

invested in industrial enterprises, and especially in manufacturing from home products. Any that may be directed into such a channel will we are certain give better and surer returns, than the many thousands that have in bygone days been buried in non-productive investments.

### THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS.

Yesterday (Monday) the nomination of candidates for municipal honors took place, and it will not be out of place to briefly view from a business standpoint the list of aspirants for positions at the Council Board. For Mayor the present incumbent of the chair, Mr. Alex. McMicken, is again a candidate. He is opposed by ex-Mayor Logan, the present Mayor's predecessor for two terms of office. While it would be impossible for anyone to find fault with Mr. Logan's candidature, for in the position of Chief Magistrate, he would be a credit to any city, we at the same time having regard directly to the commercial interests of Winnipeg, feel bound to express our preference for Mr. McMicken. And we make this choice simply because the latter is a step nearer in relation to the business people of the city than the former. It is of the greatest importance that the trade interests of the city should be represented to as large an extent as possible in the Council and following out that principle Mr. McMicken being more closely allied with that class than his opponent is we consider entitled to the position. In wards one and six the Aldermen were elected by acclamation the candidates thus favored being Messrs. Ham and Mulvey in the first mentioned and Messrs. Drewry and McCreary in the last. In ward No. 2 there are four candidates in the field. One of them is Mr. Geo. Brown, formerly manager of the Ontario Bank. In that responsible position he showed marked ability in looking after the interests of the institution he represented. His long residence in Winnipeg has given him an intimate knowledge of the wants of the city, and his training and experience in a large monetary institution will make his services especially valuable at this critical period of our municipal history. In ward three there is rather a doubtful heterogeneous mass of candidates and it would be impossible to discriminate amongst them as to which are most worthy of the votes of the elector. In ward four candidates are numerous there being no less than six

aspiring individuals. From among them two good representatives ought to be got. One of them Mr. R. W. Jamieson is a young man of marked ability and with a little experience would no doubt be able to give a good account of himself. Messrs. Chas. A. Wishart, N. Bawlf, and James Burridge are all men who are closely identified with the business of the city and on that account would watch closely the interest of the mercantile community. In ward No. five there are also six candidates and as there is no one amongst them who towers above his fellows either in experience or ability the ratepayers will have to puzzle their brains in order to make the best choice.

But viewing the candidates in the field as a whole, while by no means the best men for the positions that the city can afford have been brought out, there is no doubt quite an improvement on what appealed to the suffrages of the public a year ago. If we keep on improving at a similar rate for a year or so more, the high standard of representation on the Council Board which is so desirable will have been attained. Lively times may be expected during the week which elapses between now and polling day, and we trust that the business men of the city will see to it that they have a good representation of their own class in the Council of 1884. The present is an important period in Winnipeg's career. Great and important interests have to be considered. These can only be properly guarded by placing in control of the civic institutions men who, without fear or favor, will work for the general good of the people instead of pandering to their own selfish interests and individual property.

It is high time that the ratepayers of this enterprising city took a deeper interest in the management of its civic affairs. Its rapid growth both in population and wealth makes the position of alderman no sinecure, and its credit abroad and future onward progress at home will be best promoted by the exercise of all due vigilance in jealously protecting its civic institutions from the semblance of anything that might be construed as detrimental to the present high position it now occupies in the eyes of the outside world.

### THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

The year is drawing to a close, the rush of the season's trade is past and business circles in the wholesale lines are as a rule passing through that period of quietude

which in the natural course of events has to come. While there has not been the rush of trade during the past season that some had anticipated, there has at the same time been a very satisfactory business transacted. One thing is certain, what has been done has been on a much more satisfactory basis as compared with a year ago. The recklessness in business which was inaugurated with the boom has given place to a policy of caution and the greatest circumspection. At the same time it is evident that there is still in business circles a lack of that confidence which is desirable. The uncertainty which circumscribes transactions, owing to the unfortunate state of affairs which has obtained during the year, is not easily disposed of. The prudent men in business are doing all in their power to cure the ills from which trade has suffered in the past, and those who have been reckless and indifferent as regards their obligations, have found out that as a business policy dishonesty is not the best policy. But viewing the whole situation from an independent standpoint it cannot be said that the times are very hard. Grumblers, there always will be; some people seem so constituted that unless they are finding fault they cannot feel satisfied. Those who attempt to compare the past with the present, in many cases never take time to reflect and consider what the past was. It was a period of inflation during which excitement and extravagance were fictitious aids to trade. Prices were high then, and while money flowed freely people never questioned the price of an article. Prices now may be lower but a careful investigation will, we have no doubt, shew that consumption is greater and that more goods are actually sold than in the days of extreme high prices. There has been but little loss of equilibrium in a steady, well-conducted line of trade, and people, now that the situation is fully understood, have only themselves to blame if they incur loss or meet with disaster. There is no disguising the fact that lack of prudence and weakness are more frequently the causes of disaster and failure than the reasons more commonly assigned therefor. As a contemporary briefly puts it:—"Good judgment—keeping within the limits of capital and capacity—will, barring unusual accidents, carry business men through more difficult experiences than those of the present. Safety lies in prudence.