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Capital all Paid-up \$12,000,000 00
 Reserve Fund 6,000,000 00
 Undivided Profits 823,000 00

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Capital Authorized & Subscribed, \$1,500,000.00
 Capital Paid up..... 1,500,000.00
 REST..... 1,000,000.00

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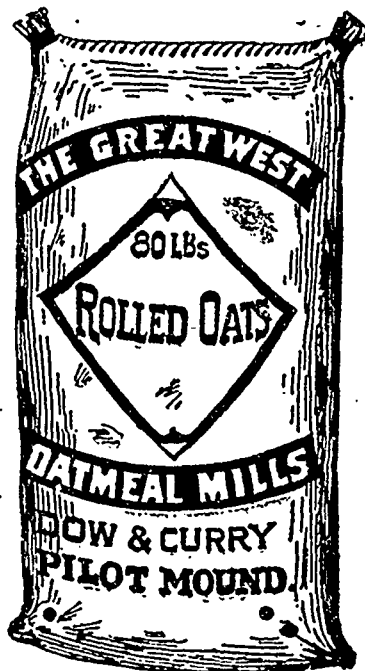
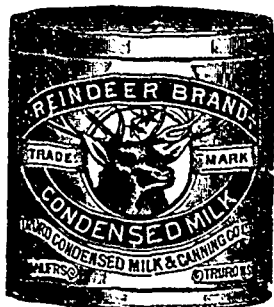
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A Journal of Commerce, Industry and Finance, especially devoted to the interests of Western Canada, including that portion of Ontario west of Lake Superior, the provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Territories.

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The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much larger circulation among the business community of the country between Lake Superior and the Pacific Coast, than any other paper in Canada, daily or weekly. By a thorough system of personal solicitation, carried out annually, this journal has been placed upon the desks of a great majority of business men in the vast district described above, and including Northwest Ontario, the provinces of Manitoba, and British Columbia, and the territories of Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, FEBRUARY 10, 1896.

Manitoba.

E. Dagg, has opened a butcher shop a Rathwell.

A. Gurner, merchant, St. Boniface, has sold out his grocery department.

E. Burling, harness maker, Winnipeg, has assigned in trust to S. A. D. Bertrand.

D. J. Dyson & Co., spice mills, are about opening a branch in Vancouver, in charge of A. N. Parry.

Geo. D. Wood & Co., wholesale hardware, Winnipeg, have taken over the retail business of H. Steep, Winnipeg, and will conduct it under the management of O. Golmer.

The Patrons' Advocate, the organ of the Patrons of Industry of Manitoba, has ceased publication, for lack of sufficient support. This may possibly indicate the coming dissolution of the organization.

The T. A. Garland stock, at Portage la Prairie, of general merchandise, is now being offered at retail at slaughter sale, with the prospect that trade at the Portage will be greatly demoralized as a consequence of the compromise.

The Montreal Fur and Millinery Company is applying for incorporation. The head office is to be in Winnipeg and the proposed members of the company are: W. R. Keys, merchant; Mrs. E. E. Nunn; Mrs. E. R. Gamble; Miss L. Stenton; Miss E. Roberts; and W. Kirkland.

S. Dunwoodie & Co., retail dry goods dealers, Winnipeg, have admitted E. U. Steen as partner, the style of the firm henceforth to be, Dunwoodie, Steen & Co. Mr. Steen has been in the employ of the firm for some time, in which he now becomes a partner.

The following statement shows the value of goods exported and goods entered for consumption with duty collected thereon during the month of January, 1896, at Winnipeg, as compared with the same month in 1895:

Description	Value	
	1895	1896
Exported	\$123,420 00	\$ 83,536 00
Entered for consumption, dutiable....	101,517 00	165,296 00
Entered for consumption, free.....	35,687 00	89,823 00
Total for consumption.....	137,204 00	204,619 00
Duty collected	82,877 11	54,159 28

Alberta.

E. F. Hutchings, of Winnipeg, has bought out Carson & Shon's harness business at Edmonton and will consolidate it with his Edmonton branch under the name of the Edmonton Saddlery Co.

