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JOHN BOULTBEE, SOLICITOR, CONVEYANCER, etc. A Commissioner for Ontario. Portage la Prairie, Manitoba.

FRANK J. McJOHN, SOLICITOR, CONVEYANCER, Notary Public, &c., &c., Real Estate and Mining Agent. Main Street, Rat Portage.

W. C. HARRIS, ARCHITECT, ASSOCIATE ROYAL Canadian Academy of Art. 562 Main Street.

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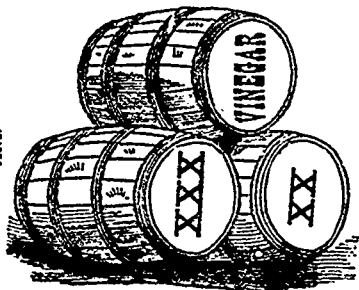
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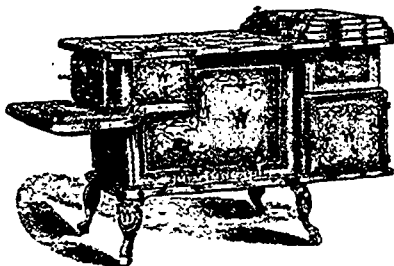
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We carry in stock a complete line of Cook, Box and  
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We also represent the following leading manufacturers:  
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### W. HIGGINS & CO.

Ample experience as to the requirements of  
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best connections with Eastern manufacturers;  
large stock constantly on hand; reasonable  
prices and liberal terms should commend this  
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## WHOLESALE GROCERS,

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PROVISION MERCHANTS.

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STOCK LARGE AND WELL ASSORTED.

PRICES LOW TO CASH AND  
PROMPT MEN.

PRINCESS ST. - WINNIPEG.



We Have Received Our Direct Importation of

Herrings in brls and ½ brls.  
Figs in boxes, ½ boxes and mats:  
Boneless fish 40 lb. boxes.  
Boneless fish 5 lb. boxes.

WHITE BEANS, DRIED APPLES  
Evaporated Apples in 50lb. Boxes in  
Stock and Arriving.

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BANNATYNE STREET.

# The Commercial

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE FINANCIAL, MERCANTILE AND MANUFACTURING INTERESTS OF THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

PUBLISHED BY GREEN & BOYCE - EVERY TUESDAY - \$2.00 PER ANNUM.

VOL. 1.

WINNIPEG, APRIL 3, 1883.

NO 27

## The Commercial

Journal devoted to keeping a comprehensive record of the transactions of the Monetary, Mercantile and Manufacturing Interests of Manitoba and the Canadian North-West.

ISSUED EVERY TUESDAY

THE COMMERCIAL will be mailed to any address in Canada, United States or Great Britain at \$2.00 a year in advance.

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GREEN & BOYCE,

Publishers

WINNIPEG, APRIL 3, 1883.

J. V. DESAUTZELS, general store, Moose Jaw, has sold out.

E. DOIDGE, pottery, East Selkirk, offers his business for sale.

WHEAT is worth from 65 to 73 cents at Morris; oats, 40 to 45.

W. W. WALSH, general store, Indian Head, has assigned in trust.

W. J. EVANS, general store, Pembina Crossing, has assigned in trust.

G. A. MACKIE, in the restaurant business, Winnipeg, has closed up.

T. H. KNIFE of the real estate firm of Knipe & Knipe, Rapid City, is dead.

ROBERTSON & SMITH, of Crystal City, intend opening a branch in Clearwater.

T. McCRAE, general store, at St. Jean Baptiste, has been closed up by his creditors.

BRITTON & DALY, livery men, Crystal City, have dissolved. Mr. Britton continues.

GEO. DAVIDSON, in the hardware business, Winnipeg, has admitted J. Looby as a partner.

ALEX. CAMERON, saw-mill at Rolling River,

proposes moving his establishment to Minnedosa.

J. J. RADFORD, jeweler, Winnipeg, has assigned in trust to Robert E. Sater of Keewatin Mills.

THE rush of business at the C. P. R. freight station has rendered it necessary to put on a night staff.

THE firm of McBains, Woods & Co., biscuit manufacturers, Winnipeg, have dissolved, Mr. McBain retiring.

JOSEPH SISSONS, confectioner, has formed a partnership with W. J. Taylor, under the style of Ingles & Sissons.

R. J. BELL, of Morris, has ordered a complete outfit for a saw-mill which he proposes establishing at Calgary.

ROY & Co., brewers, Winnipeg, have taken O. Allaine into partnership. The style of the firm has not been changed.

THE firm of A. B. Sabine & Co., West Lynne, has been dissolved. The business will be continued by E. F. Radiger & Co.

J. WHITE, of the Four Corners Hotel, West Lynne, is about to remove to Qu'Appelle. J. Reid will probably run the hotel.

HORSMAN & Co., Winnipeg, have admitted E. B. Skelley as a partner. The style of the firm will be Horsman, & Skelley.

H. BANKS, of Portage la Prairie has formed a partnership with Wm. Windatt of that place, and opened a branch at Moose Jaw.

TWO trains a day are now run on the Manitoba road from St. Paul to Winnipeg. A new time-table came into effect on Sunday.

POST offices have been opened at Chater, Moline and Sheppardville in this Province. The office at Grand Valley has been closed.

ROBINSON Bros., hotel, Emerson, have been sold out under a chattel mortgage. The business will be continued by John Robinson.

THE Dominion Government has granted a subsidy of \$24,000 per annum to a monthly line of steamers between Antwerp and Canada.

A SURVEY of the Little Saskatchewan at Rapid City shows that between the eastern boundary of the McLaren estate and Balkwill's mill, a distance of two miles, the river

has a fall of 18 feet nine inches, affording an immense water power.

THE lowest reading of the thermometer at Fort MacLeod for the week ending March 5th was 12 degrees above zero; the highest it reached was 75.

H. T. McPHILLIPS, publisher, has gone into partnership with P. Enright in the publication of the Herald. The firm style is McPhillips & Enright.

"SITINGS" is the title of the latest journalistic venture in Winnipeg. It is neatly gotten up and is devoted to "gentlemanly sports, humor and amusements."

C. E. GATES, late with J. H. Ashdown, has opened on his own account on Arthur street as a coppersmith and steam fitter. He is a thoroughly practical man in this line of business.

LORD & MUNN, the largest shippers of western produce from Montreal to Great Britain, have failed with liabilities amounting to \$250,000. W. A. Desmartins & Co., of that city, have also failed; liabilities, \$100,000.

A SPECIAL fast freight train from Montreal to Winnipeg is to be run weekly by the Grand Trunk Railway. This is in addition to all special mixed passenger trains. The "Merchants Express Fast Freight Train," as it is to be called, will leave Montreal every Monday morning.

MR. ABRAHAM SPEAKMAN of the County of Lancashire, England, is shortly expected to arrive in Winnipeg to examine the North-west coal deposits. Mr. Speakman was manager for several years of the Laffack colliery near St. Helens, Lancashire. His father, Thos. Speakman, was a practical coal miner, also his uncle, John Speakman. The latter was proprietor of the West Leigh coal mines, near Manchester.

THE United States Congress has passed a bill providing for a reduction in the letter postage rates to two cents, and also for transmitting money through the mails by a postal note payable to bearer at any money order office which may be designated by the purchaser of the note. This note must be for an amount under \$5, and will cost three cents. The two-cent letter rate will not go into operation until October 1.

### Recent Legal Decisions.

During the last few weeks there has been considerable activity in the courts, a large proportion of the litigation arising from disputes as to land contracts entered into during the recent in real estate. Much of the present plethora is, however, owing to the block of business occasioned by the death of the late Chief Justice Wood, whose sudden removal threw the courts into temporary disorder.

The litigation on land contracts arises chiefly from the desire of the purchasers to avoid the contracts into which they were induced to enter in the excitement of the boom. As the land bought is in many cases not now considered worth the price then given, purchasers who are thus dissatisfied with their bargains are seeking relief from their liability then incurred. The ground on which their claim for relief is based is that of fraud and misrepresentation on the part of those who effected the sale, and in many cases there is abundant proof of sharp practice on the part of real estate dealers. A favorite scheme of these real estate agents appears to have been to induce others to join them in forming a syndicate to purchase a property at a high figure, while adroitly concealing the fact that they had previously bought secretly at a much lower price, or were in collusion with the real vendor. But of course to succeed in an action of this nature, there must be a clear case of actual fraud and misrepresentation made out, and that the plaintiff was induced thereby to enter into the contract. Two of the recent decisions show clearly the application of this principle. The case of Drake vs. King, tried in equity before Justice Taylor, was brought on the ground that King, acting in collusion with Messrs. Trott and Mitchell, had bought certain land from the latter at \$50 per acre, and subsequently induced the plaintiff and others to join him in a syndicate and purchase the land at \$80 per acre. At the hearing though, it was admitted that in all such matters of partnership the utmost openness and disclosure of facts must be shown, yet in this particular case it was shown that the fraud and misrepresentation present were not the inducements that influenced the plaintiffs in entering the contract. The bill was consequently dismissed. The other case, that of Smith vs. Armstrong, tried at the present assizes, was somewhat similar. The defendant, Armstrong, bought a half section of land for \$5,000, and formed a syndicate of ten to purchase it for \$1,000 each. One of these ten was the plaintiff, Armstrong, who claimed that deceit and misrepresentation had been employed to induce him to enter the syndicate, but the evidence did not establish a sufficient case to invalidate the contract. The Chief Justice, in summing up, said: "Before a man can recover money paid out on a bargain, he must show that the person to whom it was paid made an untrue statement; that he knew it to be such, and that it was made purposely to induce and actually did induce the plaintiff to enter the contract. If a man stands in the relation of partner to another, he is bound to give the fullest knowledge of everything done by him for his partner; but when holding another at arms' length in a trade, he was not bound to show any

of the defects of his goods, provided he practices no deception of fraud."

