

Manitoba.

Arkell & Co. are opening a drug store at Sidney.

H. B. Cooper, general merchant, Rossburn, died last week.

J. Williams has re-opened his confectionery store at Cartwright.

H. Reid has opened in the butcher business at 275 Fort street, Winnipeg.

H. Brown has succeeded J. Kennedy in the management of the Manitoba hotel at Morden.

The furniture, scenery, etc., in the Grand opera house, Winnipeg, will be sold at auction on Monday afternoon by the bailiff.

The Boissevain Printing and Publishing Company, Limited, of Boissevain, is applying to the provincial government for incorporation.

The Winnipeg Creamery and Produce Company, Limited, Winnipeg, are applying for incorporation. S. M. Barre will be one of the managing directors.

The firm of Russell & Co. booksellers and stationers, Winnipeg, changed this week to Russell, King & Co. Lisgar Lang, who has been connected with the firm for some time, entering as a partner.

Burrows & Steele, blacksmiths, Boissevain, have dissolved partnership. Wm. Morris, carriage-maker, has bought out Mr. Burrows' interest, and the business will in future be carried on by Morris and Steele.

Following is the new Manitoba cabinet. Premier and president of the council, Hon. R. P. Roblin; treasurer, Hon. J. A. Davidson; attorney-general, Hon. C. H. Campbell; minister of public works, Hon. D. H. McFadden.

The following Dauphin merchants will open branch stores on the Gilbert Plains extension. Morton & Pearson and Hedderly & Co., grain dealers, John Sinnott and T. A. Burrows, lumber dealers, and Sam H. Roseborough, jeweller.

Mrs. Isabella Macaulay, milliner, Carman, who made an assignment recently to F. J. G. McArthur, will be sold out at auction on Tuesday, the 9th inst., at a rate on the dollar. The stock is valued at \$928.47. The sale will be held at the office of Campbell & Crawford, Winnipeg.

The Balmoral hotel building at Pipestone was destroyed by fire last Sunday night. The building has not been in use for some weeks and it is surmised that the fire was the work of an incendiary origin. The owner of the building was Geo. Bonfield. Its value was placed at \$1,500.

H. Leadlay, who, with his brother, A. Leadlay, has taken over the business of the Toronto, Hyde & Wool Co., Winnipeg, has been manager of the business for the past fourteen years. A. Leadlay has also been connected with the business for a number of years. Both young men are therefore familiar with the hide and wool trade here, and now that they have become proprietors of the business, they will no doubt be able to conduct it even to better advantage than in the past. The business has been established about sixteen years.

The sixteenth annual exhibition of the Morden Agricultural Society was held on Thursday and Friday, the 24th and 25th of September, at the society's grounds. The exhibits were not very numerous, but considering the year display was very good. The number of entries in the domestic manufactures and in class 23, the ladies' work, was large and it was an attractive and interesting part of the fair. The horticultural department was not nearly as well filled as in other years. The exhibit which was most interesting to visitors at the fair and to the general public of Manitoba was that of A. P. Stevenson. It consisted of some samples of fruit grown on his farm at Nelson, and included several varieties of apples, crab apples, small fruits and grapes, giving ample proof that with sufficient protection and care for their gardens, Manitobans may yet produce sufficient fruits for home consumption. Mr. Stevenson has sold several barrels of crab apples in Morden, obtaining \$1 per barrel, and he says that the crab apple trees pay splendidly for the care expended on them.

Saskatchewan.

The new steam ferry "Battleford" was launched at Edmonton on the 20th Sept. It is intended for use on the North Saskatchewan river between Battleford and Edmonton.

Assinibola.

R. D. Smith, proprietor of the Qu'Appelle Valley Hotel, has sold out to a gentleman from Ontario, who takes possession on the 15th inst.

Northwest Ontario.

Jas. Snider is opening a restaurant in Keewatin.

E. G. Hall, of Rat Portage, is opening in dry goods in Keewatin.

James Baker, who has for several years been at the head of the dry goods department of the Hudson's Bay stores at Rat Portage, has been promoted to the management of the Fort Frances post.

An excelsior factory is to be built near Port Arthur by Wilby & Co. There are large stretches of poplar in the neighborhood which will be used in the manufacture of this article. Excelsior is largely employed in stuffing mattresses, etc.

The town council and board of trade of Rat Portage, Ontario, are reported to be endeavoring to arrange for the erection of a large hotel at that town with C. P. R. assistance. They will also arrange for an exhibit of ores from that region to be sent to the Pan-American exposition to be held in Buffalo next year.

J. L. Melkie, of Port Arthur, dealer in books, stationery, musical instruments, fancy goods, etc., writes The Commercial that he is building a four storey solid brick warehouse in that town to be completed early next year in which he will carry on a general trade in these lines, shipping to all parts of the west as far as the coast. He will have travellers covering all the ground from Port Arthur to Vancouver.

Freight Rates and Traffic Matters.