The Edmonton Bulletin says. J. Rivet arrived last night from Dunvegan, Peace River, with about \$1,500 worth of fur. He left Dunvegan on Jan. 6th. The weather had been mild. The Peace River was still open in places and several rains had occurred. Rabbits and furs generally were plentiful and the Indians were prosperous.

Saskatchewan.

A. MacDonald & Co., who carry on a branch general store at Battleford, have bought out the stock and business of Mahaffy & Clinkskill, general storekeepers of the same place.

Assiniboia.

McIvor & Smith, hotel, Regina, have dissolved partnership, W. McIvor continues the business.

Northwest Ontario.

The Rat Portage Council has passed a by-law exempting the works of the Dominion Gold Mining and Reduction Company from taxation for two years, on the condition that they employ twenty-five men for at least nine months in the year within the town limits.

Grain and Milling Notes.

W. D. Craig has leased the flour mill at Virden, Man.

A flour and grain section of the Toronto board of trade has been organized. This is a new departure and is expected to prove a great advantage to the Toronto grain trade in this line. It is likely the section will become one of the largest and most powerful of the board.

It is not generally known in the grain trade that Brandon, Man., has been made an independent inspection district, under control of Brandon board of trade, but such is the case. The business was done very quietly, perhaps for fear of causing opposition from other parts, though it is not at all likely that any opposition would have been raised. F. H. Hesson has been appointed inspector at Brandon, having passed his examination before an examining board appointed by the Brandon board of trade.

Speaking of the new flour warehouse erected by the Canadian Pacific railway at Fort William, Supt. White said: "The Canadian Pacific railway recognizing the importance of this trade, has decided to erect this winter a large flour warehouse at Fort William, so that the mills may grind all winter and store the flour for shipment when navigation opens in spring, or for shipment by the all-rail route in winter to any point where the markets show a good opening. The millers recognize the advantage of running at full capacity all winter, because the fixed charges are pretty much the same whether a mill is grinding its full capacity of 1,000 barrels a day or half its capacity. Mills not having sufficient storage capacity of their own, can thus forward their output to Fort William for storage, and fill orders from there."

Virden Board of Trade.

The annual meeting of the board of trade, of Virden, Manitoba, was held Tuesday last, president Meek in the chair. After the reading of the minutes which were adopted, the names of several gentlemen were submitted for membership and accepted. The election

of officers resulted as follows: Jos. A. Merrick, president; J. F. Frame, vice-president, Geo. H. Healey, secretary-treasurer; D. McDonald, auditor; W. H. Hall, B. Meek, R. Trumbell, J. W. Higginbotham, W. J. Wilcox, David Fraser, D. McDonald, W. J. Kennedy, J. A. Schoenau, H. C. Simpson, Jas. Rothnie and J. H. Agnew, members of the council.

A letter was read inviting the board to send three delegates to the immigration convention to be held in Winnipeg, on Feb. 27 and 28. The communication was received with much favor and the following gentlemen were appointed delegates: J. H. Agnew, J. W. Higginbotham, and H. C. Simpson.

The annual report of the council was adopted and ordered to be printed. The membership fee was reduced in order to encourage the business men generally to join the board.

London Wool Sales.

The last series of London wool sales closed on January 30. Offerings were 191,000 bales presented for consumption out of 205,000 available for the series. Of this number 22,000 were held over, including 16,000 bales, which were not catalogued. The daily attendance from all quarters has been large, United States buyers probably making the best record in this respect. The sales have progressed with almost uniform briskness. There was a small partial improvement at the opening of the series, which gradually increased under strong buying by German and American operators, the result being that greasy merinos are now 10 per cent advanced, and scoured wools 1 1/2 pence and fine cross-breeds half penny higher; but coarse wools have declined a half penny as compared with the closing prices of the December series. Cape and Natal greasies have averaged a rise of 1/2 penny, and scoured and fleeced, washed, 1/2 penny. It is estimated that the home trade bought 70,000, the continent 81,000, and American 21,000 bales, the latter figure probably being below the actual number of bales. The series closed steady, despite the irregularity, latterly, which has been due to the fact that orders will be largely completed at the next series, which will open on March 3rd, the quantity of that series being unlimited."