At the recent Hilary term, some interesting appeals were dismissed by the full bench.

In the case of Innis vs. C. P. R. it was shown that the C. P. R. have the privilege of being sued only in the Province or Territory in which the cause of action arose. For this purpose the company must have some head office in each Province where they may be served, or if they do not appoint any such, they may be served with writs at any station.

Malloy vs. Town, of Emerson, illustrates the working of a principle of law contrary to what equity would expect. The plaintiff was a member of the town council when he finished a bridge for the town, which he had partly completed before his election. On suing for payment, he was non-suited, and on appeal the non-suited was confirmed. Justice Taylor, giving the judgment of the court, founded it both on the statutes and the common law. The statutes even were explicit that no member of a council shall hold any of the subordinate offices of the body of which he is a member, or perform services for a pecuniary reward. On the general principle of law also, a member of a council is a trustee for the community, and as such could not sue for compensation.

The case of the Imperial Bank vs. Nagle, in interpleader issue to try the true ownership of goods and the chattels seized by the sheriff, but claimed under a chattel mortgage, is somewhat interesting as showing the requirements of a statutory chattel mortgage. Such an instrument must be bona fide and show the full consideration for which it is given and if there is no actual transfer of the goods, the instrument must be registered with an affidavit and an inventory enumerating and describing the goods. The action was brought to cancel the mortgage in this case on the ground of being a fraudulent conveyance to prevent other creditors from getting their money. On this being decided against the plaintiffs, they appealed on the ground of inadequacy and indefiniteness in the description. The provisions of the statute must be followed accurately, as in all matters depending on the statutory enactments. The description must be sufficiently accurate to distinguish the goods in question from all other goods. In this case the simple enumeration of the goods was held not sufficiently definite to bind the goods, and as there was no change of possession, the sale was void and the creditors were let in to share proportionately.

### The Northern Wheat Limit.

W. J. Abernathy, agricultural editor of the Pioneer Press, gives some interesting facts regarding the extreme northern limit at which wheat and other cereal grains mature. A leading writer on agricultural matters, some years ago, he says, made a statement that the natural and permanent wheat region of the country lies between latitude 30 deg. and 43 deg. north. In other words, the wheat belt of the United States, according to this authority lies between a line drawn through southern Arkansas on the south and northern Iowa on the north. But actual experience has demonstrated the fact

that the northern limit was much above this; indeed the line has gradually been pushed poleward until to-day it reaches nearly to the Arctic circle. The conditions necessary for the development of the wheat plant have been very carefully studied by scientific men, and the laws which govern its growth are now well understood. It has been discovered that the plant requires from 100 to 150 days from the time of sowing the seed to the harvesting of the crop. From the time of heading cut until maturity the average period in the United States is from fifty to sixty days, and in England from fifty to seventy days, according to the amount of dry weather and sunshine. The fact has been ascertained also that the average temperature during the summer months must not fall below 60 deg. Fah., or during the average period of its growth, below 56 deg. If this temperature is not attained the grain will not ripen and the crop is a failure. In the far northern latitudes of the American continent nature is wondrously kind to the farmer. Way up in the Saskatchewan valley, and further north to the system of rivers which flow out the Arctic Ocean, the conditions of the temperature named above are found to exist. Summer comes on all at once, and from the time the seed sprouts until it is matured, there is hardly a moment's cessation of heat or growth. The transformation from cold to hot there is one of the marvels of the country. The days are immoderately long, the twilight shadows being prolonged to 10 or 11 o'clock at night. In consequence wheat will mature in about 100 days, and barley in 90, or, as it will be seen, in a much less period than in the United States. At Cumberland House, wheat sown on May 8th ripened and was cut the last of August, the mean temperature being 61.8 deg. At Fort Chippeway, at the entrance of Lake Athabasca, in latitude 58 deg. 42 n., wheat ripens every year without failure, samples of which weigh as much as 68 pounds to the bushel. At Fort Simpson, 61 deg. north, the factor of the Hudson Bay post there says barley ripens every year and wheat four years out of five. At Fort Laird, in the same latitude, wheat and barley grow regularly, also garden vegetables. The factor at this point says that nearly every year in longitude 143 deg. west, and under the Arctic circle, barley is sown and matures.

### North-west Minerals.

Last week Prof. Selwyn, director of the geological survey, gave evidence before the House of Commons Committee on Immigration and Colonization, respecting the coal lands of the North-west. He said he had bored at one place on the Saskatchewan to a depth of 290 feet below the plain level and penetrated six seams of coal, from 18 inches to 6 feet in thickness. On the banks of the stream numerous coal veins cropped out in the face of the banks. This was quite common in this region. From one of these exposed veins he obtained coal for driving the engine employed in the drilling, and his blacksmith also used it for his forge. All the blacksmiths in the employ of the Hudson Bay Company used coal from these crops. Coal was easily

mined on the banks of the streams, requiring tunneling only, owing to the elevation above the river beds. The quality of the coal improved as it approached the Rocky Mountains and Peace River. On the Saskatchewan, analysis of the coal showed 12 per cent of water, and this gradually diminished towards the Rockies, where it showed but 1 per cent of water. Farmers in the Saskatchewan valley used this coal and found it to give every satisfaction. Iron was found in some districts, but not in paying quantities. He felt assured that petroleum wells would be found on the Athabaska River, south of Athabaska Lake and extending west to Peace River. The limestone there was associated with soft sandstone, corresponding exactly with that of the petroleum producing districts of Ontario. There were valuable seams of anthracite coal on Queen Charlotte Island.

### The Banking Act.

The Bill introduced into the House of Commons by the Finance Minister, amending the Banking Act passed through committee with but little discussion. The penalties for infraction of the law were fixed. That upon an excess of circulation over the paid up capital is fixed at \$150, if the excess is not over \$20,000; \$1,000 fine if the excess is between \$20,000 and \$100,000; and \$5,000 fine if the excess is between \$100,000 and \$200,000, and \$10,000 fine if the excess is over \$200,000. If a bank at any time holds less than 40 per cent of its cash reserves in Dominion notes it is liable to a penalty of \$250. Certified lists of shareholders are to be sent to the Finance Minister before the opening of each session of Parliament, in default of which a penalty of \$60 is imposed for each day's delay to comply with the law. For loans on bank shares, which were made illegal in 1879, a penalty of \$300 is imposed for each infraction. Another amendment provides that in the regular monthly statements sent to the government, the amount of the rest or reserve fund, and the rate of the last dividend declared, are to be stated. In relation to private banks the Finance Minister modified somewhat the clauses originally introduced, and, as the law now stands, a private bank can designate itself by the terms "banking house," "banking company," "banking institution" or "banking association," provided that after the name they insert the words on all occasions, "not incorporated." The Act goes into force immediately upon its sanction.

### India as a Wheat Producer.

Statistics at hand show that British India is no mean rival to America in the matter of grain productions. Of late years the quantity produced has increased until it now reaches nearly 240,000,000 bushels. The exports, which were only a little over 12,000,000 bushels in 1877, reached more than 37,000,000 bushels in 1882, and even now only a very small proportion of the arable land is under cultivation. In four principal provinces there are 88,000 square miles, or 38,000,000 acres of cultivable land yet unimproved, as against 145,000 square miles under cultivation. Wheat culture is carried

on principally by small farmers, cultivating little patches of from five to fifteen acres. The implements and processes used are the rudest, the condition of the cultivator being as a rule below that of the worst paid farm laborer in any continental country. But the population engaged in agriculture numbers some 200,000,000, and labor is held so cheap that wheat can be sold at a point near the place of production for from 50 to 60 cents per bushel. The quality of the Indian berry is inferior to that produced in America, but that can of course be improved by the selection of the best varieties for seed. Railway construction and canal building for both transportation and irrigation are rapidly going on, which cannot fail to increase the supply and perhaps diminish the cost.

### The New American Tariff.

The criticisms of the American press on the new tariff bill passed by the last Congress are amusing, if not a little tantalizing, and even incomprehensible to the reader interested only in commercial progress, while they must be a perfect maze of contradictions to the politician who wishes to draw any political conclusion from them. The journals in the ultra-manufacturing interest as a rule are adverse to the provisions of the bill, exceedingly moderate though its changes are on the old tariffs, while the few journals which support a free trade or protection policy as a matter of party principle, are evidently in a fog. This is not to be wondered at when a look back is taken at the progress of the bill in Congress. The measure could not claim paternity with either of the great political parties in the National Legislature. On the contrary, clause after clause had opponents from both sides, whose opposition was based upon and measured by the extent to which they interfered with protected industries in the constituencies of the objecting members. Thus Western Pennsylvanian members fought against the reduction of iron tariffs, while eastern members of the same State joined with those of New England to maintain the tariff on textile goods, and Southern men stood up for the sugar interests of their own districts; and so mixed was the opposition all over, that it would be absurd to consider the measure a party move. Nor is there any record of a division in which Democrats and Republicans mustered on opposite sides to test any point affecting party fealty.

