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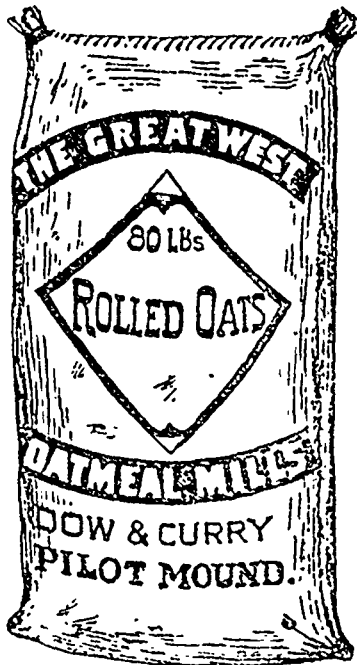
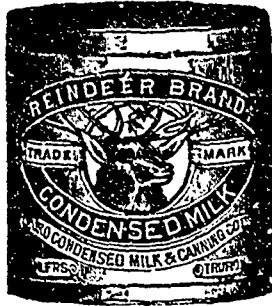
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WINNIPEG, FEBRUARY 24, 1896.

Manitoba.

R. Machon, of Prince Albert, will open a fruit store at Brandon.

A department store was opened at Brandon recently by the amalgamation of I. R. Strome and Whyte Bros.

S. T. Hopper, general storekeeper, Rapid City, advertises giving up business.

Wm. Young has retired from the firm of A. Young & Co., druggists, of Neepawa.

G. A. Hogarth, general storekeeper, Minnedosa, has assigned.

Assiniboia.

J. Carson has sold his blacksmithing business at Moosomin to W. Spooner.

The general store business of B. B. Gilbard, Fleming, is now carried on by Gilbard & Craig.

Morrison, druggist, Whitewood, has bought out McDonald, his local competitor in the same line

Alberta.

No. 8 shaft of the Lethbridge colliery has been shut down, about forty miners being thrown out of employment in consequence. Several of the miners have gone to Canmore and Anthracite, Alberta.

C. Gallagher, says the Edmonton Bulletin, is in communication with a dressed meat firm at the coast with a view of securing a market for the large number of light hogs remaining in the Edmonton district, which are not suitable for packing here. The trade here demands heavy sides and the fatter the better. Hogs under 200 pounds weight are not suitable, and consequently it is desirable to find an outlet for them. The price quoted so far would not admit of paying more than 3½c here, live weight.

Dairy Trade News.

J. Y. Griffin & Co., Winnipeg shipped last week a carload of Manitoba dairy butter to Liverpool.

A meeting of the producers of butter and cheese was held in Winnipeg on Tuesday afternoon, to discuss modes of marketing their product. It seemed to be the feeling that the dairymen should form some association to place their goods on the market. In

the evening of the same day a general meeting of dairymen and others was held in the grain exchange, to consider the plan of organizing a dairy exchange in connection with the Winnipeg Grain and Produce exchange. This meeting was called by the committee appointed at a preliminary meeting held on January 10 last. A large number of dairymen were present, besides dealers in dairy goods, members of the grain exchange and others interested in the dairy industry. A lengthy discussion ensued, but no general line of action was developed, there seeming to be a great diversity of opinion. Some were opposed to working with the grain exchange, and preferred to work with the Manitoba Dairy association. The dairymen all seemed to be in favor of an association of some sort, but they were all more or less at sea as to how to proceed in the matter. About the only practical suggestion was that made by Mr. Crerar, to the effect that the dairymen form an association and appoint an agent in Winnipeg to act for them, all goods to be shipped to Winnipeg to be placed in cold storage, and sold through the agent. The advisability of having an official inspector and weigher appointed was also discussed, but no definite action was taken in this respect. It was finally moved by Mr. Crerar and seconded by Mr. Struthers, "that in the opinion of this meeting it would be well for dairy men (manufacturers and producers) to organize and affiliate with the Winnipeg Grain Exchange." This motion was carried. It was then moved by Mr. Champion, seconded by Mr. Pearson, that Messrs. Crerar, Pearson, Bousfield and Barre be a committee to confer with the grain exchange, re such organization. This was also carried. On Wednesday morning a meeting of the dairymen alone was held in the dairy school building. There was a unanimity of opinion as to the advisability of devising means by which producers and purchasers could be brought into more direct communication, the only question being the best means to be employed to secure that desideratum. After considerable discussion the following motion: moved by Wm. Ryan, of Ninga, seconded by Prof. Barre, was adopted: Resolved, "that it is the opinion of this meeting that the Manitoba dairy association should be requested to form a board, under the provisions of their charter, to facilitate the marketing of cheese, butter and produce, including provision for cold storage, butter and cheese boards, the securing of cable quotations, the appointment of a public weigher and a committee of arbitration to settle difficulties between buyers and sellers; and that a committee composed of factory men be appointed to look after the proper organization of such a board, and to prepare rules and regulations for their guidance." A proposition to affiliate with the grain exchange, which was advocated by Mr. Bousfield, of Hamiota, Mr. McCuaig, of Portage Plains, and others was rejected. It was also decided to ask for an inspector. At a final meeting of the dairymen the following resolution was passed: "Moved by S. M. Barre, that D. W. McCuaig, T. L. Morton, M. P. P., D. O. Allaire, Mr. Rogers, Kenneth McKenzie, S. M. Barre, and D. W. Skunk be a committee to prepare rules and regulations for a board or committee on trade, said committee to report to the executive of the dairymen's association. This committee met later and discussed the business referred to it, but, as the shortness of the notice of meeting prevented the attendance of some of the members, nothing definite was decided upon. The meeting was adjourned till the 5th of March.

In the house at Ottawa on Feb. 20, Hon. Mr. Foster introduced a bill to provide for the stamping of cheese and butter packages with the word "Canadian," and also for the registration of factories. The registration can extend to the districts, as well as to in-

dividual factories. Several members insisted that the packages should be stamped with the date of production, as a further measure of protection to the producer and consumer, as middlemen practiced misrepresentation in this particular. Under the provisions of the bill, no cheese or butter can be held for export except that produced in properly registered factories.

A Railway for Dauphin.

In the Manitoba Legislature on Tuesday, Hon. Mr. Greenway gave notice that he would on Thursday move the following resolution: That this house do forthwith resolve itself into committee of the whole upon the following resolution: Resolved, that it is expedient for the government of Manitoba in such terms and conditions as may be agreed upon with the Lake Manitoba Railway and Canal company, to aid and assist the construction of a line of railway by said company from a point in or near the town of Portage la Prairie, or in or near the town of Gladstone, or from some point on the line of the Manitoba & Northwestern railway, which may be authorized by the charter of the said company, running in a northerly or north-westerly direction west of Lake Manitoba to a point west of Lake Dauphin, or passing west of Lake Dauphin to a point at or near Lake Winnipegosis, by guaranteeing the principal and interest of the first mortgage bonds of the company to the amount of \$3 000 per mile of said railway, said bonds bearing 4 per cent interest and maturing at the end of 80 years from the issue thereof; and by exempting the said railway, its property and franchise from taxation during the period of such guarantee, provided that the said bonds and interest thereon shall be a first charge upon the said line of railway and its revenues and franchise, rolling stock and equipment in pursuance of the act of incorporating of the said company and the general railway act of Canada.

Seed Grain at Half Rates.

The following circular has been issued to Canadian Pacific Railway agents throughout Manitoba and the Territories: Notice to agents.—The company will transport seed wheat, oats and barley, between stations from Whitemouth westward to Calgary, inclusive and branch lines in Manitoba and the Territories, from the 1st of March to the 10th of May, 1896, at one half tariff rates, under the terms and conditions of Circular F, 776, of February 15th, 1895.

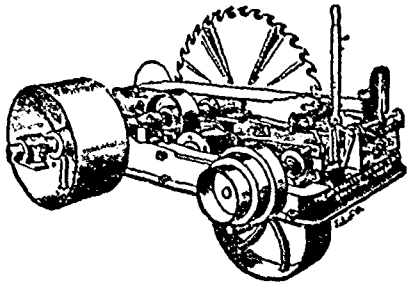
Samples of seed grain prepared by the Dominion grain inspector at Winnipeg for the guidance of agents, will be distributed to agents, and only seed grain equal in quality to the samples, will be carried at the reduced rate.

Silver.

Both the London and New York markets for silver were featureless last week. Silver prices on Feb. 14 were London, 80 15-16d; New York, 67½c.

The Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition association has issued a very handsome calendar. In the centre a colored photogravure of the grounds is surrounded by tablets upon which the months are shown. The dates of the next exhibition are prominently shown and timely advice to farmers is given in the indications in date lines. This fine hanger was executed in Winnipeg.

Hart A. Massey died at Toronto on February 20, after an illness lasting practically since the beginning of the year. Deceased was probably the best known manufacturer in Canada, having built up a huge agricultural implement manufacture. Deceased was in his 78th year and was head of the Massey-Harris company.

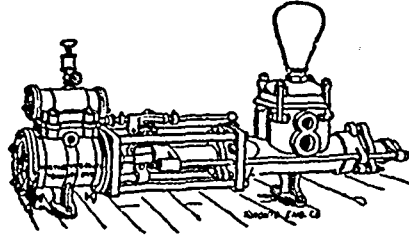


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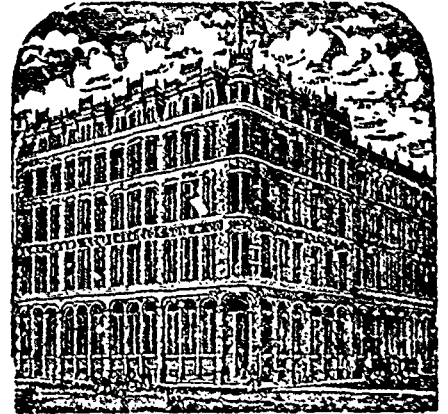
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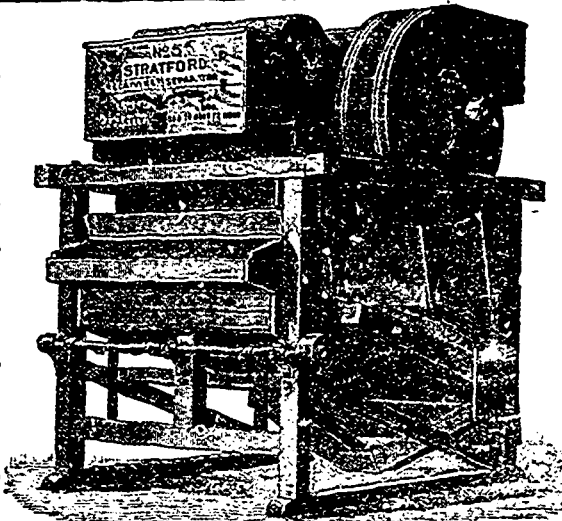
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The Commercial

WINNIPEG, FEBRUARY 24, 1896.

OUR ANNUAL.

The usual annual number of The Commercial was issued early last week, giving a review of the commercial interests of Western Canada for the past year. The number contains a vast amount of authentic information about this western country, dealing with facts and figures, and not with conjectures. It is a plain statement of matters as they exist, and no attempt is made to "boom" the country, or to overdraw anything. A summary of the contents of the number is as follows: Introductory editorial. "Openings for Industries in the West," specifying some of the industries which might be entered upon here to advantage. "The Dairy Industry," treats of the great progress made in this branch, and gives a list of butter and cheese factories in Manitoba and the territories. The "Agricultural Development of Manitoba," deals with the crop production of the province, giving comparative statistics for the past thirteen years, which show at a glance the great progress made. Under the heading "Growing Live Stock Trade," the splendid progress made in our live stock export trade is shown. "The Transportation Problem," treats of freight rates, with comparisons of present and past tariff rates. "Winnipeg's Grain Trade," is an interesting article showing the growth of this vast interest for a series of years, the article concluding with a list of all grain elevators and warehouses in Manitoba and the Territories, showing the total capacity of such to be nearly 14,000,000 bushels. "Cereal Milling in the West" shows the development of this industry since 1882, when the first mill was established in the country, concluding with a list of all the flour and oatmeal mills in Manitoba and the Territories. This article is appropriately followed by a description of the vast Ogilvie milling business in Winnipeg, under the head of "Winnipeg's Largest Industry." Next in order comes a series of articles on British Columbia. The first of these reviews "Vancouver Island for 1895," with special reference to the trade of Victoria city. Coal mining on Vancouver Island is considered at some length, and a summary of the sealing industry for the past year is given. A lengthy article on "Mining in British Columbia" gives an admirable description of the past and present position of mining in the Pacific province, summed up clearly and concisely and without the usual exuberance of enthusiasm generally displayed in writing on mining matters. The lumbering and the fishing industries of British Columbia are treated of in separate articles and the series concludes with an article on "Agriculture in British Columbia." Next follows an article "Important to Grocers," giving a description of a new invention of special interest to them. "Flax Seed and Oil Trade" treats of this important Manitoba industry, showing the great development in this direction. "Lumbering in Western Canada" shows the sources of the lumber supply of Manitoba and the Territories and

other points of interest in this industry. "A New Wholesale Warehouse" in Winnipeg, is briefly described, followed by an amusing story of the Winnipeg "boom" period, under the heading of "A Story of High-Priced Butter." "A Big Milling Concern," deals with the vast business of the Lake of the Woods Milling Co. Next Winnipeg clearing house statistics for two years are given. A brief review of the work of the Winnipeg board of trade for 1895 is given with the president's address at the recent annual meeting of the board. "A Grand Building" gives an illustration of a magnificent new warehouse erected in Winnipeg within the year. Under the heading of "New Wholesale Houses," the changes in the wholesale trade of Winnipeg for the past year are told. "Strike a Balance," is an eye-opening article showing the vast production of exportable commodities in Manitoba and the Territories, compared with the annual interest debt of the country. "Financial Record" deals with the banking interests of Winnipeg. "Winnipeg's Hotels" is an interesting article, giving reminiscences of the past and describing the hotel accommodation of the present, with illustrations. "Supplying the Home Market," tells of an important Winnipeg industry. These with a number of smaller articles complete the number.

Several of the articles are illustrated and there are over sixty illustrations in all, many of them being large half-page illustrations. The illustrations include views of western towns, from Winnipeg to the coast, some grand scenes in the mountains of British Columbia, etc.

So far as facts, figures and reliable general information is concerned, we think we are not saying too much when we claim that this Annual number of The Commercial is the most valuable publication of the kind ever issued here. Many publications have been issued, filled with more glowing and enthusiastic articles about this western country, but none, we think, which have contained such a fund of actual information as is to be found in this special number of The Commercial. Extra copies can be had for 25 cents on application. Any person sending \$2 for one yearly subscription to the weekly issue of The Commercial will receive a free copy of the Annual.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE great value of oil cake, meal, or flax seed meal, for feeding live stock does not seem to be well understood in Manitoba. This is one of the most valuable agents that can be used in the fattening of live stock. In Great Britain the value of this food for cattle and other animals is well understood, and the product is largely imported to supply the demand in excess of the large quantity supplied by British crushers of flax seed. It is this demand for the oil cake which enables British crushers to import flax seed and export linseed oil. Manitoba has become an important producer of flax seed, and in order to encourage a home crushing industry a market should be found for the oil cake. The recent reduction in the price of oil cake, so that farmers can now obtain it in Winnipeg at \$16 per ton, should greatly increase the demand here

for this valuable product for feeding live stock.

