## BUSINESS GOSSIPING.

In times of business quietude such as the west has been passing through since the holiday trade ceased and money has become a scarce commodity in trading circles there is always more or less talk about the financial standing of almost every person, or firm or company connected with the business life of the country, and unfortunately it is true that the black side of things is always the side upon which the gossips like to dilate with often very damaging effects upon the credit of any concern which may be luckless enough to have met with losses which give excuse for such talk. It is moreover often the case that stories get into circulation about the standing of business concerns which have no foundation in fact, and the further they go the blacker they grow until they either bring disaster to the object of their maliclousness or evoke a public denial of the facts.

It is the case at present in Winnipeg and has as a matter of fact always been that there is some of this sort of thing going on here. Those who mingle much in the business life of the city can hear almost any day just such stories as we have spoken of shove being actively circulated about the financial standing of well-known concerns which when probed to the hoftom are apparently based solely upon idle rumor or are the product of the imagination of some business rival or interested party. We are not disposed to believe that these rumors are all kept in circulation as a result of any maliciousness on the part of the persons who carry them as they are generally circulated through thoughtlessness and without any reference to their possible consequences. They are taken up and repeated without any enquiry as to their truthfulness which is the inexcusable part of the business. If every story of the kind were to be challenged by the listeners and the proof of its truthfulness called for the gossips would soon go out of business for pure shame's sake or receive the just reward of their wickedness in the well earned contempt of all their business associates.

## COMPARATIVE BANK CLEARINGS.

The report of the Winnipeg clearings house for the year 1900 is to hand. The total clearings for the year were smaller than those for 1899 by .77 per cent. The year's total amounted to \$106,956,792 as agains: \$107,-786,814 during the year 1890 and \$90,-064,325, in 1898. The largest month of the year was November and the smallest February. The average daily clear-ings was \$352,998. As compared with other Canadian cities Winnipeg still stands third for volume of clearings, Montreal and Toronto coming first and second. Halifax follows Winnipeg and Victoria, Hamilton, St. John and Vancouver come next in the order named. The two British Columbia cities are rapidly overtaking the cities which precede them and will soon be pressing Hamilton hard for fourth place. Victoria clearings have multiplied about seven times in two years and Vancouver is also gaining rapidly, its totals for 1899 being about five times larger than in 1898. For 1900 Vancouver does not show up so well but this is no doubt due to temporary causes which will perhaps not manifest themselves this year. The phenomenal growth in coast clearings during 1999 was no doubt due to the Klondike trade. With the exception of Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver

