

Manitoba.

Joseph McGowan has opened a general store at Rathwell.

G. E. Lewis is opening a bakery and restaurant at Newdale.

The dates for the Brandon fair have been fixed for July 23 to 26.

A. F. Elliott has sold out his grocery business at Alexander to — Higgins.

F. Robertson contemplates opening in groceries, flour and feed, at Manitou.

It. McIvor, harnessmaker, Elkhorn, will go into business at, some, other point.

G. W. Ray has sold out his general store business at Newdale, and gone farming.

Gulbault & Cote, hardware merchants, St. Boniface, have sold out to Gulbault & Co.

The Ritchey-McDonald Lumber Company, Limited of Makinak, is seeking incorporation.

John Smale has sold his grocery, fruit and confectionery stock, at Neepawa, to Walter Green.

The Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition Association will hold its annual meeting on Thursday, February 21.

Chisholm & McKenna have bought over the stock of Hawksworth & Co., general merchants, at Morris.

Donnelly & Caverly will open a general store at Brandon, in the Swan River district, in the spring.

Luke has sold his livery and feed stable, at Pierson, to a company of farmers from Lyleton district.

J. A. Wright has retired from the management of the Boisvauvin Restaurant. He is succeeded by W. W. Peck.

T. Dowd, an Assyrian merchant, who opened a general store at Minnedosa, about a year ago, died on Friday evening last.

The jewelry stock of the late T. F. Butcher at Brandon, has been purchased by J. F. Higginsbotham, of Portage la Prairie.

In addition to the business portion of Nings has been made by the advent of a new hardware store, under the management of Geo. Gorley.

D. G. Brads has sold out his flour and feed business at Hartney to A. H. Conn. The business will be carried on under the name of Scott & Conn.

M. S. Houle, general merchant, Lethbridge, who was mentioned last week as about to move his business to St. Boniface will open in the latter place on Wednesday of next week.

Reimer Bros., of Sandy Lands, on the South Eastern railway, intend making a run of 5,000 cords of wood down Rat Creek and Rat River to the Red River and thence to Winnipeg.

F. R. Mitchell has taken over the business of the Northwest Renovating Company at Winnipeg and will continue the work under the name of the Maple Leaf Renovating Co.

M. H. Ritchie is putting in a new stock of goods in the store lately occupied by A. G. Cunningham, at Poplar Point. The first consignment of goods (groceries) has already arrived.

The mill of the Manitoba Union Mining Co., Limited, at Armau will start operations shortly in the manufacture of cement. The company has established an office in Winnipeg.

James Anderson has opened up a fruit and confectionery store, and has also the agency of the Copp Manufacturing Co., for hardware, specialties and for plows, harrows, etc., at White-mouth.

The Dominion Bridge Co., Montreal, have been awarded a contract for the construction of the new Canadian Pacific Railway bridge over the Red River at Winnipeg. The cost of which will be \$38,000.

The stock and fixtures of A. Paul, boot and shoe merchant, Winnipeg, will be sold at a rate on the dollar on Monday, the 11th inst. The value is placed at \$1,282.15. Newton & Davidson are the assignees.

The contract for the erection of W. F. Allen's new block on Portage avenue, Winnipeg, has been let to Ritchie & Sharpe. The structure will be of solid brick, and will cost in the neighborhood of \$38,000.

Fire was discovered in the premises occupied by Morris. Winthrop, 604 1/2 Main street, Winnipeg, on Tuesday morning. The premises are used as a shirt and vest factory and a considerable quantity of the goods was

damaged. The damage will probably be \$300.

W. A. Bingham and Chas. Richards give notice that the partnership existing between them in the hardware business as Kilmarny, has been dissolved, dating from Nov. 12 last, W. A. Bingham carries on the business.

J. G. Hargrave, grocer, Winnipeg, has purchased the building south of the Bank of Montreal at a price, it is understood, of \$15,000. He will extend the building and make some extensive improvements throughout.

Notice is given that the annual general meeting of the shareholders of the Great West Life Assurance Company will be held at the head office of the company, Winnipeg, on Wednesday, the 20th of February.

The vacant postmaster's office at Winnipeg has at last been filled by the appointment of F. C. McIntyre, of McIntyre Bros., printers. Mr. McIntyre is an old resident of the city and well known in business circles here.

There was some trouble this week between the plumbers working on the new ventilation system in the Winnipeg post office and the government officials owing to the latter employing non-union helpers.