DURING January supplies of breadstuffs in the United States and Canada decreased only about half as much as during January 1895, the figures being 5,695,000 bushels, as compared with the decrease of 10,078,000 bushels for January 1895. This smaller decrease this year is due entirely to the heavy wheat crop in Manitoba and the bordering states to the south, stocks in Manitoba Minnesota and the Dakotas showing an increase of over 15,000,000 bushels, as compared with a year ago. The smaller decrease in American stocks during January is compensated for by the large January decrease of breadstuffs in and about for Europe, which amounted to 16,000,000 bushels, as compared with a decrease of 5,600,000 bushels for January 1895.

FEW people even among the residents of Western Canada, who have not given special attention to the matter, have any idea of the advancement made in the work of irrigation in our western territories. The report of the Department of the Interior for 1895, shows that at the end of the year there were 121 irrigation ditches and canals constructed in the territories, representing a total length of over 800 miles, and capable of irrigating 140,000 acres. These irrigation ditches are all in southern Alberta, except a few in the Maple Creek district of western Assiniboia. Over half of these ditches and canals were constructed last year. As irrigation is only beginning to attract attention in our territories, the progress made is satisfactory. There is a vast area of fine country in the southwestern portion of our territories which will be immeasurably improved in value by the carrying out of irrigation works. The Commercial we believe was the first journal in Western Canada to take up the question of irrigation in the territories and point out the inestimable value irrigation would be to those western districts. It is therefore particularly gratifying to The Commercial to see that a fair start has now been made in this matter. By means of irrigation, the semi-arid regions of southern Alberta and western Assiniboia can be made equal in value to the best agricultural districts of Canada.

THE movement to form an exchange or association of dairymen to assist in the marketing of dairy goods, has made some progress. Several meetings were held last week in Winnipeg to consider the matter. The proposal to affiliate with the Winnipeg Grain Exchange was rejected by the dairymen, and it was decided to work with the Manitoba Dairy Association. The charter of the latter association, it is understood, covers the ground. Some of the dairymen seemed to entertain the idea that what they wanted was not a dairy exchange, but a combine of dairymen to go past the middlemen and place their products directly in the importing markets. Others thought they could not do without the middlemen. Owing to the low prices which have prevailed during the past year for dairy goods, it is not to be wondered at that the dairymen should be seeking means of cutting off any possible expenses in marketing their

goods. At the same time it is very doubtful if they can gain anything by endeavoring to go past the jobber or exporter. That has been tried often and has always failed. The best results, we believe, will be obtained by working in connection with the exporters

It was reported from Ottawa last week that a movement was on foot to take over 12,000,000 acres of land from the Canadian Pacific Railway at \$2 per acre. Whether the price is too high or not, depends on the location of the lands. The principal, however, of taking over these lands and holding them for settlement, is good. Six years ago The Commercial demanded the cessation of the custom of granting the public domain to railways or other private corporations, and we still adhere strongly to this idea.

FURTHER rumors have come from Ottawa regarding proposed changes in the regulations governing the grading of Manitoba grain. It is now reported that the government contemplate making radical changes, by doing away with the standards board and fixing permanent grades. If this is the idea, they are on the right track. Such a move will meet with the approval of the trade here, provided the permanent grades are fixed on a proper basis. The grades as now specified in the act are not far wrong, and the proposed permanent grades should conform very closely to the grades now provided for in the act. It is reported that the Toronto and Montreal people are protesting against the probability of the Eastern representatives being left off the Manitoba standards board. The feeling here is that it is not necessary nor advisable to have Eastern interests represented on the board, but this is not the real question. The main desire here is not to have the Eastern people cut off the board, but to have the entire board abolished, and have the grades made permanent. If a large board is to be maintained we do not see that it matters much whether or not the East is represented on it. By all means let us have permanent grades; but certainly no changes should be made in the grades until the trade here has been consulted in the matter.

THE feeling is quite general among the farmers that the prevalence of smut in the wheat crop of last year was owing to the poor quality of bluestone supplied by dealers. One farmer writing to a country paper says: "Whatever is done should be done thoroughly; but pickle as you like, or even dip as you like, with some of the stuff that was last spring sold for bluestone, and you may as well spit on your seed wheat for all the good it does. Many of the farmers knew nothing of the manner they have been imposed upon until the threshing time, when they found their wheat smutty although they thought they had pickled thoroughly. They pickled at right, but with the wrong stuff, and did not find it out till after threshing; and then in some cases by examining or getting some one else to examine what they bought for bluestone, to their disgust it was found to be sulphate of iron and not sulphate of copper." The bottom of the whole trouble is the desire to get something cheap enough to undersell

competitors. This a matter in which the merchants and not the farmers were most to blame, and the farmers who were so badly swindled last year, have a genuine grievance to complain of. The loss from smutty grain on last year's crop is much greater than was caused by all the unfavorable weather of the harvest season. Undoubtedly many of the merchants were not aware of the worthless quality of the stuff they were selling, and this fact should make them careful in the future when they are offered goods at very low prices. This bluestone business is a most deplorable affair, but nothing that can be said now can atone for the enormous loss brought upon the poor farmers by this wretched blunder. Thanks to the action of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange the matter has been ventilated, and it is not likely that the same mistake will be made this year. Farmers should exercise care, however, about using any old stock which they may have carried over from last year; likewise also merchants.

SOME of the western papers have become incensed over remarks dropped in some of the speeches at the recent Winnipeg board of trade banquet, and they dwell on what they term the narrow local feeling shown by some of the speakers. The principal exception is taken to the remarks of Hon. Thos Greenway, who spoke of endeavoring to concentrate settlement in Manitoba and against spending large sums to develop the west. The western papers make a mistake in accepting Mr. Greenway's statements as representing the feeling of the business men of Winnipeg. Mr. Greenway represented the political, and not the business side of the situation, at the board of trade dinner, and some of his remarks are most decidedly not concurred in by the business people of Winnipeg. On the contrary, the first speaker following Mr. Greenway at the dinner, distinctly repudiated his statements in regard to the development of the west. Mr. G. F. Galt said: "He differed with his honorable friend, Mr. Greenway, inasmuch as he regarded any scheme for the development of the west—be it a scheme of irrigation in Alberta, the improvement of navigation of the Red river, or the building of a railway to Hudson's Bay—if such enterprise was legitimate and calculated for the general good of this great West, as something that every citizen was bound to support." It is hardly necessary to say that Mr. Galt, and not Mr. Greenway, represented the feeling of the business men of Winnipeg. It is not fair, as some of the western papers have done, to saddle Mr. Greenway's remarks upon the business men of Winnipeg and the members of the board of trade. Mr. Greenway is not even a member of the board, though he is quoted by some western papers as showing the views of the leading members of the board. Neither is Mr. Greenway identified with any business interests of Winnipeg. Some exception has been taken to Mr. Nairn's remarks, but the idea expressed by the latter gentleman is misunderstood by some of the western papers, doubtless owing to the curtailment of his speech in the published reports. Mr. Nairn did not want all the settlers of the entire country located in the

Winnipeg district. He merely used the comparison, in speaking of the need for more population, and the vast room we have for more settlers, that all the settlers now in the country could be placed in the district between Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie alone.

Toronto Grocery Market.

Canned goods are generally in strong position, especially peas and tomatoes. Corn is steady. Teas are in good demand, particularly Indians and Ceylons, and prices are steady. Coffees are selling well and prices are steady.

Sugars and Syrups.—Standard, granulated, 4½c; yellows 8.90c to 4½c. Syrups—Imperial gallons of 14 lbs. dark 88c; medium 8½c to 85c, bright 87c to 40c to 42c; extra, very bright, 44c, special bright 45c to 50c. Molasses—West Indian, brls 88 to 85c; New Orleans, open kettle 50 to 55c; centrifugals, 80 to 40c; inferior grades 28 to 35c per gallon; fine Barbadoes, in brls, 44 to 49c.

Rices and Spices.—Rice—Bags 8½ to 8½c; do. Patna, 4½ to 5½c, do. Japan, 4½ to 5½c for common and 5½ to 6c for fancy; sago, 8½ to 4½c; tapioca 8½ to 5½c; whole pepper, black, 10 to 14c; do. white, 18 to 25c; ginger, Jamaica, 25 to 28c; Cochin 20 to 23c; cloves Zanzibar, 18c; allspice 10 to 18c; nutmegs 65 to \$1.10; cream of tartar 28 to 30c; domestic vermicelli and macaroni, 7½ to 9c; French 10 to 12½c, and Italian 18 to 15c.

Teas.—Japans, low grades, 14 to 16c per lb; mediums 18 to 24c, and fines 30 to 35c; Young Hysons, low grades, 11 to 15c; mediums 18 to 24c, and fines 24 to 30c; Congous, low grades, 12½ to 16c; r. mediums 18 to 25c; and fines 26 to 50c; Indias and Ceylons, low grades, 18 to 20c; mediums 22 to 30c; and fines 40 to 55c; Formosa colongs, 35 to 65c.

Coffees.—Green Rios 20½ to 22½c. Roasted coffees—Rio, pure, 25c; choice 26c; fancy 28c; extra 27c; Maracaibos 30c; Jamaica 25c; Java 8½c for Imperial; Java, old Government, 32½ to 35c; private growth, standard Java, 36c; Mochas, pure, 38c; genuine Arabian Mochas, 36c; crushed Java and Mocha 22c.

Canned Goods.—Quotations are; Tomatoes 80 to 87½c; peas 80 to \$1.50; corn 80 to 85c. Fish—salmon, 11's tail, Cohoes, \$1.10 to \$1.20; 1's tail, prime red, \$1.35; Horseshoe \$1.40; beans 85 to 90c; pumpkins 80 to 90c; strawberries, 2's \$2.35 to \$2.45; raspberries 2's \$2.25 to \$2.30; peaches 2's \$1.95 to \$2; 2's \$2.90 to \$3; plums 2's \$1.75, 3's \$2.60 to \$2.85.

Dried Fruits.—New crop Valencia, off stalk, 44 to 5c; fine, off stalk, 5 to 5½c; selected, 6c; selected layers 6½c; these are for prompt shipment; '94 crop, good stock, worth from 85 to 90c for fine off stalk, and for selected and layers, \$1.10 to \$1.20 per box; Bosnia prunes sold out; good French 4½ to 5½c in cases of 50 lbs each; new Grenoble walnuts 12½ to 13½c; good '94 crop is offering here at 14c; Sultanias 5½ to 8c for common and 10c for fancy bright; London layers 22-lb box, new \$1.75; blue buckets \$3. Prunes—case Dufour French prunes 5½c; Bosnia, in casks, 8½ to 4c. Figs—Elenes, 12 lb boxes, 9 to 10c, and seven crown 14 to 15c. Filberts 9 to 10c; shelled Jordan almonds 45 to 50c; shelled Valencia almonds, 22 to 25c per lb; Tarragona almonds 12 to 13c per lb; walnuts, new Grenobles, 12 to 18c, and Bordeaux 10c. Peel—Orange, 12 to 15c per lb; citron 15 to 18c; lemon 11 to 14c; Halloween dates 4½ to 4¾c; evaporated California nectarines 18c; peaches 7½ to 10c; apricots 13½ to 14c; pears 9 to 12c. Provincial currants, 4 to 5½c, and Vestizza currants 6½ to 7½c.—Globe, Feb, 17c.

The failure of Allan & Co., one of the largest retail dry goods houses of Ottawa, Ont., is announced. The firm is rated in the commercial agencies at about \$60,000.

To the TRADE!

Our Travellers are now out with a complete line of new samples of our specialties in

GLOVES, MITTS, MOCCASINS,
Etc., for 1896,

Expect an early call and kindly reserve orders till seeing our samples.

James Hall & Co.

Ontario Glove Works.
WINNIPEG BRANCH, 150 PRINCESS ST. BROCKVILLE, ONT.

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Commencing 25th February and
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LATEST NOVELTIES
INSPECTION INVITED.

D. McCall & Co'y.

WHOLESALE MILLINERY,
TORONTO - and - MONTREAL.

RAW FURS

WANTED.

WRITE FOR PRICE LIST.

R. C. MACFIE & CO.,

Established 1874. LONDON, ONT.

RUBLEE, RIDDELL & CO.

Commission Merchants

AND IMPORTERS OF

Green and Dried Fruits.

15 OWEN STREET,

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WHOLESALE

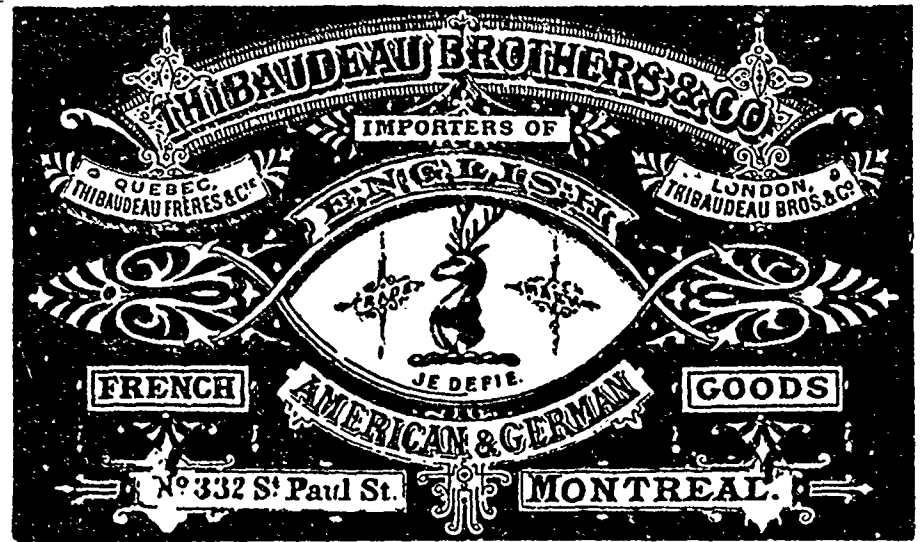
Commission :- Merchant

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NELSON, - - B.C.

Grocers supplies and General Merchandise handled on Commission. Best Cold Storage warehouse in West Kootenay. Correspondence and Consignments Solicited.

LIBERAL ADVANCES MADE.



SEE OUR SAMPLES OF

CLOTHING,

Hats, Caps and Straw Goods,

FOR SPRING 1896.

Are you Looking for Lines to Sort up?
Our Stock is well Assorted.

DONALD FRASER & CO.

WILL OPEN OUT ABOUT
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JOHN LOVE. J. E. McALLISTER. J. NIXEY.

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DEALERS IN

Wrapping Paper, Paper Bags, Twines, Office and General Stationery, Printers' Stock, School Supplies, Pipes, Mouth Organs, Combs Wall Papers, Stationers' Sundries, etc.

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DIRECT IMPORTERS OF

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Silverware, Cutlery, Lamps,
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STATIONERS,

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PRINTERS' STOCK,

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HAMILTON, - ONTARIO.

Enamelled Ware.

GREY (CRESCENT STEEL),
WHITE STEEL
GALVANIZED WARE
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Merrick, Anderson & Co. Agents,
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WHEAT 2 Bushels	B A G S .	FLAX 2 and 4 Bushels
FLOUR—Jute 49, 98 & 140 lbs.	B A G S .	POTATO 90 lbs.
BRAN 80 and 100 lbs	B A G S .	COAL 100 lbs.
SHORTS 100 lbs.	B A G S .	FLOUR—Cottons 24, 49 and 98 lbs.
OAT 4 and 5 bushels	B A G S .	ALL KINDS

Sewing Twines, Jute, Cotton and Flax.
Branding Ink, Blue and Red—5 Gallon Kegs.

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GRANULAR OGILVIE'S HUNGARIAN CREAMY FLOUR. HAS NO EQUAL.