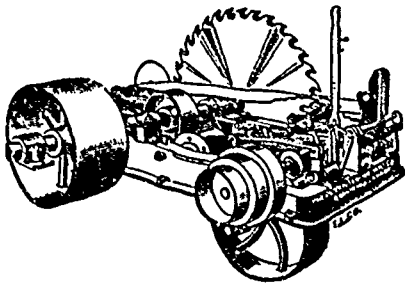
Legal Interest Rate.

The debate on Mr. Mulock's bill to reduce the legal rate of interest from six to four per cent, where no rate is specified was resumed and occupied the attention of Parliament for some time one day last week. Various opinions were expressed on the intention of the measure, the trend of expressions being that the legal rate should be fixed as near as possible to the average commercial rate, five per cent, being most generally approved. On motion of Hon. Mr. Foster the bill was referred to the committee on banking and commerce to give a number of bankers and business men from whom letters have been received an opportunity to express their views. They are not in favor of lowering interest. Mr. Foster intimated that while the government might favor a reduction of the present legal rate he would not say that it would be as low as four per cent.

Cables from Bordeaux, this week, state that C. noble walnuts have advanced 8s per 100 kilos. This means an advance of nearly 1c per lb. in cost of future importations to this side of the Atlantic.

The Island City Paint and Varnish works, Montreal, were destroyed by fire last week. The building was valued at \$20,000 and the stock at \$60,000, on which there was \$25,000 insurance.

Allan & Co., dry goods merchants, Ottawa, Ont., are offering to compromise with creditors at sixty cents on the dollar. Liabilities about \$25,000.

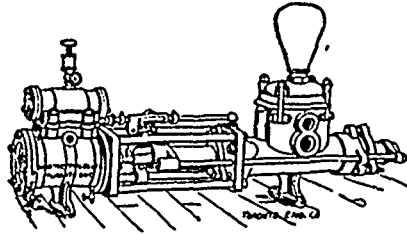


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WINNIPEG, MAN.

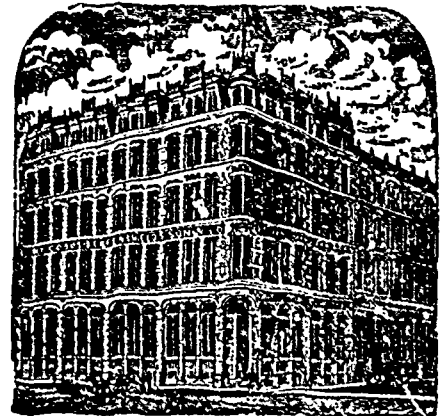
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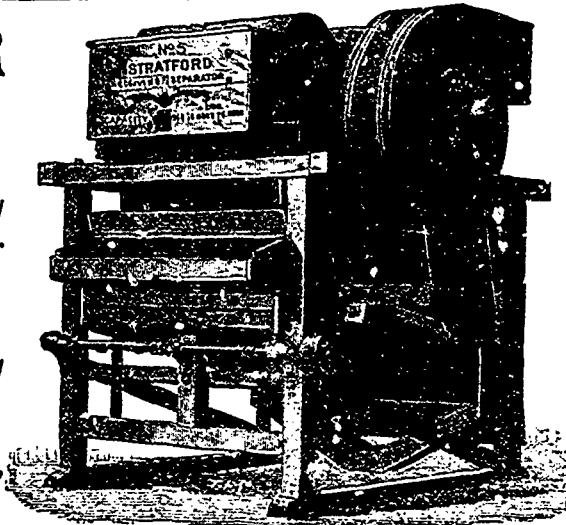
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The Wheat Supply of England.

