

**Fort William Board of Trade.**

At the annual meeting of the Fort William board of trade the following statistics were presented in the president's address:

The number of vessels which entered during the past year was 942, with a registered tonnage of 1,003,422 tons; net tonnage 365,488 tons; crews on vessels 21,480. The freight received on wharves was as follows: Merchandise 100,000 tons, as against \$2,400 tons last year; coal 285,000 tons as against 182,000; iron 80,500 tons as against 59,900 tons in 1898.

The freight shipped from the harbor was 14,715,380 bushels of wheat, 4,014,751 bushels of this amount was carried by American vessels. There was also 68,000 tons of flour shipped out. There is now in store in elevators at this place 2,900,000 bushels of wheat. I would recommend this board to use its influence with the government for deepening of canals to enable ocean steamers to enter our harbor and load for Europe.

The duty collected from January to December, 1899, by custom office here was \$129,079.94 as against \$111,982 in 1898.

Officers elected for the year are as follows:

President, E. A. Morton; vice-president, Harry Murphy; secretary-treasurer, E. R. Wayland; council, W. F. Hogarth, C. W. Jarvis, J. J. Wells, A. McDougall, W. L. Morton, A. Snellgrove, Wm. McCall, D. C. Graham, John King, C. H. Jackson, E. S. Rutledge, James Hammond.

**London Wool Sales.**

London, Jan. 26.—The first series of the colonial wool sales for this year closed to-day. The offerings to-day numbered 13,154, and consisted of a rather fair catalogue. Competition in merinos was good, especially the continent. New Zealand cross breds were in active demand, and were taken by the home trade at full rates. Good lines of scoured stock were taken by the American republics. During the series there were many withdrawals. The home trade purchased 47,000 bales, the continent 36,000 and America 4,000 bales. There were 57,000 bales carried over. After the strength of the last series and encouraging trade conditions, and short supplies, another rise was generally expected at the opening of the present series, but instead, the sale opened with hesitation on the part of the buyers. Merino cross breds sold at par to five per cent., but soon eased to 7 1/2 to 10 per cent below the December series. This weakness was due to the dear money conditions and the unsettled political conditions in South Africa. The continental buyers were rather cautious at first, and the home trade was quiet in their speculations owing to the unhealthy trade reports. Later operators became more confident, especially the continent and American buyers, and as a result, prices advanced considerably, particularly coarse and medium cross breds and fine greasy merinos. The closing tone of the series was steady at about December rates and occasionally five per cent higher. Cape of Good Hope and Natal wools were neglected and largely withdrawn.

**Cheese Industry Threatened.**

Mr. Editor:

I noticed Dairy Commissioner Murray's letter in the Farmer's Advocate, condemning the manufacture

of dairy cheese. That is very well as far as it will go—but in order to accomplish something we must do more than write about it. The most practical way of discouraging the manufacture of this stuff is in my opinion to do away at once with the dairy course in cheese making in the dairy school, because in my opinion the dairy school has of late years been an important factor in the development of this undesirable industry. Young men and women come to the dairy school for a few weeks and go home with the idea that they can make first class cheese. Closing that course is the first step in the right direction.

**A CHEESE DEALER.****Kootenay Meat King.**

P. Burns, the leading cattle and fresh meat dealer of the Kootenay, was in Winnipeg this week on his way to Toronto, Montreal and other eastern cities on a combined business and pleasure trip. Mr. Burns was seen by a Commercial representative while in the city, and expressed himself as being well pleased with the outlook for this year in his business. The cattle in the range country are wintering exceptionally well. The increase in population in the mining regions of British Columbia last year ensures a considerably larger demand for fresh meat from those parts hereafter and the demand from the Yukon country will also be largely increased owing to improvement in transportation facilities, making it possible to handle meats much more expeditiously. Mr. Burns reports a very satisfactory year's business during 1899. His new abattoir at Calgary is now practically completed, and operations will begin in due season. Mr. Burns expects to remain east until spring.

**Radical Legislation.**

The following resolution will be recommended for acceptance by the Winnipeg city council. "That legislation be obtained making it illegal on the part of a candidate to personally solicit votes, and that public committee rooms designated by signs or advertised in the papers be not allowed."

This resolution ends rather abruptly. To be effective, organized effort for the personal soliciting of votes should be prevented, not only by the candidate, but by agents as well.