There has been an advance in the rate of flour from Montreal to Aberdeen at 2s 6d per sack, to 27s. 6d, and is 6d per sack advance to Dublin, the rate being 25s. The Hamburg rate is 17s 6d.

The C. P. R. has notified the department of agriculture that henceforth carloads of purebred stock will be carried to British Columbia at \$150 per car, and \$225 per palace horse car. This is a reduction of \$50.

One of the most expensive pieces of railway line in Canada is from Robson to Midway, which cost \$10,000 per mile. This is one of the series of spurs which the C. P. R. has recently built, connecting the main line with the various mining camps.

Winnipeg Prices a Year Ago.

Following were Winnipeg prices this week last year:

Wheat—No. 1 hard closed at 69½¢.
Flour—Local price per sack. Patent, \$1.85; best bakers', \$1.65.
Oatmeal—\$1.50 per 50lb sack to the retail trade.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$10.50 per ton; shorts, \$12.50, delivered to city dealers.
Oats—Carlots on track, new oats 24½¢.
Hay—24½¢ per bushel for new.
Corn—In carlots, 40½¢ per bushel of 60lb.
Flax—\$1.00 per bushel.
Butter—Dairy, 25½¢ per lb; creamery, 26½¢ at the factories.
Cheese—Regular sizes, 12¢.
Eggs—1½¢ for Manitoba fresh.
Hides—No. 1 green hides, 7¢ per lb.
Wool—7½¢ for unwashed fleece.
Sewer root—30¢ per lb.
Hay—Haled—\$1.50 (\$1.50) per ton on cars.
Potatoes—Choice new potatoes, 25¢ per bushel.
Poultry—Turkeys, live weight, 10½¢ per lb; fowl, 5½¢ per pair; ducks, 6½¢ per pair; geese, 60½¢ each; wild ducks, 25½¢ per pair.
Dressed Meats—Beef, 6½¢; fresh killed mutton, 11½¢; lamb, 10½¢; hogs, 6½¢; veal, 7½¢.
Live Stock—Cattle, 34½¢ for good to choice steers; sheep, 4¢; hogs, 5¢ off cars, according to weight and quality.

The assessment roll of the city of Toronto for the tax levy of 1901 was completed on Saturday last and presents evidence of substantial progress in both the number and wealth of the citizens. The total assessment of the city is \$128,941,144, which is an increase over that of last year of \$3,218,175. Following are the classified totals and increases over last year: Value of land \$56,559,577, increase \$11,557; value of buildings \$53,276,507, increase \$1,551,288; personal property \$9,225,878, increase \$931,419; taxable income \$4,892,182, increase \$907,871; exemptions \$23,428,833, increase \$206,762. The population of the city is given as 121,045, an increase of 6,136.

FINANCIAL

WINNIPEG BANK CLEARINGS.

Returns for the Winnipeg Clearing House for the week ending Thursday, Week ended Oct. 4, 1900 . . . \$2,032,159
Corresponding week, 1899 . . . 2,778,772
Corresponding week, 1898 . . . 2,001,775

The monthly totals are as follows:

	1900.	1899.	1898.
Jan. . .	\$9,900,007	\$7,683,052	\$6,311,168
Feb. . .	6,702,040	6,259,471	5,317,319
Mar. . .	6,522,182	6,522,124	6,582,525
April . .	7,001,519	6,910,431	6,419,114
May . .	9,162,579	7,412,855	8,883,304
June . .	9,012,081	8,211,710	7,390,799
July . .	9,359,423	8,169,595	6,310,238
Aug. . .	8,175,090	7,995,251	6,180,385
Sept. . .	7,529,147	8,231,159	6,414,651
Oct. . .		12,089,000	9,417,092
Nov. . .		14,435,219	11,553,059
Dec. . .		12,066,905	10,708,731
Totals . .		\$107,780,814	\$90,674,323

FINANCIAL NOTES.

The American Bankers Association opened its 26th annual convention at Richmond, Virginia, on Tuesday morning with over 1,000 delegates in attendance.

Dominion Government Savings Bank returns at Winnipeg for September are as follows: Transactions for the month ending Sept. 30, 1900. Deposits, \$21,205,900, withdrawals, \$20,626,000. Deposits exceed withdrawals by \$579,900.

The question has been asked whether a bank has a legal right to refuse payment of a cheque on which a memorandum, as, for instance, "In full of account," or "for services rendered," has been erased or cancelled by a pen. Hand & McNamara's Bankers' Monthly says that the bank has a perfect right to refuse this, as the cheque with the endorsement indicated is not an unrestricted order for payment of the money, and in any event the cheque in the form presented is an "altered instrument."

INSURANCE MATTERS.

THE ORIGIN OF LIFE INSURANCE.

