

The increase in the quantity of flour which has been sold here is mainly due to the increase of the quantity sent in by millers west of here, and proves that the city is fast becoming a central market for those in smaller places in and beyond the province. With the growth of the milling industry throughout the Northwest, this will doubtless keep increasing, and soon it may become an absolute necessity for this Board to look to the organization and maintenance of an exchange for the handling of grain, meat and mill products.

The increase in the aggregate sales of dry goods has been reached, despite the fact that one leading house retired from the field early in the year.

There is nothing remarkable about the other increased aggregates until we reach that under the heading of miscellaneous. To farm machinery there is added this year carriages and such vehicles, which make up one-third at least of the increase over 1885, while the fact that building operations in the city increased from \$184,000 in 1885 to \$462,500 in 1886, will account for the improved aggregate in lumber and hardware.

Under the head of miscellaneous* the increase of \$740,000, or about 45 per cent on the figures of 1885, is the most remarkable circumstance connected with the wholesale trade. A closer inquiry shows that the bulk of this increase has been included in lines which are included in the category of luxuries, which would clearly indicate that among the masses of the people money has been much more plentiful than in 1885.

Each year investigations show new articles of export, while the volume of former ones keep swelling. Three years ago our exports included very little outside of wheat, flour and furs, and the aggregate value of all did not exceed \$1,500,000.

During the past year the value of hides, wool, furs, tallow and such goods, (outside of the Hudson's Bay Company's exports) which went out of the city exceeded \$296,000. Butter, cheese, meats, oil cake, linseed oil and fish, reached the neighborhood of \$327,000. Some 5,000 live hogs at a value of over \$37,000 was the first year's export of live stock, while numerous other minor articles added some \$25,000 more to our export business, which, exclusive of grain and breadstuffs, thus aggregate some \$485,000.

The exports of grain, flour and other breadstuffs show a marked