

HOPEFUL BUSINESS PROSPECTS AT THE WEST.—Business, under the influence of the past few days of splendid spring weather, has started up with remarkable vigor in both city and country, and merchants and farmers are rejoicing in the prospect of a prosperous year. One of our principal dry goods houses sold yesterday nearly \$50,000 worth of merchandise, and the aggregate sales of our jobbing houses must have been enormous—perhaps not exceeded by any previous day at this season of the year. The warm weather has come on with a rush, the season being some weeks later than last year, and an unusual impetus has thus been given to business. There is so an impression among some buyers—whether well-founded or not it is hard to say—that there is to be an advance in the market, especially of dry goods, and this has, of course, stimulated buying. Still there is every reason to hope for a healthy and continuous activity in all branches of business. The farmers are making the most of the favorable weather, and preparing an immense breadth of ground for the seed with strong faith that they will reap an abundant harvest. Some of our leading hardware firms have noted the fact that they are selling an unusual amount of fence wire—much of it going West to the prairie of Iowa, Nebraska and Colorado, and from this they infer that a very large number of acres will this spring be enclosed and put under the plough.—*Chicago Post.*

ST JOHN, N B., April 2nd, 1868

THE business of the past month has been of an unusually quiet character, and it is only within the last few days that there have been any signs of animation. The money market has been tight, and the heaviest lines of discount have been for exchange. This has ruled throughout the month at from 10½ prem for 60-day bills on London, to 11½ for sight bills, and taking into consideration that 7 per cent. is now exacted by the banks instead of 6 per cent. as formerly, would make the current rate of interest about 8 per cent. The river is now open, and steamers plying for nearly 50 miles up, and according to present indications a week or two at the furthest will open the communication with the upper country, and bring the winter's production of lumber to market. The steamer "Aluda," has again been placed on the route between Boston, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and St. John; and the "Empress" left this morning on her first trip to Digby and Annapolis. Next week she will probably go up to Windsor and open the communication with Halifax by that route. We regret to say that the expectations formed some time since

GEOFFRIES & Co.—There have been three arrivals from Ponce, Porto Rico, and three from Cienfuegos with sugar and molasses. It is understood that these cargoes cost at the port of shipment nearly 1c. per lb. for sugar, and 4c to 4½ for molasses more than last year, and prices have consequently advanced. Sugar in bond, Porto Rico, 7c to 7½ per lb. Molasses duty paid, Porto Rico, 45c per gall; Barbadoes, (old crop) 88c to 41c; Cienfuegos 88c to 49c.

high figures. Fancy goods are in full supply.