

Floriculture in Winnipeg.

The extent to which the cultivation of plants and flowers is carried on in Winnipeg is hardly imagined by many who think that because our climate is cold and our winters somewhat long, our citizens cannot indulge their love of flowers very much. Winnipeg has made wonderful progress within a few years in lawn garden and street improvements, in the line of cultivating shade trees, shrubbery, and outdoor plants. A great many trees, shrubs and perennial plants have been found perfectly hardy in our climate, while there is no lack of native wild varieties of trees, shrubs, vines and climbers, which are very suitable for garden, lawn and street cultivation.

The fact that Winnipeg supports several large greenhouses, is an indication that considerable business must be done in the flower and plant line. The best known of these greenhouses is that of Richard Alston, located right in the heart of the city. Mr. Alston has no less than 10,000

illustrated catalogue descriptive of his plants, seeds, etc.

The mechanical work of this handsome catalogue was all executed in Winnipeg, by the E. W. Rugg company, showing that it is not necessary to send east for first-class work of this kind.

Lower Freight Rates to British Columbia.

At a meeting of the Grain Exchange Tuesday morning Secretary Beil submitted the following report on the results of his recent mission to Ottawa:

Gentlemen,—Having been directed by you to proceed to Ottawa and such other eastern cities as it might prove necessary to visit in order to represent the exchange in certain matters, I now beg to report as follows:

I had interviews with the minister and commissioner of inland revenue, and succeeded in having a bill prepared amending the act regulating the

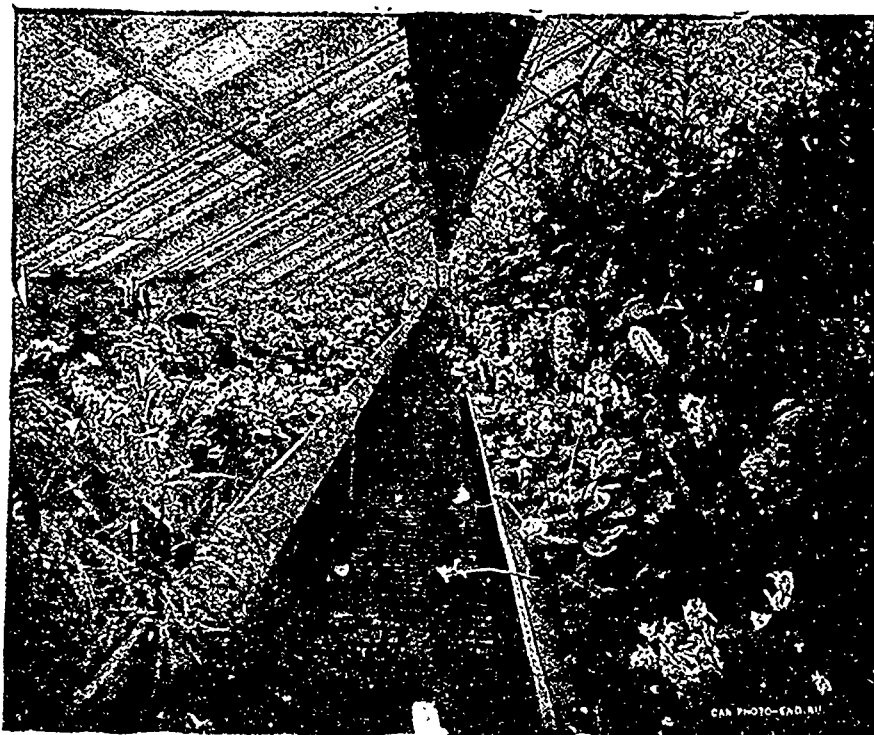
that a good case was made out by the exchange and board. The finance minister stated that while he could not give any decision before submitting it to the house, the situation of the oatmeal millers in the western part of Canada, would be fully considered. The opinion that some measure of relief would be given was general amongst the members constituting the delegation.

