

### Late Western Trade Items.

Martin, Mitchell & Co's. elevator at Portage la Prairie, Man., was burned on Friday night, together with 20,000 bushels of wheat.

John Love, traveller for Parsons, Bell & Co., Winnipeg, writes quite an encouraging letter from Northwestern Manitoba to his firm. He refers to the considerable income to that district from sales of live stock for export, and also to the important dairying interest of that part of the country. He mentions a number of merchants who have from 7,000 to 15,000 pounds of butter on hand, and concludes as follows: "While business will not be rushing, it is apparent that all along the line (the Manitoba & Northwestern railway) there will be a good steady and profitable business, and a cleaning out of old stocks."

### Montreal Drug Prices.

Cream of tartar, white crystals, is now firm at 65s and if any change takes place in the near future it will be upwards. There has been another advance of 2 per cent. in glycerine, and some makers of this article refuse to quote altogether. Morphine is stronger again, a cable received yesterday advising that the present price was 4s 6d per ounce, with prospects of a further advance soon. Heavy chemicals are dull. Caustic soda is weak, and lower figures have been accepted for round lots. We quote: Bleaching powder, \$2.50 to 2.75; Bicarb. soda, \$2.25 to 2.35; sal. soda, 70 to 75c; carbolic acid, 1 pound bottle, 25 to 30c; caustic soda, 60 per cent., \$2.15 to 2.75; do, 70 per cent., \$2.40 to 2.50; chlorate of potash, 20 to 22c; alum, \$1.40 to 1.50; copperas, 75 to 80c; sulphur flour, \$1.75 to \$2; do, roll, \$2 to 2.10; sulphate of copper, \$4.50 to \$5; white sugar of lead, 7 1/2 to 8 1/2c; bich. potash, 10 to 12c; sumac Sicily, per ton, \$75 to \$80; soda ash, 48 to 50 per cent., \$1.15 to 1.50; chip logwood, \$2 to 2.10; castor oil, 6 1/2 to 7c, and Norwegian cod liver oil, \$25.00 to \$26.00.

The New South Wales Parliament is bringing in a bill to raise money for the purpose of eradicating the codlin moth in the fruit districts. The moth is doing alarming damage in Australia.

The Montreal Gazette of October, 15 says: In the ocean freight market there has been no change, the feeling being easy, but rates are no lower than what they were a week ago, space having been taken to Liverpool and London at 35s to 40s and to Glasgow at 25s to 30s.

There has been a great falling off in the Fiji banana trade and planters have memorialized the Governor, says the Australian Star to give them financial aid to open up fresh lands and thus reduce the price in competition with cheap bananas from other countries. The tobacco business is also being pushed to its utmost in Tongan, in fact since the inauguration of the Canada-Australia line, exporters in every line are putting forth extra exertions to bring Fiji to the front as a shipping colony.

An expert figures that while the price of commodities has been falling, the wages of labor have been steadily advancing, both in England and in this country. The income of the manual labor classes in Great Britain has increased in 50 years 220 per cent, while their numbers have increased 90 per cent. In the United States, the average annual earnings of labor in 71 cities in 1880 was \$386, and in 1890 \$542, an increase of 40 per cent in a period during which the price of commodities declined 16 per cent.

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Two hundred and twenty workers, who left their employment in the Dominion cotton mill at Brantford, Ontario, a week ago, still remain out on strike, as per telegram of October 18. Application has been made to the Ontario Government to appoint arbitrators.

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