

In the able address of Hon. Emery A. Storrs at the opening some figures are found which give an idea of the growth of Chicago. "When the Board was organized in 1848 the entire shipments of flour from the city were 45,200 barrels, but in 1884 those shipments had reached 4,808,884 barrels. In 1848 there were shipped from Chicago 2,160,000 bushels of wheat, but in 1884 there were 21,046,577 bushels. The growth of the North-West is well exhibited in these speaking and eloquent statistics. In 1848 the shipments of corn from Chicago were 650,460 bushels; but in 1884 they amounted to 53,274,050 bushels. \* \* \*

But the increase in the actual transactions in pork, lard, butter, wool, is something marvellous. In 1853 the shipments of pork amounted to 9,266,318 and in 1884 to 549,674,034 pounds. Of lard in 1853 the shipments were 1,847,852 pounds, which had increased in 1883 to 219,617,436. In 1854 the shipments of butter amounted to 577,388 and in 1884 to 90,660,374 pounds. The shipments of wool in 1853 amounted to 953,100 pounds and in 1884 to 53,334,926. \* \* \* In 1864 we received 338,810 head of cattle, and twenty years later, in 1884, the receipts had increased to 1,817,697. \* \* \* In the year 1865 there were packed 760,514 hogs, and in 1884 the aggregate reached 3,911,792. The capacity of our grain elevators is 26,175,000 bushels."

#### NORTH BRITISH AND MERCANTILE INS. CO.

A few weeks ago, the seventy-fifth annual meeting of this company was held in Edinburgh. The statement then submitted to the shareholders showed some satisfactory results. Of the net premiums received which amounted to £1,114,068 the fire losses absorbed only 63 per cent. This is not a high ratio considering the disastrous experience of all the companies. This company has improved its circumstances by the year's business, for for where one year previously its fire reserve was £1,787,129, on the 31st Dec. last it stood at £1,747,295. The sum at the credit of the profit and loss account at that time was £205,939, out of which £150,000 has been set apart for distribution amongst the shareholders by way of dividend and bonus. This is equal to 30s. per share. At the close of 1884, after providing for the dividend and bonus payable in 1885, the paid up capital, reserves and undivided profits of the company amounted to £2,222,295; and this, entirely excluding the life assurance account from consideration. The life department is doing very well. There was a large increase in the premium income. The total life premiums are now £344,708, which, with interest for £150,699, brings the life assurance revenue within a few pounds of half a million sterling. The balance of the life assurance fund at the end of the year was £3,458,595, and the balance of the annuity fund amounted to £36,066. The total funds in the hands of the company were at the end of the year £6,715,310.

#### CENSUS OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

The figures of the Newfoundland census have just been published. The census of Newfoundland and Labrador, taken last year, shows that the population is now 196,411. Of these 4,211 reside on the coast of Labrador, of whom 1,847 are Esquimaux, under the charge of Moravian missionaries, and 2,864 are whites. The population of the island of Newfoundland is now 192,201. When the census was taken in 1874 the population of Newfoundland and Labrador was 161,880. The increase is thus 35,081, or 21.70 per cent. A slight immigration has come

in, but it has been more than counterbalanced by the emigration, so that the increase in population has arisen from natural causes. The census gives the various religious denominations as follows: Church of Rome, 74,651; Church of England, 69,247; Methodists, 48,884; Presbyterians, 1,473; Congregationalists, 754; Baptists and others, 53.

—The North-West Commercial Travellers' Association, of which Mr. Thos. Johnson is president, Mr. J. J. Fanning, vice-president; Mr. W. N. Ronald, treasurer and Mr. John M. O'Loughlin, secretary, has its headquarters in Winnipeg. It believes in reciprocity, for its circular, which we shall presently quote, in effect says: "You do the square thing by us, and we shall reciprocate with you." During the winter there was held a general meeting of the Association, which embraces nearly all the Commercial men of the Province, and it was decided to issue a circular to members recommending only those hotels and liveries throughout the country offering commercial travellers special privileges. The secretary thereupon sent out a circular saying to the hotel keepers and livery men of Manitoba, "If you desire to compete for the trade, you will please fill in answers to the questions on enclosed form, and return to the undersigned at earliest moment. If satisfactory arrangements and terms are made with you, your name will appear on the printed lists which will be furnished to members." The circular required the person addressed to name figures for daily or weekly board, with or without sample room, stipulations as to baggage transfer, and also—an important matter—to answer the question "Have you a properly kept water-closet?" Appended was a form of agreement for the proprietor of hotel or liveryman to sign, agreeing to give accommodation to all certificated members of the N. W. C. T. A. at the rates which he had in writing. This, at all events, was a practical attempt to secure its members against extortion and to reduce the heavy cost of selling goods through commercial travellers.