The true mission of a protective tariff system is to nurture struggling industries and when these have reached the full power of ability to compete with foreign opponents that mission is fulfilled. There must necessarily be a period in the history of any industrial nation when a policy tending towards free trade will prove not only expedient, but profitable; and if any nation of the American continent is in that position, it is the United States, and the progress of the late tariff bill indicates a rather mistrustful step in that direction, when representatives of each industry, regardless of party ties, were forced to something like a conditional surrender, and were determined to surrender as little as possible.

It must be admitted that Congress acted in this matter with discretion and praiseworthy

conservatism, although it is questionable if one member in ten fully understood the full provisions of the bill when he started for his home at the close of the session; and Congress itself, to save misinterpretations or blunders, had to tack on a clause stating that where two rates of duty were stated for one commodity, the higher should have precedence. When the question is a little more sifted, more definite legislation will no doubt be brought forward; but with all its incongruities, this tariff bill, if we are to accept it as the first step towards a free trade policy, is a monument of moderation, compared with the sweeping measures carried by Sir Robert Peel in the same direction in England.

### The Streets of the City.

The long winter has nearly run its course, and we will soon have with us the mud season. The streets were in a bad shape last fall, and with the spring break we may expect to see them in a deplorable condition. Nothing was done last year towards improving them. Money was spent freely for other purposes, in many cases worse than useless, but the streets were left to care for themselves. The city purchased a gravel pit in the summer, but as yet not a shovel full has been taken out of it. Active measures should be taken to put them in passable condition as soon as possible. The city of Brandon set a good example last year, and has now the best streets of any place in the country. The work wants to be done thoroughly. A few inches on the surface will soon be lost in the mud. A foundation must be made of good coarse material, and finished up with coats of gravel, gradually getting finer as the work approaches completion.

### Newspapers as Investments.

Some people imagine that there is a fortune in the publication of an ordinary weekly newspaper under anything like favorable circumstances, while others are at a loss to know how funds and labor expended in such an enterprise can yield fair returns, unless in cases of leading daily journals of large cities. Both opinions are materially wrong, although the latter comes near being correct. There are perhaps no enterprises where commercial success is so rare as in connection with the country newspapers, and a large proportion of these all over this continent are looked upon as a class of literary paupers or local parasites, which must be allowed sufficient patronage to exist upon. Then there is another class who depend upon the bonuses of ambitious towns or opulent politicians, and when these cease drag along in a miserable dead and alive manner. As a rule the journals on this continent bound up by political creed have not been commercially successful, even in many prominent instances, and those which now pay their publishers best, have invariably made politics a secondary consideration. In connection with newspaper publication one or two Bennetts may spring up in each generation, but the rank and file of the press are not usually in over easy circumstances, and there are fewer wealthy retired newspaper publishers than of any other profession known in America.



# The Commercial

WINNIPEG, APRIL 3, 1883

## STRAITENED FINANCES.

There must necessarily follow a period of reaction after one of over-confidence, and the results of the late reaction in the North-west our readers have found in our last issue under the head of "Insolvencies of the Year." The figures there given must impress the commercial student that the reaction which has taken place in business circles in this country during the last two months has been unnecessarily severe, and that a great share of the disaster which has taken place might have been averted in some way. Those who have watched the monetary affairs of the country have no difficulty in tracing the cause of aggravated disaster to unnecessarily straitened finances, and the worst misfortune has been that the straitening process has been most rigidly applied to legitimate business transactions which might be classed as within the general current of commerce. The fact that the aggregate liabilities of all the insolvents in the North-west during the past three months amount to \$50,000, or 10 per cent less than their assets (the figures being, liabilities, \$450,000, assets, \$500,000), at once conveys the impression that there has been a screw loose in financial affairs somewhere, and a closer inquiry into the facts confirms the suspicion that many of the most aggravated cases of unnecessary insolvency were due to uncalled for pressure from some financial source, or, to put it in plainer terms, the refusal of banks to render the expected financial aid when it was most needed.

That the flow of distant capital into the North-west had all but ceased during the past six months is an opinion that has been steadily gaining ground for some time, although it is altogether a mistaken one. The small share of the same which has been brought to the relief of legitimate trade since the opening of 1883 has strengthened this opinion, and so far as commerce was concerned the flow mentioned might as well cease altogether. On inquiry we find that one loan association doing business in this city has during the past six months placed for distant capitalists nearly \$500,000 in mortgage loans

on landed property, or \$50,000 more than the gross liabilities of the insolvents of the past quarter. Yet this is only one of a dozen such loan companies who are doing a similar business in the North-west. Such companies are no doubt doing much for the development of this new country, but unfortunately their investments do not directly benefit the trade interests, which are straitened to keep pace with the rapid growth of the country. The banks are the only financial props of commerce, and their reliability has been found sadly deficient during the past three months of trial.

A few months ago, before the severe time of business trials had set in, THE COMMERCIAL called attention to the necessity for a local chartered bank for Manitoba, and now that a stringency has been passed through, the most casual observer of the financial affairs of Manitoba must see the necessity for such an institution. While North-western commerce depends for its financial resources upon chartered banks whose headquarters and interests are in eastern cities, it must lean upon a broken reed. Such corporations are made up of capitalists with large trade as well as financial interests in the east. To them the rapid development of the agricultural resources of the prairie land means a wider field for their trade operations, while the growth of commerce and manufactures in the North-west is directly opposed to their own interests. It is the best interests of such men to use every effort to stunt North-western trade, and keep this land of promise a country in which to raise grain and sell eastern products. It is not at all likely that the enterprise of the natives and settlers can be confined within these primitive limits, prescribed by their would-be patrons, and to free themselves from such a necessity the most effective step that could be taken would be the organization and operation of a local chartered bank. The men among us who can secure funds for landed mortgages can secure distant capital for a Manitoba bank, and it is questionable if in the North-west there is any more remunerative field for monetary investment.

## STAPLE RESOURCES.

From the days of first Spanish explorers in America there seems to have been a tendency to follow after bubbles, giving

illusory promises of great wealth; and a corresponding disposition towards neglecting the development of staple resources that were likely to prove of most value to mankind in general, and steady remuneration to those engaged therein. The French and English Virginians, as well as the Spaniards, were prone to this great blunder, while the Puritans of New England, where nature was most stinted in her bounty, were to some extent exceptions.

This disposition still continues in newly settled portions of the continent, and the past two years' experience has shown that Manitoba and the North west are no exceptions to the general rule. To such an extent has the mania (for such it may be called) been carried that Winnipeg has been for the past year or so pre-eminently the city of speculative loafers, 90 per cent of which class would have been wealthier to-day had they been steadily engaged for the last two years in some permanent business pursuit with but moderate remuneration attached thereto.

Many people who have the progress of the North west at heart, have been recently lulled into the mistaken opinion that speculative manias had become affairs of the past. Such is by no means certain, and with the promise of reviving trade and flow of immigration which are now clearly in view, there are evident signs of their return; and it will require the determined opposition of the business men of Manitoba to prevent their injurious effects in the coming summer.

There can be no question but that the progress of the North west depends mainly upon the development of the staple resources of the country, and parties wishing to put forth either capital or effort in this work should be careful not to expend too much of either on undertakings that may be considered outside of that field. Outside of agricultural affairs the North-west offers an unlimited field for commercial and industrial undertakings, all of which are within the limit of what may be termed staple resources, and all which are subject only to such reactions as the ordinary current of trade affairs will produce in the best regulated commercial communities. It is to be hoped that the financiers and business men of Winnipeg and other North-western cities and towns will use their efforts to direct the flow of incoming capital into

such a channel, and use their utmost influence against reckless speculation.

But there is much effort wanted, also, to prevent what may be ranked as the development of staple resources from drifting into a mere basis of speculation; and nowhere is this more necessary than in connection with mining affairs, which are fast attracting attention all over this continent. Mining, if guided aright, and prosecuted merely as an industry, must prove of great value to any country, but when allowed to make a football for bulls and bears, it may make a Mackay or a Keeno a millionaire, but will bring ruin and disaster to thousands, and eventually become no better than a parasite upon the country in which it is located.

There can be no doubt but nature has distributed rich mineral wealth liberally over this Canadian North-west, and there is equally little doubt but the first efforts put forth for mineral development during the past two years were honest, and with an earnest desire to make mining a North-western industry. But where the carrion is to be found, there will the vultures congregate. And more than one careful watcher of mining affairs have noticed the vultures of reckless and irresponsible speculation collecting around mining during the last two months—the same class, and we might say some of the same individuals, who managed a little over a year ago to reduce the real estate business of the city to the level of Brummagem Cheap Jackery. Such a class must injure any legitimate business they interfere with, and it is to be hoped that the many solid and reliable men who have identified themselves with mining undertakings will guard against the evil influences of this dangerous class, and keep mining in the North-west a legitimate industry worthy a place among the best efforts for the development of staple resources.

