

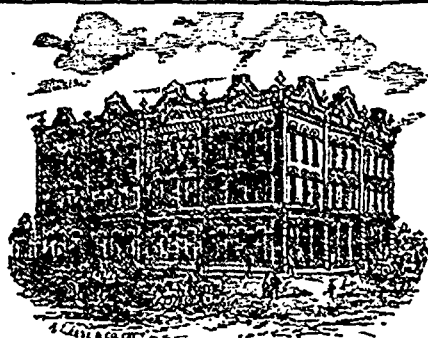
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the unfortunates. Suburban property was of course worthless as town lots, and a good deal of this has gone back into farms again. Owing to the financial difficulties which overtook the town, there was no sale for inside property even at a shadow of boom values. Recently the condition of the town has greatly improved, and since an arrangement of the financial difficulties has been made, sales of real estate have been quite frequent. Of course fancy boom prices are not realized, but there has been a considerable appreciation in the value of property from the lowest point reached. This is for inside property, especially for business sites. Farm property always maintained a fair value in the Portage district, though extreme prices paid during the boom were afterwards considerably discounted. A sale, however, of 1280 acres of land has just been reported at \$23,500, which is a very good price for farming land in this country. It looks at least as if those who have managed to hold their property in Portage and vicinity during the period of depression, will soon be able to realize upon it at fair values. This of course will only apply to farm property or inside town property. Farms adjoining the town, which were surveyed into lots and sold, during the boom, and which never had anything more than a speculative value, will still be practically worthless as town lots.

THE Winnipeg Free Press in a late issue called attention to the sanitary condition of the city, and considering the facts of the case,

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handled the question in a mild way. Though not a trade question, the public health is a matter which concerns everybody. THE COMMERCIAL may, therefore, be permitted to second the movement on the part of its city contemporary, in directing attention to such an important matter. The Free Press states that the sewers have not been flushed this summer. The disgusting smells which are bursting from the sewers in all parts of the city, would seem to bear out the assertion. That these foul odors breathed out by the sewers are harbingers of disease and death, is a fact which is known to the most illiterate persons. It would therefore seem that there is most culpable neglect on the part of our civic health authorities, who allow this state of things to continue. But the sewers are not the only sources of foul odors. Olfactory refreshments of every variety and degree of nastiness are wafted by every breeze, from lanes and alleys, back yards, etc. A commercial man from the East, who was in the city recently, was heard to remark that he would back Winnipeg for original smells, against any city on the continent. When Winnipeg was springing up rapidly a few years ago, there was some excuse for this state of things, but instead of improving with age, matters pertaining to health seem to be even more neglected than in former years. Walking about the city the pedestrian is met with foul smells at every turn. He grasps his nose and hurries along, scenting the air cautiously to learn when it is safe to renew respiration, but no sooner is a breathing spot

reached, than a fresh odor from another quarter is detected. On a calm evening (which happily for the health of the city are few in this country) the whole air seems to be permeated with nastiness. Surely the health department of the city should have bestirred itself long ago, if it be not a purely ornamental appendage to the civic mill.

**Wooden Toothpicks.**

The American is a great consumer of toothpicks. He not only picks his teeth in private, but he does it in public, and perhaps finishes by chewing up the wooden implement. To supply the millions of toothpicks used every year, ingenious machines of great productive power have been invented. Like all other businesses the toothpick business has its combination, but a Maine inventor has set out to break it with a machine that makes 6,000,000 picks a day, and he is making a machine that will produce 72,000,000 a day. Green, clear, straight-grained birch and maple wood is used, and after steaming for several hours it is easily cut into veneers, or thin strips of wood with the grain running across. These veneers are pliable and are wound upon large spools, a hundred feet on each, and from the spools they are fed into the pick machine, which cuts them into picks with wonderful rapidity.—Good Housekeeping.

THE Port Arthur Natural Gas Company has been incorporated, under the Ontario regulations.