**Causes of Failures.**

A statement has been issued by Bradstreet's giving a classification of the various causes of failures. There were a total of 1,306 failures in Canada and Newfoundland last year, compared with 1,470 in 1898, 1,925 in 1897, and 2,204 in 1896. The cause of the failures during 1899 is given as follows:

Incompetence .....	124
Inexperience .....	36
Lack of capital .....	959
Unwise credits .....	11
Failures of others .....	5
Extravagance .....	5
Neglect .....	31
Competition .....	17
Specific conditions .....	59
Speculation .....	5
Fraud .....	54

Following shows the aggregate assets and liabilities of the failures in Canada and Newfoundland, for three years:

Assets—1899, \$4,536,058; 1898, \$1,239,065; 1897, \$5,222,897.
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Liabilities—1299, \$11,009,491; 1898, \$10,062,149; 1897, \$13,249,979.

Lack of capital, Bradstreet's says, still remains the chief stumbling-block to success in trade, judging from the fact that 74 per cent. of the failures and 58 per cent. of the liabilities were chargeable to this cause. While the proportion of failures due to lack of capital tends to increase of late years, the loss resulting therefrom, however, has decreased. Unwise credits, which caused less than 1 per cent. of all the Canadian failures, were responsible for over 20 per cent. of the liabilities. The failures due to incompetence and the damages resulting from the same bear a close relation, the proportions being respectively 9.4 per cent. and 10.4 per cent. Fewer failures and smaller liabilities due to inexperience are to be noted, and per failures due to outside speculation. Fraudulent disposition caused more failures but smaller liabilities than in 1898.

**Winnipeg Prices a Year Ago.**

Following were Winnipeg prices this week last year:

Wheat—No. 1 hard wheat quoted at 69 to 69 1/2c February delivery.

Flour—Local price per sack: Patent, \$1.95 to \$2.05; test bakers', \$1.75.

Oatmeal—\$1.90 per 80 pound sack.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$10 per ton; shorts, \$12 delivered to city dealers.

Oats—Carlots on track, 25 to 28c.

Flaxseed—Per bushel, retail, 70 to 80c.

Barley—Farmers' loads, 2 1/2 to 25c per bushel for feed grades. Malt barley in carlots on track, 27 to 30c per bushel.

Corn—In carlots, 42 to 44c per bushel of 56 lbs.

Butter—Dairy, jobbers paying 13 1/2 to 15c; fresh creamery, 22 to 23c to buyers.

Cheese—9 1/2 to 10c per pound at factories.

Eggs—Dealers asking 20 to 22c per dozen for strictly fresh eggs. Lined, 16 to 17c.

Hides—No. 1 green hides, 6 1/2 to 7c; frozen stock, 6 to 6 1/2c per lb.

Wool—8 to 8 1/2c for unwashed fleece. Seneca—21c per lb.

Hay—Baled, \$7.50 to \$8 per ton on cars. Loose hay worth \$6 to \$7.50 per ton.

Potatoes—35 to 40c per bushel on the street.

Dressed Poultry—Turkeys, 10 to 12c per lb. chickens, 9 to 10c; ducks, 8 to 10c; geese 9 to 10c.

Game—Rabbits, 8 1/2c each; pigeons, 20c per pair.

Dressed meats—Fresh killed beef, city dressed, 5 1/2 to 6c; country frozen beef, 5 to 5 1/2c; mutton, 7 to 8c; lamb, 8 to 9c; hogs, 5 3/4 to 6c; veal, 6 to 7c.

Live Stock—Cattle, 3 to 3 1/2c for butchers' stock; stockers, 2 1/2 to 2 3/4c per lb.; hogs, 4 3/4c off cars for selected weights.

A very strong feeling has developed for beans in eastern markets and prices have advanced. There is a demand for export to the United States.

Glover & Brals, wholesale men's furnishings Montreal, have assigned on the demand of Foster, Porter & Co. of London, Eng., with liabilities of \$144,000.

The Western Cigar Factory, Winnipeg, is sending out a line colored banner showing photo-engravings of three leading generals of the British forces in South Africa, Generals Buller, White and Forestier Walker.

The first sod on the proposed Georgian Bay canal will be turned on Dominion Day. Several members of the syndicate which is at the head of the scheme are now on their way to Canada from England to look over the ground.