

been of late. Some idea of the activity and excitement in the lumber trade may be gathered from the fact that a few hours after parties here had been given options on round quantities by Ottawa firms, they have been offered good round sums to call the options off simply because a much better figure had been offered in the meantime. We hear of several large blocks of lumber purchased by a Montreal firm of late that now show handsome profits. This is fortunate for the box-package trade, in which prices have been so frightfully cut that there was no money in them. Now, however, prices will be compelled to advance, owing to the material rise in the raw product. Owing to the increasing demand from the United States, and the improved inquiries for the home trade, much higher prices are looked for.

Grain Business of Manitoba

In 1875 the seedsmen of Ontario felt the necessity of procuring a change of seed wheat for their customers. A bright, hard red life was considered the best kind and most profitable for spring seeding. The question arose where to get it. One of Canada's most enterprising seedsmen went on the search. He found the article he wanted in the Red River valley, but it was very scarce. However, he contracted to have two carloads bagged and shipped down of the crop of 1876. This was delivered in Toronto and distributed from there. It did its work and the supremacy of Manitoba red life wheat was established. But it was not till 1883 that any quantity was shipped out. In 1887 the Winnipeg grain exchange was organized and a government charter obtained. The membership now numbers 115 and is composed of prominent merchants as well as grain men all over the province. This organization has done everything possible to advance the interests of the farmer and grain grower. It now occupies one of the finest buildings in the province, erected last year by Nicholas Bawlf, on Princess street.

To establish more reliable market reports and to expedite the ever increasing trade in grain, the exchange opened a call board on Feb. 9, session lasting from 11 to 12 of each day. A great deal of business has been done both in cash transactions and in futures. The deals are all on a basis of wheat in store at Fort William and the standard grade is No. 1 hard. The result of the business done in this way will be to broaden the sphere of trading in Manitoba wheat, and large quantities will be carried on margins put up by persons who are not directly interested in the grain business, but who have money to speculate with. Also by millers and country dealers who wish to protect themselves in legitimate business, and in some cases by large farmers who will sell their cash wheat for want of storage room and the ready cash and hold for future delivery to get the advantage of the rise which every one looks for. The Winnipeg board room will undoubtedly some day be the scenes of as large and varied transactions as occur in the exchange rooms in the large cities to the south of us.

Grocery Trade Notes.

A soap combine, with a capital of \$50,000,000, to control the soap factories of the United States is said to be under negotiations.

On the United States Pacific coast the beet sugar industry has assumed large proportions. The biggest beet sugar factory in the world is located in the Salinas valley, California, and has a capacity of 3,000 tons of beets per day. It is estimated the beet sugar production of the United States for 1899 will be 200,000 tons.

The Montreal Gazette says. During the week rather more business has been transacted in teas, owing to the fact that buyers in some cases have advanced to prices asked by holders, which shows that there is a disposition to lay in stock in anticipation of a duty. The tone of the market is no doubt, stronger and holders are not forcing sales as they have confidence in the future. A sale of 500 packages Japan was made at 16c; 200 at 19c, and several small lines of low grades at 14 1-2c to 15c.

The Commercial Men.

Walter Crone was one of the unfortunates in the Manitoba hotel fire.

E. G. Crawford, the western representative of Gault Bros. & Co., was in the city this week.

J. H. Glass, the well known boot and shoe traveller, was registered at the Leland house, Winnipeg, this week.

W. W. Armstrong, of W. R. Johnston & Co. who sale clothing, Toronto, has concluded his spring trade business and goes east to-day.

A large number of travellers were in the city this week to meet the merchants who were in the city taking in the sporting and other events.

S. M. James, of E. Boisseau & Co., wholesale clothing, Toronto, leaves for the east to-day. He has completed his spring trade and reports a good business.

Among the travellers in the city this week was W. B. Dalton, of Caulfield, Henderson & Burns; E. H. Taaffe, of Tooke Bros., and Messrs. Fahey, Lament and Lennox, all of boot and shoe fame.

R. R. Gallagher and his assistant, Geo. M. Newton, representing S. Greenshields, son & Co., were in the city this week. Mr. Newton goes east in a few days and Mr. Gallagher will follow in a couple of weeks, his spring order business being about wound up.

T. B. Devaney, western representative of W. R. Brock, has taken permanent sample rooms in the Ashdown block, Main street, and will make this his headquarters when in the city. Mr. Devaney moved his family from the east to Winnipeg a short time ago, so that Winnipeg is now his home. He reports that the business of his house in the west has largely increased during the past year. Mr. Devaney goes east in a couple of weeks.

Butter Packages

At a meeting of the Manitoba Dairy association held in Winnipeg this week the following resolution was adopted:

Moved by C. C. Macdonald and seconded by D. Munroe, that whereas the merchants of Manitoba have placed the reputation of Manitoba creamery butter in danger by using the square box or Australian package to pack dairy and inferior butter, this association urge upon the Dominion government the need of passing a measure prohibiting the use of these packages for any but creamery butter. Two or

more persons contributing the milk of not less than two herds of cows to be considered as constituting a creamery.

Hardware and Paint Trade.

Canadian refined petroleum was advanced 1-2c in eastern markets this week.

Advice from abroad continues strong on cement. Belgium prices for high grade cements for spring shipment are 6d per cask higher than a year ago.

A Montreal exchange says: Bar iron is firmer and 10c higher, business being mentioned in car lots at \$1.40, against \$1.30 a short time ago.

Tenders.

Tenders will be received up to noon Feb. 14, for the mason and brick work for a wholesale warehouse, to be erected at the corner of McDermott and Arthur streets, Winnipeg, by R. J. Whitla & Co.

Tenders will be received up to the 15th of February, for the construction of a creamery building at Shellmouth, Man.

Manitoba Wheat Stocks

There was 2,022,000 bushels of wheat in store at Fort William on Feb. 4.

Stocks of wheat at Fort William, Port Arthur, Keewatin, Winnipeg and interior country points are estimated at approximately 8,500,000 bushels, compared with about 5,000,000 bushels a year ago.

Winnipeg Wheat Inspection

Returns for last week report 186 cars of wheat inspected, which graded as follows: 1 hard, 36 cars; 2 hard, 9; 3 hard, 6; 1 northern, 43; 2 northern, 2; 1 spring, 6; 1 white rye, 1; frost-damaged 2 rejected, 9, no grade, 72.

J. J. Blake, barrister, Vancouver, is dead.



TENDERS

Sealed tenders addressed to the undersigned, and endorsed, "Tenders for Lands Office, Regina," will be received at this office until Friday, March 3rd, 1899, for the erection of a Dominion Lands Office at Regina, N. W. T.

Plans and specifications can be seen and form of tender and all necessary information obtained at this department, at the office of Mr. D. Smith, clerk of Works, Winnipeg, and on application to the caretaker at the Court House, Regina.

Persons tendering are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed form supplied, and signed with their actual signatures.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted bank cheque, made payable to the order of the Honorable the Minister of Public Works, equal to ten per cent of the amount of the tender, which will be forfeited if the party decline to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fail to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

The department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,

E. F. E. ROY,
Secretary.

Department of Public Works,
Ottawa, Feb. 6th, 1899.
Newspapers inserting this advertisement without authority from the department will not be paid for it.