## WINNIPEG PRICES CURRENT

	INT PAT	CES COIL	CARACT A
GROCERIES	Dried Fruits Per pound	Tubacou Per pound	DRUGS
Prices to retail dealers for ordinary lots, with usual discounts for cash or	Bried Fruits Per journe Raisins, Val. Layers, per box 2 85 1 8 90 London Layers, 20 lb Hoxes, 1 90 2 00 Imperial, Cabinets	T & B., 3a, 4a, and 9a Cada 00 71 Lily, Sa, enda 00 65 Cre-cent, Sa, cada 00 65 T.&B. Mahogany Chewing,	Following are prices for parce tots with usual reductions for unb ken packages.  Alum, 16 sl.  Alum, 18 sl.  Solventry (10 to 10 to
large lots.	Connoisseurs, Clusters 2 55 2 90	Cre-cent, Sa, cada	packages.
Canned Goods Per care	Connonsaturs, Clusters 23 2 3 00 Extra Designer, Line 3 55 3 75 Royal Backington, a court 4 5 18 Loose Muscatels, a crown 10 104 Apples, Dried 104 Examples, finest quality 7 114 Conference Examples, finest quality 7 114	T. & B. Mahogany Chewing, Se or 16	Alcohol, gal
Apples, 3s, 2 dos	Loose Muscatels, 3 crown 19 9%	T.& B. 1-12 pkg, cut 00 85 T.& H. 1-5 pkg, cut 00 85 T.& B. in ponches, 1-4 00 86	Bluestone, lb 05 67
	Apples, Dried	Se or 10   Se or 10	Bluestone, lb.
dos	Evap Apples, finest quality . 6% California Evaporated Fruits	T. & B. in 1-5 tins	Camphor
Cherries, red, pitted ss, s dos 4 50		Orinoco, 1-13 pkg	Carbolic Acid 45 50
Peas, sifted, se, 2 dos 2 35	Peaches, unpected 5 9 Pears 134, 137 Apricotic Choice 12 134, 137 Pitted Pluman 11 114, Nectarines 14, 158 Prunes, 100 to 140 44, 5 5 Prunes, 20 to 100 54, 54 Prunes, 20 to 50 54, 54 Prunes, 20 to 50 54, 54 Prunes, 20 to 50 7, 74 Prunes, 20 to 50 7, 74 Prunes, 40 to 50 104, 134 Telephone 142 Telephone 13 185	Orinoco, 1-12 pkg	Chlorate Potash
Pears, California, 3/4, a doz.4 50 4 75	" Standards	Tucketts Cherub Cigarette	Copperas 01 04
Pears, Bartie 1, 3s, 2 dos 5 00 5 50 Pineapple, 3s, 2 dos 4 50 4 75	Nectarines 1036 11	1-12	Copperas
Pineapple, imported, 2s, 2 doz 4 75 5 00	Prunes, 100 to 120 42, 5	Derby Se, cads	Epsom Salts
Peaches, 26, 2 doz	Prunes, 80 to 90	P. & W. Chewing, Butts 00 66 Tonka, 4 tins 00 90	Extract Logwood, bulk 12 1. Extract Logwood, boxes 17 24
Peaches, Canadian, 3s, 2 doz 6 25 6 50 Plums, 2s, 2 doz 3 00 3 95	Prunes, 60 to 70	Brier, 8a, csala 00 05 Derby, 3a and 4a, czda 00 06 Derby, 4a, czda 00 06 Tonka, 5i 12 pkg Canadian Leaf, 50 1b balea, very bright 3a Lover grades 124, 15	Cloves
Plums California, 23/6s, 2 dus 4 co 4 50	Telegraph 31 85	very bright	Glycerine, lb
Raspberries, 28, 2 dos, Syrup. 3 35 3 40	Telephone	Lower grades 12½ 15 Dominion Tobacco Co.'s List.	Ginger, African 15 10
Strawberries, 2s, 2 doz, Syrup. 3 65	Cable		Iodine
Comatoes, 3s, a doz	Lunger Sw. dish con in how.	Pommery, 10% s	1   1   2   3   3   3   3   3   3   3   3   3
Salmon, Cohoes talle ts. Adors on 6 50	per gross 3/3	Holly, S a and 15 s	Oli, olive, Pure
Sardines, domestic 16 Orli 05 Sardines, imported, 16 Orli 05 Sardines, imported, 16 Orli 05 Sardines, imported, 16 10 .	Taragona Almonds 17 18	Carsinel, Bars, 78	Oil, U.S. Saind
Sardines, imported, 1/8 091/4 15	Peanuts, roasted 11 11/2 Peanuts, green 9 10	Black Bass, Bars, 10½s 40 Black Bass, 6 a and 5 s 43	Oil, cod liver, gal 1 So 10
Sardines, imp. 36s, boneless . 20 33 Sardines, Dom., mustard 36s, 10 13	Grenoble Walnuts 14% 15 French Walnuts	BRIGHT SMOKING PLUG.	Oxalic Acid 14 16 Potass Iodide 275 450
