

# The Chronicle

## Insurance & Finance.

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**Fire-proof  
Wood for  
Theatres.**

A Bill is before the Senate, Albany, providing, that in every theatre, hotel, school, hospital, etc., hereafter erected or altered, the interior wood-work must be all fireproofed. The substitution of electrically fire-proofed wood for the ordinary kinds which supply so much material for flames to feed upon, and so intensify the heat of a fire and add to its destructiveness, ought to be made compulsory in all buildings that are to be used for public purposes. Had the Mount Royal Club been so equipped the damage by the recent fire would have been trifling, and no lives would have been lost.

**Winnipeg's  
Progress,  
1903.**

Winnipeg made more progress last year than in previous one. Over \$2,000,000 were spent in new buildings. This would have been exceeded, had materials and labour been procurable. Over 1,200 dwelling houses were built in the city, and seventy retail stores, and other structures. In this year, 1904, building operations will be very active, the expenditure on this class of work will probably run to five or six millions. The homestead entries in the Northwest in the ten months to end of October was 29,764, the area covered being 4,762,240 acres. In 1901 the entries were 18,417. The inflow of settlers into Manitoba and further West was going on continuously, during a great part of last year, and promises to be greater than ever in the current year. The enlargement of population has great promises for Winnipeg, as it is becoming more and more recognized as the capital and distributing centre of the entire Northwest. A significant sign of the expanding population is the addition of 110 new post offices in Manitoba and the Northwest territories. There are already 1,117 post offices in that part of Canada, where many now living, remember there being only one or two. Winnipeg seems on the way to being one of the chief cities of the Dominion.

**Canada's Foreign  
Trade to End  
of 1903.**

Canada's foreign trade for the six months ending December 31, amounted to \$257,960,918, against \$239,023,476 for same period of 1902, being an increase of \$18,887,442. This statement includes imports for consumption, exports of domestic and foreign products, and coin and bullion. The total exports, domestic and foreign, are about the same as for the year previous. Domestic exports show a decrease of about \$2,000,000, but an increase of about \$2,000,000 in exports of the mine. Fishery exports are less by some \$800,000, and products of the forest by a million and a half of dollars. Exports of manufactures are better by about \$500,000. There is a decrease of about \$1,000,000 in the exports of cattle and \$3,000,000 in wheat. As regards the two last mentioned items, it is believed to be due to the fact that the farmers are holding their wheat and cattle for a rise in prices, which, in these prosperous times, they can well afford to do.

The following is a comparative statement of the imports for consumption and domestic exports only: Imports, six months:

Dutiable goods . . . . .	\$64,582,101	\$74,389,955
Free Goods . . . . .	38,619,513	47,142,053
Totals . . . . .	\$103,201,614	\$121,532,008
Duty collected . . . . .	\$17,814,116	\$20,472,143
Domestic exports, six months:		
Products, mine . . . . .	\$18,418,617	\$20,525,150
Products, fisher's . . . . .	6,889,775	6,007,290
Products, forest . . . . .	23,607,946	22,008,379
Animals and produce . . . . .	45,178,795	42,496,368
Agriculture . . . . .	21,516,806	21,842,592
Manufactures . . . . .	9,634,070	10,088,305
Miscellaneous . . . . .	55,457	15,870
Totals . . . . .	\$125,301,466	\$122,983,954