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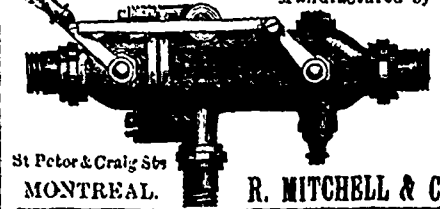
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Published by James E. Steen—Every Tuesday—Subscription, \$2 per annum

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No. 19.

The Commercial

Journal devoted to keeping a comprehensive record of the transactions of the Monetary, Mercantile and Manufacturing interests of Manitoba and the Canadian Northwest.

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WINNIPEG, FEBRUARY 1, 1887.

HUGH GARDNER, trader, Rat Portage, Ont., is dead.

F. WEIR, grocer, Winnipeg, has sold out to one Pease.

A MOVEMENT is on foot to start a cheese factory at Manitou.

MRS. NAGLE, fancy goods, Winnipeg, is giving up business.

THE Hudson Bay Co. will move their store at Fort Ellice to Birtle.

MRS. MCGREGOR, millinery, Clearwater, Man. is going out of business.

A. C. FREEBORN, of Virden, has applied for a wholesale liquor license.

H. LANDERKIN, clothier, Winnipeg, advertises giving up business.

GEO. BAWDEN, wholesale clothing, Brandon, advertises giving up business.

D. F. KNIGHT, grocer, of Emerson, will open a general store at Gleichen, Alberta.

CHENIER & LARENDEAU, general storekeepers, Canmore, Alberta, will move to Banff.

JAS. BANNERMAN, flour and feed, Calgary, will open a branch store at Banff, Alberta.

THOMAS HUDDLESTONE, of Portage la Prairie, will erect a building for the manufacture of plows at that place.

THE newly-formed board of trade at Birtle has taken hold of the project of erecting a roller flour mill at that place.

S. BAYMER & Co., marble manufacturers, Portage la Prairie, have dissolved partnership. S. Baymer will continue alone.

THE Emerson grist mill has been shut down, and there is some talk of moving the machinery across the boundary to St. Vincent.

D. JOHNSON, of the Pioneer Oat Meal Mill, Portage la Prairie, has sold out his interest in the business to P. Barclay, of Birtle.

PARRISH & LINDSAY, of Brandon, and Wetzel, of Calgary, will open a grocery, provision and flour and feed business at Calgary.

JOHN DICKINSON, general storekeeper, Brandon, has formed a partnership with John Murray in the crockery and provision business.

G. C. LONG & Co., clothing, Winnipeg, have been awarded \$1,500 by the insurance company for the damage done to their stock by fire.

THE Ontario and Sault Ste. Marie Railway Co. have applied for an injunction to restrain the C.P.Ry. from interfering with the former's line.

AN electric light company has been formed at Brandon, with a view to illuminating that town with electricity. Nothing will be done until spring.

HAY is scarce in some parts of the province, owing to the destruction of stacks by prairie fires last fall. The Birtle Observer thinks, there may be some loss among the cattle in that district, on this account.

R. W. WOODRUFF, jeweller, of Ingersoll, Ont., will move to Winnipeg and take charge of the stock of W. T. Harris, which he has purchased from the creditors.

THE Land Corporation of Canada advertise for tenders for the erection and equipment of a butter factory and a cheese factory, at their Kinalmeaky farm, near Winnipeg. Both factories will be established on the latest centrifugal system.

THE Minnedosa Tribune says: "As an evidence that Manitoba's worst days are over, it may be noted that there is an increasing demand for homesteads at the land office, and a good deal of enquiry about farms for sale, several having been purchased recently by incomers."

THE Manitoba Telephone Co., which was started for the purpose of supplying Winnipeg merchants with a telephone service at a lower rate than the Bell Company has been charging, but which never got any further than putting up some poles around town, has ended ignominiously by selling out to the company which it was to rival.

AT the annual meeting of the National Investment Company of Canada, which was held lately at Toronto, manager Rutherford said:—"The returns from Manitoba during the year have been very satisfactory indeed, and I have had no reason to change the opinion I expressed at the last annual meeting regarding our investments there."

MALEE & BROWN, wholesale liquor merchants, Vancouver, B.C., have made an assignment to Turner, Beeton & Co., Welsh, Richet & Co. and C. Strauss & Co., of Victoria. Their liabilities are stated to be \$36,000, with nominal assets \$49,000, placing the value of the Harrison Hot Springs hotel, owned by the firm, at \$27,000. In the Vancouver fire the firm lost very heavily, and in arranging for the opening of the springs they also invested largely. About \$12,000 is divided among the firms to whom the assignment was made. The balance of liabilities are with eastern Canadian and San Francisco houses.

THE registered tonnage of the Maritime Provinces show a heavy falling off for the year 1886. The total decline is placed at 70 vessels, or 37,703 tons. There were 214 newly registered vessels, and 290 vessels struck off. The total number of vessels owned in the three Maritime Provinces is placed at 4,183, against 4,259 for 1885. The value of the shipping is placed at \$25,000,000.

QUITE a large business is now done in some of the older settled portions of Manitoba, in cattle, hogs, dairy produce, etc., notwithstanding the fact that it is but a very few years since all these requirements had to be imported into the province. From the stations along the Manitoba Northwestern railway especially, a considerable number of cattle and other live stock are shipped annually, to the Winnipeg and other markets. The *Minneapolis Tribune*, in referring to this subject states that one local dealer alone has shipped stock and meats to the value of \$25,000. The style of farming now being adopted throughout Manitoba, renders the farmer less dependent upon any cereal crop, such for instance as wheat, and should an occasional season prove disastrous to the crop, the farmer will have something to fall back upon, which will relieve him from the serious inconvenience which otherwise might be felt.

THE Royal Commission appointed to inquire into the causes of trade depression in Britain, has at last made a report, and the public now know about as much as they did before on the subject. A good deal of the evidence submitted before the Commission has been of an interesting character, but the conclusions arrived at present nothing new to those who had previously studied the question. The Commission find a serious decline in the value of products of the soil; increased production in manufactured goods, at closer profits; and a diminution in the rates of interest on invested capital. The causes for the depression are summarized as follows: "(1) over-production, (2) a continuous fall of prices, caused by the appreciation of the standard of value, (3) the effect of foreign tariffs and bounties and the restrictive commercial policy of foreign countries in limiting English markets, (4) foreign competition, which is being felt both in English and in neutral markets, (5) increased local taxation and burdens on industry, (6) cheaper rates of carriage enjoyed by foreign competitors, (7) legislation affecting the employment of labor, and (8) the superior technical education of workmen in foreign countries."

THE Chicago board of trade has had more than its share of trouble of late. Its waning trade has been ascribed to the influence of bucket-shop competition. A large portion of the business which was formerly done on the board in actual grain or produce, has been transferred to the marginal trading in bucket-shops. This transferring of legitimate trade to purely gambling transactions, with the consequent loss of business to the board, has aroused the latter to take action against the bucket-shops. A strenuous attempt has been made to crush the bucket-shops, and in order to facilitate this movement, the board decided upon banishing

some of its own speculative features. Accordingly "puts" and "calls" were discarded by the board; but the cast off garment was immediately taken up by the open board of trade, and now the members of the regular are trading in the latter. The "put" and "call" features are said to be illegal, according to the laws of the state, and now that they have been dropped by the board, an effort will be made to enforce the laws. It will be greatly to the advantage of the legitimate grain and produce trade if the bucket-shops and other gambling institutions of a similar nature can be suppressed. Their influence is undoubtedly to depress values, by transferring the trading from the actual "stuff" to purely gambling transactions.

THE bill introduced into the United States Senate, providing for retaliatory measures against Canada, owing to the seizure of American fishing vessels, has passed that body with only one dissenting vote. The bill authorizes the President, whenever the Canadian authorities seize, harass or restrain American fishermen and fishing vessels while enjoying their rights in Canadian waters, to issue a proclamation forbidding any Canadian vessel from landing at any port in the United States. Violations of proclamation are to be punished by forfeiture of vessels and other property, and with heavy fines and imprisonment. Some very loud talk was indulged in by several of the senators, of a decidedly hostile nature; but others took a more moderate view of the question. It will be noted that the bill authorizes the President to issue the proclamation only when the rights of American fishermen in Canadian waters have been invaded. The Canadian authorities have not and do not contemplate depriving American fishermen of any rights which they enjoy by treaty or otherwise, and therefore to follow out the letter the senate bill would become inoperative. The Canadian Government will simply enforce the treaty of 1818, which it is as binding on the Americans to observe as it is necessary for the Canadians to enforce. As this will not deprive American fishermen of any rights, it will be necessary for the United States authorities to trump up some pretext before they can enforce the bill against Canada. If they are determined to carry out their designs, however, some wolfish pretext will be discovered for proclaiming the bill against Canadian shipping. In the discussion on the bill in the senate, a ridiculously amusing statement was made by Ingalls, namely, that Great Britain was desirous of fomenting discord "between Canada and the United States, so as to prevent that pacification in the immediate future, which would be inevitable if both people were left to the operation of national laws of trade and society." In the face of the facts known to Canadian readers, such a statement would seem to be the height of absurdity.