At the beginning of the present century England produced her own food. In 1801 the population of Great Britain was only 10,500,000. The total estimated consumption of grain was for that population a little over 27,000,000 quarters, of which 1,500,000 quarters were imported from Russia, Prussia, the Netherlands, and the United States. Thus, by far the greater bulk of our corn was produced in these islands, and was sufficient to maintain their inhabitants without more than a severe pinching. There were, indeed, years in which the harvest was exceedingly bad, when the price of bread rose to heights which seem to us of to-day enormous—as, for instance, in 1812, when wheat stood at 12s a quarter and the quarter loaf at 1s 6½d—but there never was a time when bread was unprocurable. It is none the less interesting to notice the effect which this high price produced upon the working classes, though here the introduction of machinery must be taken into account as a disturbing cause.

The "Annual Register" of 1812 tells us that "the uncommonly high price of provisions, occasioned by many concurrent causes (amongst which was the war with France), and by no means relieved by the product of the last harvest, has been the cause of petty riots in various parts of the kingdom." More than this, it appears to have been one of the causes to which the Luddite outbreak of 1812 must be ascribed, since Mr. Baines, then editor of Leeds Mercury, expressly states in his "History of the Wars of the French Revolution," that the Luddites made the dearth of bread one of their grievances. To pass over attacks on spinning or weaving mills, on April 14, 1812, men in cloths, the "Annual Register" tells us, raided the Sheffield potato market. On the 18th, says the same authority there were riots at Bristol, owing to the high price of provisions. Still earlier in the month, a mob at Carlisle endeavored to seize the stores of corn and potatoes there; on the 19th, the same mob seized large quantities of ham, bacon and flour. On the 20th, a large mob appropriated meal, flour and potatoes, at New Cross and Knot Mill, near Manchester. On August 13th, fresh riots at Sheffield are announced, when the mob compelled storekeepers to sell flour at 8s a stone, instead of 7s, the current price. On the 27th, we are told that the Luddites attacked a farmer near Huddersfield and obliged him to promise to reduce the price of his corn and milk. Finally, on September 5, came an attack on a corn mill at Brighouse.

We have carefully selected from the great mass of outrages which occurred in this year, those in which hunger seems to have been the motive, and it is probable that a close study would reveal many more such incidents. But these are enough to prove that the high price of food in our last war with France, at a time when we were all but self-sufficing, had the gravest effect upon the temper of the population of our large towns. It must be remembered that at this date—whether 1800 or 1812 matters not—we grew our own meat, eggs, butter, and vegetables.

In the course of time, after the war with France, came a great outcry against the Corn Laws, promoted mainly in the manufacturing districts. By the Corn Laws, as they stood in 1830, a duty of 24s was imposed upon imported wheat when the price of English-grown wheat fell below 50s a quarter. This virtually prohibited importation at or below that figure. When English wheat fetched from 50s to 6d, and importation might then be said to be free, as the 6d was a negligible sum. The duty upon corn if we take the dogmatic view, was imposed in the selfish interest of the aristocratic and land-owning classes, who then governed the country; but there were other and sounder reasons. The statesmen of the last century felt that it was

inexpedient to permit this country to become solely dependent upon the sea. They deliberately, in the throes of our great struggle with France, sacrificed the fast-growing manufacturing interests to the larger welfare of the nation. They preferred power to opulence, and history, whilst it can not forget the terrible sufferings of the working class, may forgive them since the results of their policy brought manifest advantage to the inhabitants of the United Kingdom in after days. But when England was no longer beset by enemies the main argument for the Corn Laws had vanished. An age of peace (it seemed to those of that day of lasting peace) succeeded, and the cry of Lancashire, of Yorkshire, and of London for cheap bread could no longer be neglected. Put, in the memorable debates upon the Corn Laws in January and February, 1816, there were not a few voices of dissent raised. Prominent among these was Disraeli's, reminding the House of Commons of the scarcity of corn in 1812, of the rise in prices in that year, and of the fact that we could not import corn till we had gained the command of the sea. He concluded: "I want to know whether it would again be politic to incur such risks." He showed that the risks would be exaggerated by a decrease of cultivation at home. How far his words have been borne out statistics can best prove. The acre of wheat is shown by successive annual abstracts to be as follows:

	Acreage under wheat.	Population
1800, Great Britain only	3,220,000	10,500,000
1830, United Kingdom	3,065,000	34,620,000
1890 " "	2,483,000	37,481,000
1891 " "	2,393,000	37,797,000
1892 " "	2,298,000	39,106,000
1893 " "	1,955,000	38,440,000
1894 " "	1,826,000	38,786,000
1895 " "	1,500,000	39,180,000