STANDS unparalleled in its Distinctive Qualities and Peculiar Advantages. We are aware others are attempting to imitate our Brands, which is the Strongest Guarantee of the Superiority of

“OGILVIE'S FLOUR.”

WINNIPEG, Oct. 5th, 1893.

Messrs. Ogilvie Milling Co.,

GENTLEMEN:—I have great pleasure in giving you my opinion of the two grades of flour, Patent and Bakers, you are now manufacturing. It excels all other flours that I have ever used, and makes more bread per barrel, and gives me splendid satisfaction in my business, and I am very glad to express my opinion after a number of years experience in flour. Yours is certainly the best I have ever used. H. LISTER, Baker.

—IN HANDLING—

OGILVIE'S FLOUR

YOU HAVE

THE BEST

Each bag guaranteed. Sewn with our Special Twine, Red White and Blue.

OGILVIE'S HUNGARIAN,

Unequaled for fine Cakes and Pastry. Stands unrivalled for Bread Making. Make the sponge thin. Keep the dough soft. Do not make it stiff. For pastry use little less flour than usual.

North of Scotland Canadian Mortgage Co., Ltd.

MONEY TO LEND at Lowest Current Rates.

MORTGAGES and DEBITURES PURCHASED.

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WHOLESALE DOMESTIC AND IMPORTED

DRY GOODS AND GENTS' FURNISHINGS,

Now is the time for action!
Goods are advancing.

We have made ample preparations for this and can give our customers the benefit.

Our Spring Samples are now complete, and it will mean \$'s to you to see them before placing your orders. Our Mr. F. G. Crawford will call on you shortly, when the favor of your orders will oblige. G. H. R. & Co.

Best
Way to get a practical education is by attending Winnipeg Business College and Shorthand Institute for a term. Circulars free. Address G. A. FLEMING & CO., Winnipeg, Man.

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MONTREAL,

Solicit consignments of BUTTER, ETC.

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WHEAT,

OATS AND BARLEY WANTED!

Send Large Samples and Name Prices Wanted.

THOMAS McLAUGHLIN,
Board of Trade, Toronto, Ont

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, Feb. 18, 1896.

Business improved last week. Collections are reported fair. Few changes have taken place in the markets. Cured meats have advanced half a cent. There is no change in groceries. Flour and wheat are firm at the advance. Oranges have declined, other fruits remain the same. Vegetables are rather firmer. There is great activity among the different industries. All the lumber mills are working over time. The shipping of British Columbia is greater at present than at any time in the history of the province. The following ships are in Vancouver's harbor, s.s. Empress of China, loading cargo; British ship Candida, discharging cargo; British barque Inch Keith, discharging cargo; British barque General Gordon, loading lumber; British ship Mooltan, loading lumber; British barque Altcar, loading lumber; American schooner Cyrus, loading lumber; American ship Eclipse, loading lumber; German ship Beschoff, loading lumber; Norwegian ship Prince Albert, loading lumber; Norwegian barque Prince Regent, loading lumber; American schooner E. K. Wood, loading lumber; British barque Clan Buchanan, loading lumber; British barque Jno. Gambles, loading lumber; British barque Berkdale, loading lumber; Chilean barque Lake Loman, loading lumber; American schooner, Aida, loading lumber. The destination of the lumber fleet is as follows: Three for Adelaide, Australia, two for Valparaiso, two for Shanghai, four for the United Kingdom, two for Cork, one for Queensland, one for South Africa and one for Freemantle. In all 17 ships with a total capacity of 23,017 tons. The mining world is all anticipation awaiting the coming spring revival. The mining gossip of the moment is the big 600 strike in the Le Roi, and the possibility that the surrounding mines are just as fabulously rich. If this is the case the bright future for Rossland can hardly be conjectured. A shrewd Vancouver business man said to the Commercial correspondent to-day: "Rossland is the one spot on earth at the present moment for an ambitious young man with \$1000 cash. Next summer monied men would flock in there, and as is the case in all other towns of sudden growth, specie will have no particular value and the shrewd long-headed ones, who embark in legitimate business and keep cool under circumstances which would turn the head of any ordinary man, they will come out on top, besides the capital coming in to Kootenay. Money is being rapidly taken out of the ground. There will be nine spenders to one saver. Young man, go to Rossland, and be a saver." There is also considerable excitement over minerals found nearer Vancouver. Taxada Island, a few hours ride by boat from the terminal city, said for some time to be one great mountain of mineral, has only lately been prospected, and now Victoria and Chicago capitalists are preparing to invest a quarter of a million dollars in developing their claims on this modern island of Monte Christo. Preparations are also being made for the development of Alberni district, Vancouver Island, as it is thought the mines there resemble exactly the rich leads of Trail district. Silver has also been found close to the boundary of Vancouver, which has created some excitement here.

British Columbia Markets.

(BY WIRE TO THE COMMERCIAL.)

Vancouver, February 22, 1896.

The only change this week is a further drop in eggs of 8c on Oregon and 5c on local fresh. Butter is easier. Fresh meats tend higher.

Butter.—Dairy butter, 13 to 20c, creamery 25 to 26c; Manitoba cheese 10½c per lb.

Cured Meats. — Hams 12½c; breakfast bacon 18c; backs 12c; long, clear 9c; short rolls 9½c; smoked sides 10½c. Lard is held at the following figures: Tins 10½c per pound; in rails and tubs 10c. Mess pork: \$14; short cut \$16.

Fish.—Prices are: Flounders 3c; smelt 5c; sea bass 4c; black cod 6c; rock cod 4c; red cod 4c; tommy cod 4c; herring 4c; spring salmon 9c; halibut 7c; whiting 6c; soles 6c; steel heads, 8c; finnan haddies, 10c; crate 60c dozen; smoked halibut 8c; bloaters 10c; kippered cod 9c; sturgeon 6c.

Game.—Mallards, 50c; pintails 40c; widgins, 35c; venison, 5c.

Vegetables.—Potatoes now, \$10 per ton; onions silver skins, 1½c; cabbage, 1½c; carrots, turnips and beets, ¼ to 1c a lb.; sweet potatoes, \$2.50 per 100 lbs.

Eggs.—Fresh, local, 20c; Oregon, 19c per dozen.

Fruits.—California seedling oranges \$2 to \$2.25, navels, \$3.25; native apples \$1.00; California lemons, \$1.00 to \$1.50.

Evaporated Fruits.—Apricots 11c per lb; peaches 7½c; plums 7c; prunes, French, 4c; loose Muscatel raisins 4c; London layer raisins \$1.65 box.

Nuts.—Almonds, 18c; filberts, 12½c; peanuts, 10c; Brazil, 12½c; walnuts, 10 to 16c lb.

Flour.—Manitoba patent, per bbl., \$4.70; strong bakers, \$4.40; Oregon, —; Oak Lake patent \$4.50; do strong bakers \$4.80.

Meal.—National mills rolled oats, 90 lb sacks, \$3.00; 45 pound sacks, \$3.10; 22½ pound sacks, \$3.30; 10.7 sacks, \$2.60. Oatmeal, 10-10's, \$3.00; 2-50's, \$2.75. Off grades, 90 lbs, \$2.25; 2-45s, \$2.35. Manitoba Rolled Oats, 90's, \$2.25 45's \$2.35.

Grain.—Washington State wheat \$28.00 per ton f. o. b. Vancouver, duty paid. Oats 16.00 per ton.

Ground Feed.—National mills chop, \$21 to \$23 per ton; ground barley, \$22 ton; shorts, \$18.50 ton; bran \$16.50; oil cake meal, \$26 ton; F. O. B. Vancouver, including duty paid on import stuff.

Hay.—Nominal at \$8 per ton.

Dressed Meats. — Beef, 7c; mutton, 7½c to 8c; pork, 6 to 7c; veal, 7 to 9c per lb.

Live Stock.—Steers, 8½ to 4c lb; cows 8 to 8½c; sheep, \$3.75 to \$1.00; hogs, 5 to 5½c.

Poultry.—Chickens, \$4 to \$6 per dozen.

Sugars.—Powdered and icing, 6½c; Paris lump, 6c; granulated, 5c; extra C, 5½c; fancy yellows 4½c; yellow 4c per lb.

Syrups.—30 gallon barrels, 1½c per pound; 10 gallon kegs, 2c; 5 gallon kegs, \$1.25 each; 1 gallon tins, \$3.75 per case of 10, ½ gallon tins, \$4.50 per case of 20.

Teas.—Congo: Fair, 11½c; good, 18c; choice, 26c. Ceylons. Fair, 25c, good, 30c; choice, 35c per lb.

British Columbia Business Notes

A. M. Herring & Co., drugs, New Westminster, is burned out; fully insured.

M. Mason, tailor, New Westminster, loss by fire.

W. H. Beardsley, lumber, etc., Trail, has sold out to J. D. Mossman.

John Tapley, confectionery, Vancouver, is dead.

The stock of Thomas Houghton & Co., dry goods, Victoria, is in the hands of the chattel mortgagee.

At the request of the Toronto Trades and Labor Council, the Vancouver Council are petitioning the government against passing Bill No. 12, now before the House of Commons, relating to "Conspiracies and Combinations formed in restraint of trade."

The boards of trade of the province are petitioning the Dominion government to build a bridge across the Fraser river near Westminster.

A linseed oil mill will be in operation on the Fraser river at Mission city this summer. Until farmers are encouraged to grow the seed it will be imported from Manitoba.

The Columbia river has been open all winter, and boats have been running continuously. This fine river gives a means of communication into the famous Kootenay country.

The British Columbia boards of trade have passed resolutions favoring imperial federation in commerce. They will send representatives to the conference of the Chambers of Commerce in London, in June next.

The co-operation craze has extended to all industries and trades in the province. Labor is well organized and is a power in elections. The big combine in lumber is in force here. The fruit growers of the Fraser river valley co-operate. The farmers of Burnaby district have pooled their interests. The salmon business it is said, will be largely represented by English syndicates next year. There is a monopoly in the coal business, and last but not least, the dairymen have joined their forces, and it is altogether likely the provincial government will aid by land grants this organization with a view to lessening the enormous imports of dairy produce from Manitoba and States every year. The druggists co-operate in prices, and the man who undersells is downed by wholesalers. All professions have strong organizations for mutual benefit, the last one organized being that of mining engineers.

Grain and Milling Notes.

An answer has been received by the Winnipeg grain exchange from the commissioner of inland revenue at Ottawa, in reply to a telegram from the exchange, in which he says that the department has not considered the matter of changing the regulations regarding the grading of Manitoba wheat; and in any case, nothing will be done without every interest being given a chance to be heard.

The Commercial was asked the other day why we did not report the Montreal wheat market. The reply is, that Montreal has no local wheat market. While there are some large grain exporters located at Montreal, there is practically no local spot market there for wheat.

At the last meeting of the Winnipeg grain exchange the secretary was instructed to wire the department at Ottawa inquiring if it were intended to make any changes in the grain inspection act, and if so that this exchange be given full opportunity to make representations regarding such changes. In regard to the talk of dairy section of the exchange the opinion of the meeting was that dairy men should be admitted as associate members and that if necessary a reduced fee be established for the dairy section.

The Commercial has received a very fine calendar from The Richardson Stationery Co., Winnipeg. The excellence of the work is added to from the fact that it is a local production.

S. A. D. BERTRAND, OFFICIAL ASSIGNEE

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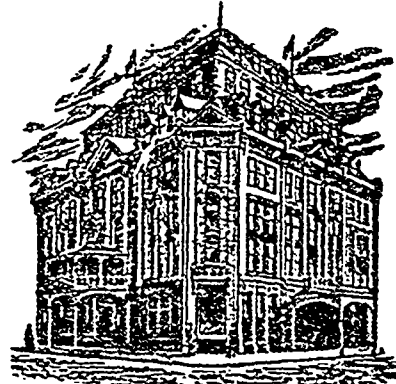
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THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, Feb. 22, 1896.

Stormy weather retarded business the most of the week, and reduced the grain movement, but the week is ending up fine. Country roads, however, must be bad after the storms of the week. Fine weather to enable the farmers to market their grain before the spring break-up is now desirable, though a heavy rush of grain now would bring a blockade owing to lack of elevator space. Business is beginning to increase, and may be expected to steadily improve as the season advances. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week show an increase of about 86 per cent over the corresponding week a year ago, and about 22 per cent over the like week two years ago. All Canadian clearing houses aggregate an increase of about 12 per cent over a year ago.

Canada had 58 failures this week against 70 a week ago, 83 in the corresponding week a year ago, 53 two years ago, and 36 in the like week in 1893 as reported by Bradstreets.

In the United States this week, Bradstreet's says: "The record of declining quotations begun last week is continued for some varieties of cotton, in the tendency of quotations of wool to decline, and lower prices of wheat, liquor, corn, oats, pork, lard and petroleum. Iron and steel is in moderate demand and steady, with a request for rails relatively most encouraging, and there is no change in quotations for lumber or for coal. The conspicuous advances are of coffee and sugar, although leather is firm after the advance for hides a week ago."

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Feb. 22.

[All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are wholesale for such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reduction on large quantities and to cash discounts.]

COAL.—There is no change locally in coal. From the west it is reported that the output at the Lethbridge colliery has been curtailed by the closing down of one shaft. The weather has been cold causing a good local demand. Winnipeg prices are as follows: Pennsylvania anthracite, \$8.50 per ton, delivered to consumers; Souris lignite, \$1.25 per ton, delivered to consumers, and \$3.85 at the yard here; Lethbridge bituminous \$3.50 to consumers; western anthracite, \$8.50 per ton to consumers.

CORDWOOD.—We quote prices as follows for car lots on track here; Tamarac, good, \$1.00; mixed or poorer tamarac, \$3.50 to \$3.75; pine, \$3.25 to \$3.50; spruce, \$2.75 to \$3.00; oak, dead, \$2.75 to \$3.00; oak, good, green cut, \$3.75; poplar, dead, \$2.00; poplar, green cut, dry, \$2.25 per cord.

FISH.—Selkirk dealers, says the Record, are paying the following prices to fishermen: Whitefish, boxed, 5 to 5½c; do., loose, 4½c; pickerel, boxed, 4 to 4½c; do., loose, 3½ to 3¾c; jackfish, boxed, 1½c; do. loose, 1½c; tullibees, 1½ to 1¾c; sturgeon 5c; catfish 4½c. The Record also reports shipments of eight carloads of Lake Winnipeg fish within the week, five of which were from freezers and three cars of winter caught fish. In the Winnipeg market, jobbing prices are: Cod, 9c a lb; haddock 9c a lb; salmon, 14c; halibut 12½c; smelts 9 to 10c; Lake Superior trout, 9c; whitefish, 5½ to 6c; pickerel 4 to 4½c; pike 2½ to 3c; perch 2 to 2½c; sturgeon 6c; herring haddies 7 to 7½c, or \$2.10 to \$2.25 per box; kippered goldeyes 30c doz.; oysters \$1.50 to \$2.00 for standards and \$2.00 to \$2.25 select, per gallon, extra select \$2.35 to \$2.45; oysters, in cans, select, 55 and standards 50c per

can; shell oysters, \$7.50 to \$8 per barrel. Cured fish are quoted: Boneless codfish, 40lb boxes 7c, do crates 7½c; boneless fish, 40lb boxes, 5c; smoked herrings, 15 to 20c box; dry cod \$6 per box of 100 lbs.; salt whitefish \$5 per barrel of 100 pounds; salt lake trout \$6 per barrel; salt herring, ¼-barrel \$1.

GROCERIES.—Sugars keep very firm, and a further advance is expected. Molasses is strong. A Montreal report says the market will open there for new goods 6c higher than last spring, owing to higher prices in the West Indies.