A COMMITTEE representing some 250 Toronto shop girls have petitioned the ministerial association of that city, asking the assistance of the clergy in obtaining shorter hours of labor. This action of the over-worked shop girls in appealing to the clergy, should bring their case prominently to the front. There is probably

no class more imposed upon than shop girls. Not alone those employed as saleswomen in the various mercantile lines are the sufferers. There are hundreds and thousands of girls in every large city, employed as apprentices, or engaged in other work in millinery, dressmaking, and similar establishments, who are treated little better than slaves. These poor girls are confined in an unhealthy atmosphere, for very long hours, and at an employment which is most tedious and trying upon the constitution. The wages which the apprentices and many others receive from these enervating occupations are often but a poor return for shattered health and ruined constitution. No wonder so many pale and careworn girls are seen upon the streets, when the nature of their occupation and the length of the hours of their labor are known. Few mechanical trades which men engage in are anything like as trying upon the constitution as the work of the average sewing girl, or employe in stores, millinery, and dressmaking shops, etc., yet the latter are expected to work several hours longer each day, often for a mere pittance. What a commotion would be caused by organized labor, if men were asked to put in twelve or fourteen hours per day; but the poor sewing and shop girls submit meekly to such imposition as a matter of course. Here is a cause which should be investigated and protected by legislation. It is understood the Mowat Government, of Ontario, has been considering the advisability of enacting certain legislation in the interest of children. It is said that thousands of children of tender years are working in Canadian factories, and without any provisions being made for their moral or intellectual education. These children grow up feeble in body from their early confinement at unhealthy occupations; dwarfed in intellect; and blunted in morality. The labor of these children, who ought to be at school, comes in competition with that of the men, resulting in cheapening labor, etc. It is proposed to introduce a Factories' Act, which shall provide for the regulation of child labor, the ventilation of factories and work-room, etc. Whilst considering this measure, Mr. Mowat might also take into consideration the condition of sewing girls and shop assistants of both sexes. These latter stand in need of relief from some source, and it is clear that in no other way can they obtain it than through legislative enactment. The common rights of humanity demand that they should receive that same consideration which is extended to men engaged in mechanical pursuits. Pure air, sunshine and a reasonable amount of outdoor recreation, are as necessary to the shop assistants and sewing girls as to mechanics and children. From the nature of their employment outdoor exercise is frequently more necessary to the former than to those employed in many mechanical pursuits. The laws of nature demand the recognition of the rights of all to the inspiration of the free air of heaven; the health-giving influences of sunshine, and recreation of mind and body. Without these health and happiness cannot be maintained. When custom deprives any class of people from the enjoyment to a reasonable extent of these God-given blessings, it is time for legislation to step in and prevent imposition.

The Visible Supply.

	Bush. 1886.	Bush. 1885.
November 27th	59,572,340	55,530,003
December 4th	59,539,331	50,783,410
December 11th	59,939,660	57,981,156
December 18th	61,460,330	58,388,469
December 24th	62,261,330	58,320,074
January 1st	62,720,570	58,432,909
January 8th	63,345,595	57,780,320
January 15th	62,823,581	57,118,183
January 22nd	61,989,169	55,870,797

By this statement it will be seen that the visible supply of wheat decreased 831,412 bushels for the week ended Jan. 22nd, 1887.

WHEAT IN STORE.

The following shows the stocks of wheat (expressed in bushels) in store at the places named on Jan. 22nd, 1887: Duluth, 9,910,122; Minneapolis, 7,324,570; Chicago, 13,402,168; Toronto, 22,500; Montreal, 283,053; New York, 9,282,771.

BREADSTUFFS AND PROVISIONS EXPORTS, ETC.

The following table shows the exports of breadstuffs and provisions from the principal Atlantic seaboard ports for the week ending Jan. 22nd, 1887, and for the corresponding week last year.

	1887.	1886.
Flour, bbls.....	192,260	82,359
Wheat, bus.....	1,672,900	420,891
Corn, bus.....	883,000	1,209,489
Oats, bus.....	5,600	50,249
Pork, lbs.....	6,660	5,528
Lard, lbs.....	9,331,500	5,096,806
Bacon, lbs.....	12,491,600	11,631,723

An Outside Opinion.

Joseph H. Reall, President of the Dairy Association of New York State, has recently replied as follows to the question, "What are your impressions of Canada and its relations to American agriculturists?"—"Canada is a great and growing country, and the United States have more to fear from its competition in the markets of the world than from all other countries combined. I believe her five millions of people produce as much as any like number in the world, and her population is increasing very fast, while she has an unlimited territory yet to be developed. The fact is not generally observed that Canada has as much territory as the United States. Although her seasons are short, the land is fertile and the climate excellent for raising cereals, fruit, meat, and dairy products, while the best methods of agriculture prevail among the farmers, who excel in industry, enterprise and thrift. I have said on another occasion that there is no country where the sun shines brighter or the fields are cleaner and the grass grows greener. Already the Dominion exports more cheese than the United States, and is continuously increasing its export of grain and cattle. These are important reasons why the farmers of the United States should have the fullest protection in legislation and an equal chance all along the line."

MESSNER BROS., general storekeepers, St. Leon, Southern Manitoba, were burned out on Thursday last. The store and contents, together with a dwelling and store-house adjoining, were entirely destroyed; also the post office effects, in the store. Frank Messner received injuries escaping from the burning building. The loss is placed at \$10,000 and is another case of "no insurance."

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BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, ATTORNEYS
Offices: Corner Main and Lombard Streets,
Opposite Merchants Bank.
WINNIPEG.
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VIVIAN AND CURRAN,
Barristers, Attorneys, Solicitors, Notaries Public
etc., etc.,
McINTYRE BLOCK, MAIN ST., WINNIPEG.
Special Attention to Collection for Wholesale Houses
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LUMBER !!

Wholesale to Dealers West of Here
RETAIL AT OUR YARDS:
WINNIPEG & SELKIRK.
We are cutting Pine and Spruce and can
fill orders on short notice.
DAVIS & CO., 818 Main St, Winnipeg.

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WHOLESALE GROCERS

Special attention given to
Teas, Coffees, Canned Goods,
DRIED FRUITS, Etc.
CORNER KING AND ALEXANDER STREETS,
WINNIPEG, MAN

MOORE'S CHINA HALL
Direct Importers of
China, Glass & Earthenware
SILVER-PLATED WARE,
Lamps, Cutlery and General House Furnishings
MOORE & CO., Proprietors,
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Office and Sample Room, 430 Main St. **WINNIPEG**
Orders by mail will receive prompt attention.

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Commission Merchants,
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Standard
Quality and Sizes guaranteed.
Manufactured by **Brushes.**

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Office and Warerooms: 80 YORK STREET,
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GRIFFIN & ALLEN,
PORK PACKERS
—AND—
COMMISSION MERCHANTS.
Dealers in Heavy Provisions; all kinds Produce handled
on commission. Long Clear Bacon, Hams, etc., at close
prices to the trade. Consignments and orders solicited,
66 McDERMOTT ST., WINNIPEG.

J. S. CARVETH & CO.,
PORK PACKERS
COMMISSION MERCHANTS,
and General Produce Dealers. Correspondence
solicited.
Princess St., Opera House Block, Winnipeg

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, FEBRUARY 1, 1887.

ARE YOU INSURED ?

There is a growing desire among wholesalers all over the country to know what provisions their customers have made against loss by fire. The Hamilton, Toronto, and other boards of trade have devoted considerable attention of late to this very important subject, and more recently some discussion has taken place relative to the same matter among the members of the Winnipeg Board. If wholesalers in the East show so much solicitude in regard to the question of insurance against fire losses by their customers, how necessary is it then that Northwestern wholesalers should carefully consider the whole matter. Several causes are at work in this country, which have tended to produce a great laxity among retailers in protecting themselves and their creditors against possible losses from fire, and it is probable that the average of insurance in proportion to stocks of goods carried, is much less in Manitoba and the territories, than in the older provinces. In the city of Winnipeg and some of the larger towns of the province, this might not be the case, but there is no doubt but that the statement will apply with force to the country as a whole. One cause for this state of affairs will be found in the unequal distribution of insurance agencies, it being a cause of some trouble to obtain policies in some of the smaller and more out-of-the-way places, even when insurance is wanted, the bother of writing for insurance being too much for many merchants, and the risk is taken until such time as a travelling agent may happen to come around. This is negligence of the gravest kind, and deserves severe censure. Where a fire, with its consequent loss, results from such carelessness, little sympathy can be felt for the sufferer; and were it not that others are liable to injury through such negligence, the matter might be passed over with but brief notice. But generally the trouble does not end with the merchant, who, knowing the value of insurance protection against fire losses, allows himself to be ruined through sheer and almost criminal negligence. The creditors are often obliged to share in the general destruction, and are left without

any hope or means of recovering what is their right.

Another reason why many merchants in Manitoba and the territories carry insufficient insurance, or no insurance at all, is owing to the high premium rates which are frequently exacted. Because the premiums are high the merchant concludes that this is a sufficient excuse why he should take the risk of his own commercial ruin, as well as that of causing his creditors serious loss. But this excuse of high premiums is no excuse at all for neglecting adequate insurance; and besides, the higher motive of honesty should prompt every retailer to carry a sufficient amount of insurance to at least secure his lawful creditors against loss. No doubt many traders have real grievances against the companies in regard to the premium rates, the latter, in some instances, simply amounting to extortion. However, the merchant must put up with difficulties of this nature in the meantime, always trusting that time will rectify any injustices which may now have to be borne, as no doubt will be the case.

But though the motive of honesty should prompt every merchant having liabilities, to secure himself, and therefore his creditors, against fire losses, yet the fact that a dealer may not be bound by such obligations, should not make him careless about protecting himself by insurance. Though the merchant may owe nothing upon his stock, he cannot afford to go without insurance a day on account of premiums being high. If a merchant own his stock clear of liabilities, he should all the more cheerfully pay his premiums. In this latter case, it is clear that he is in a prosperous position and doing a prosperous business. He can, therefore, well afford to pay his premiums from his profits, with the knowledge that the few dollars so expended will never be missed; and at the same time he will have the satisfaction of knowing, that should his property be entirely swept away, he will have something substantial to fall back upon, which will enable him to commence anew in life. This being the case, the insurance premium, even though apparently a little steep, should be paid out with a feeling of satisfaction and pleasure, rather than grudgingly.

Frequently merchants have been heard to say something to the effect that they have carried insurance for many years and have never lost a dollar by fire, and therefore they will allow their policy to

lapse. This is certainly a foolish move and one which when acted upon is often dearly regretted. After ten or twelve years of insurance protection, the first year without it might bring ruinous disaster. In proof of this, how often do we read in connection with the report of a fire, that the policy had lapsed but a few days before, often unknown to the merchants.