—With respect to the steel trade in Great Britain, we learn from the *Iron Trades Exchange* of Saturday, 25th ult., that an improvement was then noticeable in the Glasgow district as well as in the neighborhood of Middlesborough. "The large works of Messrs. Bolckow, Vaughan and Co., at Eton, and those of the North-Eastern Steel Company, Middlesborough, are very busy, and have sufficient work to keep them going for some time to come. Prices are more profitable, and a further advance should take place if the demand for steel steamers should increase." The same journal adds: "There have been some good contracts booked lately in the Scotch steel trade, which we are glad to hear is still improving. Steel angles are now at £6 5s., which is an advance of 5s., and ship plates have been increased 2s. 6d., making the present price £7 2s. 6d. The advances of from 10s. to 12. 6d. per ton this year, have had no bad effect on the market, but rather have been the reason for giving out better orders than at the lower rates, the cause doubtless being that consumers have been waiting for better terms from the sellers, and having failed to obtain them, are now ready buyers. A busy season is now looked for."

—In our issue of last week, speaking of the results of the year to the different fire insurance companies, we referred to the Glasgow and London as among those companies showing the least favorable results. This, however, was only true upon the mistaken assumption that the figures in the body of the table represented

the whole premium income. But by a foot note in our table as well as in Prof. Cherriman's abstract it is seen that \$124,272 has been received for re-insuring the risks of the Sovereign. If this be included, the loss ratio of this company comes down from 81.3, among the highest of the list to 43.3 almost the lowest on the list.

—At the meeting of directors of La Banque du Peuple, on Monday last, the name of the vice-president, Mr. George S. Brush, was unanimously proposed for the president's chair, vacant through the lamented death of the late Mr. C. S. Cherrier, Q. C. Mr. Brush, owing to the pressure of business pursuits, was obliged to decline. It was then unanimously resolved that Alderman Jacques Grenier be appointed, and that gentleman accepted.

—The Government of Ontario, having in view the importance of improving the average character of the butter made in this province, has appointed Mr. Barre, of Quebec, as Professor of Dairying in connection with the Agricultural College creamery at Guelph. Mr. Barre will take charge of the creamery and the experimental dairying, and give lectures on the subject in the College. He is said to be a good authority on the subject, having studied it thoroughly both theoretically and practically in Denmark, where excellent butter is made.

—The Quebec Bank has declared a dividend for the current half year at the rate of seven per cent. per annum and the Bank of Ottawa at the annual rate of seven.

—We observe that the Freehold Loan & Savings' Co. declares its dividend to stockholders at the usual rate of five per cent. for the half-year.

#### Meetings.

##### BANK OF NEW BRUNSWICK.

The annual meeting of the Bank of New Brunswick was held on Monday last 4th instant, in St. John. Net earnings for the year ended 4th May were shown to have been, after deducting charges of management and all expenses, \$94,811.87, which fall to be added to \$8,241.16, balance from last year. Dividend of 8 per cent. absorbed \$80,000, leaving a balance of \$23,053.93 to credit of profit and loss. There has been written off estimated bad and doubtful debts at 1st June last year, \$82,994.37, leaving the reserved profits on 4th May, 1885, at \$390,058.66 where a year previously they were \$450,000. Compared with 1884, circulation is reduced from \$457,745 to \$425,903, deposits from \$1,408,740 to \$1,111,601, the reduction being in those bearing interest. Reserves of Dominion notes and specie are increased by nearly \$40,000. The overdue debts are put down at \$846.25; doubtful debts, none. The directors were reduced to five members, and the election resulted as follows: J. D. Lewin, W. W. Turnbull, C. H. Fairweather, T. W. Daniel, John Yeats. The general statement is as follows:

##### Liabilities.

Capital stock .....	\$1,000,000 00
Notes in circulation .....	425,923 50
Bills of exchange current .....	192,777 14
Balances due to other banks ..	19,657 14
Cash deposited, not bearing int..	534,315 89
Cash deposited, bearing interest..	577,285 35
Rebate .....	\$ 50,000 00
Net profits on hand ..	340,058 66
	390,058 66
	\$3,140,017 68

##### Assets.

Dominion notes .....	\$ 368,927 00
Specie .....	107,939 80
Real estate and other property of the bank .....	61,522 53
Notes and cheques of other banks	56,317 00
Balances due from other banks ..	237,977 45
Bills of exchange current .....	106,889 66
Loans and bills discounted .....	2,182,040 52