#### LIMITED LICENSES.

Before a stipendiary magistrate on Friday last the case of T. J. Poyntz, for contravention of liquor license, was brought up, but not decided, as his honor reserved judgment until he had thoroughly inquired into the matter. This case, although belonging to the class rated under hotel irregularities, is one of great importance to all dealers in wines and spirits, includes a question of great trade importance.

Mr. Poyntz is holder of an hotel license

in Winnipeg, and has been in the habit of selling wines and spirits for family use, and in considerable quantities at a time. The complainant in the present action against him holds that his license allows him to sell only for consumption on his premises, although the statutes upon that point are of a very indefinite nature, and while absolutely implying the right to sell on the premises may be construed to extend the selling privilege to any limit within the inland revenue laws of the Dominion, or, by the logic of lawyers, to imply the negative principle outside of the privileges actually mentioned in the license granted. It is not likely that the decision of a stipendiary magistrate will settle a question of such importance, and it is not our intention of interfering with the legal merits of the case. While a wholesale dealer pays \$250 a year license, a grocer pays \$275 a year and a hotel keeper \$300, so that the amount of license paid cannot act prejudicial to the latter.

It is to be regretted that the regulation of the liquor traffic should require such an amount of special legislation in this and other Provinces. The simpler the laws regulating the sale of wines and spirits the less trouble will the general public and the authorities be put to in their enforcement. There is perhaps no business in the present day which is subject to so many annoying restrictions, a large proportion of which are placed, not for the proper regulation of the traffic itself, but as a compromise between the opinions of those who would stop it altogether, and those who wish its continuance. The grading of licenses is unquestionably one of the products of this compromise system, and the case above mentioned is only one of many instances which show the complications which will result from too much legislation on a trade matter. There are but two courses open in the liquor traffic, one of which is its crushing as an illegitimate business and the other its legalizing and placing on an equal footing with every other branch of trade, with the license fee based solely upon the revenue demands of the country. The former is too radical a course for the people of Manitoba, and the latter is the only reasonable method left to solve the present difficulties.

#### SACRIFICING GOODS.

Keen competition in business, coupled with a period of depression in trade has a

natural tendency to lead merchants, in order to keep up appearances, to offer their goods for sale at a sacrifice; and in some cases at actually less than cost. That such a course is detrimental and must necessarily lead to embarrassment, if continued in for any length of time, is as certain as that day follows night. The history of many a failure, if traced back and the prime causes of ill-success thoroughly sifted, will but corroborate what we have said. The primary cause is a generally unhealthy state of trade. The secondary causes may be grouped under the heads of necessity, poverty and ignorance. The merchant who suffers from the first of these secondary reasons, cannot in many cases help himself very well. He has embarked his all in the business in which he is engaged, and he cannot withdraw from it when he pleases. Competition becomes keen, and the number selling the same line gets beyond reasonable proportion to the amount of population to be supplied. Regular expenses have to be paid, bills for goods have to be met; ready money must be continually got in to meet these liabilities, and in order to do this sales have to be pushed very often at a figure below their actual value. If this kind of business is continued for any length of time the natural result of which we have spoken must follow.

Then, there is the man in business who fails through ignorance of the trade he is engaged in. Marking his goods at prices which will allow the proper margin of profit is something he has never mastered, and the numerous little incidentals of expense—small in themselves, but footing to quite a sum in the aggregate—he never considers. He is selling lots of things all the time at cost or a little over and is not aware of it.

Merchants who work upon a commercially sound system suffer seriously from this system of underselling. The existence of the practice has a tendency to create false ideas of values on the part of buyers; and makes it difficult to sell at legitimately paying prices. Thus all in business are made to suffer in a greater or less degree. No one benefits beyond the buyer, and those whose business may be connected with the insolvency court, where there is such. It is easy to state the cause and effect, but it is not so easy to find a remedy to check this evil practice of underselling. There will always, we suppose, continue to be in business, men who, from force of circumstances and ignorance of the correct principles of trade, will be found to do as we have stated. We can only hope that to paraphrase a passage of Scripture, like the poor they may not be always with us.



### Banks and their Customers.

That the money market in Winnipeg for the past few months has been very tight, is a fact that the majority of business men have become aware of by actual experience. Various causes, partly local and partly general have contributed to bring about this state of affairs. The prolonged winter, the general dullness of trade, which followed closely in the wake of our boom of a year ago, and discounting the future too liberally, have been chief factors in aggravating the financial stringency. We believe it good policy in such circumstances for banks, when they have the means for doing so, to aid thrifty dealers, and not to shut down on them suddenly. It is no doubt better for banks to aid their smaller customers than to make large loans to a few. So far as we can learn there have been but few losses made by loaning to those of moderate means. The history of the financial crisis which exists in Montreal shows that losses have come as a rule through the parties to whom large loans were made. In times of financial stringency the sudden determination to cut off discounts, which were encouraged under a better state of the money market, frequently leads to the very losses against which the banks desire to protect themselves. It is sound policy for a bank to use the same caution and prudence in dealing with its customers as would be used by a private concern, which would foster and support rather suppress those with whom it has had satisfactory transactions in the past.

That such a policy has not been characteristic of the methods adopted by some of the banking institutions in our midst is well known. The record of commercial disaster for the past three months is evidence to that effect. Many instances might be given of cases where men of good business abilities and the best intention to do all in their power to overcome their temporary difficulties have been driven to the wall on account of the conservatism of some of our monetary concerns. A helping hand at the critical period would have enabled many of such to continue in business, and the probabilities are that the greater portion of them would have pulled through all right. It is all very well for banks to exercise caution in their dealings, but there is a limit beyond which the dictates of prudence should advise them not to go.

### C. P. R. Extension.

The energetic railway contractors, Messrs. Langdon, Shepard & Co., are now massing their forces for the west, where track laying and grading will begin in a few days. The track is now laid to within 60 miles of the crossing of the Saskatchewan, near Medicine Hat, which it is expected will be crossed early in June. Early this month the seventeen miles of grading to be done on this side of Maple Creek will be completed. The distance from where the track is now laid to Calgary is 290 miles. From Calgary to Beaufort is 40 miles, from which point the distance to the highest altitude in the Rockies is not great. The engineering difficulties that point through the Kicking Horse Pass are comparatively slight, and the grades will not be heavier than any that were made last

summer. Beyond Beaufort the difficulties to be encountered are still considerably a matter of conjecture, and cannot be accurately ascertained until actual work is entered upon there.

The well-known energy of Langdon, Shepard & Co. in prosecuting the work last year will not be relaxed in any way this season, and it is expected that before the snow flies the solitudes of the Rockies will be awakened by the shrill whistle of the locomotive.

### EMERSON.

The stock of James Reid's restaurant brought 75 cents on the dollar.

Large numbers of immigrants are arriving daily. They are of a desirable class.

Some grain came in last week. The prices are: Wheat, 77 cents; oats, 35; barley, 45.

One of our leading firms report that their sales during the month of March exceeded those of the same month last year.

The Boughton hose company has been succeeded by Brigade No. 1, with Mr. M. McQuarrie as chief. The new company are adding hooks and ladders to the fire appurtenances, and will be better prepared to grapple with the enemy than their predecessors.

The construction on the two bridges is going on rapidly. On the Park street bridge the swing is being placed in position and, should the weather continue fine, will be completed in five or six days. A steam engine is being used at the railway bridge for driving the piles.

The stock of the Emerson House was sold on Monday by the sheriff at the suit of Messrs. Hepburn & Irwin, who held a chattel mortgage. The effects realized \$1,900 and were purchased by parties who wish to place them in other hotels. The proprietors, Robinson Bros., are putting in more furniture, and intend to carry on the business as heretofore.

The International stock advertised for sale by the sheriff on Wednesday has been held over for a week. About half an hour before the auctioneer was to start the sale, a telegram was received from the sheriff in Winnipeg, postponing it for one week on the ground that it had not been properly advertised. It is reported that quite a number of intending purchasers would have bid.

### PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

Williamson & Nichol, grocers, have dissolved partnership.

McIlvaine's paper mill is running full time and still cannot keep up to orders.

P. V. Georgen has resigned the presidency of the Portage Manufacturing Company.

John Rankin has left here to take charge of Adamson & Co.'s bank in Rat Portage.

S. Boyle, formerly of the firm of Boyle & Washington, has purchased R. Taylor's grocery business on Saskatchewan avenue.

Business is improving, and the money market is easier. Wheat is worth 70 to 75 cents, oats, 38 to 40 cents; barley, 35 to 37 cents.

Construction material for the P. W. & N. W. is arriving in large quantities. Forty cars of

rails have been forwarded to the end of the track. Tenders are being asked for the construction of 150 miles west of Gladstone.

The Portage Westbourne & North-western Railway Company asked the corporation to give them debentures to the amount of \$75,000 with which to purchase land for depot and workshop purposes, also right of way in the town and ten years' exemption from taxation. The Council took no action on the matter beyond asking a conference with a committee of the Board to consider it.

### WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

There has been no material change in the money market since our last issue. Rates of discount have not changed, and the demand for money, although somewhat abated from the previous week, is still keen. The banks have in some cases been inclined to handle their creditors sharply, and in some cases with very little reason for doing so. The stringency in the eastern money market, resultant to some extent from the heavy failures that have occurred in the Province of Quebec, has affected the market here considerably, and this, coupled with the dull winter trade all over the country, has brought about the result we have mentioned. Perhaps the managers here should not be blamed for the difficulty that thus arises, but they should have been better able to counteract it to a greater degree than they have done. First-class commercial paper cannot be negotiated at less than from 9 to 10 per cent; ordinary at from 10 to 12 per cent, but the higher figures have more generally to be paid than the lower.

