

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, OCTOBER 13, 1890.

DANGER FROM FIRE.

Our country exchanges of last week reported no less than two instances of fire having originated in rubbish about buildings. THE COMMERCIAL some time ago called attention to the danger from fire originating in paper, straw and other accumulations about stores. In the smaller towns, especially, there is the greatest carelessness in this respect. Cases of goods are opened and the straw, paper and other inflammable material in which the goods are packed, is left in piles about the yard, in close proximity to buildings. In the fall of the year the greatest danger is perhaps present from this cause. The dry leaves from the trees may be blown together in little heaps near the buildings, and only a spark is required to start a conflagration. In dry weather the rubbish that gathers about buildings, especially the sweepings from stores, paper, straw, etc., is of the most inflammable nature. A spark from a neighboring chimney or the pipe of a smoker, or the cast off stub of a cigar, falling among this rubbish, only requires to be fanned by the wind to start a blaze. The openings about cellar windows and the crevices under the sidewalks in front of stores, are receptacles for dry tinder which is blown about by the wind, and these form excellent sources of fire.

One of the fires reported last week resulted in a serious blaze, caused by a spark or cigar falling among the straw and other rubbish in the rear of a store. This had probably been thrown out of empty packing cases. The store was scorched, and the town had a narrow escape. In the other case fire was discovered, we are told, "in a waste paper barrel which stood back of the store." It was fortunately discovered in time to avert a serious conflagration. What utter lack of common sense is here shown in allowing a "waste paper barrel" to stand in the rear of a store, yet a visit to the rear of almost any country store will show conditions almost as bad.

With the frame buildings such as our western towns are generally composed of, and as a rule without any adequate means of fighting fires, the greatest care should be exercised to prevent the starting of conflagrations. Municipal corporations have the power to regulate this matter, and in all incorporated villages we would suggest that a by-law be passed compelling residents to guard against the accumulation of rubbish around buildings. Most of the incorporated towns have a fire by-law regulating chimneys, with the object of lessening the danger from fire. This question of rubbish around buildings is quite as important as regulating the style of chimney which residents may use. Local boards of trade could also take up the matter, and storekeepers individually should look to their premises in this matter. If proper attention were given to the prevention of the accumulations of inflammable material about buildings, there would be many fewer fires to report.

SALT.

The salt deposits of Manitoba are something which very little is heard about. Probably but a very small percentage of the residents of the province are aware that there is such a mineral in the country. Years ago, before the advent of railways had cheapened the means of transportation, salt was manufactured in Manitoba for the local demand. When the railways arrived, and the article began to come in from the outside, the manufacture of salt here was dropped. The demand was then very limited, and with the primitive mode employed of preparing the article for the market, it did not pay to continue the manufacture in competition with the imported commodity. Now the case is quite different. The home consumption has increased many fold since that time, and it should pay to utilize our salt deposits at home, to supply the demand throughout the west. No doubt the preparation of salt for the local demand could now be made a profitable industry in Manitoba, if it were undertaken in a modern way. Salt deposits are known to exist in Manitoba, hundreds of miles apart. The best known deposits are along lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis, and in the vicinity of lake Dauphin. Salt was also discovered some years ago at Rosenfeld, on the Pembina branch of the Canadian Pacific railway.

The New United States Tariff.

The McKinley Tariff has been discussed so much in Canada, that no doubt business men will wish to have a full knowledge of the bill. The following report, furnished by *Bradstreet's* may be considered reliable:—

The McKinley Tariff bill has at length become a law. It was passed by the House of Representatives on Saturday Sept. 27 by a vote of 152 to 81, three Republicans voting with the Democrats. The bill passed the Senate on Tuesday by a vote of 33 to 27, three Republicans voting with the Democrats in that body also. Finally, the bill received the signature of the President on Wednesday afternoon. The measure is a very voluminous one, and is among the longest if it is not the very longest, that has ever passed in Congress. It will not be practicable, in the space at our disposal, to give the measure in its entirety. For our purposes it will be more serviceable to indicate the principal changes which the act has made in rates of duty and in the free list, and to reproduce textually some of the more important provisions, such as those relating to reciprocity, sugar bounties, etc.