HARDWARE.—There is no change in the local market. Advices from the east say that manufacturers will advance the price of building paper there at once. Prices are as follows:

TIN, lamb and 56 and 28 lb. ingots. r lb, 20 to 21c.

TIN PLATES.—Charcoal plates, 1. C., 10 by 14, 12 by 12 and 14 by 20, per box, \$1.50 to \$1.75; I. X., same sizes, per box, \$3.75 to \$6; I. C., charcoal, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$8.50 to 9.00; I. X., per box, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$10.50 to 11.00.

TERNE PLATES.—I. C., 20 by 28, \$3.50 to 9.00.

IRON AND STEEL.—Bar iron, per 100 lbs. base price, \$2.50 to \$2.65; band iron, per 100 lbs., \$3.00 to \$3.15; Swedish iron, per 100 lbs., \$5.25 to 6; sleigh shoe steel, \$3.25 to 5.50; best cast tool steel, per lb, 12 to 13c; Russian sheet, per lb, 12 to 13c.

SHEET IRON.—10 to 20 gauge, \$3.00; 22 to 24 and 26 gauge, \$3.25; 28 gauge, \$3.50.

CANADA PLATES.—Garth and Blaina, \$3.00 to \$3.10.

GALVANIZED IRON.—Queen's Head, 22 to 24 gauge, per lb., 5c; 26 gauge, per lb., 5½c; 28 gauge, per lb., 5¾c.

IRON PIPE.—50 to per 60 cent. off list.

CHAIN.—Best proof coil, 3-16 inch, per lb. 6½ to 6¾c; ½ inch, per lb, 6 to 6½c; 5-16 inch, per lb., 5¾ to 6c; ¾ inch, per lb., 5½ to 5¾c; 7-16 inch, per lb., 4¾ to 5c; ½ inch, per lb., 4¾ to 5c.

LEAD.—Pig, per lb., 4½c.

SHEET ZINC.—In casks, 5½c lb., broken lots, 6c.

SOLDER.—Half and half (guar) per lb, 14 to 16c.

AMMUNITION.—Cartridges—Rim fire pistol, American, discount, 35 per cent.; rim fire cartridges, Dominion, 50 per cent.; rim fire military, American, 5 per cent. advance; central fire pistol and rifle, American, 12 per cent.; central fire cartridge, Dominion, 30 per cent.; shot shells, 12 gauge, \$6 to 7.50; shot, Canadian, soft, 5½c; shot, Canadian, chilled, 6c.

WIRE.—Galvanized barb wire, plain twisted wire and staples, \$3.50 per 100 lbs.

ROPE.—Sisal, per lb., 8 to ½c base; manilla, per lb., 11 to 11½c base; cotton, ¾ to ¾ inch ar d larger, 16c lb.

AXES.—Per box, \$6.50 to 15.50.

NAILS.—Cut, per keg, base price, \$2.85 to \$3; common steel wire nails, 5 to 6 inch, \$3.50 per keg; 3 to 4 inch, \$3.80 keg; 2½ inch, \$1.09 keg; 2 inch, \$1.38 keg.

HORSE NAILS.—Pointed and finished, oval heads. List prices as follows: No. 5, \$7.50 box; No. 6, \$6.75 box; No 7, \$6 box; No. 8, \$5.75 box; No. 9, 10 and 11, \$5.50 box. Discount off above list prices, 50 to 50 and 10 per cent.

HORSE SHOES.—Per keg, \$4.50 to \$4.75: snow pattern horse shoes, \$4.75 to \$5.

WHITE LEADS.—Pure, ground in oil, association guarantee, 5.75 per 100-lb; white lead, assorted ¼ to 5-lb. tins, per lb., 9c.

PREPARED PAINTS.—Pure liquid colors; per gallon, \$1.15 to \$1.25.

DRY COLORS.—White lead, per lb., 8c; red lead, 5½c; yellow ocre, 2½c; golden ocre, 4c; Venetian, red, French, 3½c; Venetian, red, English, 3½c; English purple oxides, 4½c; American oxides, per lb., 3 to 4c. These prices for dry colors are for broken lots. ¼ per lb. less when full kegs or barrels are taken. American vermilion, kegs, 15c. English vermilion, in 30-lb. bags, 90c per lb.; less than bags, per lb., \$1; Paris green, 18 to 20c.

VARNISHES.—No. 1 furniture, per gal., \$1; extra furniture, \$1.35; pale oak, \$1.50, elastic oak, \$1.75; No. 1 carriage, \$2; hard oil finish, \$2; brown Japan, \$1; goldsize Japan, \$1.50; No. 1, orange shellac, \$2; pure orange shellac, \$2.50. These prices are for less than barrels, and include cost of cans.

SUNDRIES.—Glue, S.S., in sheets, per lb., 12½ to 15c; glue, white, for kalsomining, 17 to 18c. Stove gasoline, per case, \$4.00; benzine, per case, \$1.00; benzine and gasoline, per gallon, 50c. Axle grease, Imperial per case, \$2.50; Fraser's axle grease, per case, \$3.75; diamond, do, \$2.25 per case. Coal tar, per barrel, \$8; Portland cement, per barrel, \$4.00; plaster, per barrel, \$3.00; plasterer's hair, 90c. per bale; putty, per lb., 2½c. for less than barrels; barrels, per lb., 2½c.

WINDOW GLASS.—1st break is quoted at \$1.65 per box of 50 feet.

LINSEED OIL.—Raw, per gal., 68c; boiled, per gal., 66c in barrels.

TURPENTINE.—Pure spirits, in barrels, per gallon, 60c; less than barrels, per gallon, 65c.

OILS.—Range about as follows: Black oils, 25 to 30c per gallon; clear machine oils, 33 to 40c; cylinder oil, 50 to 75c, as to quality; castor oil, 10c per lb.; lard oil, 70c per gal.; tanner's or harness oil, 65c; neetsfoot oil, \$1.00; steam refined seal oil, 85c; pure winter bleached sperm oil, \$2 per gallon.

REFINED PETROLEUM.—There is no change in burning oils. Prices here are as follows: Silver star, 2½c; crescent, 27c; oleophene, 29c in barrels. In car lots 2c per gallon discount is allowed off prices in barrels. United States oils in barrels are quoted at 3½c for cocene and 30c for sunlight.

RAW FURS.—There has been some business doing. A large lot of furs was in this week from the eastern district, valued at about \$1000. The following quotations give the range of prices here. The prices cover the range from small to large skins, size color and condition being considered though skins are sometimes offered which are not worth the minimum quotations, on account of being killed out of season.

Badger	.....	\$0 15 to \$0 60
Bear, black or brown	.....	5 00 to 26 00
Bear, yearlings	.....	2 00 to 8 00
Bear, grizzly	.....	5 00 to 25 00
Beaver, large	.....	5 50 to 7 50
" medium	.....	3 00 to 4 50
" small	.....	50 20 to 2 50
" cubs	.....	25 to 60
" castors, per lb	.....	2 50 to 5 50
Fisher	.....	9 00 to 8 00
Fox, cross	.....	2 00 to 15 00
" kitt	.....	10 to 40
" red	.....	25 to 1 50
" silver	.....	20 00 to 75 00
Lynx, large	.....	1 50 to 2 50
" medium	.....	1 00 to 2 00
" small	.....	75 to 1 25
Marten dark	.....	1 00 to 4 50
" Palo or Brown	.....	1 00 to 3 50
" Light pale,	.....	75 to 1 75
Mink	.....	50 to 1 50
Musquash, winter	.....	03 to 07
Otter	.....	2 00 to 9 00
Skunk	.....	25 to 80
Wolf, timber	.....	1 00 to 2 75
" prairie	.....	25 to 75
Wolverine	.....	1 00 to 4 00

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT—GENERAL SITUATION.—Wheat has ruled lower this week, starting weak on the small decrease in stocks. The visible supply statement on Monday showing a decrease of only 193,000 bushels, while exports from all countries showed an increase, aggregating 7,700,000 bushels. Exports from the United States this week of wheat flour included, amount to 3,149,000 bushels, against 2,718,000 bus last week; 1,808,000 bushels in the week a year ago; 1,730,000 bushels in the week two years ago, 2,596,000 bushels in the corresponding week of 1893 and as compared with 3,307,000 bushels in the like week of 1892.

WHEAT. — LOCAL SITUATION. — Stormy weather which left country roads in bad condition, further checked the movement of wheat from first hands, and there was very little doing in Manitoba country markets most of the week. Prices in Manitoba have of course been affected by the declines in other leading markets. On Monday a drop of 2c went into effect in Manitoba country markets bringing the price to farmers, for No. 1 hard, down to 48 cents at 18 cent freight rate points, and again on Wednesday there was a further decline of 1c at country points. In March it is expected the farmers will begin to market their wheat freely and when that begins, the question will be where to store the wheat, as a lively movement would soon cause a blockade at many points. Prices now to farmers at Manitoba country points, on an 18 cent freight rate to Fort William are as follows: No. 1 hard, 47c, No. 2 hard, 41c, No. 3 hard and No. 2 northern 38c, No. 1 frosted 33c, No. 2 frosted 25c, rejected 30c. Nineteen cent freight rate points 1c lower, 20 and 21 cent rate points, 2c lower. At some points there is more or less variation from these prices, particularly for low grade stuff. There has been very little business doing in round lots. We quote No. 1 hard, afloat basis, Fort William, 61½c, No. 2 hard, 58½c

FLOUR.—The flour situation is easier, owing to the decline in wheat, but there has been no change in prices. Sales by millers here are now made at \$1.85 to \$1.90 for patents and \$1.65 to \$1.70 for strong bakers per sack of 98 pounds, delivered to city retail dealers; second bakers \$1.35 to \$1.45; XXXX \$1.20 to \$1.25, delivered. Brands of country mills are offered at 5 to 10c under these quotations.

MILLSTUFFS.—City mills are selling at \$9 per ton for bran and \$11 for shorts, delivered in the city, in small lots.

OATS.—The price has continued the same as last week, but late in the week the tendency was easier, owing to increased deliveries in the East. At Manitoba country points, for shipment east, cars are worth from 12 to 13½c, as to quality and freight rate. In the Winnipeg market dealers are paying 16 to 17c for farmers loads, per bushel of 31 pounds.

BARLEY.—Barley is as dull as ever, in fact there is hardly any sale for this grain. Car lots at Manitoba country points quoted at 14 to 16c, as to quality and freight rates for from feed grade up to No. 3, Winnipeg street market at about 17c for feed barley, per bushel of 48 pounds.

WHEAT.—Local farmers' market.—The price paid at the city mills for farmers' loads is 50c per bushel of 60 pounds for best quality.

GROUND FEED. Prices range from \$11 to \$13 per ton, as to quality, the top price for rolled oat feed, and the lowest price for mixed mill feed.

OATMEAL.—Rolled oatmeal is selling at about \$1.25 per sack of 30 pounds in broken lots to retail dealers.

FLAX SEED.—Prices to farmers in Manitoba country markets are about 60c per bushel.

OIL CAKE.—Oil cake has declined to \$16 per ton, including bags, for nutted or ground meal.

BUTTER.—No change in butter but the feeling is a little better. Dealers have adopted the wise plan not to accumulate stocks this winter. A car lot was exported this week. We quote good to choice dairy tubs at 12 to 14c per lb. and lower grades at 8 to 11c. Good rolls 9 to 11c, fancy boxes of small rolls or bricks of uniform size, color and quality, nicely handled, 12 to 14c.

CHEESE.—Cheese is jobbing here in small lots at 9½ to 10c for large and 10½ to 11c for small sizes.

EGGS.—Dealers are paying 18 to 19c this week for receipt of good fresh stock.

LARD.—Prices are: Pure, \$1.80 for 20 pound pails, and \$1.50 for 50 lb pails; pure leaf lard in 3, 5 and 10 pound tins, quoted at \$6.50 per case of 60 pounds, tierces 8½c pound.

CURED MEATS.—Hog products are firm. Smoked meats are quoted: Hams, assorted sizes, 11c; breakfast bacon, bellies, 11½c. do., backs, 10½c; picnic hams, 8c; short spiced rolls, 7½c long rolls, 7½c; shoulders, 6½c smoked long clear, 9c; smoked jowls, 5½c. Dry salt meats are quoted: Long clear bacon, 7½c per lb; shoulders, 5½c; backs, 8½c; barrel pork, heavy mess \$13.00; clear mess \$13.00; short cut, \$16.00; rolled shoulders, \$14 per barrel, pork sundries; fresh sausage, 7c; bologna sausage, 7c; German sausage, 7c; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 10c per package; pickled hocks, 2½c; pickled tongues, 5c; sausage casings, 30c lb.

POULTRY.—Poultry is really very scarce, and high prices would be paid for good stock; chickens are particularly scarce, and some were brought in from the States to supply the local demand, dealers are paying 10 to 12c for turkeys; 10c for ducks and 8 to 10c for chickens according to quality, and geese 10c.

DRESSED MEATS.—Dressed hogs are firm, and mutton is also firm. As high as 5½c has been paid by butchers for a few fancy hogs, and we quote \$5 to \$5.50 per 100 lbs. We quote country beef at 8½ to 4½c as to quality, good frozen beef will bring 4½c. Fresh, unfrozen, city dressed beef, 5 to 6c, as to quality. Mutton steady, and we quote 6 to 6½c for good mutton, and 7c for choice lambs.

GAME.—Rabbits, 6c each; jack rabbits, 50c each.

VEGETABLES.—Following are prices on the street market: Potatoes, 20c per bushel, cabbage 40 to 75c per dozen, as to size; celery 25 to 40c per dozen bunches; onions 40 to 50c per bushel; turnips 10 to 15c per bushel; parsnips, 40 to 50c bushel; carrots 30 to 40c; beets 25c bushel.

HIDES.—The range of prices is about the same as last week. We quote prices here as follows: Green frozen hides, 4½ to 5c, 5 lbs tare off Calif, 8 to 15 lb skins, 5 to 6c per lb; deacons, 15 to 20c each; kips, 4 to 4½c; sheep and lambskins recent kill, 50 to 60c. Tallow, 4 to 5c rendered and 2 to 3c rough.

HAY.—Baled prairie is quoted at about \$5.00 \$5.50 on cars here. Loose hay on the street market, \$3.50 to \$1.50 per ton.

LIVE STOCK.—There is nothing doing in cattle yet, but exporters are now beginning to stir around and shipping will be resumed soon. A couple of exporters from Toronto arrived this week to look up the prospects for buying export cattle in Manitoba this spring. We quote butcher's cattle nominal at 2½ to 3½c here. Sheep nominal at about 3½c. Hogs are steady at 14c off cars here.

Walker & Templeton are opening out in the hardware business in Winnipeg.

Davey Bros, general storekeepers, Westbourne, Man., have admitted George Barr as partner.

Wheat Stocks.

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains, for the week ended Feb. 15, 1896, shows a decrease of 193,000 bushels, against a decrease of 1,589,000 for the corresponding week last year and a decrease of 893,000 bushels the corresponding week two years ago, and a decrease of 759,000 bushels three years ago.