Per dos.	Nuts	Virgin Gold, 3½ s	Oil, cod liver, gal. 1 40 125 Oxalic Acid. 14 6 Potass Iodide 3 75 40 Paris Green, lb 22 35 Saltpetre. 0 6 Sal Rochelle 28 31 Shellac 28
Imported Fresh Herring, 18,1 50 155 Imp.Kippered Herrings, 18,1 50 2 00 Imp. Herrings, Tom. Sauce 181 90 2 00 Imp. "Anch. Sauce 18,1 00 2 00	Byrup Rxtra Bright, per lp 3 %C	Hulls Kye, 3½ s and 5 s 40 Empire Tobaçoo Co,'s List	Sel Rocheile
Imp. 44 Anch. Sauce 18.1 00 2 00 Imp. 44 Shrimp Sauce 18.2 00 2 10	Medium, per 1b 21/4 3c	Empire Tobacco Co.'s List	Sulphur Flowers 3% 0
	Maple, case 1 doz. 16 gal. tinso 75 7 doz. Glucose, bris	Kmpire, 31/s @5s 40	Shelisa: 28 12 Sulphur Flowers 28 12 Sulphur Holl, keg 31/2 04 Soda B'carb, keg of 112 ibs 3 75 40.
Corn Beef, 1s, s doz 3 15	Glucose, bris	Humpire, 3½ s     40       Golden Plug, 3s     53       Hoyal Oak, Sa     53       Something Good, 7s     54	Sal So.la
Lunch Heef, 2s, 1 doz 3 00	At Bankadawa 19	CHEWING.	
Lunch Tongue, U.S. 24, 1doz 6 75	Extra Standard Gran 5 55 Extra Ground 6½c	Currency, Bars, 101/s 40	LEATHER Per pound
Canned Meets Per case.  Con Beef, 1s, 2 doz. 315  Corn Beef, 2s, 1 doz. 350  Lunch Heef, 2s, 1 doz. 50 675  Lunch Tongue, 1s, 3 doz. 50 675  Lunch Tongue, U.S. 3s, 1 doz 50 675  Lunch Tongue, Can. 3s, 1 doz 50 675  Lunch Tongue, Can. 3s, 1 doz 50 675  Pigs Feet, 1s 2 doz 20 3 00  Roast Beef, 2s, 1 doz 20 3 0 3 00  Per doz. Per doz.	Bagar Standard Gran 555 Extra Ground 626 Powdered 646	Currency, Bars, 101/2s 40 Currency, 64	Harness, oak
Pigs Feet, 18 2 dos 2 50 2 00 Roast Boef, 26, 1 dos 2 00 1 00	Lumps	Showshor, Bars, 12s	Harness, union oak No. 1 u
Roast Beef, 24, 1 doz2 00 3 00 Per doz. Chicken, Duck or Turkey, 182 50 2 60	Rxtra Ground   0.1/4c	Wouden Ware Per doz.  Pails, 2 hopo clear 1 95 a so Halls, wire hoop.  Pails, 2 hopo clear 2 95 a 25 Halls, Start filtre 3 5 2 5 Tubs, No. 0 counton 11 5 0 12 00 Tubs, No. 1 5 common 5 00 15 5 Tubs, No. 3 common 5 0 5 5 Tubs, No. 3 common 6 717 7 15 Tubs, nests (3) 1 1 90 3 00 Tubs, Would 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	cnor orand
Chicken, Duck or Turkey, las 90 26 of Potted Ham, 18	Rock Salt	Palls, wire hoop 2 20 2 25 Palls, Star fibre 3 50	Harness, hemlock No. : R
Potted Tongue, %s 65 70	Common, fine 400	Tubs, No. 0 common 11 50 12 00	Harness, he mlock country tannage, No. 1 R
Devilled Ham, 16s	Common, fine 2 00 Common, coarse 2 00 Dairy, 100-3 3 5 3 50 Dairy, 60-5 3 15 3 50 Per S kitteduck coach	Tubs, No. 2 common S oo S 50	Harness, hemlock No. 1 R anchor brand. 34 Harness, hemlock country tannage, No. 1 R
terponnu.	Dairy, 60-5 3 15 3 30	Tube nests (2) Per nest.	Sole, union oak
Greet. Rio 11 13 Inferior grades	Dairy, co-5 315 330 Per S k Dairy, white duck sack 00 43 Common, fine jute sack 00 43 Rapioss Per dos.	Tube, wire hoop (3) a 25 2 40	Listowell, sole
Commute Common	Nations Per dos. Assorted Herbs, 11b tins 75 90 Per pound	Tubs, fibre, No. 0	B. F. French calf as 13
Suit Pesa, sack 98 2 25 2 30 Pot Barley, sack 90 2 30 4 10 Pearl Barley, sack 96 3 74 4 00 Rolled Oatmeal, sack 80 75 1 80 Standard Oatmeal, sack 95 2 30	Alispice, whole 18 30	Tubs, fibre, No. 3 12 50	Canada calf
tearl Barley, sack of 75 4 00	Allspice, pure ground 18 22	Lubs, nore, No. 3 10 90	Niagara Brand Kip 65 75