Thus, while in 1800 we had ten acres under wheat to every 32 inhabitants, we now have ten to every 260, and it is not safe to prophesy that we have reached the end of the decline. Relatively to our population we produce one-eighth of the wheat which we produced in 1800, and meantime the average consumption per head has enormously increased. Our present consumption has been estimated at 480 lbs. of wheat a head. In that case we should require about 33,000,000 quarters. Now, in 1894, we grew in the United Kingdom only 7,220,000 quarters or less than one-fourth of our total consumption. Our imports were 16,300,000 quarters of wheat, and 4,780,000 quarters of flour; so that the grand total falls below the estimate which is certainly excessive. Still the alarming fact remains that only one-quarter of our bread supply is produced at home. In other words, for 90 days of the year we subsist upon English bread, for 275 upon foreign-imported.

Many of the political economists who have studied the question have uttered words of caution. None of the agitators for Corn Law repeal foresaw the result. McCulloch thought wheat could not go much below 50s a quarter and in the debate of 1846 Sir G. Clark ridiculed as absurd and untenable "the apprehension that from that quarter of the world (the United States) a supply of grain was to come in such exorbitant profusion as to glut the home market." No one expected the cheapening of transport, which has brought wheat to the English market at 21 to 25s a quarter. No one imagined that a deadly blow was being struck at agriculture. But it is useless to dream of what might have been; the re-enactment of Corn Laws is outside practical politics. None the less it is a question for statesmen to consider whether our last few acres of wheat are to go and every crumb of our bread is to be drawn from abroad. It can not be doubted that England would have to pay very dearly for

her cheap corn should war come upon her in her present condition. A rise of 1s in the prices of the quarter loaf, which in August, 1812, stood at 1s 8d, instead of 8½ or 4d as to-day, is equivalent, in stress, to a tax of £180,000,000. Whether this country could continue to make head against a foreign enemy with the terrible suffering which such a rise would cause at home is at least questionable. Our national safety imperatively requires attention to be paid to this important point, quite apart from the demands made by the large agricultural population. In McCulloch's own words, "a country in which there is no considerable stock of grain in the barnyards of the farmers, or in the warehouses of the merchants, is in the most perilous situation that can be imagined." And these facts are better understood abroad than at home.—London Standard.

Montreal Board of Trade.

The annual meeting of the Montreal Board of Trade was held on January 28. The president, James A. Cantlie, occupied the chair.

The secretary, George Hadrill, having read the notice convening the meeting, read the yearly report of the business of the past year. A discussion ensued by the members on different subjects, among which were the questions of the 2c city postage stamps, the insolvency law, and the taking of oaths, etc. The meeting then adjourned until Wednesday for the declaration of the result of the election of officers for the ensuing year. At the adjourned meeting the chairman announced that Robert Bickerdike was elected president by a vote of 475, against 378 for Mr. Cantlie. The newly elected council was then announced as follows: Robert Bickerdike, president; John Torrance, 1st. vice-president; John McKergow, 2nd. vice-president; Chas. F. Smith, treasurer. Council: Jas. Crathern, F. Wolferstan Thomas, David G. Thomson, David McFarlane, Wm. Nivin, Robt. MacKay, Jas. E. Rendell, Henry Miles, Wm. McNally, Charles Chaput, G. F. C. Smith, Chas. McLean. Board of Arbitration: Robt. Archer, E. L. Clarke, R. M. Esdaile, John Fairbairn, E. B. Greenshields, Chas. P. Hebert, Edgar Judge, G. M. Kinghorn, Jno. R. McLea, Ewan McLennan, David Robertson, W. Barclay Stephens.

Montreal Corn Exchange.

The annual meeting of the Montreal Corn Exchange was held on January 29. In opening the meeting Mr. Craig expressed regret at the absence of the president, and called upon the secretary to read the report of the committee of management, after which a discussion ensued, A. G. McBean taking up the subject of shortages in grain, and urging the Corn Exchange to use their efforts in compelling the railway companies to take steps to obviate the evil, which hitherto they had refused to do.