In regard to the movement on the part of wholesalers, looking to the better protection of their customers and themselves against losses from fire, it is clearly a matter in which the wholesalers have a right to consideration. A case came to light a short time ago, in which a retail dealer who carried a stock to the amount of about \$15,000, with liabilities amounting to nearly \$10,000, was entirely without insurance. No wholesale dealer would think of carrying any quantity of goods in his warehouse a single day without insurance, and yet in such instances as the one referred to above, the wholesaler is compelled to carry the risk of loss from fire. When such cases as these are said to be of frequent occurrence in Manitoba and the Territories, it will be at once seen what an important matter this is to the wholesale trade. Indeed, it is said that insufficient insurance is the rule, and not the exception, and that an insurance of a couple of thousand dollars or so is usually considered ample protection by those having liabilities several times that amount. Retailers who will look reasonably at the matter will at once recognize the rights of wholesalers to insist that those whom they advance their goods to, should in turn protect themselves and their creditors as much as possible against fire losses. It is a simple matter of good faith on the part of the retailer toward the wholesale dealer.

Wholesalers are not without blame for the lack of action on the part of country merchants in providing protection against fire losses. The keen competition which exists at the present day in nearly all branches of trade, has made many wholesalers too anxious to sell goods, without considering the consequences. New houses especially, in order to gain a foothold, have been negligent in this respect. The consequence is that wholesalers have taken chances against loss from fire, without an inquiry, which they would not for a moment think of doing, were the goods in their own warerooms. Such action on the part of the wholesalers certainly shows

a short-sighted policy, and reverts a considerable portion of the blame back upon their own shoulders. But now that the matter has been taken up, retailers surely cannot consider it unreasonable, if wholesalers should make some inquiries in regard to the insurance carried, before advancing large amounts of goods. All merchants should look upon the insurance premiums as a necessary portion of their unavoidable expenditure, just as they would upon rent, fire and light, taxes, wages, advertising, or any other unavoidable expenditure, without which it is impossible to do business. Because premium rates are high, it should not be neglected any more than any of the other cause of expenditure mentioned, in fact should be the very first thing secured in commencing business or increasing stock. The merchant who cannot afford to pay his insurance premium, cannot afford to do business, and had better vacate the field immediately.

THE "MAIL" AND DISALLOWANCE.

The *Toronto Mail's* opposition to the disallowance of Railway charters in Manitoba, has stirred up some little discussion in Eastern papers regarding this most momentous question to the people of this province. The argument is advanced, in opposition to the *Mail*, that were free trade in railways granted to Manitoba, the merchants and manufacturers of Ontario would lose a portion of the trade of the Northwest, which would be reverted from them to the advantage of the Americans. It is also urged that the monopoly clause is a part of the contract with the Canadian Pacific, and that to abrogate it would be a breach of faith. With regard to the loss of trade, the *Mail* argues, that if Eastern merchants and manufacturers cannot hold Northwestern markets with the aid of the existing protective tariff, it would be owing to the dearth of their goods, and that this is a question which the Manitoba settler could not be expected to concern himself about. THE COMMERCIAL has contended heretofore that Eastern manufacturers would not be the losers by the abolition of railway monopoly in this province, and in this respect the *Mail* adopts pretty much the same line of argument as has frequently been set forth in these columns. It is contended, and with show of good reason, that the abolition of monopoly would have the opposite effect from what it is generally supposed it would, in curtailing inter-

provincial trade between Manitoba and the older provinces, and that on the contrary, Eastern manufacturers would derive advantages from the opening up of the country to free railway communication with the United States to the south. Railway competition would cheapen transportation rates, thereby lessening the cost of goods to the consumer here. Such competition and reduction in freight rates would further increase the value of grain, produce, etc., and all exports from the country. Thus in each case, the purchasing power of the people would be increased, to the advantage of manufacturers exporting their goods to this province. Then, as the *Mail* points out, "our endeavor should be to make the country not less attractive, but more attractive than Dakota, Minnesota, etc." What is chiefly wanted to make the Northwest valuable to home manufacturers, both east and west, is population. Shutting up the country from railway connection and competition with the outside world, is the very thing which will not bring population, and would seem to have been designed with the view of driving settlers to the adjoining states. On the other hand, the policy of free trade in railways would aid in the settlement of the country, and would, in turn, result in a proportionate increase in the consumption of goods—all to the advantage of the manufacturers.

In regard to the statement that the monopoly clause is part of the contract with the Canadian Pacific Railway, the *Mail* agrees with its eastern contemporaries, but thinks that the promise of Sir Charles Tupper to the effect that monopoly would be abandoned on the completion of the C.P.Ry., should be carried out. The *Mail* says: "The agitation now going on against monopoly is nothing more than an attempt to induce the administration to carry out its pledge. As a matter of fact no one ever thought the monopoly could be kept alive for twenty years." On this last point the *Mail* is at variance with public feeling here, and fails to comprehend the real point of view from which Manitobans contend against disallowance. It has always been stoutly contended here, that the monopoly clause in the agreement with the C.P.Ry. Co. was not binding upon this province, but only applied to the unorganized territory west of the boundary of Manitoba. In support of this contention, we have the declaration of Sir John Macdonald himself, made in the House during the debate on the C. P.


Ry. Bill, and before the adoption of the same. When asked "what about Manitoba," Sir John replied to the effect that "we have not the power to check Manitoba." The promise made by Sir Charles Tupper, that the disallowance policy of the Dominion Government in regard to Manitoba railway charters would be discontinued on the completion of the C.P. Ry., was hailed here with delight as a vision of coming freedom from monopoly. The subsequent refusal of the Government to carry out the promise made by the ex-Minister of Railways, has produced a corresponding feeling of gloom and want of confidence in our rulers. But though this promise of Sir Charles' has frequently been referred to as a secondary reason why the Dominion Government should cease disallowing the railway acts passed by the Manitoba Legislature; yet Manitobans have never based any particular claims upon it. It is freely admitted that the Federal Government is at liberty to exercise its Royal prerogative in disallowing any act of the provincial legislatures, but that the Government has the power to establish a monopoly of the nature of the C.P.Ry. in any of the organized provinces, it is not for a moment conceded. In fact, members of the Government have admitted that Manitoba railway charters have been disallowed, not on account of any obligations to the C.P. Ry. Co., under the agreement with that corporation, but solely as a matter of expediency in the interests of the Dominion. Manitobans do not base their claims against disallowance upon the statement of Sir Charles Tupper, but upon the rights of the province to equality with the other provinces of the Dominion, under the British North America Act. It has never been admitted that the C.P. Ry. Co. has a right to claim the disallowance of railway charters granted by the Manitoba Legislature, for the purpose of building railways to the United States boundary, within the limits of the old province of Manitoba; nor has it been admitted that the Federal Government has the power to grant a monopoly of railway privileges within any province of Canada, without the consent of that province. If the C.P. Ry. Co. enjoyed the monopoly in this province which is claimed by some it does, why was it necessary to introduce a clause, granting the monopoly privileges in the territory which was added to the province to the west of the old boundary?

H. A. NELSON & SONS,
TORONTO —AND— MONTREAL
 Manufacturers, Importers and Wholesale Dealers in
Brooms, Woodenware,
Brushes, and Matches
BASKETS, CORDAGE, &c
 ALSO
Full Lines of Toys and Fancy Goods
Represented in Manitoba and N.W.T. by
W. S. CRONE.

W. E. SANFORD & CO.
Manufacturers of Clothing.

45 to 49 King St., 24 McDermott St.,

HAMILTON & WINNIPEG.

CHARLESWORTH & CO.,
 Manufacturers of  Maltese Cross Brand
BOOTS & SHOES,
 Noted for their Excellence of Fit and
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TORONTO - ONT.
 Samples with **Peddle & Co.,** 9 McDermott-st. west,
WINNIPEG.

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

Campbell, Spera & Co.,
 WHOLESALE IMPORTERS OF

GENTS' FURNISHINGS,
 Smallwares, etc.

Have removed to the commodious premises recently occupied by MESSRS.
THIBAudeau BROS & CO.

27 PORTAGE AVENUE EAST,

where they will be pleased to
 receive calls from all their old customers.

STRANG & CO.
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WHOLESALE GROCERS
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Provisions, Wines and Liquors,
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D. D. DOYLE,
PORK PACKER,
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Is prepared to receive consignments of
 Hogs, in large or small lots, for which the
 Highest Market Prices will be paid.

PIONEER OATMEAL MILLS,

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D. JOHNSON, PROPRIETOR.
 Manufacturer of Granulated and Standard Brands
 Oatmeal. Orders by mail promptly attended to.

Headerson & Bull, Wholesale Agts. Winnipeg

Sparkling Lager Beer!!

Is now ready for the Market at the
REDWOOD BREWERY
 Delivered anywhere in the City at \$3.50 per keg
 EQUAL TO ANY IMPORTED BEER.



Fine Stock Ales a Specialty
EXTRA PORTER AND STOUT
 In Wood and Bottle always on hand.

REDWOOD BREWERY,
 The Largest Institution of its class in Western Canada.
ED. L. DREWERY, Proprietor,
 North Main Street, WINNIPEG.

TORONTO HIDE HOUSE,
88 Princess St., Winnipeg.

I am prepared to pay the Highest Market
 Price for

HIDES!

PELTS, WOOL AND TALLOW.
 **LEATHER FOR SALE.** 
 Either at place of shipment or delivered in
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 Sacks for Wool supplied.
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TEA & COFFEE IMPORTERS
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WHOLESALE GROCERS.