The following table shows the total visible supply of wheat at the end of the first trade week of each month for four years, as compiled by the Chicago board of trade and includes stocks at most important points of accumulation in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains. There are some important points not covered by this statement:

	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
Jan. 2.	83,631,000	80,223,000	81,238,000	45,907,000
Feb. 5.	83,376,000	79,583,000	81,391,000	43,161,000
Mar. 4.	78,765,000	75,569,000	79,088,000	41,556,000
April 1.	74,308,000	71,458,000	77,654,000	41,038,000
May 6.	62,198,000	65,160,000	73,069,000	50,190,000
June 3.	52,229,000	49,394,000	71,030,000	27,910,000
July 1.	41,610,000	51,057,000	62,316,000	23,261,000
Aug 3.	34,517,000	60,001,000	59,124,000	28,078,000
Sept. 7.	36,751,000	69,168,000	56,140,000	33,707,000
Oct. 7.	41,832,000	73,614,000	63,275,000	51,260,000
Nov. 4.	52,900,000	80,177,000	71,396,000	61,717,000
Dec. 2.	63,903,000	84,119,000	78,091,000	72,489,000
	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.
Jan. 4.	69,842,000	87,800,000	79,953,000	81,780,000
" 11.	68,945,000	80,611,000	80,133,000	81,030,000
" 18.	67,928,000	85,258,000	80,832,000	82,227,000
" 25.	67,623,000	81,665,000	81,234,000	81,437,000
Feb. 1.	60,731,000	83,376,000	73,813,000	81,390,000
" 8.	66,119,000	82,322,000	79,160,000	80,973,000
" 15.	65,920,000	80,733,000	78,067,000	80,214,000

Bradstreet's report of stocks of wheat in Canada on February 8 is as follows:

	Bushels.
Montreal.....	427,000
Toronto.....	31,000
Kingston.....	15,000
Winnipeg.....	236,000
Manitoba interior elevators	2,675,000
Fort William, Port Arthur & Keewatin.....	3,892,000

Total stocks in the United States and Canada as reported by Bradstreet's were as follows, on February 8, 1895:

	Bushels.
East of the Mountains.....	95,663,000
Pacific Coast.....	5,893,000
Total stocks a year ago were:	bushels.
East of the Mountains.....	105,318,000
Pacific Coast.....	13,118,000

Bradstreet's report for the week ended Feb. 15, shows a decrease of 207,000 bushels in stocks of wheat east of the mountains, making the total 93,455,000 bushels on the latter date.

World's stocks on February 1, 1896. (United States, Canada, in Europe and afloat for Europe) were 169,425,000 bushels, which is about 21,000,000 bushels less than the corresponding total one year ago, more than 23,000,000 bushels less than were so held two years ago, nearly 18,000,000 bushels less than three years ago but nearly 15,000,000 bushels more than were so held on January 1, 1892, 55,000,000 bushels more than on January 1, 1891, and about 53,000,000 bushels more than on January 1, 1890.

British Grain Trade.

The Mark Lane Express of Feb. 17, says: English wheats, to-day, were steady; fine whites were quoted at 28s to 30s. Foreign wheats declined 6d, California on passage being quoted at 28s 3d, prompt shipments at 28s 6d, and Oregon on passage at 29s. Flour was 6d cheaper.

Hutchings & Riley of Calgary, Alberta, have added to their harness and saddlery business the manufacture of horse collars and tents.

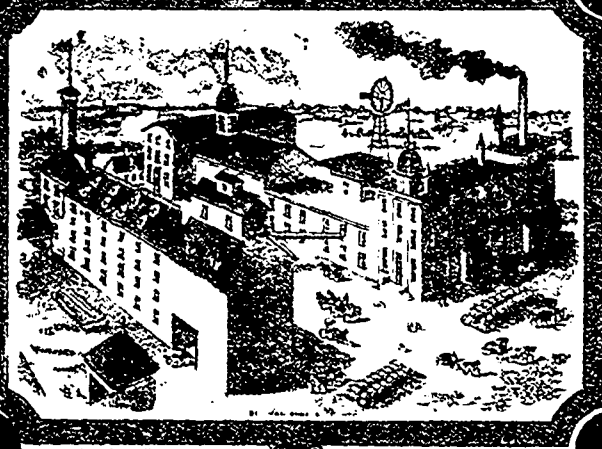
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Winnipeg Clearing House.

Clearings for the week ending February 20 were \$935,593; balances, \$230,603. For the previous week clearings were \$982,579. For the corresponding week of last year clearings were \$688,505, and for the week two years ago, \$732,381. For the month of January clearings were \$1,997,200 as compared with \$1,067,403 for January, 1895, and \$1,318,946 for January, 1894.

Following are the returns of other Canadian clearing houses for the weeks ended on the dates given:

	Feb. 13.
Montreal	\$39,579,000
Toronto	6,838,379
Halifax	1,222,934
Winnipeg	982,549
Hamilton	683,692
Total	\$19,206,554

Winnipeg Markets A Year ago.

Wheat.—No. 1 hard, c.i.f. Fort William May, 64 to 65c.
 Flour.—Local price, per sack, Patents, \$1.85; Bakers, \$1.65.
 Bran.—Per ton, \$12.
 Shorts.—Per ton, \$13.
 Oats.—Per bushel, car lots, 28 to 29c.
 Barley.—Per bushel, feed 35 to 38c, cars.
 Flax Seed.—95c to \$1.
 Butter.—Round lots country dairy 10 to 12c.
 Cheese.—Small lots 11c.
 Eggs.—Fresh, 15 to 16c round lots.
 Beef.—Frozen country, per lb., 3 to 4c, unfrozen butchers, 5½ to 6c.
 Mutton.—Fresh, and lamb, 7 to 8c.
 Hogs.—Dressed, 4 to 4½c.
 Cattle.—Butchers, 2½ to 3c.
 Hogs.—Live, off cars, 3½c.
 Sheep.—3½ to 4c.
 Seneca Root.—
 Poultry —Chickens, 5c, turkeys, 8 to 9c, geese, 7 to 8c, ducks 6c.
 Hides.—Frozen Hides, 3½ to 3¾c.
 Potatoes.—40 to 45c per bushel.
 Hay.—\$4.00 per ton, car lots.

Winnipeg Wheat Inspection.

The following shows the number of cars of wheat inspected at *Winnipeg for the weeks ended on the dates named, compared with the number of cars inspected for the corresponding weeks a year ago, as reported by Inspector Horn to the Board of Trade:—

Grade.	Jan. 13	Jan 25.	Feb 1	Feb. 8	Feb 15
Extra Manitoba hard.....	0	0	0	0	0
No. 1 hard.....	34	18	62	53	76
No. 2 hard.....	32	18	20	39	24
No. 3 hard.....	32	15	23	33	53
No. 1 North'n.....	6	7	9	11	7
No. 2 North'n.....	0	1	5	5	3
No. 3 North'n.....	0	1	1	0	1
No. 1 white fyte.....	0	0	0	1	1
No. 2 white fyte.....	0	0	0	0	0
No. 1 Spring.....	0	0	2	3	2
No. 2 Spring.....	0	0	0	2	0
No. 1 frosted.....	13	7	11	23	25
No. 2 frosted.....	9	4	11	4	17
No. 3 Frosted.....	2	3	2	9	7
No. 1 Re-fected.....	11	10	15	24	13
No. 2 Re-fected.....	32	13	45	51	20
No Grade.....	1	0	0	2	1
Feed.....	3	5	7	13	7
Total	176	107	213	305	227
Same week last year.....	51	30	30	51	34

Oats.—For week ended Feb. 15—No. 1 white, 0; No. 2 white, 5; No. 3 white, 0; No. 2 black, 0; No. 2 mixed 2, feed, 1; total, 8.
 Barley.—For week ended Feb. 15—No. 2, 0; No. 3, 5; feed, 3; total, 8.
 *Wheat inspected at Emerson going out via the Northern Pacific to Duluth, is included in Winnipeg returns. A considerable portion of the wheat moving is inspected at Fort William, and does not show in these figures.

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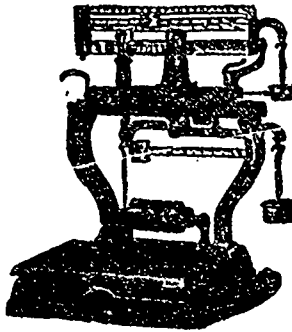
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 "Boys will do to trust as well as men with the Computing Scale."—D. C. White & Sons, Bairstown, Mo.
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Freight Rates and Traffic Matters

Chicago Trade Bulletin—of Feb. 17 says: Eastbound business continues fair in flour and grain, but it is rather slow in provisions. Western roads have reduced rates on wheat to Missouri River points from Chicago about 50 per cent. The tariff from Chicago to New York is 20c per 100 lbs on flour and grain, and 30c on provisions. Foreign freights were in fair demand and lower at 28 to 23½ for flour and 41½ to 44c per 100 lbs on provisions to Liverpool. A fair inquiry existed for boats to load grain and a few charters were made. The rate was easier at 2½c for wheat and 2½c for corn to Buffalo and 4½ for corn to Kingston.

The Soo road makes the following rates from Minneapolis to the following New England points on corn, oats, cornmeal, oatmeal and feed from corn and oats, in cents per 100 lbs: New York, 25c; Albany, 25c; Boston, 25c; Portland, 25c; Providence, 25c; Newport, 25c; Sharbot Lake, 25c; Peterboro, 25c; Kingston, 25c; Montreal, 25c; Ottawa, 25; Brockville, 25; Prescott, 25; Quebec, 25c; St. Hyacinthe, 25c; St. John's, 25; Sherbrooke, 25c; Greenville, 33c; Mattawankeag, 33; Vanceboro, 33; St. John, 33; St. Andrews, 33.

The Live Stock Breeders.

A deputation of the breeders of pure bred stock waited on Mr. Kerr, of the Canadian Pacific railway on Friday and requested a reduction in freight rates on shipments of pure bred stock, pointing out the advantage it would be to the country to have pure bred stock distributed among the farmers. Mr Kerr promised to recommend their case favorably to the management of the road.

The directors of the Sheep and Swine Breeders and Pure Bred Cattle Breeders associations waited upon Premier Green-

way on Friday and asked that the government should recognize the value of the work being done in the live stock interests by granting each association the modest sum of \$200 per annum.

Dockage on Live Stock.

At the meeting of the live stock breeders on Thursday night, in the city hall, Winnipeg, it was stated by Mr. Fraser, of Emerson, that it was the custom of the Winnipeg buyers to dock weights five per cent. As J. Y. Griffin & Co's name was particularly mentioned in this connection as the largest buyers of hogs in Winnipeg, Mr. Griffin asks The Commercial to state that it has never been their custom to make any such dockage on hogs received by rail. Hogs delivered by farmers from districts close by, which have usually been heavily fed before bringing in, are docked for shrinkage, but hogs that come in from a distance by rail and have not been fed for some time are already shrunk, so as to make dockage unnecessary.

Sutter & Dunlop, dealers in clothing, Edmonton, Alberta have assigned.

Abraham Harder, general storekeeper, Plum Coulee, Man., has taken D. C. Peters into partnership and the business will be continued by Harder & Peters.

Thos. Nichols elevator at Rosebank, Man., was burned last week, estimated loss about \$7,000; insured.

A deputation from the retail druggists waited upon the attorney-general at Winnipeg this week in reference to the certain changes contemplated in the license act, which affect the sale of liquor by druggists. It was shown that if the amount of liquor to be sold at one time to a buyer was reduced to the quantity under consideration, it would practically nullify the good that liquor had as a medicine.

Chicago Board of Trade Prices.

The prices below are board of trade quotations for Chicago No. 2 wheat, No. 2 oats and No. 2 corn, per bushel. Pork is quoted per barrel and lard and short ribs per 100 pounds.

Wheat was weaker on Monday, and May option closed $\frac{3}{8}$ c lower than Saturday, influenced mainly by the small decrease in stocks. Closing prices were:

	Feb.	May.	July.
Wheat.....	63	65 $\frac{3}{4}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn.....	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats.....	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mess Pork..	9 85	10 05	—
Lard.....	5 42 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 60	—
Short Ribs..	5 02 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 22 $\frac{1}{2}$	—

On Tuesday wheat was irregular within a moderate range, and closed slightly lower than yesterday. Closing prices were:

	Feb.	May.	July.
Wheat....	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	65	61 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn.....	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats.....	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	21
Mess Pork..	9 85	10 02 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Lard.....	5 42 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 65	—
Short Ribs..	5 05	5 22 $\frac{1}{2}$	—

On Wednesday light receipts and cold weather had a firming influence, and prices made some gain. Closing prices were:

	Feb.	May.	July.
Wheat....	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$	65 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn.....	28	30	31
Oats.....	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	21
Mess Pork..	9 8J	10 00	—
Lard.....	5 42 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 57 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Short Ribs..	5 0J	5 22 $\frac{1}{2}$	—

On Thursday the tendency of wheat was downward, May showing a loss of about $\frac{1}{8}$ c. Closing prices were:

	Feb.	May.	July.
Wheat....	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	65	65
Corn.....	28	30	31
Oats.....	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	21	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork.....	9 85	10 05	—
Lard.....	5 40	5 57 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Short Ribs	5 05	5 22 $\frac{1}{2}$	—

On Friday prices were irregular, weak at the start, advanced on buying of cash wheat, declined again, closing lower. Closing prices were:

	Feb.	May.	July.
Wheat.....	62 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	64 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn.....	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	31 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats.....	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
Mess Pork..	9 87 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 05	—
Lard.....	5 45	5 60	—
Short Ribs.	5 10	5 25	—

To-day (Saturday) is a holiday (Washington's birthday), consequently there is no market to report.

Minneapolis Wheat.

No. 1 Northern wheat closed on Friday as follows: May delivery at 59 $\frac{3}{8}$ c, and 61 $\frac{1}{8}$ c for July. Saturday a holiday.

New York Wheat.

On Friday, Feb. 21, May delivery closed at 71 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, and July delivery at 70 $\frac{3}{8}$. Saturday, (to-day) a holiday.

Duluth Wheat Market.

No. 1 Northern wheat at Duluth closed as follows on each day of the week:

Monday—Feb., 59 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, May, 61 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
 Tuesday—Feb., 59 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, May, 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
 Wednesday—Feb., 60 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
 Thursday—Feb., 59 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, May, 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
 Friday—Feb., 59 c, May 61 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
 Saturday—Holiday, no market.

A week ago to-day, (Saturday) prices closed at 62 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for May. A year ago May delivery closed at 60 $\frac{3}{8}$ c. Two years ago May closed at 59 $\frac{1}{8}$ c. No. 1 hard was quoted at about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c over No. 1 northern, No. 2

northern, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c lower than No. 1 northern for cash wheat.

Montreal Grain and Produce Market.

Grain.—The demand for oats in car lots is fair, and sales were made at 81c, but some holders are asking as high as 81 $\frac{1}{2}$ c and 81 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. Prices are: barley, feed 88 to 89c; Barley, malting 52 to 51c.

Flour.—The tone of the flour market is firm, and values are maintained, notwithstanding the continued easy feeling in wheat. Manitoba millers report the demand slow at present. Prices are: Winter wheat, \$1.40; Spring wheat, patents \$1.25; straight roller, \$1.10; Straight roller bags \$1.95 to \$2; extra bag, \$1.75 to \$1.85; Manitoba strong bakers, \$1.

Oatmeal.—There was no change in oatmeal. Prices are: Standard, bris, \$3.10 to \$3.20; granulated, bris \$3.20 to \$3.30; Rolled oats, bris \$3.10 to \$3.20; Rolled wheat, per 100 lb., \$2.40 to \$2.50.

Feed.—The market for feed rules steady. Prices are: Bran, \$14 to \$15; Shorts, \$15 to \$16.

Dressed Hogs.—Outside of small jobbing trade, there is nothing doing. Carload lots are quoted at \$5.35 to \$5.40 and in a jobbing way, sales were made at \$5.60 to \$5.75 per 100 lbs.

