

THE Regina board of trade is an institution of which that town may well feel proud. The members work diligently in the interest of the place, and every matter of importance affecting the district receives their attention. At the last meeting of the board committees were appointed to obtain information and interview Prof. Saunders re the experimental farms to be established in the Territories; to prepare statistics of the trade of Regina; and to take steps with regard to the Wood Mountain Railway.

THE *Monetary Times* notes the failure of J. Griffin, of St. Thomas, Ontario, and states that he owes \$10,000 in Winnipeg. This amount, it is understood, was invested in real estate in 1882, and is now held for the benefit of the late firm of Griffin & Douglas. The business of the last mentioned firm has been paying interest on this investment since the year named, and notwithstanding this and other drains, and a lack of working capital, has proved fairly successful, though the somewhat abrupt manner in which it was terminated, may cause a small deficit when the affairs are wound up.

By some inexplicable means known only to the printers, three lines from a paragraph appearing in last week's COMMERCIAL, regarding natural gas, were inserted in an item about salt, in such a manner as to leave the impression that a company had been formed at Chicago, to prospect for salt in Manitoba. The matter will be made clear to the reader, if he will turn to page 184 of the last issue and transfer the first three lines at the top of the second column on that page, inserting them after the third line at the top of the third column of the same page.

THERE is every probability that a permanent exhibition will be established in London, England, as an outcome of the success attending the Indian and Colonial exhibition. The London chamber of commerce has taken up the matter, and representatives will be sent to visit the leading continental commercial museums, for the purpose of obtaining information regarding the same. Much enthusiasm is said to be manifested in favor of the scheme in Britain, and already branches are talked of at leading trade centres throughout the United Kingdom.

AFTER considerable delay and a great deal of grumbling, Toronto and Western Ontario have at last been given shorter connection with the C.B.Ry., by the opening of the Northern and Pacific junction railway. The distance from Toronto to the main line of the C.P.Ry. by the route is 225½ miles, and the time in covering it is eleven hours. The new line will make a great saving of time and mileage in reaching points in Western Ontario, and will bring Toronto 138 miles nearer Winnipeg than Montreal. The road has been bonused to the extent of \$12,000 per mile.

BRADSTREET'S last trade report notes rather less activity in the movement of merchandise, though Chicago and Northwestern points show some exception to the general feeling. Domestic money markets are said to be easier. Bank clearings show a decline of 8½ per cent., as com-

pared with the previous week, though this is accounted for by the holiday. The movement of dry goods at the east is said to have been disappointing. Prices, however, have been sustained, and the outlook remains bright, especially in heavy woollens. Prints declined ½c from 3½c for 64s. The total number of failures in the United States was 204, against 227 last week, 225 last year. Canada had 6 against 18 last week and 20 last year. The total failures in the country this year to date is 9,162 against 10,006 last year, a decline of \$44, against 9,763 in 1884, 8,896 in 1883 and 6,437 in 1882.

THE rumor has been revived, and this time in more definite form, that an ocean cable will be laid, connecting Canada with Australia and Asia. The report comes from Ottawa that the scheme is fast assuming tangible form, under the manipulation of Sanford Fleming, and that a company will be formed to carry out the undertaking at the next session of the Dominion Parliament. The capital stock is placed at \$10,000,000. It is proposed to raise five millions in four per cent. stock, secured by guarantees from the British, Australian, and Canadian Governments. Canada would guarantee \$75,000, Australia, \$175,060, and Great Britain, \$250,000. On the inauguration of the undertaking it is proposed to very materially reduce rates on messages. From London to Vancouver the rate would be about 12c per word, and four shillings to Australia, or about one fourth present rates.

THE Manitoba correspondent of the *Northwest Miller* reports in his last letter to that journal, the story foolishly started by a Winnipeg daily that a considerable quantity of wheat had been destroyed in Manitoba by the smoke from prairie fires, the theory being that the wind had blown the smoke across the fields of standing grain, permeating the wheat to such an extent as to render it useless for milling. This absurd report has gained such wide circulation, that it is necessary to again say it is entirely without foundation. The whole thing arose from the fact that a few bags of wheat, which had been damaged by fire from the burning of a straw stack, were shipped to this market in a car of other grain. This false report has already been made use of as an argument against settlement in Manitoba, and therefore journals which have unwittingly aided in its circulation, should in justice publish a correction.

THE *Northwest Miller* reports, on the authority of "a gentleman recently arrived from Winnipeg, that there has been a large influx of settlers into Manitoba during the present year who have abandoned their lands in the Northwest territories on account of the summer frosts which at times prevail and destroy their crops." The "gentleman from Winnipeg" was either misinformed or wilfully misstated the facts. No damage was done in any part of the Canadian Northwest from summer frosts or any other kinds of frosts during last season. Some portions of the territories suffered from drought, in common with a great portion of the continent, but the whole country was entirely free from frost during the growing and harvesting season. Besides, this country has never suffer-

ed from summer frosts, the only damage of this nature being caused by early autumn frosts, and that only in years when the crops were unusually late in ripening.

IT appears that the Provincial Government has at last decided to take action in the matter of the sufferers from prairie fires. Circulars have been sent to the municipal councils, inquiring as to the extent of the damage done, and promising some measures of relief. Action in this matter has not been taken a moment too soon, and we trust some generous scheme for relief will be devised at once. The question was also very properly brought up in the city council, by Alderman Penrose, but action was deferred until the result of the investigation by the Government should be known. Here is a good cause in which our city council can show its generosity, by donating a respectable amount in aid of those who have lost their all. Where so many hundreds and thousands are so freely voted to far less worthy objects, surely a good sum could be spared for such a noble work. When many settlers of our own province are in want, it is not a time to be stingy. The relief of human suffering is the noblest work which can engage the attention of a people. Some organized efforts might also be made by the citizens, independent of the council, in such a good cause. There are many who could spare a few dollars readily, without inconveniencing themselves; and a generous donation of this nature would go a great way toward giving our city a reputation throughout the province.

THE British Board of Trade has published a table showing the trade between the United Kingdom and Canada, for the first nine months of 1886. From this table it is shown that the imports of British goods into Canada for the time above stated, amounted to £4,639,383, as compared with £4,370,299 for the same time last year. The imports were largely manufactured goods. Cotton piece goods show a falling off for 1886 of £30,000, on a total of £57,000. Silk goods show a considerable increase in imports, and woollen fabrics also show an increase of £45,000 on a total of £650,000. The imports of worsted goods show an increase for the nine months of £85,857, on a total of £518,263. Carpets show an increase of £25,000. Imports of railroad iron have increased to over £75,000 over last year, the total being £474,228. Hardware, china and earthenware, etc., also show a considerable increase in imports, and altogether this year so far as returns are in, shows to the advantage of British manufacturers, in their trade with this country. Exports from Canada to the United Kingdom show a falling off of about £150,000 in live stock, as compared with the same time last year. The exports of wheat amounted to £989,170, against £682,758 for the same time last year, showing an increase of nearly one-third. Exports of flour were £331,591, against £127,854 for last year. Other leading exports were: Butter, £83,448, against £116,596 last year; cheese, £869,039, against £941,327 last year; fish, £316,595, against £327,199 last year; timber, etc., £2,380,782, against £2,950,441 last year. The total exports from Canada to Great Britain for the first ten months of 1886 were £6,158,115, against £6,471,537 for the same time last year, showing a decrease of £313,422 for 1886, as compared with the same time for 1885, or nearly 5 per cent. Though the balance of trade is still largely in favor of Canada, it would appear that this year has been less satisfactory to Canadian than to British exporters, as compared with 1885.