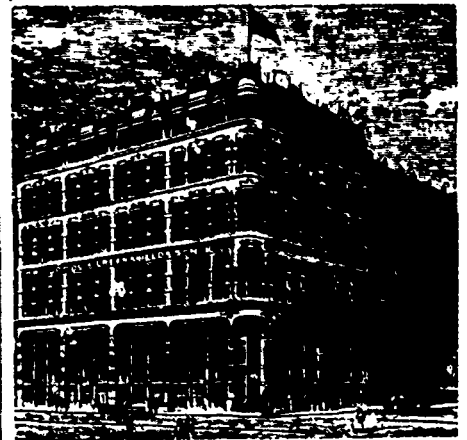
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HAVE ARRIVED.

 We Offer Special Values. 

DICK, BANNING & CO
 MANUFACTURERS OF
Lumber, Shingles and Lath
 DOORS AND SASH.

MILLS AT KEKWATIN. OFFICE: OPPOSITE C.P.R.
 PASSENGER DEPOT, WINNIPEG.



S. GREENSHIELDS, SON & CO.,
GENERAL DRY GOODS,
 17, 19 & 21 Victoria Square and 730,
 782, 734 and 736 Craig Street, MONTREAL
Complete Set of Samples with
Mr. W. B. McARTHUR,
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CARSLEY & CO.
 WHOLESALE DRY GOODS,
 MONTREAL.

Are now receiving and opening large shipments of
 the following goods, viz:—

EMBROIDERIES, DRESS GOODS,
 JERSEYS, UMBRELLAS,
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A visit from our Manitoba Friends when in this
 Market is solicited.

CARSLEY & CO.,
 93 St. Peter St., MONTREAL,
 and 18 Bartholomew Close, London, Eng.

KIRKPATRICK & COOKSON,
 Established 1869,
 MONTREAL,
Commission Merchants,
 FLOUR, GRAIN, PROVISIONS, PRODUCE, &c
 Consignments and Orders Solicited.

Crathern and Caverhill,
 WHOLESALE HEAVY HARDWARE
 Metals, Window Glass, Paints & Oils, etc.

Caverhill, Learmont & Co.,
 WHOLESALE SHELF HARDWARE,
 WAREHOUSES, SAMPLE ROOMS AND OFFICES:
 Caverhill's Buildings, 89 St. Peter Street,
 MONTREAL.

Complete Set of Samples with
Merrick, Anderson & Co., Winnipeg

The McClary Manufacturing Co.,
 OF LONDON, TORONTO, MONTREAL & WINNIPEG
 Manufacturers of

McClary's 'Famous' Stoves
 Pressed and Pieced Tinware, Japanned Ware,
 Stove Boards, etc., and Dealers in Granite and Agate
 Ironware, and
Tinsmiths' Metals and Supplies.
 WHOLESALE ONLY.

Warehouses: Cor. Rachel St. and Point Douglas Avenue
 Sample Rooms and Offices, 7 Spencer Block, Portage Ave.
J. W. DRISCOLL, Manager **WINNIPEG**

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET

Payments of paper falling due have been met in a fairly satisfactory manner, and complaints of slowness in this respect were not frequent. A good deal of paper will fall due during the current week, and the manner in which this is met will indicate the state of the country more clearly than can be surmised from the straggling payments of the past month. The loan companies and agricultural implement dealers report payments not at all unsatisfactory. At the banks commercial discounts are steady at old quotations.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE

The excitement consequent upon the Dominion election contest seems to have superseded everything else, and wholesalers were found more inclined to talk politics than business. However, it appeared that there was very little actual business to talk about, and in nearly all lines the season's dullness continues undisturbed. Many dealers have not yet received spring stocks fully enough to allow of making up orders, and others seem inclined to hold off shipping out goods until after the fourth of the month, by which time they will have a better knowledge of the financial standing of the country. Some, however, will commence shipping immediately.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

A move will be made at once toward shipping out spring orders, but a week or two will elapse before the work will be in full blast.

CLOTHING

There is still a state of quietude in this trade, broken only by the opening of new goods. Very little has been done yet in making up orders, and dealers do not seem inclined to push matters in this respect.

DRY GOODS

Cases and bales are still pouring in from all quarters to the warehouses. Local dealers appear to be laying in extra heavy stocks this season, in anticipation of a good spring and summer trade. Stocks will soon be complete in every department, and dealers will be in better shape this season than ever before to handle the trade to the best advantage of their retail customers.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS

Prices hold steady at quotation as follows: Howard's quinine, 90c to \$1; German quinine, 70c to 80c; opium, \$4 to \$4.50; morphia, \$2 to \$2.50; iodine, \$4.25 to \$4.50; bromide potassium, 50 to 65c; American camphor, 40 to 45c; English camphor, 45 to 50c; glycerine, 25 to 35c; tartaric acid, 70 to 75c; cream of tartar, 35 to 40c; bleaching powder, per keg, \$8 to \$10; bicarb soda, \$4.50 to \$5; sal soda, \$2.25 to \$2.50; soda ash, \$3 to \$3.25; chlorate potash, 25 to 30c; alum, \$3 to \$3.75; copperas, \$3 to \$3.25; sulphur, flour, \$4 to \$4.50; sulphur, roll, \$4 to \$5.25; American blue vitrol, 6 to 8c.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES

Spring stocks are not all to hand yet, and shipping out orders will not commence before the middle of February. At present there is little stir in any direction.

FISH AND GAME

Fresh lake fish of all kinds are still very scarce, and only a few loads arriving. Prices now are: Whitefish, 8c; pickerel, 4c; jack,

fish, 3c. Oysters are quoted at 35c for standard, and 37½ to 45c for selects, according to quality. Bulk oysters, \$1.85 to \$2.20 per gallon, according to quality. Fresh sea fish are in the market and quoted as follows: Smelts, 11c; tommy cods, 7½c; cod, 11c; halibut, 11c; lobsters, 18 to 20c. Smoked Finnan haddies, 11c.

FRUITS

Apples hold firm at quotations. Other prices unchanged as follows: Florida oranges, \$7.00 to \$7.50; Mexican oranges \$7.00 to \$7.50. Winter apples, \$4.50 to \$5.00 per bbl. for good stock. Messina lemons, \$7 to \$7.50; Oregon pears, \$4.50 to \$5; Malaga grapes, \$7 to \$8.00 per keg; Cranberries, \$9.00 to \$12.00, according to size of barrel and quality; Figs, in 50-pound sacks, 12½c; New Eleme figs, in layers, 16c to 20c per pound, in one lb. to ten lb. boxes; Golden dates, 11 to 12c; peanuts, roasted, 18c; peanuts, raw, 15c; walnuts, 20c; almonds 20c; filberts 15c; Texas pecans, 18c. Dried fruits quoted: Valencia raisins \$3.15 to \$3.25; London layers \$3.75 to \$3.90; black crown \$5 to \$5.25; black baskets, ½ boxes, \$1.30. Apple cider is worth \$10 a barrel, or \$7 per half-barrel. Sweet potatoes, \$9.50 per bbl; Spanish onions, cases 150 lbs., \$7.25; cases 50 lbs., \$2.50. Evaporated apples, 13 to 14c; dried apples, 7c; new Turkey prunes, 7½c.

GROCERIES

Trade moves slowly and prices steady as follows: Canned tomatoes, at \$3.50; corn, at \$3.25 to \$3.50; peas, \$3.75; yellow sugar 6½c to 7c; granulated 7½c to 8c; lump sugar, 8½c; Coffee, Rios, 19 to 20c; Government Java, 30 to 32c, other Javas, 25 to 28c; Mochas, 31 to 34c. New season's teas are now quoted as follows: Japan season 1886-7, 25 to 45c; Congous, 1886-7, 20 to 60c; Indian teas, 35 to 50c. Old range, Moyune gunpowder 25 to 70c; panfried Japan 23 to 45c, basket-fired, 25 to 40c; Ping Suey young hyson, 25 to 35c; Moyune young hyson, 25 to 50c; Season's congous, 1885-6, 20 to 55c. Syrups, corn \$2.25 to \$2.60; sugar, cane, \$2.00 to \$2.25; T. and B. tobacco, \$10.

HIDES

Prices have gone down another notch, owing to the demoralized state of the markets east, and failures in the leather trade. Quotations are: Winnipeg inspection, No. 1, 5½c; No. 2, 4½c; bulls, 3½c; calf, fine-haired real veal, 7 to 13 pound skins, No. 1, 7c; No. 2, 5c; sheep pelts, 30 to 65c; tallow, 3½ to 4c.

HARDWARE AND METALS

Trade quiet and prices steady as follows: Cut nails, 10d and larger \$3.35 to \$3.75; I. C. tin plates, \$5.50 to \$5.75; I. C. tin plates, double, \$11 to \$11.50; Canada plates, \$3.50 to \$3.75; sheet iron, \$3 to \$4.50, according to grade; iron pipe, 45 to 50 per cent. off list prices; ingot tin, 26 to 30c per lb., according to quality; bar iron \$2.50 to \$3 per 100 lb; shot, 6½ to 7c a lb; tarred felt, \$2.60 to \$2.85 per 100 lbs; barbed wire 7 to 7½c.

PAINTS, OILS AND COLOURS

There is little demand outside of illuminating and lubricating oils. Prices are: Turpentine, 75c; harness oil, \$1.10; Neatsfoot oil, \$1.50; linseed oil, raw 68c per gal., boiled 71c; seal oil steam refined, \$1.10; castor, 14c per lb; la d

No. 1, \$1.25 per gal; olive, \$1.00 to \$2.00, according to quality; machine oils, black 25 to 40c; oleine, 40c; fine qualities, 50 to 75c. Coal oils, silver star, 26c; headlight, 28c; water white, 30c. American oils, Eocene, 30c; water white, 33c; sunlight, 30c; Eldorado, machine, 56c. Calcined plaster, \$3.75 per bbl; Portland cement, \$4.75; white lead, genuine, \$7.00; No. 1 \$6.50; No. 2 \$6.00; window glass, first break, \$2.25.