Cheese.—Prices are nominal at 9c for fall makes and 8c to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for summer goods.

Butter.—Creamery meets a quiet jobbing demand and prices are maintained at 20 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 21c, while western roll dairy moves slowly at 14c to 15c.

Eggs.—We quote, fresh, 20c, Montreal lined, 18 to 14c, and western lined 12c to 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c per dozen.

Dressed Meats.—The market for dressed beef is firmer. Hindquarters are selling at 5c to 7c per lb., and fronts at 3c to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. The stock of dressed lambs here is large, there being fully 5,000 carcasses on this market for sale, and if the weather becomes mild, a sharp decline in prices may be looked for, but at present, small lots are selling at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c per lb. 100 carcasses sold at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ c per lb.—Gazette, Feb. 19.

Live Stock Markets.

In the British House of Commons on Feb. 21, Right Hon. W. H. Long, member for Liverpool and president of the board of agriculture, introduced a bill to amend the Diseases of Animals Act of 1891, with the object of abolishing the discretion now enjoyed by the minister of agriculture to admit foreign cattle, and to make the present restrictions permanent.

Robert Ironside, of the Manitoba live stock firm of Gordon & Ironside, shipped a train of cattle out of Chicago recently. The cattle go to the old country markets via St. John, New Brunswick. This is a new move for the firm to take a hand in the Chicago export trade. They will resume shipping Manitoba cattle shortly.

At Liverpool on Feb. 17 the market was firmer for cattle, but prices show no material change from a week ago. Sheep were $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 1c per lb lower, at 10c to 11c. Best States cattle 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, and Argentines 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. A private cable from Liverpool quoted best States cattle at 10c and lambs at 15c.

At the east end abattoir, Montreal, on Feb. 17, the feeling was weaker, prices being $\frac{1}{2}$ c per lb lower. Some of the best cattle sold at 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, and in a few cases as high as 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ c was made, but the ruling price was 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Fair stock sold at 3c to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; common, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ c; and inferior, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 2c per lb, live weight. There were only 18 sheep, and these sold at 3c to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c per lb.

At the Point St. Charles market, Montreal, on Feb. 17, the receipts of hogs were

larger and the feeling was weaker, prices declining $\frac{1}{2}$ c to $\frac{3}{4}$ c per lb. The demand was fair, and sales were made at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ c per lb.

The Toronto cattle market on Feb. 18 was dull. Receipts were 80 cars. Butchers' cattle were steady at 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ c per lb for good, and a few picked went a little higher, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for medium, and 2c to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for common. Few export bulls were taken at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ c per lb. Stockers and feeders were inactive at 2c to 8c per lb. Sheep steady at 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ c per lb. Lambs were firmer, at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ c per lb. Milch cows and springers steady at \$20 to \$35 each. Hogs weak at 4c for best bacon hogs, and \$3.80 to \$4 per cwt for fats and stores.

At Chicago on Feb. 21, hogs met with a good demand, and prices were 10c higher. The supply was taken at \$3.85 to \$1.10, the bulk of the sales being at \$1.10 to \$1.15. This partial recovery left prices 5c to 10c lower than a week ago.

On Friday fire broke out in the basement of the Fleming drug store block at Brandon. The firemen were quickly on the scene and succeeded in subduing the flames, but not soon enough to prevent a loss estimated at \$3,000.

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The Live Stock Breeders.

The second annual convention of the Manitoba live stock breeders, held under the auspices of the Sheep and Swine breeders' and the Pure-bred Cattle breeders' associations, met in Winnipeg last week and were largely attended, and probably the most successful meeting ever held. The following officers were elected for the Sheep and Swine Breeder's association: President, Wm. Kitson, Burnside; first vice-president W. W. Fraser, Emerson; second vice-president, Robert Lang, Oak Lake; secretary treasurer, G. H. Greig; directors, (sheep), James Bray, Thomas McCarty, — McMillan, James Vance (swine), James Elder, A. B. Potter, A. Graham and S. J. Thompson, M.P.P.; auditors, Richard Waugh and S. A. Bedford, representatives to provincial fairs, (Winnipeg Industrial), A. Graham, Pomeroy; Portage la Prairie, President Kitson; Brandon. — Leitch; Carberry, S. J. Thompson, M.P.P.; Regina, A. McKay. The appointment of representatives to the other provincial shows was referred to a committee who will report later.

A committee was appointed to wait upon the provincial government with a request for an annual grant to the association. A. Graham urged the association to use their influence with the legislature to assist the Winnipeg Industrial exhibition company with a liberal annual grant. The Winnipeg exhibition is, he said, essentially a provincial one and as such should secure the support of the government. The great bulk of the prize money goes annually to the country exhibitors: the city council and the citizens are liberal supporters of the exhibition, and the stock breeders, and all classes of agriculturists should show their appreciation of an enterprise, which has for its aim the advancement of the whole province, by lending it every support and assistance possible. Mr. Graham paid a high compliment to the directors and manager of the Industrial.

At the meeting of the cattle breeders the president called attention to the association's lack of funds to enable them to carry out the objects of the association, and recommended the appointment of a committee to wait upon the government and ask for a grant, which would be devoted to the payment of special prizes for pure bred stock. The following committee was appointed accordingly: Walter Lynch, J. S. Robson, H. O. Aycarst, and the secretary G. H. Greig.

The prize list was then taken up, and some important changes in classification were suggested to be recommended to the Industrial exhibition directors. A great deal of interest was manifested in this question, a majority of the members speaking to it, and it was finally decided to leave the details of re-arranging the prize list with the directors, who were granted full power to act.

In the afternoon a joint meeting of the two associations was held, Mr. Bedford in the chair.

James Riddle, of Tobacco Creek, read a paper on the "Adaptability of Manitoba for the Raising of Sheep, and their Management."

Dr. Rutherford, M.P.P., spoke on the "Principles of Breeding." The doctor prefaced his remark by a short dissertation on the great advantages which are afforded by mixed farming. He warned breeders against perpetuating diseased or poor strains, and especially to guard against the dreaded pest tuberculosis.

President Aycarst read a short paper "A Retrospective and Prospective View of the Cattle Breeding Industry," in which he traced the history of the cattle trade in Manitoba, from its small beginning to the present, contrasting the time, a few years ago, when cattle were imported for food supply, with last year, when the province exported 22,000 head of live cattle.

"Mutton Sheep in Manitoba," by Mr.

William Wallace, of Niverville, was an instructive paper showing the possibilities of successful sheep farming, and its importance on the future welfare of the province.

At the evening session Mr. Long read a paper on, "How I Am Feeding My Breeding Stock This Winter." "A Criticism of the Papers on Swine in the 1895 Bulletin," was read by W. W. Fraser of Emerson. Mr. Fraser hoped that the transportation companies would see the justice of making concessions, which would tend to the mutual benefit of the railways and the stockmen.

Angus McKay, superintendent of the Indian Head experimental farm, read a paper on, "The Swine Industry of the Northwest Territories." He pointed out the folly of farmers putting all their energies and hopes into wheat-growing and neglecting those branches of farming that would ensure them a comfortable living, if not a large profit. One of these was hog raising. He would not advise the establishment of hog ranches. Mr. McKay advised fattening before the extreme cold weather set in.

Mr. Walter Lynch, of Westbourne, told "Why I like the Shorthorns," in an entertaining and instructive paper. He made a strong plea for the Shorthorns as a general purpose, good, all round breed of cattle, which combines more points of excellence than any other class.

David Munro moved the following resolution which was seconded by Walter Lynch and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, that the joint associations of the Pure Bred Cattle Breeders and the Sheep and Swine Breeders desire to express their appreciation of the liberal encouragement given by the local government to these interests and the dairy industry, and believing as we do that the pure bred stock industry lies at the very foundation of the dairy interest, and of the prime beef, pork and mutton production of the province, that we strongly urge upon them the desirability of giving a grant of at least \$5,000 to the Winnipeg Industrial exhibition association for the continued usefulness of this very successful and popular institution; and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the provincial government.

It was moved by W. W. Fraser and resolved that a deputation wait upon the railway and express companies re the reduction of freight and express rates on pure bred stock for breeding purposes in less than car lots.

S. A. Bedford, of the Brandon experimental farm, read a practical paper on "Fattening Steers." He went into the details of keeping and feeding steers for fattening, giving the figures of quantities of food, description of feed, with opinions as to the most profitable kind, and a calculation of the profits derivable from the sale of properly fed animals.

In answer to an inquiry Angus McKay related his experience with Austrian brome grass and recommended its culture as an excellent pasture grass, of vigorous and early growth and good for curing purposes.

Addresses by L. A. Hamilton, president of the Winnipeg Industrial and Hon. Robt. Watson, concluded the proceedings.

Winnipeg Board of Trade.

A meeting of the council of the board was held Thursday afternoon, when a letter was read from the chamber of commerce at Rochester, N. Y., which enclosed a resolution expressing the favorable opinion of the members of that chamber to the establishment of an international arbitration board, to settle all disputes on matters arising between Great Britain and the United States. The Rochester chamber asked the Winnipeg board to express an opinion in the matter. A favorable resolution will be forwarded to Rochester.

Several communications from the Hon. J. F. Wood, comptroller of customs, were read, relating to the immediate removal of the customs postal package office from the present examining warehouse in the southern end of the city to the postoffice building. Mr. Wood enclosed a letter from the minister of public works, stating that orders had already been given to proceed at once with the necessary work.

Regarding the question of the removal of the customs house from its present inconvenient site to a more central one, the council appointed a committee to again take up the matter and press for a change.

F. H. Mathewson, E. L. Drouwy and J. E. Steen were appointed as delegates from the board to the immigration convention.

The council has taken another three years' lease of their present offices in the grain exchange block, from N. Bawlf.

The matter of the bill introduced in the house of commons at Ottawa by Mr. Mulock, M. P., to reduce the legal rate of interest from 6 per cent to 4 per cent, was discussed at some length, it having been referred to the council by the Bankers' association at Winnipeg and Montreal. It was the unanimous opinion of the council that it would be very much opposed to all interests in this country that a change from six per cent should be made under the conditions existing in this country; and a resolution was ordered to be prepared to that effect, which will be forwarded to the minister of finance.

An invitation to the board to appoint delegates to the second congress of chambers of commerce for the British empire, which will be held in London in June next was left in the hands of the president.

Heavy Expenditure Proposed.

After the wine at the opening of the Manitoba legislature about the insufficiency of the revenue to meet the requirements of the province, the proposal so soon made to vastly increase the provincial liability, will come as a surprise. On Thursday the premier moved a resolution to the effect that it is expedient to assist the construction of a railway running in a northwesterly direction, west of Lake Manitoba, to a point west of Lake Dauphin, by guaranteeing the principal and interest of the first mortgage bonds of the company to the amount of eight thousand dollars per mile, said bonds bearing four per cent interest, and maturing at the end of thirty years, and by exempting the said railway company, its property and franchises from taxation during the period of such guarantee, provided, that the said bonds and interest thereon shall be a first charge upon the said line of railway, and its revenues and franchises, rolling stock and equipment.

The Dauphin district is admittedly a fine section of country, and it is no doubt desirable that it should be opened up, if we do not pay too dearly for it. The price asked in this case seems pretty heavy. This guarantee means a liability of about \$2,000,000 against the province. The road, as proposed, would also parallel the Manitoba and Northwestern for some distance, and so far as this would be the case, it is certainly an altogether unwarranted expenditure. Provincial aid should certainly not be given to any portion of the road running through a district which is already so well served. As the premier has reserved his explanation of the matter until the second reading of the bill, the details of the proposed enterprise are lacking at the moment, so that full criticism cannot now be made.

Last Saturday, says the Brandon Times, the retail grocery business of the Whitelaw Trading Company was closed, and hereafter the whole energies of the firm will be devoted to wholesaling.

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Venezuela's Commercial and Economic Conditions.

The special correspondent of the London Times at Caracas, writing on December 21, said: "Commercial interests in Venezuela are suffering from the by no means uncommon, but none the less unpleasant, experience of reaction after a period of undue inflation, this latter resulting from large amounts of foreign capital being drawn into the country for the construction of railways and other public works, the bait held out was the one well-known to European investors—a government guarantee of a certain rate of interest, in this case 7 per cent. being agreed upon. The total value of the capital so obtained and invested in Venezuela during the eleven years from 1883 to 1891 is stated to exceed £11,000,000 sterling.

"Commercial business is, however, on a fairly sound footing in Venezuela. The currency is on a sound basis, gold coin being the standard of the country, and the two principal banks being managed on sound business lines, and are in a perfectly solvent condition. The very high rate of interest undoubtedly checks the progress of the country, and the only plausible explanation is the constant fear of revolution and the want of confidence in the administration.

"As regards the trade of Venezuela with the outside world, the value of English goods is greater than that from any other country. Next comes that of the United States, then Germany, France and Spain in the order named. England supplies cottons, woollens and general merchandise; the United States breadstuffs, oils and provisions; Germany cutlery and general merchandise; France silks and fancy goods, Spain and Cuba wines and tobacco. As traders throughout Venezuela, the Germans are certainly first in importance and numbers.

"The value of the produce exported shows the balance of trade to be slightly in favor of Venezuela. The following is an approximate list of the exports in 1891 and values at the port of shipment:

Product.	Amount.	Value.
Coffee, tons.....	46,000	£3,680,000
Cocoa, tons.....	7,000	60,000
Hides, tons.....	170,000	90,000
Gold, ounces.....	50,000	180,000
Other products.....		100,000
Total.....		£4,110,000

"The economic condition of Venezuela is less happy than the commercial. Men with no knowledge of government obtain control of all political offices, and the country suffers from their ignorance and propensity to make use of power for their personal advantage. The better class of Venezuelans hold aloof from political life, asserting that to enter politics at once throws upon them the suspicion of doubtful morality, and possibly deserve the reproof administered by Plato when he says that the fate of people who refuse to take part in the government of their country is to be governed by worse men than themselves.

"In 1881 the population of Venezuela was stated to be 2,075,245; in 1891, 2,323,527, of whom 826,000 were of pure Indian blood; these Indians again were classified as 66,000 independent, 20,000 conquered and 240,000 civilized. In the principal cities and towns some attempt is made to educate the poorer classes, but this is only supported by the authorities in a most half-hearted manner. In the country districts the educational question is entirely neglected. Even amongst the Venezuelans who have been educated in Europe there is no idea of the necessity for the education of the peasant classes.

"Another fact militating against rapid economic development in Venezuela is the gregarious nature of the Venezuelans. Their habit is to flock into the cities and towns

rather than to devote themselves to the cultivation of coffee or cocoa estates or agricultural pursuits. Life in the cities has, to some extent, added a surface veneer to the raw material, but little beyond this. Among the Venezuelans I do not find that steadfastness of purpose which is so marked a feature with the Chilians, nor is there that polish of manner so frequently met with in Argentina. As to the possibility of Venezuela in the future producing men capable of administering the affairs of the country in an effective and strong manner, I can only quote the opinion of a well-informed Venezuelan on the matter. His words were: "Venezuela must come under the immediate influence of the United States or some other strong nation, for the reason that no satisfactory administration will be obtained by herself. I have watched government after government for forty years past, and the class of men you see at the head of affairs now is typical of what has gone before and what may be expected in the future."

"Coffee is the main staple of Venezuelan wealth, but many drawbacks exist to deter Europeans from embarking in the enterprise. A revolution breaks out, and male laborers are requisitioned to serve as soldiers on one side or the other.