The report of John Torrance, harbor commissioner, brought the remark from D. A. P. Watt, that he was opposed to the harbor commissioners inducing the government to indorse their bonds. The port of Montreal should, he said, be on the same footing as the port of Quebec, where the government had assumed the debt of \$5,000,000 without charging any interest. Considering that Montreal is far more important than Quebec, as a port, the government should do more. Mr. Watt also pointed out the desirability of reducing the harbor dues.

Edgar Judge was elected president by acclamation, W. A. Hastings, treasurer. Committee of Management—R. M. Esdaile, Alex. McFee, Adam G. Thomson, David Robertson, R. Peddie, E. F. Craig, and Lionel J. Smith. Board of Review—G. M. Kinghorn, chairman; Thomas A. Crane, A. G. McBean, Stewart Munn, A. J. Brice, and Alex. Mitchell.

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, FEBRUARY 10, 1896.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

FUR dealers report that there is an immense loss to the country every year by the killing of wild animals when their skins are of very little or no value. One fur dealer estimates that the annual loss in Manitoba from killing fur-bearing animals when their skins are not good amounts \$100,000. Some of these animals are protected by a close season, but the protection by law is not as complete or as general as it should be. Now that the provincial legislature is in session, perhaps some member would look into this matter with a view to devising means to check this great waste. The fur-bearing animals are one of the sources of wealth of the country, and any waste which can be prevented in this direction should be stopped, just the same as if it applied to any other interest.

THE relaxing of the quarantine regulations in the East, in the opening of the port of St. John for the export of United States cattle, and the port of Boston for the export of Canadian cattle, by the Canadian and United States governments respectively, would indicate that the time is opportune to approach the government again in the matter of the quarantine regulations in the West. The Winnipeg board of trade took this matter up about a year ago, but so far has been unable to accomplish anything. We think a further effort should be made at once to press this important matter upon the attention of the Ottawa authorities. If something were done at once, some concessions might be secured in time to be of some value when the annual spring movement of immigration takes place this year. Our best immigration field is to the south of us, but this field can never be worked to any advantage while the quarantine regulations remain as they are at present. This is a matter which the immigration convention called to meet in Winnipeg soon, might also take up to advantage.

A PARAGRAPH which appeared in one of the Winnipeg city papers recently, from its Ottawa correspondent, reads as follows: "The voice of Manitoba has not been raised all these years in vain for the improvement of the country's waterways. It looks as if the appeals are at last to be answered. The government contemplate the construction of a lock at St. Andrew's rapids (Red River), and will make the same improvements on the Saskatchewan, so that the stream may be made navigable for coal barges to ply between Edmonton and Winnipeg. The Nelson river canal scheme will receive at least moral support and perhaps something more substantial and the Hudson Bay railway will be assisted." This of course sounds like election times. But, elections or no elections, it is high time the Dominion was doing something to improve our western waterways. We will be content with the moral support of the Nelson river canal scheme, if the government

will take up the more practical and more pressing Red and Saskatchewan river improvements.

A LATER telegram from Ottawa says that as a result of the agitation among the Manitoba and Territorial members regarding wheat grading, Mr. Davin has had an interview with the controller of inland revenue, and has been promised that hereafter eastern millers and dealers shall have no representation on the grain standards board, and that western men shall have the entire control of fixing the standards. If the government will just go farther in this matter and abolish the present cumbersome board entirely, and allow the grain grades to remain permanently as fixed by the act, they will do about the right thing. The present mode of fixing grades by samples of the crop, is a useless expense, an annoyance to the trade and a cause of much useless and senseless agitation every year. The standards board has been added to and enlarged to please various agitators and various interests until it has become a farce. It is now composed of numerous divergent interests and made up largely of men whose knowledge of the interests to be served in the selection of grades, is not such as to qualify them to act intelligently on the board. Any grades made necessary by crop peculiarities, which were not provided for in the act, could be fixed by a small board of say three experts, and certainly not more than five persons should constitute such board, including the two official inspectors located at Winnipeg and Fort William.