THE MARKETS

WINNIPEG

WHEAT

The wheat markets, both local and provincial, have been increasingly quiet during the past week. Deliveries have steadily declined, and at a number of markets not enough grain has come in to pay buyers to remain in the field. Some dealers think that there will be very little more wheat for export, and that all yet to be marketed will be required for grinding in the province. It is a known fact that many millers are very poorly supplied with stocks for grinding ahead, and these are now hustling to lay in wheat in store. It is just possible that some of these may be caught napping. Last year there was a heavy movement of wheat in February, and doubtless some country millers expected the same thing this season, and have consequently put off buying wheat until the same time this season, thinking they would be able to obtain ample supplies during the present month. This year, however, there was an earlier movement, and a greater quantity of wheat went out before the close of navigation. Prices in the city, paid to farmers for deliveries at the mills, were still held at the old figures of 65c for No. 1 hard and 62c for 2 hard and 1 northern. The feeling was easier at the close, with a probability of a decline, should outside markets remain easy. Cars on track have sold as high as 62½c, but this was a top figure. About 61c would be an average price for car lots on track at provincial points. Prices paid farmers were quoted at 56 to 58c at Brandon and 57c at Portage la Prairie for No. 1 hard.

FLOUR.

Prices here remain entirely unchanged. Broken lots, delivered in the city, are quoted: Patents, \$2.35; Strong bakers', \$1.80; XXXX \$1.20 to \$1.30; super-fine, 90c to \$1.

BRAN AND SHORTS

Steady at \$12 for bran and \$14 for shorts.

BARLEY.

Some cars of feed have been moving and are quoted at 43 to 44c.

OATS

Oats have been offered more freely, and cars have sold at 42 to 44c. Deliveries of oats along the C. P. R. main line are shipped west.

OATMEAL

Prices hold steady at \$2.60 for standard and \$2.75 for granulated, in trade lots.

EGGS.

Scarcely any called fresh offered. Pickled sell at 22c, and 21c would not be refused in round lots. Fresh bring 25c on the street.

BUTTER

There appears to be a pretty full supply of stocks in store, and new receipts are fully up to the consumptive demand, so that there is no likelihood of a diminution in stocks. Som

dealers think stocks are accumulating, and that prices will have to come down, whilst others look for no change in the immediate future. Sales of best qualities have been made at 18c. but 20c seems to be the usual price for small trade lots, such as are generally taken.

CURED MEATS

There has been a good demand for cured hog products, and some large sales were reported. The reduced prices now seem to have had the effect of keeping out imported pretty thoroughly which accounts for the increased demand. Prices hold at last quotations as follows: Long-clear, 8c; breakfast bacon, 11c; spiced roll, 10c; hams, 13c.

LARD

\$2.15 seems to be about the regular quotation for 20-pound pails in trade lots; 3-pound are worth 43c, and 5-pound pails 65c each.

DRESSED POULTRY

The glut in the market caused by the large receipts of chickens about the holiday time, has now been relieved, and these old stocks have been about cleared out. Very few lots have since been received, and values are firmer as stocks in the market disappear. Prices now be considered firm at 6c. Other prices steady at 12 to 13c, for turkeys; 8 to 10c for geese; and 10 to 11c, for ducks.

DRESSED MEATS

There was a marked decline in the receipt of heavy hogs last week, and very few of those arriving were fit for packing. There has not been any particular increase in the number of light hogs arriving, but a decided decrease in heavy ones coming to hand. Fully three-fourths of those received would go under 140 pounds, and are therefore not taken for packing, whilst some range as light as 40 pounds. These light hogs do not command as ready sale as heavier, being only fit for butchers use, and will only bring from 4½ to 4¾c. All suitable for packing bring 5c. Good country dressed beef sides will bring from 5 to 6c, with city strong at 6c. Mutton, 8 to 9c. Best pork sausage, 8c.

LIVE STOCK

There is nothing doing in cattle for immediate use, and none are wanted, as stocks of dressed beef are ample for a month or more in advance. Butchers, however, are contracting for future delivery, and find difficulty in obtaining good fed cattle. They are now offering from 4 to 4½c for good stock, for delivery after first of March.

MINNEAPOLIS.

Closing quotations to-day were precisely the same as those of a week ago and the fluctuations for the week have been within a 2c range. The market has been strong, however, and higher than others all the week, a fact which has puzzled the trade somewhat, being chiefly credited to a lively export demand, which was at too low a figure to secure much wheat, but was active enough to keep prices too high to suit the millers. The movement has again been light, although there has been some improvement the past day or two.

The highest and lowest wheat prices by grade on 'change during the week ending Jan. 26, closing prices, and the prices one year ago were:

WHEAT—	Highest.	Lowest.	Closin.	1886.
No. 1 hard	81	79	80	87½
" 1 northern	80	78	79	82½
" 2	78	76	77	82

Futures showed about the same range, May 1 hard closing at 84½c, 1 northern at 82½c and 2 northern at 80½c.

FLOUR—This market continues dull and weak with no active demand from any quarter. The best movement at present is in good bakers'. Export inquiry is light, domestic trade in-

active, and prices irregular, with no apparent inclination to operate.

Quotations at the mills for car or round lots are: Patents, \$4.40@4.60; straights, \$4.20@4.40; first bakers', \$3.60@3.85; second bakers', \$2.95@3.10; best low grades, \$1.80@2.00, in bags, red dog, \$1.40@1.50, in bags.

These quotations are on flour in barrels, except as stated. The rule is to discount 25c per bbl for 250 and 140 lb jute bags, 20c for 98lb cotton sacks, 16c for 45lb cotton sacks, 10c for 34½ lb cotton sacks. In half barrels the extra charge is 30c per bbl.

Our Northern Waters.

In another part, of this issue we give a brief sketch of the hair seal fisheries of Newfoundland, Labrador and adjoining waters. The value of this industry opens up the question of the development of our northern waters, which have scarcely been thought of by our merchants and seamen. The Americans, though they have not yet ceased to point out Canada as a vast iceberg, did not scruple to buy up Alaska to the north of our own unexplored northern regions, and have found a mine of wealth in its seal fisheries. Indeed, strange to say, it is only the American whalers who have hitherto drawn anything from the wealthy waters of Hudson Bay, where some of them have made vast profits in catching whales, porpoises, walrus, etc. By the way, in the fishery question is up, and since the American government has seized Canadian vessels that were fishing off the Alaskan coast, what steps are taken to protect our rights on the waters of Hudson Bay and vicinity? It is about time we began to realize the extent of our opportunities for developing new industries in these little known regions. It is yet undecided, we believe, whether another expedition will be sent to Hudson Bay this summer, but the possibilities of the seal and kindred fisheries here should of themselves be a justification for another expedition. We are not among those who have systematically decried the Hudson Bay route which is now being opened up, but think it not improbable that its establishment will be justified one day in the development of these and other features of the local trade alone, whether its expectations as a route to Europe are justified or not. Looking at the geographical relations of the two regions, we join the *Star* in wondering why the people of Ontario have not long ago pushed their explorations over the tracts which lie between them and this vast northern sea. The fur trade is valuable, geologists say the region abounds in minerals, and as grain and vegetables are grown on the shores of Hudson Bay, even its agricultural wealth must be greater than has yet been imagined.—*Canadian Journal of Fabrics.*

The English Farmer.

The *Mark Lane Express* argues that because farming is unprofitable in England, a tax must be imposed upon foreign breadstuffs, with discrimination in behalf of the colonies. The writer says that the cheapness of wheat is a curse rather than a blessing to consumers, and that under present conditions it cannot be long before wheat raising will become an obsolete industry in that country. No reference is made to the conditions under which wheat is raised there, and there is no suggestion as to the removal of the crushing tax imposed on the

industry by the exorbitant rents demanded for the support of an idle wealthy class. So long, however, as English farmers must use so much of their earnings in paying rent, and so long as taxes are too high to permit of their owning the ground, even if they could afford to buy it, wheat raising in that country must be a losing business. To build up rich colonies by buying their products, and then turn around and tax them, would be to a certain extent suicidal, even if home conditions were different. All reports indicate, however, that notwithstanding the low price of wheat, perhaps the bulk of English consumers do not get the benefit, because the price of bread is said to be the same as when wheat was fifteen to thirty cents per bushel higher than now. This being true, the wheat raisers and millers are the chief sufferers from the low price of wheat, while the bakers would lose most by the imposition of a duty.—*Northwestern Miller.*

Curious Dress of Alaska Indians.

The Utes of Northern Alaska utilize deer-skin, squirrel and muskrat pelts for clothing. Inner shirts of fawskins and outer coats of summer deerskins, with pants of similar materials, are worn by both males and females. The fair sex, however, have their shirts cut round at the bottoms and wear trousers and boots sewn in one piece, while the men's garments are similar in shape to ponchos, their trousers coming only to the knee. Deerskin socks, with the hair turned inwards, with seal or deer skin boots, having seal hide holes, comprise the footgear.

All the clothing is sewn with sinews obtained from the deer's legs and back and made up into thread. Three cornered needles are used for sewing, these being deemed the best for working upon skins. Strips of wolf and wolverine hair fringe the hood of the outside shirts, which serve as a protection against the icy blasts of the winter winds. Upon the back portion of the outside shirt, charms, as protection against evil, are seen. These consist of the skin of an ermine, a mink's tail, or a crow's head and beak while a belt with the tail of a wolf or wolverine depending at the beak serves to confine the shirt at the waist. Coats and trousers of the latest styles are being gradually introduced by traders among these people, but their use is confined to the summer months only. There is no doubt that in course of time civilized clothing will be sought after by these Utes, as the skins which they formerly utilized are disposed of in trade and prices paid that excite their cupidity. But owing to the rigor of the winter season deerskins can never be entirely displaced.—*Et.*

THE annual meeting of the Regina Board of Trade was held on Tuesday of last week. The main business of the evening was the election of officers, which resulted as follows:—President, F. J. Hunter; vice-president, D. W. Cole; secretary, D. Mowat. The following were chosen, who with the three elected officers will form a Council—John Dawson, C. H. Bayne, J. H. Smith, Andrew Martin, T. E. Martin, Alex. Sheppherd, M. McNicol, P. Lamont and J. A. MacCaul.