"All these dangers are equally present to the growth of cocoa, and, indeed, to any undertaking necessitating the employment of large numbers of laborers. The sugar industry only survives in Venezuela owing to the fact that the importation of foreign sugars is absolutely prohibited. The result of the extreme form of protection is that a pound of coarse brown sugar costs from 8d. to 10d. Of other branches of agriculture the most important are the cultivation of Indian corn, beans, and the ordinary tropical fruits and vegetables for local consumption. The number of cattle in the country is estimated at between 4,000,000 and 5,000,000; they are mostly long horned, small-bodied animals of no great value except for their hides.

"The mining industry shows a very great falling off. In 1890 the value of gold exported was £349,230, as compared to £180,000 in 1891; in 1890 the copper ores shipped were worth £97,990, while in 1891 no copper was exported. Gold is found chiefly to the south of the Orinoco and in the Andine states, in the western section of Venezuela. In the former district is the once famous Callao mine, which paid fabulous dividends for a time. Most of the gold is alluvial, and is, as a rule, 'pockety' so far as experience has yet gone. It is known, however, that payable quartz exists, as in the case of the Collao, in several districts, and only requires cheaper transport to allow of working at a profit. The principal copper mine was situated not far from Puerto Cabello, but the mineral completely gave out after some years of working. Coal is found near Barcelona, but as yet its exploration has not proved profitable.

"An approximate estimate of the number of laborers employed in the industries which I have mentioned is as follows:

Industry.	Average daily wage.	Number employed.	Total yearly earnings.
Coffee, cocoa and sugar plantations....	3s.	41,000	£1,845,000
Gold mining.....	6s.	1,500	135,000
Cattle ranches } per month } and food }	£2 10s	8,000	240,000
Other farming... }	3s.	10,000	450,000
Total.....		60,500	£2,670,000

"At first sight the rate of wages may appear high to Europeans, but when the cost of living is considered the value earned is by no means too great. The necessities of life are costly to purchase on account of the high protective tariff, the duty on flour being over 10s. per 100 pounds for the ordinary and additional custom house charges.

"One great hindrance to the speedy settlement and development of Venezuela lies in the physical features of the country. The great mountain ranges, beginning close to the seashore and extending some hundreds of miles inland, makes all transport a long and tedious matter, and to overcome these difficulties by extending the existing railway system is beyond the present means of Venezuela. To-day the patient and hardy donkey is the sole medium of carrying merchandise from the fringe of the coast-line tapped by the railways to supply the needs of the inhabitants in the far interior.

"In all there are eleven separate railway companies, six of these being English, three native, one German and one French. In most cases the government subscribe a portion of the capital for construction, and to seven of the companies further guaranteed 7 per cent annually on a capital not to exceed £10,000 per mile of railway built. This guaranteed interest is now a bone of contention between the government and the companies, the former alleging the inability of the country to meet such heavy obligations, and the latter being unable to pay dividends to their shareholders unless the government fulfills the terms of its contract.

"Until the management of the country is in the hands of more responsible administrators than those who directed the destinies of Venezuela for the past decade there can be slight hope of any progress."

Handling Furs.

Jas. McMillan & Co., give the following instructions for handling furs: Fisher, foxes, lynx, marten, mink, opossum, otter and skunk, must be "cased," that is not cut open. In skinning out at the rump and turn the skin inside out (like a glove) over the body of the animal, leaving the pelt inside out.

Scrape clean, put a thin board inside the skin, cut the natural shape of it, stretching the skin to its fullest extent, but not so much as to make the fur thin. Too much stretching spreads the fur over a large surface and makes it thin and lacking in richness. Remove board when partly dry. Never use bent sticks, bows or anything in shape that yields.

Musk rats must be "cased," but with fur side in. Chop off the tails. Skin at the tail, and make rumps square. Muskrat skinned from the nose, rumps rounded with a bow, have less value and do not sell well. Muskrats must not be injured by shooting or spearing; trap them.

Badger, bear, beaver, cats, raccoon, wolves, and wolverine should be "open," that is, out open, up the belly from the rump to the head. After scraping cleaning and drying, stretch a uniformly oblong shape, but not so much as to make the fur thin. When thoroughly dry trim off legs, shanks, flippers, and any little pieces that spoil appearance of the skin.

Beaver are sometimes stretched almost round, but appear very much better stretched oblong. Value by the skin, never by the pound. They rapidly loose in weight. They bring most sold by the skin.

Trap furs. Spearing tears the pelt and shaves off the fur. Both do serious injury and lessen the selling price.

Do not cure with alum or salt. It injurs them for dressing and spoils their sale. Do not dry skins at a fire or in the sun, or in smoke. It often "burns" them and makes them more liable to spoil or ruin on being dressed. Dry in the open air where shady. Meaty skins often "burn." The meat and fat on them heats and "burns" them, and they then go to pieces and rot on being dressed. Too much warmth curls and spoils the top fur or hair. Never stuff furs of any kind; dry and stretch as explained. Do not stretch out the nose and make it pointed. It gives a south-

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ern appearance and lessens value. Do not cut off heads, ears or noses, or mutilate in any way. It lessens value and injures sale. Remove as much of bone from tail as possible, otherwise the tail rots.

Skins with the white stripe shaved out or any portion cut out, blackened or tampered with, must be bought at half price.

Fur-bearing animals must not be killed till they have at least a fair growth of fur. Stop trapping as soon in early spring as the fur begins to shed or becomes thin or a little faded.

Fur Trade Matters.

The New York Trade Review says: Raw furs are coming in only in small quantities, and the fact is a very good indication of the conservatism in the trade. There is no apparent disposition to offer unreasonably high prices with the uncertainty of inviting losses, each one being willing to give all the others a free field in these regards. In the country collectors are holding skins for better prices. We do not advise them to rush their goods to market, as the goods are not now required, but we merely suggest that they exercise fair judgement as to values when offers are made. Prices in general are nominal, and consequently no important changes have been made in the price current of last month.

A raw fur collector somewhere in New York State sent a large bag of muskrat skins to a New York house C. O. D. about a week prior to the London sales—so near to the sales that the New Yorker let the goods remain at the express office pending results from London, and when the cable announced the advance the New Yorker rushed for the goods, not supposing the countryman would know of the rise. But alas! the shipper, weary of delay, had in the meantime sold the rats to another party, not so cautious as B—for an advance of \$61 85 over C. O. D. rate.

An effort is being made on the Alutian Islands to farm the blue fox. Some of the small islands in the group suitable for the purposes of farming have been leased by some of the old trappers of the Hudson Bay and Alaska Commercial companies for a nominal rent, and these have been stocked with foxes. The animals are stockaded and regularly fed by the farmer, who is usually a "squaw" man, that is, one living with a native woman, who is settled with his family on the island. In time the animals become domesticated and are then easily managed.

The taxidermists at Denver, Col., report their business better than 1891. Prices were cut twenty per cent. during the panic and since have never been restored. This makes the value of work done for the past year, \$7,000, smaller than in 1890 and 1891, but the amount of work is estimated to have been

about equal to the best year. In this business there are only about four working months a year. During that time five workmen have been kept busy and \$2,000 was paid them for their services. More has been done in the line of mounting deer heads than in any other branch, and most of the work was done on Colorado orders, very few orders being received from the East. But few elk or moose heads were mounted this year and the demand for mounted birds has been very light.

Pacific Coast "Lumber Trust."

A Seattle, Wash., dispatch says: "The agreement made by the great lumber trust formed a week ago has gone into effect. Known as the Central Lumber Company of California, this trust represents nearly \$70,000,000 of capital, and is by far the largest combination of trade interests ever formed on the Pacific coast. Its membership includes every mill, ship owner and wholesale and retail dealer of any prominence on the western slope of the United States, as well as those of British Columbia. All charters of vessels and sales of lumber must be effected through the Central Lumber Company, which regulates freights and puts the buying and selling price on lumber, regulating also the product of each mill and proportionate amount of lumber each vessel should carry. Not only are the markets of the Pacific coast thus controlled, but lumber shipments to foreign countries are placed under the same restrictions. Every mill on the coast has its product regulated. The first order issued by the company was an advance in the price of lumber \$2 a thousand, which will mean an increase in profits of many thousands of dollars during the coming year."

The Ottawa River Canal Scheme.

The projectors of the Ottawa River and Georgian Bay Ship canal interviewed Premier Bowell on Tuesday, with a view of obtaining Dominion government aid. They pointed out that to deepen the waterways of the Ottawa and French rivers and Lake Nipissing to a depth of fourteen feet would necessitate the construction of about sixteen miles of actual canal work. The other operations would be confined to the removal of obstructions. The total cost is estimated at \$16,000,000. The deputation asked that the government of Canada guarantee the interest on the bonds to secure the construction of the canal. It was pointed out that the new route would shorten the distance between Montreal and Lake Superior by 368 miles, as compared with the St. Lawrence and Welland canal route. As compared with the route to New York via Buffalo and the Erie canal, a decrease of 495 miles would be effected.

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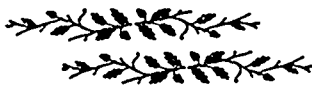
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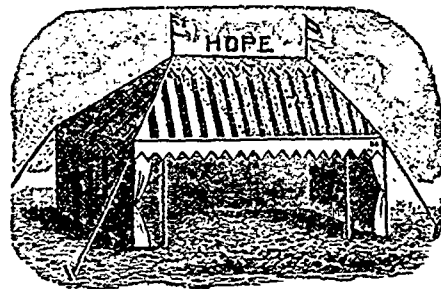
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Irrigation.

The report of the Interior Department for 1895 devotes considerable space to irrigation in the west, of which we take the following:

"During the past year irrigation has made rapid strides to the Northwest Territories, both in the actual construction of works for the supply of water for irrigation purposes and in the general desire evinced by the people to acquire information regarding the means of obtaining water and constructing irrigation systems. As was intimated last year it was found necessary to ask at the last session of parliament for some minor amendments to the Irrigation Act, these amendments being intended to facilitate and cheapen the cost of obtaining licenses for and recording the small ditches constructed by private individuals to supply their own wants. With these amendments the act seems well adapted to present requirements, says the deputy minister, and the record and authorization under its provisions of the large number of ditches and canals mentioned below is going forward smoothly and with satisfaction both to the ditch owners and the department.

At the close of the departmental year there were 121 irrigation ditches and canals constructed and in operation in the territories. All of these with the exception of some six or seven in the Maple Creek district of western Assiniboia, are situated in southern Alberta. At the close of the last year there were only some sixty ditches in operation, so it will be seen that the number has more than doubled during the past season. The completed ditches and canals comprise more than 300 miles in length, and the area which they are capable of irrigating is about 140,000 acres. Making a fair allowance for the time spent by farmers and ranchers in constructing ditches by their own labor and with their own teams, and adding this sum to cash amounts expended by companies and individuals in the construction of the larger systems, it is found that upward of \$110,000 has been expended in western Assiniboia and southern Alberta in the construction of these works.

The most extensive operations carried on during the past season were those of the Calgary Irrigation Company, which constructed some twenty miles of main canal, making with what was previously completed about twenty-six miles of canal in their proposed system available for the supply of water for irrigation.

In addition to the above mentioned constructed ditches, applications have been received for authorization to construct fourteen others, which will involve the building of eighty-five miles of main canals and will irrigate 48,800 acres of land. Most of these undertakings will be rapidly pushed to com-

pletion so soon as the necessary authority has been granted under the provisions of the Act.

During the year twenty-eight applications have been received for the issue of licenses for the use of water for domestic and other purposes as prescribed by the act, the larger number of which were filed by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company to cover the water tanks used by them at different points throughout the territories in connection with the operation of their main line and branches. In this connection Mr. Burgess remarks: "I doubt whether it was at all necessary for the company to take out licenses; but recognizing that it was in the interest of the public to facilitate the work of the department in connection with irrigation in every way, and realizing the importance of obtaining a complete record of all the water actually being used for the purposes designated by the state, they have generously complied with our requests in this relation without raising any question as to their legal liability."

The past season, especially in southern Alberta, was not a favorable one for irrigation, owing to the exceptional rainfall and cold weather, but even under these conditions the results have been satisfactory, and ditch owners report that their crops are much better than they would have been without the artificial application of water. This is no doubt due to the fact that the larger number of ditches are used for the irrigation of land producing fodder crops, and as the rains did not begin until late in the season, the crops on irrigated land had made considerable advancement before those dependant on natural conditions began to grow. The department have adopted the principal of obtaining from each irrigator a short statement of the result secured, and propose issuing this information in the form of a condensed bulletin, so that each irrigator may have the benefit of the other's experience. It is hoped that this interchange of information regarding irrigation and kinds of crops and results therefrom, supplemented by such hints as we can give founded on methods and results in other countries, will aid our settlers in understanding a principle which is comparatively new to most of them.

Duluth Elevator Capacity.


The rated capacity of the Duluth system of elevators is 21,500,000 bu., but the prominence which Duluth has assumed as a coarse grain market and the amount of those grains in store at the present time will cut into the aggregate materially, for the reason that bins have to be kept for the different grains and grades of same, and as a result dozens of bins are now and will continue to be only partially filled. The larger proportion of No. 2 wheat and lower grades in this crop, and the necessity of special binning a good deal of it will also cut into the capacity.

From interviews with different elevator managers the conclusion is inevitable that the total capacity now open is less than 7,000,000 bu. and possible not more than 6,000,000. And even part of this is now engaged by purchasers of wheat to arrive. Just how much of this latter there is cannot, of course, be told, but it would probably be a difficult matter to engage room for any considerable line of wheat, say 500,000 bushels or so.

If the quantity above mentioned should be filled by May 1, as now seems probable, Duluth would then have to store about 15,000,000 bushels of wheat and 4,000,000 bushels of coarse grain divided as follows: 2,800,000 bushels of flax, 1,000,000 of oats, 250,000 of rye, and 250,000 of barley, and corn, and unknown quantity liable to be anywhere from 200,000 bushels to five times that.—Commercial Record.

Canadian Forests.

The Northeastern Lumberman says: "Canada has always been regarded as a land of forests. This was certainly true a generation ago, and the term is still applicable, though settlement, fires and lumbering have made and are still making great inroads upon their woodland areas. The tree of greatest importance commercially has been the white pine, until of late years the most valuable element in the forests of Ontario, Quebec and New Brunswick. Now spruce, in various forms of logs, pulp wood and lumber, has taken its place as the most important wood. In the maritime provinces and Quebec, hemlock, tamarack and cedar also contribute largely to their commerce, both foreign and domestic. In British Columbia the huge Douglas fir or pine provides a large and increasing amount of lumber and timber for exportation. United States appraisers have ruled that the Douglas pine of British Columbia is a spruce lumber, and subject to the same duty as spruce."

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Manitoba Dairy Association.

The annual meeting of the above association was held in Winnipeg on Wednesday, Feb. 19. John Hettle, president, in the chair. The following report of the directors was read and adopted:

Your directors have reason for great satisfaction with the progress of dairying in this province during the past year. The number of inquiries coming in from all quarters during the year 1894 showed that the farming community have at last become fully alive to the importance of dairying as a branch of mixed farming, and in the early part of 1895 your president and secretary were being continually called to give information either by personal visits or by correspondence to those who proposed to embark on some form of dairy enterprise. In a good many cases the advice given was in favor of delay. Too few cows, lack of funds, scattering settlement were the objections offered against too precipitate action in starting dairy factories, and this counsel was more than justified by the events. Low prices in markets glutted by overproduction have very badly discouraged a good few factories, which, in spite of difficulties, were eager to make a beginning. But if prices were low for factory produce, home dairy butter was much worse and almost unsalable at any terms. The prospect for the future is that while factory butter is likely to do better on the market next year, home-made butter will get to be hardly saleable except in a very limited home market. It is specially important that factory patrons should keep this in mind, and instead of deserting the factory on account of unsatisfactory returns last year, go on to do everything in their power by increasing the number of their cows and cutting down cost of production to push the factory system to more gratifying results. Drawbacks at the start were inevitable even had prices ruled higher, but it is gratifying to find that in spite of low prices, a short season and limited production, the farming community are standing by their co-operative factories with the resolution to do all in their power to increase their production and turn out the best quality of goods.