THE politicians at Ottawa have been discussing the Manitoba wheat grades. Mr. Davin moved for a committee to consider the matter, but he afterwards withdrew it, on the promise of Hon. Mr. Prior, of the inland revenue department, to make inquiries into the matter. It was alleged by Davin and Martin that the present system of grading operated to the disadvantage of the farmers, but they failed to state any facts to bear out their assertions. Mr. Martin wanted separate grades made for scoured wheat, and also wanted the grades made permanent. So far as having the grades made permanent, he no doubt voiced the sentiment of the grain trade. This discussion of the wheat grades at Ottawa is an outgrowth of the agitation here, regarding grain trade matters. The bottom of the whole trouble is the low prices. This makes the farmers dissatisfied and leads them to suppose that the regulations of the trade work to their disadvantage. The farmers have votes and they also have organizations, consequently it probably seems necessary to the politicians that they should at least make a show of sharing in their suspicions. The political agitation of this matter, however, can do no good, and it can only help to further arouse the unwarranted suspicions of a naturally suspicious class. The farmers, however, should not complain that the wheat grades operate against them, as the grades this year were practically fixed by the representatives of the farmers on the standards board. So long as prices remain low, we can look for grumbling and charges of fraud from the farmers in grain matters, and no system

could be devised which would obviate this state of things. The politicians and agitators may fix such grades as they like, but they cannot change the quality of the wheat. The grain will be bought and sold on its actual merit as a commercial commodity, let the grades be what they may. If the agitators could succeed in establishing impossible grades, the trade would simply ignore the official grades and establish their own commercial grades. At the same time it must be admitted that the official grades are a great help to the trade when they are fixed to meet the requirements of the crop. If not suited to the crop they would be a nuisance and an annoyance to the trade, and the grain would not be handled on the grades. The grading of grain is a commercial matter. So far as the farmers are concerned it is a comparatively unimportant matter to them. Their wheat will be bought on its merits, according to quality, quite regardless of the nature of the grades. The grades are required for the commercial side of the grain trade. The exporter has about as much ground to call for laws governing the plowing and sowing and harvesting work of the farmer, as the latter has to demand the control of the grain grades. Any movement to change the system of handling grain should come from those who are directly interested in the trade and who understand the matter, and not from parties whose knowledge of the question is in all probability very limited.

Manitoba Dairy Association.

The annual business meeting of this association will be held in the city hall, Winnipeg, on Wednesday, February 19th, 1896. The programme of proceedings will be as follows: Tuesday, 18th—In city hall at 2 p. m., meeting of factory representatives to discuss the best methods of marketing their produce. At 8 p. m., a meeting in board of trade rooms to deal with the same subject. The dairy school, Bar natyne street, east, will be open to visitors in the afternoon.

Wednesday, 19th—Dairy school—Lecture in forenoon by C. C. Macdonald, dairy superintendent. At 2 p. m. in the city hall, election of officers and other business. At 7.80 p. m., public meeting in city hall.

Addresses and papers.—By J. A. Ruddick, "Manitoba Dairying"; by David Munroe, Neepawa, "Last Year's Experience"; S. A. Bedford, "Mistakes in Dairy Feeding"; R. J. Phin, Mocsomin, "Drawbacks in the Western Factory System, How Met"; W. M. Champion, Reaburn, "Gleanings by the Wayside"; J. J. Philp, Winnipeg, "Cold Storage"; W. J. Hinman, Winnipeg, "Tuberculin Testing of Dairy Cows."

Thursday, 20th—Forenoon at dairy school, demonstration. Meeting of Cattle Breeders' Association, 2 p. m. and 8 p. m. in city hall.

If thirty-five attend the two meetings, railway return rates will be fare and a third from all stations. Take receipt for your money from Station Master and have it indorsed by the secretary.

A Toronto telegram says: February 4th, the date well known as settling day, has brought us no great business failure, but has been severely felt by a number of wholesale houses. An unusually large amount of paper, mostly dry goods matured, and while much was taken up, houses reported a cheerful outlook, though the bad season is showing its effect. The Samson-Kennedy smash is regarded as responsible for a large proportion of the small dry goods failures, which have been going on lately.

