rushing river of blue water running past it lies the little town of Calgary. It is a marvellous little place, considering its age. Not even Winnipeg has grown faster or more respectably.

It is full of stores, well stocked with articles of use and luxury, including a couple of good book stores, where intellectual tastes can be fully gratified. There are several law firms doing a thriving business; a private bank with a large amount of deposits, the usual telegraph office and post office, hotels, a skating rink and church buildings. One of these, that of the Church of England, is a little gem of ecclesiastical architecture. The barracks of the mounted police are close by. In fact this appears to have been the nucleus around which the little town has sprung up. It is only three or four years old, yet it is as quiet, as orderly, as intelligent, and apparently as well governed as if it had been there for half a century. It is the capital of the ranching country, and may become a place of importance.

Numerous bands of Indians are to be found on their reserves in this ranching country. They have been loyal and faithful during the recent outbreak, and I understand are all fed at the expense of the Government. I saw their rations being distributed on one of the reserves. There is however a singular anomaly in the fact that the men are generally armed with Winchester rifles, and it is said they have abundance of ammunition also. There does seem a necessity for a judicious attempt to alter this state of things. To feed men as if they were children and yet to allow them to retain such formidable weapons as the 'Winchester' is a policy of which the two ends do not hang well together. I heard with much interest of the advanced condition (take them as you will) of a tribe of Indians that have been for years under the charge of a Methodist mission between Calgary and the mountains.

But we are only at the very beginning of the development of this great region. Such a statement, indeed applies to most of the North-West. The country, taken as a whole, is only in its infancy; but a strong, a vigorous infancy it is. What the next quarter of a century may have in store for us who can tell?

COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The Commercial Travellers' Association of Canada, held its quarterly meeting on Saturday night, 5th inst., at its rooms in this city.

In the absence of the President and 1st Vice-President, the 2nd vice-President, Mr. F. H. Maulson, presided, and there was a large attendance of members. The following gentlemen were nominated as officers and directors for the ensuing year:—

President, H. Blain, (elected); 1st vice, J. C. Black and William Wilson; 2nd vice, F. H. Maulson, W. G. H. Lowe, and A. Finlayson; treasurer, Robt. H. Gray, (elected); secretary, Jas. Sargent (elected); directors, A. A. Allan, John Burns, A. A. Benson, Wm. Christie, R. H. Cosbie, H. S. Davison, Samuel Davison, Geo. H. Evans, C. S. Finch, H. Goodman, T. P. Hayes, Wm. Ince, jr., C. H. Murdock, R. J. Ore, Thos. F. Smith, C. C. Vannorman, Jos. Walker. Nine directors to be elected.

The local Boards for Montreal, Kingston, Brantford, Guelph, London, and Winnipeg were re-elected. The gentlemen nominated for the contested positions are to be balloted for.

WESTERN ONTARIO COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS' ASSOCIATION.

The regular quarterly meeting of this Association was held at its rooms in London on the 5th inst., Mr. W. J. Reid, the president, in the chair. About thirty members were present. The president congratulated the meeting on the position occupied by the W. O. C. T. A., which had now a membership of 505, as against 438 last year. It was stated that the reserve fund now amounted to about \$8,000 as against \$6,000 last year. During the year \$4,000 had been paid out in benefits and 160 new members had joined the Association.

Mr. Long called attention to the circular from Toronto and the report of the meeting in Montreal. He spoke of what the deputation had accomplished by limiting the Board of Trade to the thousand mile tickets and 300 pounds of baggage, and also stated that the Commercials had the assurance of Mr. Edgar that only merchants would get those privileges. In Toronto they found that out of 2,300 members there were 500 merchants—a much larger proportion than here. He alluded to the fact of influential merchants being on the executive, and advocated that the Association should pursue a similar course. He thought it would be very judicious to have some merchants on the Board of Directors.

Mr. Reid was re-elected president amid great cheering. Mr. H. D. Long and Mr. Samuel Wilkins were then proposed for vice-president, Also Mr. E. W. Grenfell, who declined. For second vice-president.—Samuel Munroe and John M. Miller were nominated, Mr. John Marr was also proposed but declined. Mr. S. N. Sterling was elected by acclamation as treasurer.