The aid given to new factories, the appointment of a qualified dairy superintendent and the work of the dairy school are each and all the realization of the resolutions passed at previous meetings of this association, and towards the procuring of which its best energies have never been directed. Another feature of the progressing development of Manitoba dairying is the convention now being held to devise the best and most economical methods of marketing the products of our factories. The systematic sale on advanced business principles of our dairy produce is essential to the profitable expansion of our growing dairy industries, and your directors hope that the measures now being discussed by the dairy factory men will shortly lead to a happy issue.

In addition to the work done publicly and privately by this association an its directorate a bulletin has been published and freely circulated containing much valuable information, and your directors flatter themselves that no public institution has been able to show such an amount of good work done at so small a cost to the country. In every case where visits were made only expenses were paid, and the time spent has been given for nothing. The large attendance of skilled factory workers at the government dairy school is one of the most hopeful features of the situation. In a country like this where factories stood so far apart it is most important that every maker shall have the chance of comparing his own methods and opinions with those of his fellow-workers, and have the whole revised under the professional supervision of the government superintendent.

What is now urgently wanted is enough milk to turn their skill to profitable account.

Reference is also made in the report to the efforts of the provincial government to assist dairying.

Mr. Greig, who represented the dairy association on the board of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition Association, reported at considerable length.

The report of the secretary-treasurers showed the total receipts for the year to have been \$211.63; disbursements \$174.20; leaving a balance to the credit of the association of \$10.43.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of officers. Mr. Hettle was unanimously elected president; W. M. Champion, of Raeburn, was elected first vice-president and Richard Waugh for second vice-president; Miss E. Cora Hind was unanimously elected secretary-treasurer. G. H. Greig was appointed auditor and he was also elected as representative on the Winnipeg Industrial exhibition board. The scrutineers reported the election of the following gentlemen as directors. Robert Scott, S. J. Greenwood, D. Munroe, James Bray, Wm. Ryan, R. E. A. Leach, A. O. Allaire, D. W. McQuaig and J. S. Crerar.

Prof. Bure moved that the question of boiler inspection be referred to the legislative committee and that they request the legislature to lower the fees.

That the executive committee wait on the C.P.R., and request them to give lower rates on broken car lots, and also a reduction in freight rates equal to the rebate at present allowed.

At the evening session the proceedings were opened by the reading of an instructive paper on "Manitoba Dairying," contributed by J. A. Ruddick, and read by Richard Waugh. "The Importance of Dairying to the Prosperity of Manitoba," was a thoughtful essay by David Munroe, of Neepawa, who handled his subject in able and entertaining style. R. J. Philp read a valuable paper on "Drawbacks of the Western Factory System," in which he pointed out the existing obstacles and suggested means for their removal. S. A. Bedford, Superintendent of the Brandon experimental farm, spoke of "Mistakes in Dairy Feeding," and gave valuable advice to those present on the subject of feeding and on other matters conducive to successful farming. His paper and the discuss on which followed interested the audience greatly. Mr. Champion, of Raeburn, read a short and witty paper, "Gleanings by the Wayside," which was a change from the purely business tone of the other contributions. "Cold Storage," was a practical paper by J. J. Philp, of the Winnipeg cold storage warehouse. Dr. Hinman delivered a short but pithy address on "Tuberculous Testing of Dairy Cows." His remarks were supplemented by a brief speech from Dr. Rutherford, who conveyed a valuable amount of information in a few well chosen words.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Manitoba government for their liberal assistance to the dairying industry and the establishment of the dairy commission and dairy school; to the C.P.R., for refrigerator car service, and to them and the N. P. & M. and the M. & N. W. railway companies for their generous response to the association's request for a reduction of the freight rates; to the city council for the use of the council chamber; and to those who had contributed papers.

Live Stock in British Columbia

Cattle were scarcer in British Columbia last year than in 1894; this was due to the severe winter of three years ago, when many calves were killed off which would have come into the market this year. Another cause of the scarcity was the drain on the coast supply by the interior, owing to an un-

expected rush of settlers into the mining country of the province. In the present year cattle will be still scarcer, although there will be enough for home consumption until the spring, but prices will go much higher. In 1897 cattle will be freer unless another anticipated big rush into the interior takes place. However, in any event, it will be two or three years before cattle will be as plentiful as for the past three or four. British Columbia produces good stock, but the drawback in the past has been that ranchers have neglected to provide food for their cattle during the winter, trusting to mild seasons, and thus heavy losses were sustained. A silo is being experimented with in the Lower Fraser but has not been attempted in the interior. However, British Columbia cattle can be fattened up in the summer and kept sleek and in good condition through the winter on hay, rather improving in condition than otherwise. This fact is being brought home to the ranchers, and British Columbia cattle are now being sheltered and fed during the cold weather.

The import business is practically nil. In 1891 only 1000 head were imported from Alberta, and in 1895 only very few head were brought into the country. It was but seven years ago last August that the first cattle were brought from Alberta, and comparatively very few have been imported from there since.

Another ominous feature in this cattle business is that the ranges of British Columbia have been overstocked and the pasturage eaten off. If the province increased in population, new pasturages would have to be found, probably in the Peace River district, where there are large ranges, so that the province may be compelled to bring in cattle in future years.

The sheep business is discouraged in the province, there being an understanding among the ranchers to discourage sheep raising in the interior.

Although poultry and eggs bring such a large price in British Columbia the local raisers do not begin to supply the demand, chiefly because many chicken ranchers do not work on a scientific basis, and understand little about their business. Several successful poultry men, however, report that it is the most profitable branch of the mixed farm. The number of breeders of fancy stock is constantly increasing, and annual poultry shows are successfully held each year in the cities.

Financial and Insurance Items

The sixth annual meeting of the Manitoba Assurance Co. was held in Winnipeg recently. The directors, amongst other things, called attention to the company's great progress during the past year, the net premium being 47 per cent in excess of that of 1894, which latter was 20 per cent. in excess of 1893. The net fire losses paid, after deducting re-assurances, amounted to \$11,000. The amount of business in force is about two millions. During the past year the British North American Fire Insurance Company having retired from active business, its current business was assumed by the Manitoba. The new board of directors consist of R. H. Agur, president, H. H. Beck, vice-president, and Messrs. John Russell, A. M. Patton and H. S. Crotty.

City clerk Blevins, of Toronto, is preparing to send to the council of every city, town and village in Ontario copies of a draft bill now before the legislature to allow municipalities to establish their own fire insurance bureaux. There will also be sent pamphlets containing full information regarding the matter, as gathered by Ald. Lamb, father of the scheme, and municipalities will be asked to pass resolutions endorsing it and urge their representatives in the legislature to support the bill when voted upon.

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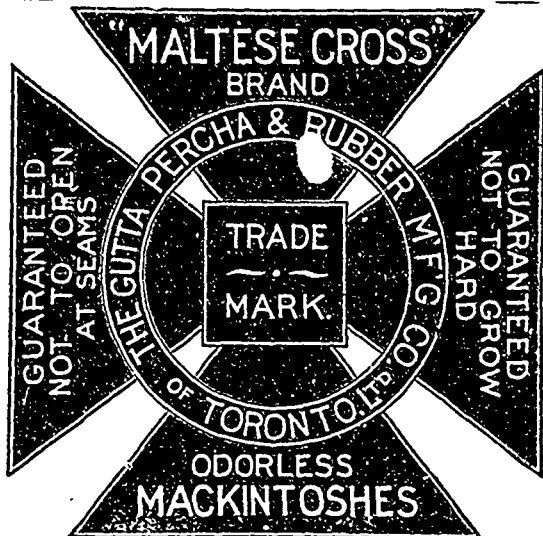
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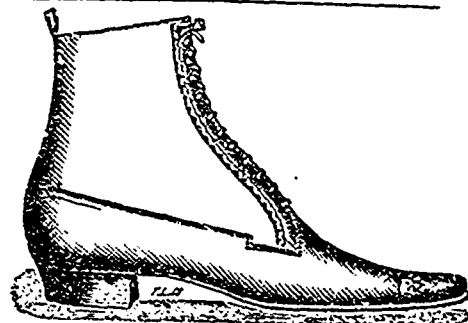
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Available Supply of Breadstuffs.

According to the returns of Broomhall's Corn Trade News, Liverpool, specially cabled to the Daily Trade Bulletin, the aggregate supplies of breadstuffs in Europe and afloat therefor on February 1, exhibited the marked decrease of 16,000,000 bushels during the month of January, against an increase of 400,000 bushels during December, and an increase of 5,600,000 bushels during January, 1895. The aggregate supplies were reported at 73,800,000 bushels, against 89,800,000 bushels on January 1, and 81,100,000 bushels on February 1, 1895. The quantity reported afloat showed a reduction of 3,900,000 bushels during January. The quantity afloat for Great Britain was decreased 500,000 bushels and 3,700,000 bushels to the continent, while the quantity "for orders" was increased 300,000 bushels. The aggregate quantity afloat was 9,200,000 bushels less than on February 1, 1895. The aggregate quantity of breadstuffs in store in the principal countries of Europe on February 1 was 12,100,000 bushels less than reported on January 1, and 1,100,000 less than on February 1, 1895. Stocks in the United Kingdom were reduced 4,800,000 bushels, in France 700,000 bushels; in Belgium, Germany and Holland 300,000 bushels; and in Russia 6,800,000 bushels. Compared with the returns of one year ago, the stocks in store in Great Britain are 2,600,000 bushels less; in Belgium, Germany and Holland 1,500,000 bushels less; in France 200,000 bushels more, and in Russia 2,800,000 bushels more. It is evident that Russia has been marketing wheat quite freely. The aggregate supplies in store and afloat for the United Kingdom on February 1 were 6,900,000 bushels less than last year, and those credited to the continent 600,000 bushels less. The quantity afloat "for orders" was 2,800,000 bushels less than reported one year ago.

DOMESTIC SUPPLIES.

The domestic supplies of breadstuffs in the United States and Canada, at the points reporting to the Daily Trade Bulletin and the Daily Market Record, of Minneapolis, exhibit a decrease of 5,696,200 bushels during January, against an increase of 5,610,400 bushels during December, and a decrease of 10,078,000 bushels during January, 1895, and 11,118,000 bushels during January, 1894. The aggregate stocks of flour exhibited a decrease of 91,000 barrels during January, against a reduction of 7,900 barrels during December, and a decrease of 105,100 barrels during January, 1895.

The supplies at the seaboard markets on February 1 were 493,315 barrels, against 510,535 barrels on January 1, and 445,807 barrels on February 1, 1895. The aggregate stocks at all points on February 1 were 320,400 barrels larger than reported one year previous.

During January the aggregate supplies of wheat in the United States and Canada decreased 5,512,200 bushels against an increase of 5,616,000 bushels during December, and a reduction of 9,695,000 bushels during January, 1895. Supplies throughout the East and on the Pacific coast were materially reduced, and slightly through the central west. In the northwest and in Canada, there was a fair increase in the supplies. The aggregate supplies of wheat on hand on February 1, were 11,855,500 bushels smaller than reported one year previous. Supplies on the Pacific coast are 6,817,000 bushels less than reported last year—a reduction of over 47 per cent. Supplies in Illinois are 6,689,000 bushels less, and in New York 6,433,000 bushels less. In the Northwest supplies were 13,399,000 bushels larger than reported on February 1, 1895, and in Canada were 1,971,000 bushels more, almost exclusively in Manitoba.

SUPPLIES AT HOME AND ABROAD.

The aggregate supplies of breadstuffs in Europe and afloat therefor, and in the United

States and Canada, at the points reporting on February 1, 1896, were equal 202,832,900 bushels against 224,797,000 bushels on January 1, and 223,493,000 bushels on February 1, 1895. Stocks during January were reduced 21,965,000 bushels, against an increase of 6,010,000 bushels during December, and a reduction of 1,479,000 bushels during January, 1895.

Uses of the Sunflower.

The poetical nature of the sunflower has received ample attention from the pens of writers, but its practical utility is just beginning to be generally recognized. In China and Russia the sunflower is considered a valuable plant, and it is raised for its seeds at the rate of nearly half a million pounds annually. The poor farmers of Italy and India likewise attach great importance to the plant, and the seeds are harvested for animal food and for poultry. One of the most important uses for the sunflower seeds is as food for poultry and cattle. It has long been valued by progressive farmers as an excellent and cheap food for fowls. Nothing makes them fatten quicker, and they will frequently leave all other food for them. The seeds make the hens lay better, and greatly increase their weight. They can be raised cheaper than corn and give better results. As a food for cattle, experiments are now in progress at several of the experiment stations, and the results so far obtained are very satisfactory.

Sunflower oil made from the seeds is in great demand in this country. In Russia millions of pounds of the seeds are raised annually for the oil, and large quantities of this oil are exported from that country. In the crude state it is used by painters for inside work, but it does not quite equal linseed oil for varnish purposes. It is mixed with most of our cheap paints, and also with many prepared stains. Of late years efforts have been made to refine the oil so as to sell it in competition with olive oil. In fact purified sunflower oil is used quite extensively to adulterate salad oils. Many consider it quite equal to the ordinary grade of olive and almond oil for table uses. It is of a pale yellow color, flavorless and palatable. In Maryland considerable of this oil is made to supply the Baltimore trade. After the oil is extracted from the seeds the residue is made into cakes for cattle food, and while not so nutritious as the food made from the fresh seeds it is of considerable value. The factories that express the oil sell the seed cakes at a merely nominal sum. In the poorer districts of India and Europe a fair kind of bread is made from sunflower seeds and the natives depend upon it for a steady article of diet. Their cattle are fed with the same diet, only the seeds and heads are chopped up together, and even the leaves are fed to the animals. The stalks, when stripped of their leaves and heads are dried and used for fuel. One acre of sunflowers will yield a great many cords of good wood. The stalks are large, tough, brittle and good burners. A few acres of such fuel will last one winter. There are many other uses for sunflowers that the ingenuity of man has devised, but the instances cited are sufficient to show the sunflower has outlived its association with a decadent æsthetic philosophy and become of practical value if not of universal use.

Leather and Boots and Shoes.

Manufacturers are still buying from hand to mouth, says the Montreal Trade Bulletin, and consequently no large lots are changing hands either in sole or black leather. Stocks are certainly not large, and as soon as buyers commence to lay in supplies they will find that it will not take much to absorb them. Montreal prices are: No. 2 manufacturers' sole 19 to 21c; jobbers' sole 22 to 23c; slaughter sole 21 to 22c; waxed upper 27 to 32c;

grain 12 to 14c; buff 10 to 12c; splits 20 to 21c for Ontario and 15 to 16c for Quebec; pebble 10 to 11c; glove 10 to 12c.

Business still continues quiet, the amount of spring orders so far taken showing a large falling off as compared with this time last year, although a few more orders have been received during the week. There are still complaints of cutting, but prices are about steady on the whole.

The settlers' excursions from Ontario for Manitoba via the Canadian Pacific Railway will leave Toronto beginning Tuesday, March 3rd, and every Tuesday during that month and April. To assist in promoting the comfort of those who will take advantage of the excursions, W. D. Scott, Manitoba government agent will accompany the train and supply any information desired.

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