Money for real estate purposes is yet difficult to obtain, and cannot be had unless at high rates from private sources.

It is confidently expected that a much easier feeling will prevail in the course of a week or so, and that then things will move more smoothly.

### WINNIPEG WHOLESALE MARKETS.

There has been a general improvement in the wholesale business during the past week. Sales are more numerous and larger in amount than for some time. The spring trade is opening up as well as anticipated, and the leading houses are looking forward to being kept very busy from this time out. Money is reported slightly easier, and the prospect of more prompt payment in the future is good.

### AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

Business in the agricultural machine line is beginning to boom. During the week some twenty-five car-loads have been shipped to country points. The agents outside report an excellent prospect of a good season, and from this time out they will be kept busy selling and making delivery of goods.

### BOOTS AND SHOES.

Trade is reported as improving rapidly, especially in the country. The city trade is yet rather quiet, as it is not necessary for town retailers to lay in the large stocks beforehand which the country dealers have to do in order to guard against any emergency that might arise through possible delay in traffic in the

spring. Money is much easier, and the general outlook hopeful.

## CLOTHING.

During the week trade has brushed up very much, and the houses are kept busy filling orders. The travelers are all out on the road and are sending in better reports from the different country districts. Collections are still on the slow side, but considerably better than they have been.

## CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

Country trade shows a great deal of improvement. Town trade is still quiet, but slowly getting better. Collections are slow yet, but have improved a great deal during the week.

## DRY GOODS.

Trade is recovering slowly from the inactivity that characterized it during the winter months. Orders are coming in more freely, but wholesalers are very careful about filling them, and exercising much more discrimination than they have been wont to do in the past. The experience of the past few months has led to this more cautious manner of conducting business, and it will lead to a much more satisfactory state of affairs all round. Cash continues tight and some renewals are still wanted.

## DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

There has been a marked improvement in country trade, and retailers generally are more hopeful. It is expected that a good business will be done during the spring. Collections are fair, and show some signs of improvement.

## FANCY GOODS AND SMALL WARES.

The report from this branch of trade for the week is of a more hopeful character, and preparations are being made for a good spring business. Money is still scarce and hard to get.

## FRUIT.

The trade of the week has been fairly good, and prices hold firm and unchanged from last week, with the exception of apples, which are becoming scarce, and are now firm at from \$7 to \$8 per barrel. Other quotations are: Lemons, boxes, \$8; cases, \$10.50; Almeira grapes, \$9.50 to \$10.50 per barrel; figs in mats, 10; large boxes, 14c; small boxes, 20c; raisins, loose Muscatelles, \$3.50; black crown, \$5.25; triple crown, \$8.50; four crown, \$8.75. No novelties have arrived. In collections there is not much to complain of.

## FISH AND OYSTERS.

Pike and white fish are plentiful at 3 and 7c per pound respectively. Sturgeon, cod and finnan haddies are to be had, but too scarce for wholesale quotations. Oysters are unchanged at 35c for selects and 45c for standards. Business has been on the quiet side.

## FUEL.

There has been no change in the price of fuel, and the demand is becoming lighter as the spring approaches. Both coal and wood are in good supply. Quotations are: Coal, egg, stove and nut by car-load on track, \$14; Blossburg, car lots, \$13.25; soft coal, car lots, \$10.50 to \$12, according to quality. Wood, poplar, \$5 to \$6; ash, oak and tamarac, \$7 to \$8.

## HARDWARE AND METALS.

The commencement of building operations is

putting fresh life into the hardware trade, and business, both in city and country, is reported much improved. The metal trade is also reviving. There has been no change in prices. Quotations are: Tin plate, 14x20, \$7.25 to \$7.75; 20x28, \$11.50 to \$15.00; bar iron, \$3.75 to \$4; sheet iron, 5½ to 6c; iron piping, 25 per cent off price list; ingot tin, 32 to 34c; pig lead, 6½ to 7c; galvanized iron, No. 25, 8½ to 9c.

## GROCERIES.

Business in the grocery line is still rather slow, but with the commencement of railway construction and the influx of immigration a general revival is expected, in which there can be no fear of disappointment. Prices remain unchanged. Quotations are: Sugars, raw, 9½c; granulated, 11½c; Paris lumps, 12½c to 12¾c; coffees, Rio, 16c; Java, 20c.

## STATIONERY AND PAPER.

Trade is reported as being pretty fair, and considerably improved during the past few days. The prospects for spring business are very good. Collections are also better.

## WINES AND SPIRITS.

Business is still rather slow, but an improvement is expected shortly. Quotations to jobbers and purchasers of quantities, duty paid, are as follows: Brandy, Hennessy's one star, in cases, \$14; V. O., in cases, \$18; Jules Robin, cases, \$10.50; in wood, \$4 per gallon, Imperial measure; Pinette, in wood, \$4 per Imperial gallon; Louis Freres, in cases, quarts, \$10; flasks, two dozen in a case, \$11; half flasks, four dozen in a case, \$12; M. Dubois, in wood, \$3.50 per gallon; cases, quarts, \$8; flasks, \$9; half flasks, \$10. Gin, Holland, in wood, \$3 per gallon; red cases, \$11; green cases, \$6; Old Tom gin, Bernard's, in wood, \$3.25 per gallon; Booth's, in wood, \$3.25; Booths, in cases, quarts, \$8.50; Scotch whisky, Ramsay's in wood, \$4; Stewart's, in cases, quarts, \$8.50; flasks, \$9.50. Irish whisky, John Jameson & Sons, in wood, \$4.50; Bernard's, in cases, quarts, \$8; flasks, \$9.50. Jamaica rum, \$3.50 to \$4 per gallon. Domestic whiskies, Gooderham & Wort's, in wood, \$1.25 per gallon; 65 o. p. rectified, in wood, \$3.50; W. F. L. five-year old, \$2.50 per gallon; cases, quarts, \$7.50; flasks, \$8.50.

## THE MARKETS.

## WINES AND SPIRITS.

## GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

There has been little life in the grain and provision market of the city during the past week, and there have been few changes in prices. The wheat receipts have been very light by rail, but on the streets it has been rather liberal. There has, however, been no surplus for shipment, and unless the supply increases materially during the current week, one leading mill will be compelled to shut down for a time. Oats have been rather plentiful, and there is no prospect as yet of the supply running short. Only a few wagon loads of barley have reached the city during several days, and the quality of the same was only medium.

## WHEAT

Has remained stationary in price, the figure for prime lots being 80c, while poorer qualities sold down to 75c.

## OATS

Have changed scarcely anything in price, although one sale of several cars is reported as

low as 38c. The average range, however, has been from 40 to 45c.

## BARLEY

Remains unchanged, the receipts of the week going at 40 to 45c, while 48c is offered for bright lots.

## FLOUR.

There has been a lively home demand during the week, and the shipments to the east amount to some 18 cars. Prices remain unchanged, and are as follows: Patents, \$3 to \$3.20; xxx or strong baker's, \$2.50 to \$2.60; baker's, \$2 to \$2.10; trader's or xx, \$1.60.

## RICE

Is still plentiful, while the demand is easing off a little. Prices are \$10 a ton on track, or \$11 delivered.

## SHORTS.

There is no change in the price of this product; quotations being \$12 a ton on track, or \$13 delivered. The demand has not been an active one.

## POTATOES.

The supply is plentiful, and prices are accordingly lower. From 65 to 75c per bushel is generally paid, but it has to be a very fine quality to bring the latter figure.

## EGGS.

The market is well stocked, and prices have come down to 25c per dozen. The probability is that they will hold steady at this figure for some time.

## APPLES

Are in fair supply, and quotations for a good article are from \$7 to \$8 per barrel.

## ONIONS

Have not changed in price and still hold firm at the old figure of 3½c per pound.

## CIDER.

There may seem to some a new beverage for this country, but still there is a keen demand for it from the west. A first-class article is worth \$20 per barrel.

## CRANBERRIES.

The dealers have considerable stock on hand which they hold at \$18 per barrel.

## BUTTER.

There is no change in prices from last week. Choice dairy is quoted at 25 to 27c; inferior grades, 19 to 21c; Ontario creamery is scarce, and if offered would bring from 30 to 31c.

## MEATS.

There has been no change in prices during the week. The fluctuations that have agitated the eastern markets have exerted no influence here beyond producing a firmer feeling. Quotations are: Hams, per pound, 16c; spiced roll, 16 to 18½; barreled pork, \$25.50 to \$26; mess beef, \$18.50 to \$19.

## CHEESE

Is scarce and very firm, owing to a big advance in the Liverpool market. The ruling figure is 16c per pound.

## MINNEAPOLIS.

The grain movement for the week has been lighter than for some time. A general apathy has been noticeable not only among millers and grain dealers, but with the farmers as well, the latter considering the price too low, and the former taking an opposite view. A slight decline in prices took place in nearly all cereals, especially in oats and corn. On Tuesday business was very dull and no wheat changed hands beyond a few car-lots to supply the immediate wants of dealers for milling or shipping purposes. The business of the day is represented by the following quotations:

WHEAT, No. 1 hard, \$1.11 to \$1.12; No. 1.

