

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 gossip 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 maliciousness 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 above being actively circulated about the financial standing of well-known concerns which when probed to the bottom 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 gossip 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 \$106,936,792 as against \$107,786,814 during the year 1899 and \$90,604,325, in 1898. The largest month of the year was November and the smallest February. The average daily clearings 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 1899 was no doubt due to the Klondike trade. With the exception of Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver

GROCERIES

Table listing various grocery items such as Apples, Peaches, Corn, Beans, etc. with prices per bushel or per cask.

Coffee

Table listing coffee items like Green Rio, Inferior grades with prices per sack.

Cereals

Table listing cereal items like Split Peas, Rolled Oatmeal, Beans, etc. with prices per sack.

Cigars

Table listing cigar items like No. 10 Judge, Athlete, Sweet Sixteen, etc. with prices per pack.

Meat

Table listing meat items like Soleless Hake, Codfish, Dried Fish, etc. with prices per lb.

Dried Fruits

Table listing dried fruit items like Currants, Raisins, Apples, etc. with prices per bushel.

Winnipeg Prices a Year Ago.

Following were Winnipeg prices this week last year: Wheat-No. 1 hard closed at 65 1/2¢ per bushel in store Fort William. Flour-Local prices per sack: Patent, \$1.50; bestakers, \$1.70.

WINNIPEG PRICES CURRENT

Dried Fruits

Table listing dried fruit items like Raisins, Apples, Peaches, etc. with prices per bushel.

Meat

Table listing meat items like Corned Beef, Lard, etc. with prices per cask or per lb.

Meat

Table listing meat items like Assorted Hams, Allapic, etc. with prices per pound.

Meat

Table listing meat items like China Blanks, Medium, Indian and Ceylon, etc. with prices per pound.

Tobacco

Table listing tobacco items like T. & R., L. & G., etc. with prices per lb.

Meat

Table listing meat items like Pommery, Holly, Caramel, etc. with prices per lb.

Meat

Table listing meat items like Empire Tobacco Co's List, Golden Plug, etc. with prices per lb.

Meat

Table listing meat items like Currency, Golden Plug, etc. with prices per lb.

DRUGS

Table listing various drug items like Alcohol, Bleaching Powder, Borax, etc. with prices per lb.

LEATHER

Table listing leather items like Harness, Saddle, etc. with prices per pound.

CURED MEATS ETC.

Table listing cured meat items like Lard, Bacon, etc. with prices per lb.

FUEL

Table listing fuel items like Pennsylvania anthracite, etc. with prices per ton.

Meat

Ontario-\$1.65 per 800 sack; patent, 1st trade, \$1.80; 2nd trade, \$1.70. Millstuffs-Bran, \$10.00 per ton; shorts, \$11.50 per ton, delivered to city dealers. Oats-Carlton on track, new oats, 20¢ per cwt. according to quality. Barley-24¢ per bushel for feed grades of new; 22¢ for malting. Oats-Carlton, white, 16¢ per bushel, according to grade and freight rate for farmers at country points. Corn-In carlots, 85¢ per bushel for retail. Flax-\$1.25 per 100 lb. Butter-Dairy, 17¢ per lb for best grades; creamery, 24¢ per lb to the retail trade. Cheese-Regular sizes, 12¢ per lb; to the retail trade, 13¢. Hides-No. 1 green hides, 75¢ per lb. Wool-86¢ per lb for unwashed fleece. Seneca Root-37¢ per lb. Hay-Baled, \$8.50 per ton on cars. Potatoes-45¢ per bushel for farmers' loads. Turkey-Turkey, 11¢ per lb; chickens, 9¢; ducks, 9¢; geese, 9¢ per lb.

Meat

These are retail prices, delivered to consumers in the city, or per ton or less at the yards.

Meat

These are prices for car lots, on track Winnipeg. Per cask: Fine 4.09 to 4.25; Spruce 3.00; Poplar, green or dead, cut, 2.50 to 3.75; Manitoba 4.00; Birch 4.50 to 4.75; Minnesota Hard Maple 5.00; Slabs 3.00 to 3.75.

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