British Columbia.

D. J. McLEAN, grocer, Victoria, contemplates giving up business.

Brown & Co., late Malce & Brown, liquors, Vancouver, have assigned.

Hirshberg & Sommes, hotelkeepers, Vancouver, are in difficulties, and the sheriff is in possession.

A. P. Briggs, hotelkeeper, Victoria, has sold out to J. R. Tait.

J. H. Marer, furs, etc., Victoria, is reported away, and sheriff in possession of stock.

Pendry & Co., soap manufacturers, Victoria, have received orders for their goods from Montreal.

Fred Robinson, Beaver, near Donald, intends to move his saw mill and replace it with a larger and better one. The machinery and material are on the ground for the new mill.

Amongst the products of British Columbia which are finding their way to the Montreal market is the important staple wool, eight car loads of which have been recently received, with sales reported at 18c. to 18½c. per lb. There will no money in this shipment, however, as the wool costs about 16c. at point of shipment and the freight to Montreal is 2½c. per lb. The great drawback to British Columbia products finding a profitable market here is the heavy rate of freight which absorbs the whole margin between the cost price at point of shipment, and the selling price here. —*Trade Bulletin.*

A citizens committee has been formed at Vancouver, for the purpose of keeping out the Chinese. A number who recently arrived from Victoria, to clear land on the town plat, were shipped back, their fares having been paid by the citizens. The following pledges have been largely signed by the citizens. "The undersigned men and citizens of the city of Vancouver, hereby pledge themselves to do all in their power to discourage the location of Chinese within the city limits. By refusing to employ for any purpose whatever any Chinaman, or to deal with them directly or indirectly. And that in trading on our own account we shall be careful in discriminating against any party who persists in encouraging or employing Chinamen.

Insurance Notes.

A CHICAGO merchant surprised his wife on Christmas by presenting her with a \$20,000 policy on his life.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, Man., will provide fire protection in the shape of a new Ronald fire engine of the most improved make, together with a quantity of rubber-lined hose.

It is announced, upon the authority of Ex-President Soundy, of the British and Irish National Association, that the organization, of a millers' mutual fire insurance company in England has been abandoned.

THE Illinois legislature has before it a bill which makes a man pay taxes upon the value of his buildings as given in his insurance policies. If passed it will have a strong tendency to make the man who tries to sell out to the insurance companies pay his full share toward liquidating

the expenses of the state, country and municipal machinery.

A PROMINENT life insurance man of Hartford, Conn., says that his experience and the records of life insurance have shown him that young men twenty years of age who abstain from all kinds of intoxicating drinks have a good prospect of living to be sixty-four years of age; while the moderate drinker, at twenty years of age, can only expect to live to be thirty-five and a half years old.

Grain and Milling Notes.

There is a movement on foot to offer a bonus for the erection of a roller flour mill at McGregor station, Man.

The Carberry, Man., flour mill is undergoing repairs, from the damage caused by the late explosion of flour dust.

The exports of flour from Montreal during the past year ending Dec. 31st, 1886, aggregated 621,695 bbls, as compared with 673,295 bbls, for the year previous, showing a decrease of 51,600 bbls.

A movement is on foot at Birtle to secure a roller flour mill, which is much needed at that place. It is proposed to submit by-laws asking a bonus of \$4,000 from the municipality and \$2,000 from the town to aid the enterprise.

With a view to encourage the production of No. 1 hard wheat the Manitoba & North Western Ry. has issued a circular offering to supply farmers along the railway with choice seed wheat of the red fyfo variety at cost, free of freight charges.

A bonus by-law to aid the proprietors of the High Bluff, Man., flour mill to the extent of \$6,000, in putting in roller process machinery in their mill, has been carried by a vote of 80 to 20. The mill will be given a capacity of 75 barrels per day.

The hardy native corn of this country always ripens, and when ground into meal has a flavor superior to meal produced elsewhere. There is as much difference in the corn of Manitoba and the corn grown further south as there is in the wheat of the Northwest and the wheat of Ontario. —*Birtle Observer.*

Duty or no duty, it seems impossible to keep American flour out of the Montreal market, according to the *Trade Bulletin*, sales of Minnesota strong having been made to the tune of about 3,000 bbls, the key note of prices being \$4.70, and about 2,000 bbls, more are on the way. St. Louis winter wheat of high grade has also been sold at good prices.

One of the grievances which the Winnipeg retail grocers complain of is in connection with the flour trade. They say that it does not pay them to handle flour, as the purchaser can go to the mills or agencies in the city and obtain flour in retail quantities just as cheaply as the grocer can. On this account the grocers are obliged to sell flour at or about cost, and in addition take the risk of bad accounts, etc. The grocer would like the manufacturers to sell only to the trade, which would enable the former to handle flour with some profit. It will therefore be interesting to Winnipeg grocers to notice, that the Detroit, Michigan, Grocers' Association, which numbers some 400 members, has asked

the millers of that city to discontinue selling at retail. In reply the millers stated their willingness to comply with the request of the grocers, but demanded that the latter should buy flour only from the Detroit manufacturers. No doubt the Winnipeg millers would be willing to make a similar arrangement with the grocers here, but it is not likely that provincial manufacturers would relish such an agreement.

Personal.

W. M. RONALD of Porter & Ronald, wholesale crockery, etc., Winnipeg, left on Thursday for Eastern Canada and England, on a business trip.

MR. MAGNUS BEGG, the famous Indian tamer of the far west, was a caller upon the editor last week. Mr. Begg is noted for the perfect discipline which he maintains over the bold, dusky braves of the warlike Blackfoot nation.

MR. C. E. D. WOOD, of the *Macleod Gazette*, who was in the city last week, dropped in on THE COMMERCIAL staff. Mr. Wood reports the cattle on the western ranges in good shape.

MR. W. F. DOLL, wholesale jeweller, Winnipeg, left for New York and the East on Wednesday last.

MR. J. A. CHRISTIE, of lumber fame, Brandon, paid THE COMMERCIAL a visit last week. Mr. Christie will make a good representative to Parliament from Western Manitoba, should he come out ahead in the election contest.

MR. B. JOHNSON, the pleasant conversationalist and one of the best liked travellers on the road, is now doing the Northwest in the interests of Kilgour Bros, papers, etc., of Toronto.

MR. JOHN W. MOYES, representing the Pure Gold Co., of Toronto, manufacturers of baking powder, extracts, etc., is in the city. Mr. Moyes will do the Pacific coast before returning east.

MR. J. J. F. HOUGHTON, who came to Winnipeg to look after the interest of P. W. Ellis & Co., of Toronto, in the bankrupt jewelry stock of W. T. Harris, has been obliged to undergo a course of treatment in the hospital. Mr. Houghton's geniality has already made him many friends in the city, who will be pleased to know that he is convalescent.

General Notes.

McKinnon, of Sharp & McKinnon, the insolvent boot and shoe manufacturers of Montreal, is maintained under arrest upon *capias*.

The failure of Friendly & Co, overall manufacturers etc, Toronto, Ont., is said to be one of the worst on record for that place. The liabilities are placed at \$170,000, with more to hear from, and only nominal assets to the amount of \$12,000. Old country firms are involved.

A new use for the tobacco plant is said to have been discovered. Its stems and waste, it is claimed, are equal to linen rags in the manufacture of paper.

The Yarmouth woollen mill people recently shipped a quantity of their goods to Jamaica, to fill orders, and now, says the *Times*, have orders from British Guiana. These orders have been received through the New York agency of the mill.

H. SHOREY & CO

Wholesale Clothiers,

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EASTERN MARKETS.

CHICAGO

The markets opened strong and higher all around on Monday and prices were fairly maintained throughout the day. Exports of wheat and flour for the past week showed up very heavy, and the country seemed bullish. May opened at 85½c, or ½c over Saturday's close. Once prices got down to 85½c, but soon recovered again. Pork went up to \$12.87½c, or 32c over Saturday. There was strong speculation in pork, owing to light receipts of hogs. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.
Wheat	79½	85½
Corn	30	41½
Oats	25½	30½
Pork	12.52½	12.77½
Lard	6.50	6.72½
Short Ribs	6.20	6.47½

The bullish feeling seemed to have "folded its tent and silently stole away" during the night, for on Tuesday morning the wheat market opened dull and easy. May opened at 85½c, and dropped another ½c immediately, continuing downward until 84½c was reached. There was a recovery to 85c, but the close was weak. Corn broke with wheat. Provisions were quiet and easier. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.
Wheat	78½	84½
Corn	35½	41½
Oats	25½	30½
Pork	12.45	12.67½
Lard	6.47½	6.67½
Short Ribs	6.32½	6.47½

The markets were dull on Wednesday. There was only a range of ½c in wheat, and the general tendency easier. Corn was dull and lower. Pork opened 10c lower, but advanced 17½c, then receded 7½c, closing firmer. Last prices were:

	Jan.	May.
Wheat	78½	84½
Corn	35½	41
Oats	25½	30½
Pork	12.47½	12.70
Lard	6.45	6.67½
Short Ribs	6.27½	6.45

On Thursday the wheat market was again weak, with the tendency of prices lower, under an absence of stimulating news from outside sources. Cables were dull, and the strike of longshoremans at New York had a depressing effect on exports. May opened at 84½c, and receded at 83½c; then, after a temporary firmity, dropped to 83½c. May pork advanced strongly to \$12.85, with heavy trading. At this point heavy offerings broke prices, among these being one offer of 20,000 barrels at \$12.82½, and which partly sold at that figure. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.
Wheat	77½	83½
Corn	35	40½
Oats	25½	30½
Pork	12.47½	12.72½
Lard	6.45	6.65
Short Ribs	6.35	6.50

Wheat continued heavy on Friday. May opened at 83½c, and with fair buying advanced up to 84½c. Considerable long wheat came out during the day. It is said there is a large amount of wheat now held which had been bought above 81c. Some alarm is now felt by the bulls lest this should come out. Profits on

many of these deals have about disappeared. After the opening firmness, May settled back to 83½c, closing slightly better. Corn was speculatively dull. Provisions were steady and with a tendency to firmer prices. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.
Wheat	77½	83½
Corn	35	40½
Oats	25½	30½
Pork	12.50	12.75
Lard	6.45	6.65
Short Ribs	6.37½	6.50

On Saturday there was very little change in the prices of any commodities. In wheat the range of fluctuations was only about ½c. Provisions were steady and easier. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.
Wheat	77½	83½
Corn	35	—
Oats	25½	—
Pork	12.50	12.70
Lard	6.42½	—
Short Ribs	6.35	—

TORONTO.

