

more gratifying as the bill was thought by the companies to be not only ambiguously worded but inquisitorial in its character. No doubt, before next session, another bill can be agreed upon which shall please the different parties interested. It is contended by the government, we understand, that its only object in the framing of this bill was to have a record instituted of all lands in which companies or corporations had obtained the equity of redemption. Under the law of the province, such lands will be escheated to the Crown after five years from the date of foreclosure unless the mortgagor be released from his covenants under the mortgage, in which case the property can be held for five years longer.

The bill respecting municipal indebtedness, which in its first shape affected seriously large holders of Manitoba debentures, has been satisfactorily modified. Under the provisions a commission is created, of three members. It was originally intended to say that if any municipality found itself insolvent it might, under this act, apply to these commissioners for relief. They would investigate the affairs of the municipality and if in their opinion it were not reasonably able to pay the interest or the whole of the principal of its debts, they would report to the provincial secretary the proportion of the gross debts which, in their opinion, the municipality was able to assume. If such report were approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council the municipality might pass a by-law authorizing the issue of debentures for the said proportion of the debt which the commissioners report the municipality able, in their opinion, to assume. The extinguishment debentures, as we may call them, have their interest partly guaranteed by the Provincial Government, provided that the aggregate amount of such guarantee by the government shall not exceed \$400,000. Although this measure is a permissive one, it was thought that it might be taken advantage of by some repudiating municipality, and the government was induced to alter the measure from a general to a specific one, by striking out the word municipality and naming certain towns which had applied for relief. These are Emerson, West Lynne, Morris, Portage La Prairie, Gladstone, Neepawa, Minnedosa and Rapid City. The measure, as amended, has become law, and the affairs of those eight towns will presumably come under the control of the commission appointed by this Act.

Mr. Martin's bill, with respect to overdue mortgages, passed and has become law. It provides that the usual six months' notice or bonus in lieu of notice, cannot be exacted. The Manitobans think, and with some reason, that if settlers pay their principal and interest in full, even if a short time after maturity, they do well. Of course, this legislation does not affect contracts made before the passage of the bill.

—A dividend is announced by the Union Loan & Savings' Company at the rate of eight per cent. per annum. The Imperial Loan and Investment Company declares one at seven per cent.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE MOVEMENT AT MONTREAL.

It is interesting to compare the movement thus far this year, of grain, flour and meal, into and out of the port of Montreal, with the similar movement of previous years at the like date. Taking the official figures from the *Gazette* we find the receipts of breadstuffs by rail, river or canal, from 1st January to 15th June were, reducing flour and meal to bushels, about as follows:

1887.....	7,200,000	bushels.
1886.....	8,060,000	"
1885.....	6,400,000	"
1884.....	6,400,000	"

Separating grains from flour and meal we discover an increase this year in the receipts of wheat and a marked decrease of corn from the figures of previous years. Peas, too, show a large movement this spring, and oats, though not up to the large figures of last Spring, show a greater quantity than in either of the two years preceding, thus:

MONTREAL RECEIPTS, 25 WEEKS:			
BUSHEL.	1887.	1886.	1885.
Wheat	3,263,386	2,549,666	1,927,222
Corn	320,058	1,962,912	736,684
Peas	1,220,778	943,790	1,007,593
Oats	627,440	1,106,060	678,766
Barley	59,376	36,247	34,250
Rye	84,859	22,559	33,531

Total grain	5,575,897	6,621,334	4,488,046
Flour, brls....	309,773	271,790	361,663
Oat and Cornmeal, brls..	19,235	15,942	31,835

Receipts of flour as well as of meal are seen to be smaller in both this year and last, up to mid-June, than in either of the years preceding, those of spring 1884 being 372,000 barrels flour and 29,000 of meal. We append the other tabulated figures for three years. Receipts for 1884 were small, as a rule, the exceptions being ashes, lard and hogs.