For directors the following nominations were decided upon, to be submitted to the annual meeting, seven to be elected:—John Moffatt, W. S. Case, John M. Dillon, John Marr, R. I. Peddie, H. McIntyre, F. H. Crabbe, H. La Violette, C. E. Sterling, J. C. Hazard, J. H. McMechan, J. W. Lester.

The following were elected by acclamation as directors from places outside of the city:—Hamilton, R. H. Greene, third Vice-President. Directors—Hamilton, R. K. Hope, Jno. Booker; Stratford, James Dom; Brantford, Geo. Wall, jr., James Smith; Paris, James Maxwell; St. Thomas, W. T. Cochran; Ayr, J. G. Watson; Oshawa, E. O. Felt; Galt, T. D. Wardlaw; Windsor, Joseph White; Ingersoll, W. L. Underwood; Toronto, J. J. Quarry, F. W. Heath.

Mr. Mayo enquired if it was the intention to raise the mortuary benefit from \$600 to \$700, and the President replied that he believed the directors would scarcely feel justified in so doing at present. Mr. S. Wilkins gave notice of motion to the effect that the mortuary benefit be increased to \$700 for members of seven years' standing.

It was decided that the annual meeting of the Association be held at eleven o'clock on Saturday morning, 26th December.

MONTREAL GRAIN RECEIPTS AND SHIPMENTS.

In the week ending December 2nd grain receipts at Montreal amounted to 95,696 bushels of which 58,215 bushels were of wheat, 35,772 peas, and the remainder oats and barley. Shipments comprised 36,700 bushels, principally peas. 12,543 barrels flour were received and 13,432 barrels shipped. The official statement, published in the Montreal Gazette gives the following as the total receipts and shipments by rail from the 1st January to December 2nd, 1885, with comparative receipts and shipments for corresponding period of 1884:—

TOTAL RECEIPTS.			
	1885.	1884.	
Wheat.....bush.....	5,444,649	5,106,679	
Corn.....".....	2,322,638	3,559,151	
Peas.....".....	2,345,749	1,867,129	
Oats.....".....	1,530,217	825,318	
Barley.....".....	146,527	226,089	
Rye.....".....	37,878	120,121	
Total grain.....	11,827,658	11,904,487	

TOTAL SHIPMENTS.			
	1885.	1884.	
Wheat.....bush.....	4,172,539	3,840,998	
Corn.....".....	2,281,422	3,289,200	
Peas.....".....	2,475,688	1,849,459	
Oats.....".....	1,442,131	259,067	
Barley.....".....	77,877	95,649	
Rye.....".....	37,669	145,763	
Total grain.....	10,487,326	9,480,136	

In 1882, the grain receipts to like date were 11,983,929 bushels and the shipments 10,232,730 bushels, eight million of the receipts being wheat and two million peas, while corn formed but a small proportion. In 1883, wheat and peas were about an average, but corn receipts and shipments were each about four million.

ST. JOHN TRADE.

The November trade of St. John shows an increase over the previous November. The value of exports from that port for the month compared with the same period of 1884, was as under.

	1884.	1885.
Produce of the mine.....\$	20	\$ 7,354
" " fisheries.....	13,382	49,424
" " forest.....	55,769	152,459
Animals and their produce..	16,306	54,828
Agricultural products.....	2,445	5,049
Manufactures.....	1,125	14,425
Miscellaneous articles.....	5,220	7,168

Total produce of Dominion..	\$95,267	\$290,706
Goods not produce do ..	74,701	97,824

Total exports.....\$169,968 \$388,530

The imports also were larger than in November of 1884, being: free \$88,330; dutiable \$247,832 against in the previous November \$66,806 free, and \$238,426 dutiable. A list of the goods remaining in warehouse on the 30th November, 1885, and 1884 includes the following.

	1884.	1885.
Brandy.....	\$51,809	\$44,912
Whiskey.....	35,902	35,252
Wines.....	25,116	22,891
Ale and Porter.....	7,067	8,259
Sugars, all kinds.....	54,707	25,303