Several years ago, Sheppard Homans wrote an article for the North American Review on the "Origin of Life Insurance," and although it has been published before, we republish herewith an extract therefrom regarding the manner in which the "doctrine of probabilities," or the scientific basis upon which all insurance rests, had its origin in a game of cards. That is to say the foundation upon which this great economy depends, and upon which it owes its claim to the confidence and patronage of the community, originated from the investigations regarding games of chance. It happened in this way: About the year 1650, the Chevalier de Mere, a Flemish nobleman, who was both a respectable mathematician and an ardent gamester, attempted to solve the problem of dividing equitably the stakes when a game of chance was interrupted. The problem was too difficult for him, and he sought the aid of the famous Abbe Blaise Pascal, a Jesuit priest, author of "Night Thoughts," and one of the most accomplished mathematicians of any age. Pascal solved the problem, and in doing so enunciated the "doctrine of probabilities," or laws governing so-called chance. Upon this depends not only the laws governing insurance of all kinds, but also the laws governing the motions of the planets in space, and, in fact, all astronomical science. This doctrine of theory Pascal illustrated by the throwing of dice. When a single die is thrown the chance of turning up an ace is precisely one out of six, or one out of the total number of sides or faces. But if a large number of throws are made, it will be found that each face will be turned up an equal number of times. From this Pascal laid down the proposition that results which have happened in any given number of observed cases will again happen under similar circumstances, providing the numbers be sufficient for the proper working of the law of average. Thus the duration of a single individual is one of the greatest uncertainties, but the duration, or rate of mortality of a large number of individuals may be predicted with great accuracy by companies, or with the observed re-

sults among a sufficiently large number of persons, of similar ages, occupations and climatic influences.—The Indicator.

Winnipeg Waterworks.

At the regular meeting of the Winnipeg board of works this week, City Comptroller Curry made a full report in regard to the new waterworks plant, the substance of which is that Rudolph Hering, C. E., of New York, who was engaged by the city to make investigations as to the best water supply available, reported in favor of the artesian well system, which he estimated would cost \$700,000 for a system to include 4½ miles of pipe. A by-law was submitted to the ratepayers and approved by them authorizing an issue of \$700,000 of debentures for this purpose.

The report shows that this estimate has been greatly exceeded and that it will require \$185,000 additional to complete the works.

At a special meeting of the city council held this week the water rates were adjusted on the basis of a 10 per cent. reduction on the rates previously charged and a further discount of 10 per cent. to be allowed on all accounts paid on or before the 16th day of the first month of the quarter.

Big Premium on No. 1 Hard.

Owing to the scarcity of high grade wheats in Manitoba this season, the price of choice wheats will rule very high, compared with the value of lower grades. The choice wheat will be bought by home millers at prices far above export value, while the low grade stuff will be left for export. As naturally exporters cannot afford to pay more than export value for the lower grades, there will of course be a wide difference between the price of choice grades and low grades. The bulk of the crop will probably grade No. 2 hard, leaving hardly enough high grade wheat to supply the demand of home millers. The farmers will therefore receive some benefit as a result of this unusual condition from the duty on wheat and flour. That is, of course, the farmers who have choice wheat. The big premiums on high grade grain is therefore purely a result of the commercial situation arising from exceptional crop conditions.

Boot and Shoes Trade Notes.

For many years Montreal was the principal boot and shoe manufacturing centre in the Dominion, but Quebec has now come forward as a strong rival, although in the higher class of goods Montreal still leads. Probably two-thirds of the boots and shoes made in Canada at the present time come from these two cities. In Quebec there are over thirty factories, one of which produces between 1,000 and 2,500 pairs per day, and thirteen turn out from 500 to 1,000 pairs daily.

The puddlers of the Norristown Rolling mills, Norristown, Pennsylvania, held a meeting on Wednesday, and decided to accept a cut of one dollar a ton in wages. Instead of receiving \$1.40 a ton they will now receive \$3.40. Fires were lighted that day after an idleness of six months.

In connection with the failure of the Montreal Cold Storage and Freezing Co., D. J. McGillis, secretary of the company, and Alex. McCulloch, of Croll & McCulloch, were arrested on the 25th September on the charge of conspiring to defraud the Merchants Bank of Halifax out of \$220,000 on bogus warehouse receipts. It is expected that several well known Montreal financiers may be involved.

The Fargo Edison Co., of Fargo, N. D., have been testing coal from the beds recently discovered north of Bismarck, N. D., on the line of the Washburn road. These tests showed that this coal, which is lignite, gave 63 per cent. of heating power as compared with bituminous coal. No cinders were left and there was an entire absence of the heavy black smoke which nearly always accompanies the use of bituminous coal.

Owing to the receipt of many enquiries from Great Britain and other countries, the Dominion department of agriculture is preparing for publication and distribution a list of exporters of Canadian farm products. In order that it may be as complete as possible when printed, this list will be held open for a short time longer to receive the names of firms not yet upon it. Any firm exporting Canadian farm products, by sending a business card to the commissioner of agriculture Ottawa, may have its name put upon that list free of charge.