Standard Ontmeal, sack of 2 30 Granulated Ontmeal, sack of 2 30		Butter Tubs, wire hoop (2) 57	Grain upper per foot 42 46
Beans (per bushel) 201	Cassia, compound	Butter Tub, wire hoop (3) 90 Washboards, Globe, per doz. 2 00	Mangaroo, per foot 30 to Dolgons, per foot 25 40
Franulated Oatmeal, sack 98 2 30 Beans (per bushcl) 2 0. Cornmeal, sack 96 1 3. Cornmeal, %sac 49 (per %sac) 68	Alispice, whole 18 30 Alispice, pure ground 18 32 Alispice, compound 19 18 Alispice, compound 19 18 Alispice, compound 19 18 Cassia, whole 19 20 Cassia, compound 19 20 Cloves, pure ground 25 30 Cloves, pure ground 18 30	Tubs, fibre, (3)	Kangaroo, per foot 30 50 Dolgona, per foot 30 50 Dolgona, bright 30 Bag sheepskins, per doz Soo
	Pepper, black, whole 16 17	CURED MEATS, ETC.	
Patna	Pepper, black, pure ground . 18 20 Pepper, black, compound 13	Lard, 20 ln pails, pure atw. ren. \$ 2 20	FUEL.
Tapioca 5 5%c	Pepper, white, whole 23 25		Coal
Cigarottes Per M	Pepper, white, pure ground 18 30 Pepper, white, compound 18 30 Pepper, Cayanne 35 30	Lard, 50lb tube	These are retail prices, delivered to consumers in the city, or 50c per too less at the yards.
37 50 1thlete 8 50	Ginger, whole, Jamaica 35 30 Ginger, whole. Cochin 30 25	Lard, pure, Tierces, per lb 10 Lard, solh tubs 10% Lard, Compound, so lb pails Lard, Compound, 3 and 5 lb, tins, case 60 lbs 5 70	1 et toe
iweet Caporal \$ 50	Ginger, pute ground 23 25	Smoked Monta per lb.	Pennsylvania anthracite-
west Sixteen	Ginger, pure ground 23 35 Ginger, compound 15 45 Nutmegs, (per pound) 55 90 Mace (per pound) 75 80 Tena Per pound	Hams 121/2	Pea size 300 Canadian anthracite, store
Cured Fish	Tens Per pound	Hams	Canadian anthracite, stove 9 50 Canadian anthracite, nut 8 50 Lethbridge bituminous 8 50
Soneless Hake, per lb os o5% Codfish, whole cases, 100 lbs. 6 50		Spiced rolls 9½ Shoulders 9½ Pic-nic Hams 9½	Canadian anthracite, nut 8 to Lethbridge bituminous 8 to Crow's Nest bituminous 8 to U. S. bituminous 7 50 8 to Souris Limite 7 50 8 to
Boneless Hake, per lb 05 05%   Codfish, whole cases, 100 lbs.	Choice 35 40 Medium 25 35 Common 15 30 Indian and Ceylon—	Dry Salt Meats	Souris Lignite
Digby chicks	Indian and Ceylon— Choice 34 40	Long clear bacon	Souris Lignite 475 Souris, car lots F.O.B. mines 1 & Smithing 9 50 10 to
Dried Fruits.	Indian and Ceylon	Smoked Long Clear 11	Cordwood These are prices for car lots, on track
Currants, Finatrias, bbls2½ 13 "half-bbls 13½ 13½ "CARCE14½ 13½ "half-care12½ 13 "cleaned, in carce13½ 14	Young Hysons-	Barrel Pork Per barrel	Winnipeg. Perced
" half-cases12% 13	Medium	Heavy mess	Winnipeg. Percord Tamarac 400 4 5 Pine 350 375
" cleaned, in cases13% 14 Dates, Cases		Meet Sundries	Spruce 30 Poplar, green or dead, cut 250 Manitoba Oak 425 459
Figs, Glove Box, per lb 13 14	Finest May Picking 35 40 Choice	Fresh pork sausage, lb S	Manitoba Oak
Cleaned, in Cases 37 % of Figs, Kleme 77 % of Figs, Kleme 11 15 Figs, Cooking, per lb 13 14 Figs, Cooking, per lb 13 14 Figs, Cooking, per lb 13 14 13 14 13 14 13 14 13 14 13 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 15	Fine	Fresh pork sausage, lb 8 Bologna sausage, lb 7 Hickled pigs feet, kits \$1 25 Sausage catings, lb 30	Birch 45 47 Minnesota Hard Maple Minnesota Oak
Raisins, Val., fine, off stalk 2 70 2 75	l Common	Sausage catings, lh 30	Minnesota Oak Slaba 2 60 27

