

G. F. & J. GALT. DIRECT IMPORTERS

TEAS, SUGARS, WINES, LIQUORS and GENERAL GROCERIES CORNER PRINCESS AND BANNATYNE STREETS, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

THE board of trade of Portage la Prairie has passed a resolution in favor of the enlargement of the St Lawrence canals. The board also adopted a motion, urging the town council to provide better fire apparatus. The board is doing a wise act in bringing this matter of fire protection before the council. According to recent reports, the fire department of the town is not in an efficient condition. This is a very serious state of affairs, and matters should not be allowed to remain in this way any longer than possible. Portage should take warning from the recent disastrous fire at Regina. The board should follow up this question vigorously, until the council has preformed its duty in the matter.

A MOVEMENT is at last to be made to improve the navigation of the Red River between Winnipeg city and Lake Winnipeg. It is understood an amount will be appropriated for a survey of the river this summer, preparatory to undertaking the required improvements. It is a pity the surveys could not have been made last summer, as owing to the very lot water, every facility was afforded for investigating the requirements of the proposed work. However, it is better late than never, and if the Dominion Government takes hold of this important work in earnest, it will be a matter for satisfaction to those who have so earnestly and vigorously placed the question before the Ottawa authorities from time to time.

THE new extradition treaty with the United States will go into effect on April 4th next. The text of this treaty was given fully in THE COMMER-CIAL a few weeks ago. All honest people will now rejoice that a good deal of rascality which has heretofore gone unpunished, will in the future be liable to receive its just reward. The next sensible move would be that each country should simply agree to hand back all criminals or refugees from justice without the formalities of an extradition treaty, and regardless of the offence committed. The laws, customs and civilization of the countries interested are so similar that this could be done without fear that offenders would receive unduly harsh treatment. It would not be a violation of the principles of the most advanced civilization, would save an endless amount of trouble and expense, and above all, would tend to ensure the greater security of society by the greater certainty that crime would not go unpunished.

THE clause of the Bill providing for the taxation of church property has been amended in the Manitoba Legislature, so that it will not come into force until the first of January, 1892. In the meantime the church buildings and lands in connection therewith to the calent of not more than two acres will be exempt. This amendment will give the churches time to prepare for the new order of things. The principle of church taxation has been received with favor as a rule throughout Manitoba, but in view of the fact that some of the churches are heavily involved and hold a good deal of property, it is generally conceded that it is but right that these organizations should be given notice some time beforehand, that they are to be deprived of the privileges of exemption heretofore enjoyed.

THE credit question, it appears, was the principal feature discussed at the meeting of merchants at Calgary recently. From a report of the meeting in the Tribune of that place, we learn that a committee was appointed to inquire into the credit system, and to bring in a written report at the next meeting, making suggestions as to how the evils of the credit system may be obviated and the large losses which accrue to merchants yearly, lessened. This question provoked a good deal of discussion, and the publication of a dead beat or poor pay list was suggested whereby merchants could know the names of those who were in the habit of running accounts at different places, without the intention or ability of paying them. The exemption laws were also discussed. It is understood the Calgary dealers contemplate adopting the coupon system.

HEREAFTER any disputes regarding the grading of western grain will be settled at Winnipeg, instead of at Toronto as heretofore, the Inland Revenue department having so decided. S. Spink, chairman; S. Nairn, G. J. Maulson, A. Atkinson and F. W. Thompson (of whom three shall constitute a quorum) have been ap-



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pointed a board of examiners and arbitrators for the following purposes: 1. To examine and test the fitness of candidates to become inspectors or deputy inspectors of wheat and other grains in respect of all grain inspection divisions or districts west of and including that of Port Arthur; 2. To determine all cases of difference between inspectors as to the true quality or grade of any grain inspected by one of them and re-inspected by another.

It has long been the talk in a a private way, that certain prominent officials were guilty of grave misdemeanors in connection with the Saskatchewan rebellion of 1885. So common have become the reports concerning certain matters, that these reports have come to be generally believed. It is therefore a matter for satisfaction that at last these charges are to be ventilated. If they are not true, it is well that the people should know it; if they are true, that the parties to them may receive their just reward. A Parliamentary committee has been appointed to investigate the charges. The principal charge is, that certain lots of furs belonging to parties in the disturbed district, were appropriated by General Middleton and others. One lot of furs, valued at some thousands of dollars, is said to have been divided between General Middleton, S. L. Bedson, warden of the Manitoba penitentiary, and Hayter Reed, Indian commissioner at Regina. It is also charged that Middleton and Bedson appropriated various articles from the settlers, auch as horses, furs, &c. A pool table is mentioned as one of the articles taken by Bedson. The charges it has been already noted, have become matters of common report, and it his high time the business was cleared up.

Notice is given that application will be made for the incorporation of Thomas Nichol, W. S. Moody, Frank Fowler, F. J. Clark of Carroll; all farmers in the county of Brandon, and William Fowler, of Turtle Mountain, farmer; under the name of "The Manitoba Elevator Company, Limited." The chief place of business of said company will be at the town of Wawanesa. The capital stock of the company will be \$50,000, divided into five hundred shares of \$100 each.