The Northern Iron Works is the name of a new concern which commences operations in Winnipeg shortly as a foundry and machine shop. A new building is being erected beside the C. P. tracks on Point Douglas in which the operations of the company will be carried on. The plant will be ready for operation about the first of March.

Building Inspector Rogers, of Winnipeg, states that during the year 1900 the value of the buildings erected in Winnipeg aggregated \$1,434,426. As compared with other cities in Canada this is considered a good record. During the same period Toronto, with a population of nearly five times that of Winnipeg, erected only \$1,957,274 worth of buildings, and that was a record year for the Queen City.

Saskatchewan.

A. S. Stewart, implement dealer, Prince Albert, is starting a branch warehouse at Stoney Creek, where he will have a complete line of the different machines he handles. A. E. Wyld will be in charge.

Asotiniboda.

R. H. Hiltz has opened a stock of fruit and confectionery, cigars, tobacco, etc., at Medicine Hat.

F. S. Fingle has changed his intentions with regard to opening a warehouse at Medicine Hat and will not locate there.

Alberta.

A. Cameron, gunsmith, is opening at Edmonton.

It is reported that the Merchants Bank will open a branch at Lacombe under the management of R. F. Taylor. Premises have already been secured.

J. Daykin and B. Fletcher have entered into a partnership for the purpose of starting a butcher shop at Lacombe.

The stock of dry goods, groceries, boots and shoes, crockery, etc., of L. Morat & Co., Fort Saskatchewan, has been purchased by J. H. Mack & Co. of Edmonton, who will take over the business and conduct it for the future. The firm name will be Morris Bros. The new management will hold a slaughter sale.

Northwestern Ontario.

P. King is erecting a hotel on Sturgeon Lake and will place a steamer on the lake this coming summer.

Reports from the Sturgeon Lake district, north of Ignace, indicate that mining operations will be very active there next summer.

Snodgrass Bros., are opening in general merchandise at the Althausen river on the Canadian Northern Railway, where new iron mines are being opened up.

The financial statement of the Liquidators of the Kingston Locomotive Works Company, showed that there are 138 creditors, whose claims total \$230,282.12. The Bank of Montreal is the heaviest creditor, its claim being \$172,380.

FINANCIAL

THE BANK STATEMENT.

The returns of the Canadian banks to the government, for December while they indicate some falling off in the volume of trade, as compared with November, a normal condition, says the Montreal Gazette, show clearly that business was of a very much greater magnitude than in December 1899. For instance, circulation, though it has shrunk \$1,180,000, as compared with November, is \$1,758,000 in excess of what it was during the same month in 1899. The expansion of \$8,008,000 in loans and discounts also, over December, 1899, is a further corroboration of the assumption that business was more active in this year than last. The accumulation of capital available on demand and on notice proceeds unchecked, demand deposits being \$1,500,000 greater than in November, and \$9,972,000 in excess of December, 1899, whereas the notice are nearly \$2,000,000 greater than in November, and \$14,700,000 more than in December, 1899. The accumulations of ready capital in the Canadian banks have, therefore, increased to the remarkable extent of \$24,081,000 during the year 1900, being now \$300,000,000. It is interesting to note also, that while this movement has been going on, speculation has been fairly active, call loans as at December have increased \$214,342 since the end of November, while they were \$1,346,033 greater than in December. Our debts to our fellow Britons in England, have increased \$391,391 during the year, while those to foreigners have fallen \$404,182 and compared with a year ago, the first item of the decline of \$90,000, and the second \$582,782. But, on the other hand, our credit in Britain is \$7,329,000 less than in December, and abroad \$10,614,000 below 1899. Balancing our debits against our credits, however, leaves an amount of \$12,300,369 in our favor. The banks have still further increased their holdings of government and railway securities, the former being \$101,674 more than in November, and \$7,726,000 in excess of December 1899, and the latter \$32,086 greater than in November, and \$10,843,000 than in December, 1899. Municipal debentures, on the other hand, have been cut down \$4,462,912, as compared with the same month in 1899, but show a fall of \$70,000 odd, as compared with the preceding month in 1900.

WINNIPEG BANK CLEARINGS.

