

increase in quantity compared with those of 1885, which is mainly due to the fact before stated, of the city becoming rapidly the centre from which outside men send their mill and other products, sometimes to the glutting of our local market. During the year there were exported by houses here, 2,954,210 bushels of wheat, at a value of \$1,631,560; 104,000 bushels of oats, at a value of \$34,200; 131,664 bushels of barley, at a value of \$46,170; 383,600 sacks of flour, at a value of \$707,300, and oatmeal and other produce, not included in any of the foregoing statements, to the value of \$61,560, thus giving a total value of exports for the year of \$2,965,790, or an increase over the figures of 1885 of \$795,780. The increase of 173,000 bags of flour is one item which will account for a very large proportion of this general increase, and quite a large share of this flour was the product of country mills, exported by parties resident in Winnipeg.

In summing up the retail-mercantile business of the city, the only method that can be followed is to make a careful approximation, which is, however, a much easier one than it was in former years, owing to the increased information at command. A circular, with a blank attached, asking for information necessary, was mailed to every retail concern in the city, and the result was clear and lucid returns from over one hundred and sixty, while quite a number of others furnished incomplete information. A personal inquiry from forty-two houses in different branches of trade brought out that eight of the number reported an increase of business over 1885 of twenty-five per cent. or over; twelve reported an increase of ten per cent. or over; sixteen reported matters much the same as the previous year, and only six reported a decreased volume, two of which were quite heavy. Taking all the information at hand into consideration, the retail trade of the city should show an increase of at least half a million dollars on that of 1885, or to make an aggregate of fully \$6,000,000. This moderate increase is by no means an index to the improved state of retail business throughout the city, the feeling generally being one of confidence and security all round, while the number of shaky concerns is now reduced to a healthy minimum.

Another class of institutions which it is difficult to classify have shown considerable signs of prosperity. When, for instance, six