all the cities mentioned showed gains last year. These three lost considerably the effect being to pull down the aggregate clearings for Canada to the extent of 3.28 per cent., as compared with 1800. The commanding position occupied by Montreal in the clearing business of Canada is demonstrated by the fact that the total of that city alone is not very far short of being equal to the total for all the other places combined.

## Winnipeg Prices a Year Ago.

Following were Winnipeg prices this yeek last year: Wheat-No. 1 hard closed at 65%@65%c in store Fort William. Flour-Local price per sack: Patent, \$1.50; best bakers', \$1.70.

Outment-\$1.65 per Solb sack; patent, refail trade.
Milistuffs-Bran. \$10(\$10.50 ton; shorts, \$11.50(\$12.00, delivered to city dealers, \$11.50(\$12.00, delivered to city, \$11.50(\$12

567b. Flax-41.25681.20 per bushel.
Butter-Dairy, 176/20c per fb for best grades; creamery, 24c per fb for best grades; creamery, 24c per fb to the retail trade.
Cheese-Regular sisses, 136/13½ to; the retail trade.
Eggs-196/20c for Manitoba fresh.
Hides-No. 1 green hides, 7½c per fb.
Wool-86/8½c for unwashed facec.
Seneca Root-37c per fb.
Hay-Baled, \$56/85.50 per ton on cars.
Potatoes-45c per bushel for farmer-loads. ads.' Poultry—Turkeys, 11c per lb; chickens, e; ducks, 9c; and goese, 9c per lb.

Pressed Meats—Beef, 5@6c; veni, 7@6c; mutton, 8@9c; hogs, 54,60c. Live Stock—Cattle, 3@34c, as to grade, sheep, 4c; hogs, 44,644c off cars, accord-ing to quality.

A recent caution from the United States consul at Mainz, Germany, relates to the danger in using critals silver mounted glasses and porcelals wares. In manufacturing, the silver on each article is applied by the means of a process which requires the use of potassium cyanide, and the heifilk cracks existing in the porcelain glass receive and retain a dan-erost amount of this deadly poison. To use if every handle these cups, glasses, jars, vases, or whatever the "essel jars, vases, or whatever the "essel jars, vases, or whatever the "essel may be, is attended with great risk. The consul reports a severe cise of the wares, which is chiefly exported to this country from Frankfort, Berlia and Stuttgart.