

appellants also claimed that there was prior insurance held by a mortgage of the property insured. The court below held that the appellants were not prejudiced. The policies had been assigned to the Union Bank, which was added as a plaintiff at the trial. Counsel for appellants argued that the actions could not have been brought by the bank and it was now barred. Appeals were allowed with costs, two judges dissenting.

From Western Fields

BUOYANT HOPEFULNESS EVIDENT.

Increase in Seeding Acreage—General Trade Quickening—Building Operations—New Provincial Flotation.

Now that spring farming operations have begun throughout the middle and farther West, and the stream of immigration has set in, the general feeling is one of buoyant hopefulness as to agricultural and business prospects. A considerably larger seeded acreage than last year is anticipated—probably 7,000,000 acres in wheat. If so, the increase will be about 750,000 over last year. Winter conditions as to moisture, etc., have been most favourable to an early and good start this spring. On the basis of the principle that "where the farmer thrives, all thrive," the towns and cities are experiencing considerable business quickening. In part this is due to high prices realized by the West for the good crop of last year; in part to the million of dollars a week (according to Western arithmetic) that is brought in by United States and other immigrants; possibly, in part to the wish being father to the thought that next autumn will bring a bumper harvest of dollar wheat. Time will tell.

Building Activity.

Many new grain elevators will soon be under construction throughout the West—especially along the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific. Farmers themselves are doing more building than usual, largely in the way of stabling for cattle. Recent high prices for dairy products and for cattle have given an impetus to the raising of both milch and beef cattle.

Building activity is recommencing in Winnipeg and other cities. The building of the twelve-storey block for the Grand Trunk Pacific in the corner of Main Street is to be a factor in the situation. The demand for apartment houses in Winnipeg continues—but there are those who view with some doubt the outcome of the apparent over-rush to supply the demand.

One of the first indications of the busy season is a dollar or more tacked on to the price of all lumber which goes into effect this week, local dealers claiming it follows on a raise by the Coast mills. The labour situation in the building trades appears more satisfactory now.

An American Branch Factory.

It is reported that the Globe Iron Works, of Wisconsin, will soon build a factory in Winnipeg to manufacture for Australia and New Zealand trade, taking advantage of the preferential tariff given Canada by these colonies.

The Province of Manitoba, on May 1, next, will sell some \$262,000 40 year 4s. This is the only important bond issue recently announced; \$62,000 of the bonds are judicial district bonds which will be guaranteed by the province.

A week ago there went into effect the changing of the old Manitoba and Northwestern Underwriters' Association into the Western Canada Fire Underwriters' Association, particulars as to which were announced some time since.

Toronto News and Views

SPRING'S FILLIP TO BUSINESS ACTIVITY.

Record Earnings of Street Railway—Closing Hours of Ontario Legislature—Provincial and Civic Financing—Important Fire Company Case.

Navigation has opened at Toronto, and the general feeling that "spring has come" is already contributing to considerable increase in business activity—on the part of manufacturers, builders, jobbers and retailers. Imports from abroad during March increased largely in response to improving demand. The month's receipts at the Customs House were \$1,060,457, an increase of \$191,563 over March of 1908. "Not since August, 1907, have our receipts exceeded the million-dollar mark," said a Customs official this week. "In August, 1907, we collected \$1,180,000, which was the largest in the history of the port, and our current month's business is only about nine per cent. behind that mark, and we expect April will far exceed March."

March a Record Month.

March was a banner month for the Toronto Street Railway—gross earnings for the month being the largest in the history of the company. The total was practically \$300,000, being \$25,000 in excess of earnings for March, 1908. Net also will show a gratifying gain. The total gross gain for the three months is \$58,001. Detailed figures are:

	Earning.	Inc.
January	\$287,981	\$18,656
February	274,845	14,011
March	298,742	25,334
Total	\$861,568	\$58,001

Provincial Financing.

This week, the estimates for the two ensuing years—some \$13,000,000 in all—were finally passed. Hon. Mr. Matheson, the provincial treasurer, introduced a bill to authorize the borrowing of \$3,500,000 for five months, on the credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund, for the construction of the hydro-electric lines.

A week ago announcement was made in the Legislature as to the issue in London by the Bank of Montreal of £820,000 4 per cent. registered stock of the Province of Ontario. This stock is to run for 40 years, from 1907, and is being marketed at 102. A London despatch this week states that the issue has been successful. The present bond issue will take up £500,000 of maturing treasury bills.

Civic as well as provincial financing is to the fore just now. Before the middle of the month Mayor Oliver and City Treasurer Coady will go