\$1.02 to 1.03; No. 2 hard, \$1.01 to \$1.08.

CORN, No. 2 50c to 51c; no grade, 45 to 48c, according to sample.

OATS, No. 2 white, 40 to 41c; No. 2 39 to 40c; rejected, 37 to 39c, according to sample.

FLOUR, patents, \$6.50 to \$6.90; straights, \$5.50 to \$6.25; clears, \$5.25 to \$5.40; low grades, \$2. to \$3.25.

On Wednesday there was a better demand for wheat, but business was restricted by the small receipts. Corn was weak and oats about the same. The following quotations represent the business of the day:

WHEAT, No. 1 hard, \$1.11 to \$1.12; No. 1, \$1.02 to \$1.03; No. 2 hard \$1.06 to \$1.08.

CORN, No. 1, 50 to 50½c; no grade, 45 to 48c.

OATS, No. 2 white, 40½ to 41c; No. 2. 39 to 40c; rejected, 36 to 39c.

FLOUR, patents, \$6.50 to \$6.90; straights, \$5.50 to \$6.25; clears, \$5.25 to \$5.40.

On Thursday a firmer tone prevailed in the wheat market, and prices advanced slightly. Receipts were light. Corn was weak, and oats remained about the same. The business of the day is represented by the quotations below:

WHEAT, No. 1 hard, \$1.11 to \$1.12; No. 1, \$1.01 to \$1.03; No. 2 hard, \$1.07 to 1.08½.

CORN, No. 2 new, 49 to 49½c; no grade, 45 to 49c.

OATS, No. 2 white, 40 to 41c; No. 2, 38 to 39c; rejected, 36 to 39c; samples, 36 to 41c.

FLOUR, patents, \$6.50 to \$6.90; straights, \$5.50 to \$6.25; clears, \$5.25 to \$5.40; low grades, \$2.25 to \$3.25.

On Friday a fair trade was done, notwithstanding the small current grain receipts. Wheat was firm, corn steady, and oats strong. The following quotations represent the business of the day:

WHEAT, No. 1 hard, \$1.11 to \$1.12; No. 1, \$1.01 to \$1.03; No. 2 hard \$1.07 to 1.08½.

CORN, No. 2, 49 to 49½c; no grade, 45 to 47c.

OATS, No. 2 white, 40 to 41c; No. 2 39 to 39½c; rejected, 36 to 38c.

FLOUR, patents, \$6.50 to \$6.90; straights, \$5.50 to \$6.25; clears, \$5.25 to \$5.40.

On Saturday the demand for wheat was good and the amount of transactions fair. The business of the day is represented by the following quotations:

WHEAT, No. 1 hard, \$1.11 to \$1.12½; No. 1, \$1.01 to \$1.03½; No. 2 hard, \$1.07 to \$1.08.

CORN, No. 2, 49 to 49½c; no grade, 45 to 47c.

OATS, No. 2 white, 40 to 41c; No. 39 to 39½c; rejected, 36 to 38c.

FLOUR, Patents, \$6.50 to \$6.90; straights, \$5.50 to \$6.25; clears, \$5.25 to \$5.40.

CHICAGO.

The market for the week has been subject to considerable fluctuation, but at the close prices were not far from where they were at the beginning. On Tuesday there was but little activity, although the market was firm. Quotations towards the close were:

Wheat,	April,	\$1.04½	May,	\$1.09½
Corn,	"	51½	"	56½
Oats,	"	39½	"	42½
Pork,	"	18.10	"	18.30
Lard,	"	11.15	"	11.32½

On Wednesday the market was firm and advancing. Wheat, corn and oats all went up

slightly, and provisions were also stronger.

Quotations towards the close were:

Wheat,	April,	\$1.05½	May,	\$1.00½
Corn,	"	52½	"	57½
Oats,	"	39½	"	43½
Pork,	"	18.20	"	18.35
Lard,	"	11.27	"	11.42½

On Thursday prices were considerably firmer, and wheat advanced slightly. Corn and oats were a little weaker. Provisions remained at about the figures of the day previous. Towards the close quotations were:

Wheat,	April,	\$1.05½	May,	\$1.10½
Corn,	"	52	"	56½
Oats,	"	40	"	43½
Pork,	"	18.15	"	18.32½
Lard,	"	11.30	"	11.42½

On Friday there was a slight advance all round, and business was generally active. Quotations towards the close were:

Wheat,	April,	\$1.05½	May,	\$1.11½
Corn,	"	52½	"	57½
Oats,	"	40½	"	43½
Pork,	"	18.20	"	18.45
Lard,	"	11.40	"	11.55

On Saturday the market was fairly active and prices are not changed much. Towards the close quotations were:

Wheat,	April,	\$1.05½	May,	\$1.10½
Corn,	"	52½	"	56½
Oats,	"	40½	"	43½
Pork,	"	18.30	"	18.47½
Lard,	"	11.45	"	11.55

TORONTO.

STOCKS.

The stock market for the week has been quiet and showing very little strength. Bank of Montreal has been considerably depressed, owing to a current opinion that it will be the heaviest loser by the recent failures that have taken place. This has not had any particular influence on the other banks. On Wednesday closing bids were as follows: Montreal, 199½; Ontario, 110½; Toronto, 182½; Merchants, 121½; Commerce, 132½; Imperial, 139½; Federal, 153½; Dominion, 200; Standard, 114½; Hamilton, 113; North-west Land Company 62; Ontario and Qu'Appelle, 190; Manitoba Loan, 123.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

The holiday character of the week checked business to some extent. Holders are not pressing sales keenly, awaiting the opening of navigation, when a revival of trade is expected. The general feeling is, however, somewhat unsettled. Flour and oats have been rather firmer, but other grains are inclined to be weak.

FLOUR.

The demand is better, but receipts have been light. Quotations are, f. o. c.: Superior extra, \$4.45 to \$4.50; extra, \$4.35; bag flour, extra, \$2.05 to \$2.10.

WHEAT.

The market has been inactive. There has been but little offered, but still sufficient for the demand. Quotations, f. o. c., are: Fall wheat, No. 1, \$1.00 to \$1.01; No. 2, 98 to 99c; No. 3, 90 to 91c; spring wheat, No. 1, \$1.08; No. 2, \$1.06; No. 3, \$1 to \$1.01.

OATS.

Are scarce and in good demand at firmer prices. Good Canadian are worth 45 to 46c, f. o. c.

BARLEY.

The demand has been slack and transactions few. Quotations are: No. 1, 75c; No. 2, 70 to 71c; extra No. 3, 62 to 64c; No. 3, 53 to 55c.

BUTTER.

Receipts have increased and prices tend downward. Choice is worth 20 to 21c; medium,

15 to 17c; inferior, 10 to 12c; rolls, 13 to 20c.

MEATS.

Have been quiet but firm. Quotations are: Mess pork, \$21 to \$21.50; bacon, long clear, 11c; Cumberland, 10 to 10½c; rolls, 12 to 12½c; bellies, 13½c; hams, smoked, 13 to 13½c; pickled, 12c.

Markets by Telegraph.

Special Despatches to the Commercial:

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

TORONTO, April 2.—Flour and grain are quiet, buyers and sellers waiting for the opening of navigation. Flour, steady, sales of extra at \$4.40; a very choice article to-day brought \$4.45; inspected superior extra is worth \$4.50. Wheat, neglected, prices about nominal, No. 2 fall, \$1; No. 3 fall, 98c; No. 2 spring, \$1.06. Oats very scarce, 46½c has been paid, and is obtainable to-day. Barley was quiet until to-day, when round lots sold at 75c for No. 1, 70c for No. 2, 62c for extra No. 3. Peas, unchanged at 77 to 78c. Rye, 60c. Butter is in rather better supply, choice is taken readily at 20 to 21c, medium is slow at 15 to 17c. Eggs are scarce and firm at 19 to 20c. In meats there has been no sales of round lots, but these hold firm at former prices.

RAT PORTAGE.

Steps are being taken to organize a brass band.

A car load of machinery for the Pine Portage mine has arrived.

Ada. son & Co.'s new bank will be opened for business in about a week.

Wm. Brydon has opened a real estate and mining office in the Masonic building.

A good many speculators are visiting this district, taking a look at the gold mines.

The Progress has added to its plant the type and press of the late Whitemouth Review.

The piles are being driven for the new C. P. R. coal house. The building will be 500 feet long.

W. L. Baker & Co.'s old stand has been leased by Nicholson, the tailor, who will move into it shortly.

James McCabe, late of Emerson, has taken charge of Weidman's photograph establishment.

The present Catholic church being found too small, a subscription has been made to enlarge it. A large amount has been subscribed.

Eggs are worth \$1. a dozen and scarce at that, at Fort Macleod.

Walters & Baker, Prince Albert have opened a store at Batoches Crossing.

The Point Douglas land difficulty has been settled and the lands allotted.

One firm in Prince Albert put up \$32,600 worth of buildings in that place last year.

Business is brighting up in Prince Albert. Freighters are arriving daily with heavy loads of goods.

The Post Office at Prince Albert, has been fitted up with lock boxes and other modern improvements.