STOCKS

The following comparison of quotations for the dates named will show the changes in the stock market.

	Jan. 19.		Jan. 26.	
	ASKED.	BID.	ASKED.	BID.
Montreal	232	211½	241½	230½
Ontario	116½	115	115½	114½
Toronto	—	214	215½	212
Merchants	131	130	130½	129½
Commerce	125	124½	124½	123½
Imperial	136	134½	137	136½
Federal	108	107½	107½	107
Dominion	223½	222½	223	222½
Standard	127½	126½	127½	126½
Hamilton	—	135	—	135
Northwest Land	61½	61½	62	60½
C.P.R. Bonds	106	105	106	105

WHEAT

The wheat market has been dull and inactive, in sympathy with English and American markets. On Monday and Tuesday No. 2 fall sold at 82c, and 84c for No. 2 spring and red winter. Two cars of No. 2 white fyfe sold on Wednesday at 85½c. Prices closed about 1c off.

FLOUR.

Superior extra held at \$3.60 and extra at \$3.50.

OATS

Offered less freely and held firmly. Prices ranged from 31 to 32c.

BARLEY

Held more firmly and in better demand. No. 1 sold at 60c; No. 2 offered at 55c, with 53c bid; extra No. 3 sold at 46½ to 47c; No. 3 dull at 42c.

APPLES.

Good inquiry, but none offered in car lots; \$2.50 would have been paid, and perhaps 10 to 15c higher than this.

BUTTER

Offerings small and demand fair, with some wanted for Northwestern account. Selected dairy quoted at 19 to 20c; good store, 15 to 16c; mixed lots, 13 to 14c; common, 10 to 12c; rolls, 16 to 17c. Stocks low, but ample reported held in country.

CHEESE.

Firm at 12½ to 13c in small lots.

EGGS

Pickled, 17 to 17½c, and fresh at 19 to 20c.

PORK

Steady at \$14.50 to \$15.

CURED MEATS.

In fair demand. Long clear by the car offered at 7½c. One lot 60 sides sold at 7½c; cases, 8c. Cumberland, 7½ to 7¾c; rolls 8½ to 9c; bellies 10 to 10½c; hams 11c, in small lots.

LARD

Pails have sold at from 9½ for large and 9¾ to 10c for small.

DRESSED HOGS

Cars sold at \$5.00, and later at \$5.85.

DRIED APPLES.

Have continued scarce and in good demand, but at unchanged prices. Trade lots have continued to find buyers at 3½ to 4c, and would have brought those figures at the close, dealers selling small lots at 4½c, but finding the demand for them rather slow. Evaporated scarce and held high with trade lots bringing 10 to 10½c, and small lots selling at 11c.

HIDES AND WOOL

Green have, as was expected, declined another quarter-cent; No. 1 inspected stand this week at 7½c and other grades in proportion. Cured quiet; one sale reported at 8½c, but more available at this figure. Calfskins, green have declined a cent. Quotations are:—Hides, No. 1 inspected steers, \$7.50; No. 1 inspected cows, \$7.50; No. 2 inspected, \$6.50; No. 3 inspected, \$5.75; calfskins, green, 10 to 12c; calfskins, cured, 13 to 14c; calfskins, dry, 11 to 13c; sheepskins, green, 7½ to \$1.15; wool, super, 23 to 24c; extra super, 28c; wool pickings, 9 to 10c; tallow, rough, 2c; rendered, 4 to 4½c.

DULUTH WHEAT MARKET

Duluth opened strong on Monday, with a good demand and light offerings. Receipts were larger than for some time back. There were 60 cars on track. Wheat in store shows an increase of 34,115 bushels for last week. There were no sales of cash on Tuesday, with the markets generally slumpy. On Wednesday there was only elevator capacity left for about 400,000 bushels, with cars enough on track to take up half of that. The day was dull and featureless. Thursday and Friday were dull and lower, May selling down to 84½c on the latter day. No. 1 northern sold at 83 and 82½c. June closed on Saturday at 86½c, with a gain of ½c for May. Closing prices for No. 1 hard on each day of the week were:

	Cash	Jan.	May
Monday	80½	—	86½
Tuesday	—	—	85½
Wednesday	79½	—	85½
Thursday	80	—	85½
Friday	—	—	84½
Saturday	—	—	86

The Effect of the K. of L. upon Trade.

The Boston Daily Advertiser's review of the course of Boston markets for 1886, states that "the Knights of Labor organization developed throughout the country to such an extent during the year that the number of men out of employment in the country by strikes or lock-outs must have at times exceeded those unemployed by reason of the hard times in the period immediately preceding the boom of 1880. The savage character of the difficulties has been lamentable and most serious, at times rendering life and property insecure; and laboring men, in a struggle to obtain an increase of wages from \$50 to \$100 a year, have sacrificed more than twice as much by voluntary or enforced idleness. At times the transportation of freight on through lines of railroad has been totally stopped, and the horrible railroad riots of Pittsburgh have been rivalled in scenes of blood and crime. Anarchy has been openly agitated, and in its name blood has been shed—an outgrowth of labor agitation and difficulty. In this State factories have been burned; life has been taken, and too often assailed; the legitimate rights of men have been jeopardized, and the infernal boycott has been introduced. Trade has been greatly injured by these disturbing and unsettling influences, and the best that can be said of the outlook for 1887 is that the K. of L. and its power to do injury seems to have greatly decreased, and will probably be less than in 1886."

Business East.**ONTARIO.**

A Geiger, baker, Hamilton, away.
 Mrs. Lee, millinery, Lindsay, has assigned.
 D. & J. Kenny, milliners, Surin, have sold out.
 George Darvill, furniture, London, has sold out.
 W. J. Cluff, shoes, Toronto, has assigned in trust.
 T. L. Bayeur, shoes, Belleville, has assigned in trust.
 C. D. Newton, grocer, Toronto, has assigned in trust.
 Wm. Spencer, broker, etc., London, is out of business.
 Richard Postaus, fruit grower, Oakville, has suspended.
 George Maurer, shoes, Ayton, has moved to Teeswater.
 Wm. Smith, blacksmith, Oil Springs, was burned out.
 Chas. Dietrich, jeweler, Toronto, has given up business.
 E. Moore, fancy goods, Kingston, has assigned in trust.
 H. Kelly, hotelkeeper, Port Elgin, has moved to Burgoyne.
 T. J. Hempton, general store, Sharlet Lake, has assigned.
 Alfred Jeanerett, jeweler, Elmira, has assigned in trust.
 J. R. Sterling, grocer, St. Thomas, has assigned in trust.
 Mrs. Cunningham, shoes, Mitchell, has assigned in trust.
 John Alexander, leather, Hamilton, is offering to compromise.
 Wm. Mitchell, dry goods, Mount Albert, has assigned in trust.
 George A. Marlatt, M.D., Alvinston, has moved to Fingal.
 James Keys, hotelkeeper, Burgoyne, has sold out to H. Kelley.
 Miss Sutherland, fancy goods, Harriston, has assigned in trust.
 Wm. Soutacott, tailor, Blyth, intends removing to Exeter.
 Louis Durham, grocer, Harrisburg, has sold out to A. Durham.
 James O. Simpson, dry goods, Alexander, has assigned in trust.
 D. M. Leitch, groceries and shoes, Alvinston, is giving up business.
 Charles Southcott, tailor, Exeter, intends removing to Toronto.
 J. C. Chamberlain, jr., grocer and stationer, Ottawa, has assigned.
 M. Wilkie, hotelkeeper, Port Elgin, has sold out to Andrew Shiels.
 R. W. Woodroffe, jeweler, Ingersoll, has sold out to George Mason.
 S. Crabb & Co., shoes, Toronto, had their stock damaged by fire.
 Globe Fire Extinguisher Co., London; Henry Weld of this company dead.
 J. D. Ivey & Co., wholesale millinery, London, are moving to Toronto.
 A. Friendly & Co., manufacturers of overalls, Toronto, have assigned in trust.
 Hincks & Co., millinery, Toronto, have dissolved; Ann Hincks continues.

Alex. Wetherell & Co., dry goods, Hamilton, had their stock damaged by fire.
 W. O. Whiting, fancy goods, Toronto; stock sold for 40c on the dollar.
 Burling & Davis, furniture, Aurora, have dissolved; Robert Davis continues.
 Cavanagh & Armitage, grain dealers, Toronto; A. Armitage of this firm dead.
 Smith & Peard, grocers, Oshawa, have dissolved; style now Smith & Adams.
 Thomas Mighton, general store, Vandecar, has sold out to A. R. W. Burrows.
 A. Watson & Co., produce and commission merchants, Toronto, have dissolved.
 C. Wilson & Sons, scale manufacturers, Toronto, had their stock damaged by fire.
 M. Neagle & Co., grocers, Guelph; their stock being sold under chattle mortgage.
 A. Shiels, liverykeeper, Port Elgin, has sold out livery and gone into the hotel business.
 Thomas Logan & Co., general store, Teeswater, have sold out to Maurer & Thomas.
 T. R. Robertson, shoes, Carleton Place, is offering to compromise at 60c on the dollar.
 Miller & Vanderwort, grocers, Belleville, have dissolved; style now Vanderwort & Davis.
 Townsend & Woolrick, general store, Brookholm, have dissolved; R. S. Townsend continues.
 The following were burned out at Petrolia: Cameron & McLean, tailors; S. J. Morwood, grocer; William Noble, jeweler.