Returns for the Winnipeg Clearing Bank for the week ending Thursday, show as follows:

Week ending Feb. 7, 1901	1900	1899
Corresponding week, 1900	1,747,500	1,747,500
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The monthly totals are as follows:		
Jan.	\$6,422,460	\$6,422,460
Feb.	6,786,961	6,786,961
Mar.	7,238,582	7,238,582
Apr.	7,238,582	7,238,582
May	7,238,582	7,238,582
June	7,238,582	7,238,582
July	7,238,582	7,238,582
Aug.	7,238,582	7,238,582
Sept.	7,238,582	7,238,582
Oct.	7,238,582	7,238,582
Nov.	7,238,582	7,238,582
Dec.	7,238,582	7,238,582
Totals	\$6,422,460	\$6,422,460

SILVER.

Bradstreet's: The recent decline in silver quotations at London continued this week and culminated in a sharp break on Wednesday. The figures for bars fell from 25 1/2-164 at the close of last week to 27 1/2 1/2 per ounce, which represents a net fall of nearly 3 1/2 per ounce from the high figures of 1900, the quotations being in fact only a fraction above the average of 1900, which was recorded in January of that year. On Wednesday the market fell 1/4, from the closing of the preceding day, which was apparently due to liquidation of holdings. Cable advice from London states that free offerings of silver from this country, and the cessation of buying for India and China are responsible for the slump. At New York the commercial prices for bars were, in sympathy with the principal foreign market, going down from 62 1/2 cents per ounce to 61 1/2 cents. On Thursday and Friday there was a rally both here and in London. Prices: Jan. 28, London, 26 1/2-164; Feb. 1, 26 1/2; New York, 62 1/2; Feb. 1, 61 1/2.

FINANCIAL NOTES.

The Ontario government has a cash balance from last year after meeting all obligations of \$200,000. The total surplus is now over \$1,000,000.

A. E. Finucane, of Toronto, passed through Winnipeg on Wednesday on his way to Calgary, where he takes an important position in the Bank of Montreal.

Douglas M. Neeve, paying teller of the Union Bank staff at Winnipeg, has received notice of his transfer to head office, Quebec, and will leave probably at the end of the month.

Wilson Bell has been appointed manager of the Brandon branch of the Imperial Bank, succeeding N. G. Leslie, who was promoted to the management of the Winnipeg business. Mr. Bell was formerly manager at Portage la Prairie.

The directors of the Cheque Bank of London, England, which recently went into voluntary liquidation, have issued a circular in which they state that the difficulties of the bank were due to the ease with which evil disposed persons on the bank in every part of the world. One of the directors recently travelled round the continent, forged cheques at the bank's numerous agents in different towns at the same time. Forgers have also been perpetrated in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and the result has been that banks whom it took years and a large expenditure of capital to get to act as cashing agents have now declined to do so in as many as 254 towns. The circular goes on to state, "Your directors, acting on Mr. Bell's advice, have declined to pay or to accept any forged cheques, and consequently they have lost many customers, and are now, in connection with forged cheques, the gang of swindlers confined their operations to the continent. Their plan—which they most successfully carried out—was to make practically exact copies of the Cheque Bank's \$50 cheques, and acting by a number of confederates, to cash them at various banks in different towns at the same time. The trail of these cleverly-forged cheques, Scotland has been at work upon the matter for some time, but, in spite of the most strenuous efforts on the part of the police and the officials of various banks, the printing presses or dies by means of which the spurious cheques were printed still remain undiscovered. It is believed by the police that the forgeries were the work of an American gang. They succeeded in netting many thousands of pounds.

Live Stock Trade Notes.

The cattlemen are busy rounding up the "steckers" in Rapid City district, Man. On account of poor crops farmers are asking for heavy discounts in manure.

W. F. Balderston, a well known Regina cattle dealer, who has his ranch near Kennel on the 4th inst. He was in his usual health last week but caught cold and died after three days' illness. He was a cattle dealer in a large way and was formerly a partner with R. Stanton. For some years past he has bought for Gordon & Ironside.

The Provincial Mutual Hall Insurance Company of Manitoba has issued a circular to its members giving a statement for 1900. The business done was smaller than in previous years owing to dry weather in June. The number of policies issued was 495, insuring \$1,137 acres of crops. The number of claims was 164, on which \$20,000 was granted or nearly double the premium notes received. Many of these premium notes have not yet been paid and the directors have not been able to fully meet the losses.

The annual meeting of the Wawanesa Mutual Insurance Co. was held at Wawanesa on Jan. 25th. All old directors were re-elected with the exception of J. C. Cornell, who resigned to the vacant seat on the board. The report of the secretary, W. A. F. Kempton, stated that during the year the business of the company has increased very rapidly, last year's income being over \$1,500,000. The losses for the year were over \$10,000. The company now has in its books \$4,412,000 worth of business.