The Surveys in the North-west have been allotted by the department at Ottawa; eighty surveyors will be employed.

**BRANDON.**

Leask & Rose are enlarging their store. The old C. P. R. depot is to be torn down to make room for a siding. Building operations are going on briskly, and large quantities of lumber are daily arriving. Mr. Meredith's new store, on the corner of Rosser avenue and Sixth streets, will be occupied this week.

Cole & Sanders, Winnipeg, are opening up in the mercantile line on Rosser avenue, between Fifth and Sixth streets.

Mr. Smith, of the post office department, was here last week looking out for a site for the new post office and custom house.

Measures are being taken to run a railroad from here through the Birtle district, having Swan River for its present terminus.

Six hundred tons of ice have been cut here and sent to Broadview. A similar quantity has been stored here at a cost of about ninety cents per ton.

Kelly & Sutherland's grist-mill here has now a capacity of 75 barrels per day. Additional machinery is to be put in to enable it to turn out 125 barrels per day.

The city Council are considering the advisability of granting a bonus of \$10,000 to any reliable parties who will erect a grist mill with a capacity of 100 barrels a day.

The immigration boom has fairly set in. Fifty-seven cars of immigrant's effects arrived here last week. The hotels are crowded and business generally is quite brisk.

Mr. Woods's store on Tenth street is being pushed forward rapidly, as is also Messrs. McDougall & McPherson's manufacturing establishment on Tenth street.

Business keeps improving, and the business men report a good week. Money is more free and protests fewer. The lawyers are beginning to complain, which is a good sign.

Mr. Scott, brother to Winnipeg's M. P., has been in town for some days. He is about to apply to the city Council for a bonus of \$5,000 to assist him in building a large furniture manufactory, in which he agrees to keep at least thirty men continually employed. If he succeeds in procuring the bonus, he intends erecting a three-story brick building on Rosser avenue.

The mass-meeting held on Wednesday last was largely attended, a number of the aldermen being present, and considerable discussion took place. The meeting has had the effect of awakening interest in civic affairs, which up to the present time have received no attention. The aldermen hitherto have been running things to suit themselves, and it is time that they were given to understand that there is some one looking after them.

**MINING NOTES.**

John Nagle has been appointed superintendent of the Pine Portage mine.

The Argyle and Winnipeg Consolidated companies have their crushing mills in operation.

Large numbers of prospectors are visiting the Lake of the Woods district, attracted

thither by the gold deposits in that locality.

The George Heenan Mining Company has been organized with George Harvey, president; Dr. Gool, vice-president; Dr. Jones, secretary-treasurer; D. K. Brown, managing director. The other members of the board are George Heenan and Hugh A. Brown.

A new camp has been built at the George Heenan mine, which is acknowledged to be the best on the lake. There is ample accommodation in the building for forty men, and by adding a wing for kitchen purposes, sixty could be comfortably accommodated. Timber for the shaft, shaft-house, ore house, and some big sticks for mill purposes have been got out. A full gang is at work on shaft and surface work, and as soon as the nights become reasonably fit for working three gangs will be put on.

**Winnipeg Custom House.**

The following is a statement of the value of and duty collected upon goods imported into Winnipeg for the first three months of the present year:

JANUARY.	
Value of goods entered for consumption.	\$224,097 00
Duty collected,	52,245 95
Value of foreign free goods,	30,134 00
Do. Canadian free goods,	493,669
LEADING IMPORTS.	
Articles.	Value.
Agricult. implements.	\$ 6,664
Coal (2,668 tons),	17,987
Cottons,	7,261
Fruits (dried),	8,522
Do. (green),	2,234
Iron and steel,	59,501
Leather,	1,796
Provisions,	18,205
Spirits and wines (1,578 gallons),	2,215
Tea from U. S. (13,792 lbs)	1,543
Woolens,	5,614
FEBRUARY.	
Value of goods entered for consumption.	\$266,411 00
Duty collected,	62,169 29
Value of foreign free goods.	15,302 00
Do. Canadian,	548,732 00
LEADING IMPORTS.	
Articles.	Value.
Agricult. implements,	\$18,859
Coal (239 tons),	1,603
Cottons,	29,512
Fruits (dried),	2,519
Do. (green),	2,494
Iron and steel.	41,340
Leather,	2,195
Provisions,	26,881
Spirits and wines (1,396 gallons),	2,232
Tea from U. S. (1,099 lbs.),	204
Woolens,	10,813
MARCH.	
Value of goods entered for consumption.	\$368,099 00
Duty collected,	140,099 92
Value of foreign free goods,	39,109 09
Do. Canadian,	1,448,491 00
LEADING IMPORTS.	
Articles.	Value.
Agricult. implements.	\$ 6,229
Coal (1,687 tons),	11,264
Cottons,	66,373
Fruits (dried),	6,531
" (green),	3,325
Iron and Steel.	56,463
Leather,	8,110
Provisions,	51,649
Spirits and wines (2,810 gals),	3,317
Tea from U. S. (2,240 lbs),	518
Woolens,	34,526

**Protection to Implement Manufacturers.**

On Wednesday a deputation of Ontario agricultural implement manufacturers waited on the Minister of Finance at Ottawa, representing that American manufacturers were pulling down their prices so as to undersell Canadians and hold the trade of Manitoba and the North-west. They said that one firm in Chicago received a \$400,000 order from Manitoba for self-binders. One gentleman said that last year he sent over \$100,000 to the North-west, and this year he had not received an order. They asked that the duty on binders be raised to 42 per cent, making about \$60 on each binder. The Minister said that the people of the North-west were encumbered very much, already paying \$13, and unless a clear case were made out, he could not impose further burdens upon them.

However in his budget speech a few days ago the Minister of Finance announced that the duty would be raised equal to 35 per cent of specific and ad valorem duty.

The Watson Manufacturing Company are starting an agency at Gladstone, with John H. Winsloe as manager.

The Toronto Paper Manufacturing Company's mill at Cornwall, Ont., is now in full blast. They will go into the manufacture of writing papers.

The North-west Land Company has notified its shareholders that unless the call due on the 1st inst. be paid the stock of defaulters will be forfeited.

A petition is being circulated at Fort Macleod, praying the Postmaster General to continue the mail route between Benton and that place, even after the C. P. R. has passed Calgary.

J. B. Rolland & Fils, a wealthy and well-known French publishing house, will start a new paper mill at St. Jerome, P. Q., in May. This, it is said, will be one of the best mills in America.

Mr. R. H. Hunter has retired from the position of manager of the Imperial Bank in Winnipeg. He will continue to act as local director. Mr. C. S. Hoar, for the last seven years manager of the branch of the same bank in Ingersoll, Ont., is acting manager, and will probably be appointed permanent manager.

A very neat pamphlet, and full of information, is that recently published in London, containing a lecture delivered before the Balloon Society of Great Britain by Mr. John Pearce, on "The agricultural depression at home, and the resources, capabilities and prospects of the Canadian New North-west." Its circulation cannot fail to have a great influence in drawing the attention of the farming class of Great Britain to the advantages of this country.

During the past eight years the value of property destroyed by fire in the United States and Canada amounted to over \$672,250,000, of which over \$78,750,000 belonged to Canada. The total amount of insurance payments during that time was \$363,000,000, of which nearly \$35,000,000 was distributed in Canada. The average annual payment in the States was about 55 per cent, and in Canada somewhat over 44 per cent of the loss.

**SELKIRK.**

Market prices are unchanged from that of last week.

W. F. Pearson has opened up a meat market next door to the Canada Pacific hotel.

James Colclough has opened up a real estate and commission office, connected with an insurance business.

The plans for the new registry office have been approved by the members of public works and tenders are asked for.

Business is improving. Merchants and traders generally are in good spirits and looking forward to a large summer's trade.

A magnificent lot of otter and bear skins were brought in from Lake Winnipeg this month by a trader, and sold to W. H. Eaton & Co.

The lumber left here last fall by the boats for transhipment to Winnipeg, is being moved by the C. P. R. at the rate of 20 cars per day.

Mr. Thomas Craig has been appointed agent for Messrs. Drake & Rutherford, and will have charge of their lumber business here this season.

A general brightening up of business in Selkirk is confidently expected with the advent of spring and the trade anticipated through the lumber business.

The newly elected Council of East Selkirk met for the first time in the hall over the school house, and after being duly sworn in, transacted some preliminary business.

The Selkirk Herald will in future be owned and edited by Mr. J. E. Grinnel, Mr. Campbell having retired to accept an important position on the Free Press.

There is at present lying in the harbor at Selkirk eight steamboats, all undergoing the necessary repairs to fit them for the coming season's work, which they expect will be large.

Selkirk's town Council will deal liberally with any one who will build either a grist or paper mill at this place. They also want a second blacksmith, a hardware store and a good medical doctor, for whom there are good openings.

The merchants and other patrons of the C. P. R. are anything but well pleased with the recent advance in rates. The car-load rate from Winnipeg to Selkirk is 10 cents per 100 pounds, or \$20 per car, while you can receive a single hundred for 12 cents.

An agitation is on foot and petitions largely circulated for the opening up of the St. Peter's Indian Reserve, and the removal of that tribe of Indians to some other more suitable reserve, which, if accomplished, will make available for settlement one of the richest agricultural parishes in Manitoba.