THE CHEMICAL SCHEDULE.

Only a very brief mention can be made of the changes in the chemical schedule. On several of the acids reductions are made. Sulphuric acid, however, is taken from the free list and made dutiable at 4c per pound. The rates on alcoholic perfumery and alumina and alum compounds are retained. The rates on ammonia and its compounds are changed from ad valorem to specific. On camphor the rate is increased from 4c to 5c per pound. The duty on chloroform is reduced from 50c to 25c per pound. There are decreases on glycerine, iodine, iodoform, licorice, magnesia and morphine. On drugs generally the rates remain the same. Under the heads of oil, cottonseed and croton oils have decreased rates, cod-liver

oil is changed from 25 per cent. ad valorem to 15c per gallon, and olive oil is changed from 25 per cent to 35c per gallon. The rate on gum for smoking is increased from \$10 to \$12 per pound. Under the head of paints, color and varnishes there are a number of changes from ad valorem to specific rates. The changes on medicinal preparations are not very important.

EARTHENWARE AND GLASSWARE.

Under the earthenware and glassware schedule the rate on fire-brick not glazed is changed from 20 per cent ad valorem to \$1.25 per ton. On tiles and brick other than fire-brick not ornamented the rate is increased from 20 to 25 per cent ad valorem. The rate on Roman and other hydraulic cement is changed from 20 per cent to 8c. per 100 pounds; the duty on lime is changed from 10 per cent to 6c per 100 pounds, and that on plaster-of-paris, ground, from 20 per cent to \$1 per ton. There is some increase in the rates on common brown earthenware, but the rates on china, porcelain, etc., remain substantially unchanged. On flint and lime-pressed glassware the rate is increased from 40 to 60 per cent. ad valorem. On engraved glassware the rate is increased from 45 to 60 per cent. There are increases ranging from 15 to 20 per cent on a number of other kinds of glass, such as thin-blown and heavy-blown glass, porcelain and opal glassware, spectacles and lenses. There is a reduction on burr stones from 20 to 15 per cent., and the rates on building stone, except marble, are doubled.

METALS AND MANUFACTURES THEREOF.

In the metal schedule the additional rate on iron ore containing more than two per cent. of copper, is reduced from 2½c to 4c per pound. Sulphur ore as pyrites, or sulphuret of iron in its natural state, containing in excess of 25 per cent. of sulphur, is made free. There are slight reductions on round and square bar iron. Beams, girders, and other structural shapes of iron or steel reduced from 1½ to 9-10c per pound. Boiler or plate iron and steel are newly classified, and varying rates are substituted for the rate imposed under the previous law. Plate iron or steel thinner than No. 10 wire gauge is to pay duty as sheets. There is a slight reduction on forgings, with the provision that no forgings will pay less than 45 per cent. ad valorem. There are some slight reductions on hoop, band and scroll iron, and tagger's iron. Railway bars are reduced to 6-10c per pound. Tin plates are to pay 4c per pound more than sheet iron until July 1, 1891, after which date they will pay 2-10c per pound. After the same date manufactures of tin will pay 55 per cent. ad valorem, and after October 1, 1879, tin andterne plates lighter in weight than 63 pounds per hundred square feet are to be admitted free of duty unless the aggregate quantity of such plates produced in the United States in any year in the intervening time shall equal one third the amount of such plates imported in any one fiscal year. On steel ingots, blooms, slabs, billets, etc., there some increases and some changes from ad valorem to specific rates. On wire there are some reductions. In manufactures there are reductions upon anchors, axles, hammers, crowbars, bolts, cast iron pipe and vessels and chains. Cutlery and tableware are newly classified, and varying rates are substituted for the previous uniform rates. On the larger kind of files rates are reduced. On