

date, but since then there have been rather alarming reports from some important districts, the recent cold snap having done damage in Kansas, Illinois and Missouri, where the snow had melted off. In Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin and Nebraska, the snow has proven a safeguard against frost, and in Ohio, where most of the snow has disappeared, the cold has not been very severe of late, so that on the whole the prospects are not bad as yet. What the next month or two will give us in the way of weather will have much to do with the future of winter wheat, and the market fluctuations will be influenced more by this than any other cause at present visible. It is of course too early to say anything about spring wheat, though there is nothing now to indicate that it will not be a large crop.

Reports from the interior of Kansas and along the Missouri river give damaging news regarding the growing wheat. The recent heavy rains followed by freezing, together with the previous warm weather, followed by the thermometer fall to eight degrees below zero, from 35 above in one night, has killed a large area of wheat that promised most excellently shortly before.

Mexico's Exports.

Nearly three fifths of Mexico's exports last year were confined to the precious metals, the figures being \$29,628,000 in coined and uncoined silver and gold, against \$12,179,000 worth of all other products. The value of sugar exported from Mexico last year was \$198,365, from which it will be seen that her sugar exports—concerning which so much has been said to the alarm of our sugar producers—are very significant, having fallen off nearly two-thirds since 1880. Of these Mexican exports, \$17,258,000 worth, went to England and \$16,740,000 to the United States. These amounts are very much modified, however, by details. The amount of products, outside of gold and silver, which went to England, was only \$1,057,000, against \$7,702,000 to the United States, leaving the very large export of gold and silver to the former of \$15,202,000. To the superficial observer this might look as though this large amount of precious metals had gone to pay for British manufactures for import into Mexico; but, upon reference to late British statistics, we find that the exports from Great Britain to Mexico amounted to only about \$9,000,000—which, however, is double what they were in 1878—while the latest custom statistics of the United States show an export of American products and manufactures to the value of \$14,370,000, or about threefold of what they were in 1878.—*Export Journal*.

The Paper Market.

Trade is reported by most dealers as having been a little better this week, although not as brisk as it usually is at this time in a year of prosperous business. While no sudden improvement is looked for, as the season advances, there is quite a feeling of hopefulness of a gradual enlargement of the volume of trade. The probabilities favor a larger distribution of paper during the spring, and there are also some indications that prices may be on a little more satisfactory basis, but before much improvement

can be expected, it is evident that the supply and demand for paper must be somehow brought into closer relations. The most discouraging feature of the present situation of trade is the continued large number of failures. Those of last week, for the whole country are stated on the authority of one of the mercantile agencies to be the largest number for a single week for years, if indeed it has ever been equaled in the history of the country. The fact that nearly 50 per cent. of these failures were of small traders, is regarded as indicating, in the absence of any business or financial crisis, that, in a large number of instances, dishonest debtors have taken advantage of loose and imperfect laws to defraud their creditors. Print papers, although ruling at very low figures, continue to be quoted steadily and no concessions are made unless on large and desirable orders. Manila wrappings hold their own with some degree of firmness. Straw boards are very weak and nominal, No. 1 steam-dried being marketed at \$30 to \$35 per ton.—*American Stationer*.

New Check Book.

Something new in check-books has just been introduced by the Sprague Check-Book Company, New York city. It is an improvement over the ordinary check-book, the awkward shape of which is completely remedied, resulting in a neat as well as simple and convenient book of account with the bank. The book is the invention of a practical bookkeeper. The width of the book is only the length of a check. When open the spread is only fifteen instead of thirty-five inches, making a book of ordinary "cap" size, when the checks are arranged four deep. The book has pages, some of which are arranged for keeping account of deposits at the bank and checks drawn, including the numbers of same, date, to whose order paid, for what purpose drawn, etc., while other pages show balances in bank. Thus, the balance on deposit is always kept in view, while at the same time a regular Dr. and Cr. account is kept with the bank. The arrangement of the book is so simple, yet perfect and convenient, that it explains itself. The book is also gummed on the balance page, so that checks, which have been cancelled may be conveniently attached to this page and thus filed for reference. On the whole, the book is admirably adapted for the use of bankers, merchants, and all business men.—*American Stationer*.

EMERSON.

Mr. E. W. Sexsmith, of Emerson, has been appointed deputy clerk of the County Court of Manchester.

Mr. R. K. Hepburn, of the banking firm of Hepburn and Irwin, returned last Friday from a visit to the old country.

Ed. Creel, lessee of the Emerson House, was sold out last Saturday under a landlord's warrant. Jas. Reid has leased the house and is now running it.

At a regular meeting of the City Council, held last Monday, Messrs. Drummond Bros. were appointed agents of the city for effecting the sale of the debentures.

The sheriff's sale of the hardware stock of Walton and Bird, which had been postponed several times, finally took place on Tuesday afternoon. The stock, amounting to \$14,000, was sold to J. H. Ashdown, of Winnipeg, at the rate of 4½c on the dollar.

The merchants of Emerson feel grateful to the COMMERCIAL for its endeavors to check the smuggling going on between this point and Pembina and St. Vincent. They feel confident that the Customs authorities will look to the matter and give them due protection.

The sudden death of ex-collector Bradley causes a general consternation in Emerson. Although personally responsible for the loss sustained by the Government, it is generally believed that he was perfectly innocent of the charges in which his name was associated.

The International Convention to Discuss the Hudson's Bay Route, which is to take place at the Emerson Opera House on the 4th and 5th of March, promises to be a "big thing." To make certain of a good attendance from the towns of the Red River Valley, Mr. W. N. Fairbanks, president of the Board of Trade, and C. Douglass, are now on a visit to Fargo, Moorhead, Grand Forks, Fergus Falls, Crookston, and other places in Minnesota and Dakota, to interest the Boards of Trade and City Councils of those places in sending delegates to the Convention.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

Mr. R. B. Hill has now on exhibition a roller of his own manufacture. Experts claim that it cannot be excelled in the province.

Mr. W. P. Shaw, who for some time past has occupied the position of accountant in the Ontario Bank here, now assumes the management in place of Mr. E. Porter, pending further arrangements.

Mr. J. P. Young received a lot of mill picks from Prince Albert to repair this week. We believe Mr. Young is about the only man in the province who can do this kind of work. The millers of Manitoba have been in the habit heretofore of sending their work to Minneapolis for repairs.

BRANDON.

Poudrier & Brownlee, civil engineers, have dissolved partnership.

There is a prospect of the Souris Branch being built during the coming summer.

Business still continues quiet, only a fair amount of grain is coming in. Oats have taken a rise of 2c per bushel, and a further rise is expected.

A meeting of the Farmers' Union was held on 26th February, and fifteen delegates were appointed to attend the Winnipeg Convention on the 5th inst.

An attempt is being made to amalgamate the Brandon & Northern and the Souris & Rocky Mountain Railways, making this city the terminus.

Alexander Kelly & Co. expect to have their flour mill in running order this week, and they are pushing forward their oat mill with all despatch.