Selkirk has been made the county town for the municipality of St. Andrews, and the town Council are building a registry office and other public buildings. The county court will in future be held here, instead of at the house of Mr. Davis in St. Andrews, as before. The place chosen is the hall over W. H. Eaton's store.

**Manitoba Road Freight Rates.**

The St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba has published reduced rates from St. Paul and Minneapolis to St. Vincent on all business destined to points in Manitoba, the North-west and British America. These reductions are as follows: First-class freight, from \$1.40 to \$1.20 per 100 pounds; second class, \$1.20 to \$1.10; third class, from \$1.05 to \$1.30; fourth-class, from 85 to 80 cents; grain and flour, from 30 and 60 cents to 27 and 54 cents per 100, and salt from \$1.25 to 81 cents per barrel. Freight on live stock, which was \$100 per car, is taken at \$90. Agricultural implements, wagons, etc., is reduced from \$150 to \$130 per car, and immigrant's outfit from \$75 to \$50 per car.

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**BILLIARD TABLES.**

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**BRITISH BREWERY,**

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15 McDermott Street Winnipeg.

Agent for

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ARCHITECTS,  
Civil Engineers, Building Surveyors

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When parties communicate with us please give the following particulars.

- A.—Nature of ground and size of lot. Best to make a rough draught of lot, with points of compass and direction in which building is to face and where it is to be placed.
  - B.—Materials to be used in construction—wood, brick veneer, or stone.
  - C.—Whether you wish to supply any materials, and if so what quantities and kinds.
  - D.—Size, height, arrangements, numbers and uses of rooms and floors.
  - E.—Style and amount of outside finish—porches, verandahs, balconies, bay windows, tower, etc.
  - F.—Outbuilding and offices, and distance of same from main building, also fences.
  - G.—What improvements are wished—rain water system, drainage, heating, ventilation, baths, W.C., etc.
  - H.—Prices of labor and material in your locality.
- Give full name and address with nearest Post Office.

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PROMPTLY RENDERED.

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Trades Protection, Gen'l Enquiry,

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Mill at Point Douglass.

Capacity.....750 Barrels per day.

OFFICE:—Corner King and Alexander Streets, Winnipeg.

A Full Stock of Patent Hungarian, Strong Bakers' and Spring Extra Flour; Oatmeal, Pot 't'ye Pearl Barley, Graham Flour, Cracked and Wh Bran, Shorts, Ground Feed, Oats, Barley et

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MORTGAGE INVESTMENT CO.,  
(LIMITED.)

CAPITAL \$2,500,000.

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**WESTERN CANADA  
LOAN AND SAVINGS CO.**

CAPITAL.....\$2,000,000

ASSETS.....4,000,000

Head Office—Toronto. WALTER S. LEE, Manager.

This Company being an old established one, and having a command of large funds, are prepared at all times to advance money on security of Farm or City improved property. No delays. No commissions. Lowest rates.

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LATE OF THE RUSSELL HOUSE, OTTAWA.  
Strictly first-class in every respect. Commercial Sample Rooms Attached.

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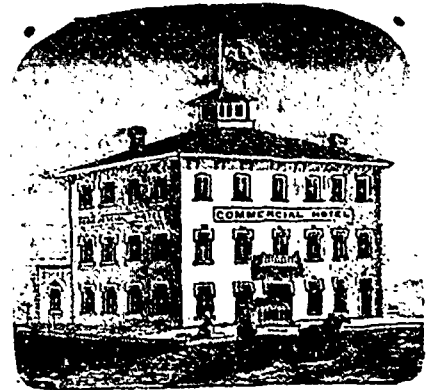
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GOOD ACCOMMODATION FOR COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS. SPLENDID SAMPLE ROOMS.

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Teas,  
Sugars,  
Syrups,  
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Coffees,

AND

**GENERAL GROCERIES.**

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# Canadian Pacific R'y Co.



(WESTERN DIVISION)  
TRAIN SERVICE.

## CHANGE OF TIME

On and after October 1st, 1882. Trains will move as follows:

Going West.	Going East
8.15 a.m. leave Winnipeg	arrive 6.15 p.m.
10.35 " Portage la Prairie	3.55 "
1.55 p.m. " Brandon	12.5 "
4.15 " " Oak Lake	10.20 a.m.
11.30 " " Broadview	3.30 "
3.55 a.m. arrive Regina	leave 8.30 p.m.
9.40 a.m. leave Rat Portage	arrive 4.03 p.m.
1.45 p.m. " " Whitmouth	12.20 "
3.45 " " " Selkirk	9.50 a.m.
65 " " " arrive Winnipeg	leave 8.45 "
8.25 a.m. leave Winnipeg	arrive 5.15 p.m.
9.45 " " " arrive Stonewall	leave 3.40 "

Daily except Sundays.

Going South.	Winnipeg	Going North.
Leave	Arrive	Arrive
7.35 a.m.	*7.35 p.m.	7.05 p.m.
	Otterburn.	6.50 a.m.
9.00 a.m.	8.50 p.m.	5.50 p.m.
	Emerson.	5.20 a.m.
10.25 a.m.	10.18 p.m.	4.40 p.m.
Arrive	St. Vincent.	4.05 a.m.
10.40 a.m.	10.28 p.m.	4.20 p.m.
		3.45 a.m.

\* Daily except Mondays.  
Daily except Saturdays.

### SPECIAL NOTICE.

Magnificent Palace Sleeping Cars will be run daily, without change, between Winnipeg and Regina.

Trains run on Winnipeg time.

JOHN M. EGAN, Gen. Superintendent.  
W. C. VAN HORNE, Gen. Manager.  
WM. HARDER, Ass't Traffic Manager.

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We are now prepared to fill all orders entrusted to us with dispatch.

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Money Advanced on Consignments.

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## THE WINNIPEG WAREHOUSING COMPANY. (LIMITED)

Store every description of goods Free or in Bond. Special attention paid to Emigrants effects, trunks, furniture, agricultural implements, &c., Insurances effected at lowest rates. Warehouse receipts issued negotiable at all Banking Offices. All goods shipped to the company or to R. W. FRANCIS & Co., when in car lots will be delivered at Warehouse (which has a switch of C. P. R. running directly to them) free of charge. We make a specialty of receiving car lots from the Eastern Provinces consigned to different parties throughout the Province, passing Custom entry and distributing to their several destinations.

R. W. FRANCIS, Manager.

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Weekly, is the only Catholic Newspaper in the Canadian North-west.

Subscription Price, \$2.00 per annum in advance;

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The Champion Soap is strongly recommended for family use, being the best Soap sold in Manitoba.

TRY IT! TRY IT! TRY IT!

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CITY OF LONDON of England, 10,250,000

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## Manitoba Pioneer

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Planing Mill and Lumber Yard in Connection.



## TENDERS.

SEALED Tenders, marked "Tenders for Swan River Barracks," and addressed to the Honorable the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, will be received up to noon on TUESDAY, the 15th of MAY, 1883, for purchase of the N. W. Mounted Police Barracks at Livingstone, about ten miles north of Fort Pelly, N. W. Territories, and six hundred and forty acres of land in connection therewith, including the land on which the Barracks are erected.

An accepted Canadian Bank cheque for an amount equal to ten per cent. of the total amount tendered for the buildings and land must accompany each tender, and the amount will be forfeited if the party tendering fails to pay the balance of the purchase money within sixty days after the acceptance of the tender.

The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

LINDSAY RUSSELL,

Deputy Minister of the Interior.

FRED. WHITE,

Comptroller, N. W. M. Police.

Ottawa, February 19th, 1883.

## CHAMBERS & CO.,

(Established, 1870.)

5, 7, 9 and 11 Ross Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Wholesale Manufacturers of

BISCUITS AND CONFECTIONERY,

BY STEAM POWER.

Importer of Confectioners' Supplies, etc., etc.

Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Omaha, & North-Western Railways.

GOING EAST.

Express trains leave Minneapolis at 1.00 p.m. and 8.00 p.m.; and St. Paul, 1.45 p.m. and 8.45 p.m.; arriving in Chicago at 7.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m.

COMING WEST.

Express trains leave Chicago at 11.30 a.m. (except Sunday) and 9.00 p.m., arriving at St. Paul at 6.15 a.m. and 12.45 p.m., and Minneapolis at 7.00 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.

This is the only line between St. Paul and Chicago running the Pullman Smoking Room Sleepers, and Palace dining cars.

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The Chicago 5 p.m., and Omaha trains leave St. Paul for Sioux City, Omaha, Kansas City and San Francisco at 10 a.m. and 3.30 p.m.

## St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba.

SOUTHEASTWARD.

Express leaves St. Vincent at 11.15 p.m., and 11.30 a.m., arriving at St. Paul at 6.20 p.m. and 8.10 a.m. the day following, making close connections with runs running in all directions.

NORTHEASTWARD.

Express leaves St. Paul at 7.00 p.m. and 8.00 a.m., arriving at St. Vincent at 4.20 p.m. and 3.45 a.m. the day following, making close connections with the Canadian Pacific.

Trains run between St. Paul and Minneapolis almost every hour.

Sleeping cars on all night trains.

Trains run on St. Paul time.

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Contracts made at SPECIAL RATES, for supplying large City, Mill, Elevator and Warehouse Scales. Correspondence solicited and satisfaction guaranteed.

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