MONTREAL RECEIPTS, 25 WEEKS:			
	1887.	1886.	1885.
Ashes, brls.....	993	1,452	1,704
Butter, pkgs.....	27,047	27,660	23,408
Cheese, bxs	173,794	197,383	109,828
Pork, brls	4,229	4,574	8,922
Lard, brls	3,523	5,017	6,208
Beef, brls & tos....	639	191	231
Dressed hogs.....	17,337	20,497	27,767
Tallow, brls.....	312	341	2,037
Petroleum, brls....	2,457	2,132	.....
Leather, rolls.....	13,292	15,083	22,642
Hams and bacon, pkgs.....	19,477	32,122	31,686

The shipments from Montreal, by all channels, during the same period of twenty-five weeks were, of grain, including flour and meal reduced to bushels:

1887.....	5,600,000	bushels.
1886.....	6,400,000	"
1885.....	5,000,000	"
1884.....	4,500,000	"

There is a great falling off in corn shipments—as there was in receipts—this year, thus far. In 1884, the falling off seems to have been of wheat and oats. All but a very small portion of the shipments of breadstuffs from our chief port go to Europe by St. Lawrence. Of the remainder, part finds its way to ports on the Lower St. Lawrence by river boats, and part goes eastward or southward by rail to Portland, for Halifax or other places. It is proper to give the subdivision of the official figures of exports for 1887, thus, of the 4,331,991 bushels grain and 239,892

barrels flour and meal shipped this spring, the distribution was as under:

GRAIN.	EUROPEAN.		Lower P'ts Canal and river boats.	RAIL.
	1887.	1887.	1887.	
Wheat, bush....	2,630,990	2,385	53,220	
Corn, "	233,344	3,000	.....	
Peas, "	949,083	8,857	25,142	
Oats, "	239,232	940	25,361	
Barley, "	4,936	515	.....	
Rye, "	104,986	.....	.....	
Total grain..	4,212,571	15,697	103,723	
Flour, brls.....	159,394	50,656	22,828	
Oat & cornmeal, brls	15,955	619	440	
Total	175,349	51,275	23,268	
Ashes, brls	1,383	.....	.....	
Butter, pkgs.....	16,051	4,304	1,342	
Cheese, boxes	167,215	1,227	1,970	
Pork, brls	1,154	4,056	266	
Lard, "	3,339	101	54	
Beef, "	328	314	.....	
Dressed hogs ....	.....	.....	3,353	
Tallow, brls.....	121	2	.....	
Petroleum.....	.....	.....	540	
Leather, rolls....	553	181	832	
Hams and bacon, pkgs	20,185	16	.....	

FIRES IN FLOURING MILLS.

There is scarcely a risk which seems to the ordinary observer so reasonably safe as a flour mill. "If you keep your boiler room apart, what is there about a flour mill to make it dangerous?" enquires the passer by. The underwriter will tell him that there is scarcely a building so misleading in this respect, as a flouring mill. Apart from a wood-working mill or factory there is no risk subject to a greater variety of causes of fire than this.

The very structure of a flour mill, its numerous communications between floors, the fierce draughts of air which sweep through its spaces, the combustible nature of its spouts and elevators, vats and bolts, internal stair cases, the general dryness of the atmosphere, all these are of a nature to assist the progress of a fire. But there are other and special elements of danger, and we find them well summed up in a paper read, not long since, before the Association of British and Irish Millers.

Friction has often to answer for fires in flour mills. It operates in a great variety of ways. "Beveled gearing, fast running spindles, faulty lubrication, wood bearing of smut machines, grit, stones, nails, wire, etc., out of place, induced electricity by fast running machinery and fans, packing of material in the elevator heads, side grinding of belts, these have all been held responsible for fires."

Some of these causes of excessive friction are preventable. It is possible to so watch the oiling of bearings that they shall not heat to a dangerous degree, and belts can be prevented from side grinding. Greater care might, in a great many cases, keep grit or stones or bits of iron out of dangerous places in machinery and so avoid the "striking fire" that brings disaster. In other matters, such as the inducing of electricity by rapidly revolving fans &c., while the thing itself cannot well be prevented the substitution of intelligent observation for absolute ignorance of the existence of such a condition as induced electricity, will of itself be an element of safety.