I was favored with several opportunities to discuss the matter of improvements for Fort William harbor with the Hon. Mr. Tarte, minister of public works. On my way down to Ottawa I had the advantage of discussing this subject with Mr. George Graham, of Fort William, who has for some years undertaken the work of breaking the ice in the fall season at that place. Mr. Graham suggested to me that information on several points should be laid before the minister, which proved to be of service. I had in conjunction with Mr. Bole, a conference with Mr. Coste, chief engineer of the department of public works, and again on two occasions with the minister who promised that attention would be given to the detailed requests of the exchange, and that he would at once take up the matter of the improvements, being desirous that facilities at Fort William should meet the necessities of the trade. At his request, before leaving Ottawa, I placed in writing the points urged by the exchange, and can only report that the minister promised action.

Under the instructions given by the exchange and board of trade acting together, Mr. Bole and I had an interview with Mr. Shaughnessy, vice-president of the Canadian Pacific railway company in Montreal on the 18th of Feb., and urged that the prevailing rates in flour and millstuffs from Manitoba points to the Pacific coast and Kootenay districts should be at once rendered in order to enable our millers to compete for trade. It was pointed out that each reduction made of late years and to be made under the Crow's Nest Pass railway tended to make wheat more costly in Manitoba, which increased the cost of the flour to the millers and others told against them in the coast trade when no reduction was made in the freight rates west bound. It was also urged that a very large quantity of American flour from Oregon and Washington had been imported into British Columbia under cheap ocean freight rates during the previous month and the Manitoba millers could not fairly compete for the trade under such circumstances. Mr. Shaughnessy and Mr. Bosworth discussed the situation with us very fully and showed every disposition to meet the situation, and I have pleasure in reporting that after consultation with Mr. Robt. Kerr, traffic manager, of this city, that the Montreal officials notified us that the flour rates were reduced to the extent of from 20 to 25 cents per barrel from Winnipeg, and the same group points, to Kootenay, Vancouver and Victoria points. Freight tariffs have since been issued to the trade giving the lower rates to the various points affected.

Several matters of minor importance relating to exchange business were attended to in Toronto, Montreal and Ottawa.

I beg to bring to the attention of the exchange the assistance rendered me as your delegate at Ottawa by the Manitoba members, especially by Mr. R. W. Jamieson, M. P., our city representative.



feet of glass in his greenhouse. The cut given herewith show a view in one of the seven compartments of his greenhouse here. Winter's cold does not affect the wealth of bloom which may here be seen at any time. On the coldest day in mid-winter a visit to the greenhouse will disclose a perfect bewilderment of plant life, as the visitor would go through the long passages, surrounded on every side by flowers innumerable, giving the impression that one had suddenly been dropped down into a tropical garden.

Mr. Alston has also established a nursery at St. James, in the suburbs, of the city, where he has 8,000 feet of glass for the cultivation of plants, and growing flower and garden seeds. In the seed line he is now working into a large trade. Such useful varieties as small fruits are cultivated at his nursery, as well as vegetable seeds, so that the business takes in the practical as well as the ornamental side of the nursery business. He has recently issued a very handsome il-

legal weight of grain, so that the weight of a bushel of flax seed shall be 56 pounds, which is the commercial weight, and on which quotations and transactions now actually made, instead of 50 pounds as defined by the act, as it now stands. The minister will introduce the bill himself. This will remedy what has become a nuisance to buyer and seller alike.

In company with Mr. Bole, delegate of the Winnipeg board of trade, I waited on the Hon. Mr. Paterson, minister of customs, and afterwards, at his request on the minister of finance, Hon. Mr. Fielding, Hon. Sir Richard Cartwright and Hon. Mr. Paterson. On the latter occasion, the following western members joined with us, viz: Messrs. R. W. Jamieson, M. P., Dr. Rutherford, M. P.; Dr. Douglas, M. P., and Frank Oliver, M. P. The request of this exchange and the Winnipeg board of trade that the duty on oats and oatmeal should be equalized, was presented and discussed, at length by all present, the minister admitting that an anomaly existed, and