

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, JUNE 10, 1895.

THE NEW INSURANCE COMPANY.

The new local fire insurance company, which has been organizing in Winnipeg for some time, is now ready for business, preliminary arrangements having been completed. The new company opened its books for business on the first day of June. The company will be known as The Canadian Fire Insurance Company. The officers are: J. H. Ashdown, president; F. W. Stobart, vice-president, R. T. Riley, managing director, and F. K. Foster, secretary. The directors are: G. R. Crowe, R. J. Campbell, E. F. Hutchings and J. A. Richard. An advisory board has been appointed at Brandon, composed of W. Johnston and C. Adams, M.P.P. For Portage la Prairie and advisory board composed of T. B. Miller and W. Garland has been appointed.

The new company has been very favorably received all over the province. The original intention was to place \$250,000 of stock on the market, but this was so quickly taken up that the amount was increased to \$300,000. Quite a portion of this has been subscribed at provincial points. The company will do a general fire insurance business, and for the first year will only solicit business in Manitoba, though any good business offered from the districts outside the province will not necessarily be refused. At present, however, the charter of the company will permit of soliciting business only in Manitoba. Mr. Riley starts out this week to appoint agents and organize the work throughout the province. A great many inquiries have already been received from Manitoba and Territorial points, and the favorable reception the company has already received augurs well for the future.

WHITES AND INDIANS IN THE TERRITORIES.

The white population of the three territories of Canada increased 40 per cent. between the years 1891 and 1894. The total population in 1891 was 52,230, and in 1894 it was 73,506. During the same time the Indian population decreased 8 per cent., from 14,567 to 13,345. The time has now passed when we can fear any trouble from the Indians. In the white population, however, is included the few thousand half-breed settlers, a considerable portion of whom have a closer affinity to the Indians than to the whites.

It is very satisfactory to note, that the danger point has been passed in the Canadian territories without any Indian wars. In settling the western states of the United States, the government was almost continually at war with one or more of the Indian tribes. In Canada, by way of contrast, our new districts have been settled without serious troubles with the Indians. This shows highly for the

administration of Indian affairs in Canada. The Indians now living in the Territories are settled in isolated bands, and, as stated, the time has now passed when they are to be feared. Besides being vastly outnumbered by the whites, the railways which now intersect the country, afford a means of quickly bringing in troops, should they be needed. As now situated the Indians are practically helpless to raise any trouble, and as they were successfully handled when there were very few white settlers and no railways in the country, there is nothing to be feared from them now when they are in such a small minority, and with means of rapid communication in existence to all parts of the country.

The only trouble ever experienced in the settlement of the Territories was the half-breed disturbances in 1885, which was confined to the North Saskatchewan regions. Such an outbreak would be impossible now, owing to the railways built since that date.

The figures of population given above, both of whites and Indians, are for the three organized territories of Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. In the great unorganized region to the north there is a limited Indian population, and a very few white and half-breed traders, trappers, etc. The Indians of the north have always been of a very peaceful disposition and there is nothing to fear from them. Besides, they are under the control of missionaries and traders, on whom they are dependent for supplies, and with whom they have long lived on good terms.

THE TURN IN THE TIDE.

Under the above heading, in the last number of Bradstreet's, we find a strong article showing the improvement in business generally. One very important feature showing the improvement in the business situation, is the large number of instances in which wages have been advanced. The authority quoted asserts that 178,000 industrial employees have had their wages advanced within the past two months, and this has been accomplished without strikes, except in the case of about seven per cent. of those securing an advance in wages. This statement is based on information gathered from leading industrial centres all over the United States. Since April about 80 large industrial establishments have resumed work, giving employment to 30,000 operators, and about 227 establishments have started up within two months. Bradstreet's says:

"He must be blind, indeed, who has failed to realize that the tide has turned, and that improvement in demand in all staple lines is the basis of it. The improvement is due to the depletion of stocks of retailers throughout the country during the past two years of depression, to the accompanying period of restricted credits, buying for immediate wants only, and the prolonged rigid, enforced, economy on the part of consumer and producer.

Evidence of the counter-movement of the current have been repeatedly shown, not only in improvement in net and gross earnings of railway companies, increases of weekly bank clearings totals, and a long and striking list of advances of prices of staple products, but

also in an enlarged demand for produce and manufactured articles in nearly all lines. This record has been continued now for about two months, and there is reason to believe the end is not yet."

Financial and Insurance Notes.

Chas. Newton, will represent the new Canadian fire Insurance Company in Winnipeg as city agent.

Goldstaub, of Plum Coulee, Man., who was charged with concealing goods with intent to defraud the insurance companies, has been sentenced to three months imprisonment.

Bradstreet's, June 1: "It is difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish any change in either the condition or tendencies of the New York loan market. The buying of commercial paper is excellent, and dealers have no chance to accumulate a stock so quickly does the large local and out-of-town demand absorb any acceptable offerings of a good class of names. Rates are 2½ to 3½ for best names and doubles. The supply of money on time continues to be excessive, and nominal rates are quoted at 1 to 2 per cent. for thirty to ninety days and 2 to 3 per cent. for four to six months. Call money is 1 per cent.

The case of Rogers vs. Commercial Union Fire Insurance Co., came up at Winnipeg, last week. Mrs. Rogers, the plaintiff, in whose name the hat and fur business of Rogers & Co., was formerly carried on, in Winnipeg, sues to recover the amount payable under her policy for loss by fire of the stock in trade in her shop in January last. The assessment of the loss was referred to Mr. Harshaw representing the companies and Mr. Chevrier, representing Mrs. Rogers. They assessed the loss at \$5112.98 to be divided between the different companies, the Commercial Union, the London and Lancashire, London, Liverpool & Globe, and the Phoenix, and the amount assessed was paid into court, but plaintiff refused to accept it, claiming her loss was \$15,000, and she then brought this action to recover the amount she claims. It may be noted that E. J. Redmond, fur dealer, was appointed umpire by the arbitrators, and the award was agreed to by him and Harshaw. Chevrier refused to agree to the award. Justice Killam decided that no case had been made out to set aside the award, therefore he would not allow evidence to be given in this action which went behind the award to show the total loss the plaintiff had sustained and entered a nonsuit in each of the four cases.

Winnipeg Markets a Year Ago.

Wheat.—No. 1 hard, c.i.f. Fort William May, 62½c.
Flour.—Local price, per sack, Patents, \$1.55 to \$1.60; Bakers, \$1.45 to \$1.50.
Bran.—Per ton, \$11.
Shorts.—Per ton, \$13.
Oats.—Per bushel, 82 to 82½c.
Barley.—Per bushel, 40 to 45c.
Butter.—New dairy 12 to 15c.
Eggs.—Fresh, easier at 8 to 9c.
Beef.—Fresh, per lb., 5½ to 6½c.
Mutton.—Fresh, 9c.
Hogs.—Dressed, 5½ to 6c.
Cattle.—Ordinary butchers, 3 to 3½c.
Hogs.—Live, 4½ to 4¾c, off cars.
Sheep, 4½ to 4¾c, live weight.
Seneca Root.—26 to 27c per lb.
Chickens.—Dressed, 10c.
Hides.—No. 1 cows, 2½c.
Potatoes.—45 to 50c per bushel.
Hay.—\$1.50 to \$3.50 per ton, car lots.
Wool.—7 to 9c, unwashed fleece.

A carload of Ontario sheep came in this week a year ago, though there were plenty of local stock.

Winnipeg Stationery Co., is opening out business in Winnipeg.