QUEBEC.

Emil Prevost, lumber, Valleyfield, is dead.
 E. Carbray, grocer, Montreal, has assigned.
 E. Marceau, general store, Isle Verte, was burned out.
 Theophile Dussault, tailor, Quebec, has assigned in trust.
 Vaillancourt & Laberge, painters, Quebec, have assigned.
 Lafleur, Bourdon & Co., shoes, St. Henri, have dissolved.
 Frank Keller & Co., fur dressers, Montreal, have dissolved.
 Kirk, Lockerley & Co., wholesale grocers, have dissolved.
 Wm. Rutherford & Co., lumber, Montreal, have dissolved.
 Damien Chaput, general store, St. Hyacinthe, has assigned in trust.
 Harte & Mortimer, Moxie Nerve Food, Montreal, have dissolved.
 Louis Beland, dry goods, Sorel; demand of assignment made on him.
 Narcisse Pilote, tailor, Wolton; demand of assignment made on him.
 Bedell, Glassford & Co., wholesale fancy dry goods, Montreal, have dissolved.
 Bourret, Berland & Co., vinegar manufacturers, Montreal, have dissolved.
 Pinkerton & Turner, manufacturers boots and shoes, Montreal, have suspended.
 Leclerc Ulderic & Co., butchers, Montreal; demand of assignment made on them.
 C. Huston & Co., wholesale clothing, Montreal, have sold business out to E. A. Small & Co.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Archie Dakin, drugs, Digby, away.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

McEachran & Tait, general store, Chatham, have dissolved.

John J. Munroe, trunks, St. John, style now S. J. Munroe & Son.

Flax Growing By The Mennonites.

The Mennonites, or followers of Simon Menno have a history as strange as that attaching to the Spanish Gipsies betrayed by George Borrow, and among those who have occasionally heard of the Mennonite villages or settlements in Minnesota and Manitoba few are aware how long the sect has been in existence or who its original founder was. So far as 1496 a man named Simon Menno was born of humble parentage in the Dutch province of Friesland. Being of an exceptional gentle, earnest, modest and affectionate nature, he held war and its horrors and crimes in detestation, and forbade his people to resort to arms, even for the purpose of maintaining civil order. Withdrawing from the church in which he had been ordained a priest, he applied himself to a study of the creed held by the German Anabaptists, and set himself earnestly to the task of gathering together the scattered remnants of the sect in Holland and North Germany. Persecution drove him out of Holland, and he settled in Holstein, where he found not only protection, but was allowed to establish a printing-press for the diffusion of his religious opinions. Here he died in 1561. Several colonies of Mennonites sprang up in honor of his memory, but the most powerful and numerous was that established in Pomerania. In an evil day for their tranquillity the greatest warrior King that ever was born to a throne succeeded to possession Brandenburg. Frederick the Great—for it is of him we are speaking—soon had occasion to demand that every male adult in his little kingdom should follow the drum. When encountered by the mild resistance of the Mennonites, who refused under any circumstances, to take up arms, the hero of Leuthen and Rosbach commanded the followers of Menno instantly to leave his dominions. Fortunately the exiles from Pomerania found a protector in the Emperor Paul of Russia. He had heard of their skill and industry as agriculturists, and invited them to settle down in his Courland provinces. As their numbers increased the military ambition of the Colossus of the North grew yet more rapidly. The unhappy wanderers were again compelled to flit to the shores of the Sea of Azov, where they established themselves in that Tartar wilderness, which is now known as the Crimea.

Here they thrive exceedingly, and replenished the earth, making the barren desert to blossom like a rose. Yet even there they were pursued by the inexorable demands made by the iron rule of Holy Russia. Rather than comply with conditions which their unworldly religion forbade, they sent emissaries to North America, to seek settlements in a country which promised them permanent emancipation from the molestations of the recruiting sergent.

Hitherto the flax grown in Russia, although enormous in quantity, has been inferior in quality to that produced by Holland; Belgium, and Ireland. Yet it has lately constituted the most important export sent to this country by the subjects of the "Great White Czar." If, following the example of Peter the Great and the Empress Catherine, he had been satisfied to confine himself to improving and developing

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BOSTON.

MONTREAL.

CHICAGO.

the peaceful resouces of his mighty Empire, flax and hemp would have gone far towards restoring Russian credit and diffusing happiness and abundance through a smiling land. Now the Northwest of Canada menaces her flax with extinction, for it is admitted that the quality of Manitoba flax is the finest in the world. The crop, which is believed in Europe to be of an exhausting character, can be grown without manure for generations to come in the rich loam of the Canadian prairies. There are two hundred and fifty millions of acres awaiting cultivation, either under wheat or under flax, and the latter promises to be far more remunerative as a crop. Moreover, the Russians have lately imposed prohibitive duties upon the linen manufactures of this country, and in addition the manufacturers of that valuable commodity in the United Kingdom are full of complaints as to the countless annoyances and difficulties to which they are subjected when endeavoring to draw their raw material from the Baltic. Their letters are opened and delayed at the Russian post offices, and sometimes sent to wrong addresses, and the prompt execution of orders sent by them has become almost impossible. Naturally they are beginning to turn their eyes hopefully to the increasing crop of superior flax for which the Mennonites and other inhabitants of Ontario and of Manitoba are becoming famous, and all the more so because a firm in Ontario has this year sent over a thousand tons of flax to Belfast, the quality of which cannot be surpassed for excellence. The plant yields three profits—one from the fibre, another from the seed, and a third from the refuse, which is

turned into paper. The fibres of the inner bark when separated from the stem, supply the fabric from which linen is made, and are used for the most delicate cambric, for exquisite lace, and for the stoutest sail-cloth. The seeds when compressed yield linseed oil, which is used for mixing paints and making varnishes; while the crushed mass constitutes the linseed or oil cake, which is one of the most esteemed foods for cattle. Ground to a fine powder it becomes linseed meal, which is invaluable for medical purposes. Finally, the fibre of flax is the ultimate material from which pure linen paper is made, while linseed oil is largely used in the composition of printers ink.—*Daily Telegraph*, London, Eng.

Montreal papers announce that steps are being taken for the formation of a new rubber company in that city.

A demand of assignment has been made upon Parkerton & Turner, boot and shoe manufacturers, Montreal. Liabilities are said to amount to \$72,000; assets \$40,000.

D. McCALL & CO., Wholesale Millinery, Toronto.

CHARLESWORTH & CO., Boots and Shoes, Toronto.

FISHER & FISHER, Gents' Furnishings, Toronto.

JOSEPH HORSFALL, Wholesale Clothing, Montreal.

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G. H. McMICKEN, Agent.

For the Drummers.

When you see a traveling man at table help himself to potatoes with their jackets on, look out for him, he is preparing to make a mash.

A Wisconsin landlord recently notified some of his drummer patrons not to order more than they could eat up clean. —*Merchant Traveller.*

There appears to be a general movement to abolish the taxes in various parts of the United States on commercial travellers. The travelers themselves are working in the matter, and their friends in Congress will probably make another push to abolish the taxes.

The regulations against commercial travelers in Alabama are to be made more stringent. A new law which went into effect January 1, retains the tax of \$10 fixed by the old law, but adds a provision that all contracts made by the traveling agents who have not paid the license tax shall be void as to both of the parties thereto. This provision is intended to force payment of the tax, which has hitherto been evaded in a large number of cases.

A travelling man, who was seldom at home except on Sunday, had occasion to chastise his eldest boy one Sabbath about three weeks ago. As soon as the shingle seance was over the child ran crying into the house.

"Why, Johnny, what is the matter?" asked the mother in alarm.

"That big fellow's been licking me," whimpered the boy.

"What fellow do you mean, Johnny?"

"Why, that fellow what stays here Sunday," replied the urchin, with a gulp.

"The life of a commercial traveller is not the greatest fun in world," says *The Merchant*, "nor does the man of the grip-sack become the richest man on the earth. At the same time the life has some compensations. A good man is almost invaluable to a house and commands good pay. There is a traveller for a Chicago soap house who gets \$4,000 a year and a liberal allowance for expenses; but the average salary would be about \$1,200. Many of the prominent wholesale merchants of Canada and the United States started their career on the road; and, as is well known, quite a number of principals still handle the grip, off and on, throughout the year."

Barbed Fences and Hides.

The question of barbed wire fences as an element of danger to cattle and other stock and an agent of injury to hides has been frequently discussed. There is no question of the fact that much injury can be done and has been done to hides by the barbs on wire fences, and it is not strange that the subject has come up as a matter of litigation in a court of law. Such a case has tried in the New Jersey Supreme Court, and the owner of a barbed wire fence adjoining a field in which a colt was grazing, was held responsible for the loss of the colt when he got entangled in the fence and injured as to cause his death. Being the decision of a high court, this decision will be a matter of great importance to those who use wire fences or who have stock injured in them. Tanners and hide men will be much pleased to have them abolished. "The dangers that menace the quality of hides are numerous enough, without having them lurking in every panel of fence around a pasture." —*Leather Gazette.*

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Look at the map and observe the time tables, and then go to the nearest ticket office and ask for your ticket over the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, and thus secure the very best accommodations to be had for your money, as this Company runs none but the finest trains, over the most perfect tracks, through the most populous towns and villages, and in the midst of pastoral and picturesque scenery, making Quick Time and Sure Connections in Union Depots. No change of Cars of any class between St. Paul and Chicago.

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