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

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SPRING OPENING!

WHOLESALE MILLINERY,
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For the accommodation of our western customers, we will be prepared to receive a visit from them early in February, so that stock can be selected and shipped earlier than the usual opening.

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WHITE STEEL
GALVANIZED WARE
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FLOUR—Jute

49, 98 & 140 lbs.

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90 lbs.

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80 and 100 lbs

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100 lbs.

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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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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.**

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OGILVIE'S FLOUR

YOU HAVE

THE BEST

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

OGILVIE'S HUNGARIAN,

Unequalled 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.

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DRY GOODS AND GENTS' FURNISHINGS,

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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
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FEED BARLEY.

WHEAT,**OATS AND BARLEY WANTED!**

Send Large Samples and Name Prices Wanted.

THOMAS McLAUGHLIN,

Board of Trade, Toronto, Ont.

Winnipeg Markets A Year ago.

Wheat.—No. 1 hard, c.i.f. Fort William May, 65 to 66c.
 Flour.—Local price, per sack, Patents, \$1.85; Bakers, \$1.65.
 Bran.—Per ton, \$11.
 Shorts.—Per ton, \$18.
 Oats.—Per bushel, car lots, 27½ to 28c.
 Barley.—Per bushel, feed 32 to 38c, cars.
 Flax Seed.—95c to \$1.
 Butter.—Round lots country dairy 12 to 18c.
 Cheese.—Small lots 11c.
 Eggs.—Fresh, 15 to 16c round lots.
 Beef.—Frozen country, per lb., 8 to 4c, unfrozen butchers, 5½ to 6c.
 Mutton.—Fresh, and lamb, 5 to 6c.
 Hogs.—Dressed, 4 to 4½c.
 Cattle.—Butchers, 2½ to 3c.
 Hogs.—Live, off cars, 8½c.
 Sheep.—\$3.00 per 100 pounds.
 Seneca Root.—19 to 20c.
 Poultry—Chickens, 5c, turkeys, 9 to 10c, geese, 7 to 8c, ducks 6c.
 Hides.—Frozen Hides, 8 to 8½c.
 Potatoes.—40 to 45c per bushel.
 Hay.—\$4.00 per ton, car lots.

Wheat Stocks:

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains, for the week ended Feb. 1, 1896, shows a decrease of 789,000 bushels, against a decrease of 1,289,000 for the corresponding week last year and a decrease of 401,000 bushels the corresponding week two years ago, and a decrease of 97,000 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...	88,681,000	80,222,000	81,238,000	46,907,000
Feb. 5...	83,876,000	79,868,000	81,392,000	43,161,000
Mar. 4...	78,785,000	75,569,000	79,088,000	41,558,000
April 1...	74,808,000	71,458,000	77,564,000	41,038,000
May 6...	62,106,000	65,158,000	75,089,000	38,190,000
June 3...	52,229,000	59,894,000	71,080,000	27,910,000
July 1...	41,611,000	54,657,000	62,916,000	24,282,000
Aug. 8...	38,517,000	60,011,000	59,424,000	29,079,000
Sept. 7...	36,784,000	69,163,000	56,110,000	23,762,000
Oct. 7...	41,832,000	73,614,000	67,276,000	51,256,000
Nov. 4...	62,990,000	80,047,000	71,389,000	84,717,000
Dec. 2...	63,003,000	85,178,000	78,091,000	72,580,000
	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
Jan. 4...	69,842,000	87,939,000	79,953,000	81,788,000
" 11...	68,945,000	89,615,000	80,433,000	82,080,000
" 18...	67,893,000	85,286,000	80,882,000	82,327,000
" 25...	67,623,000	84,695,000	80,234,000	81,487,000
Feb. 1...	66,731,000	83,378,000	79,863,000	81,890,000

Bradstreet's report of stocks of wheat in Canada on January 27 is as follows:

	Bushels.
Montreal.....	258,000
Toronto.....	26,000
Kingston.....	20,000
Winnipeg.....	830,000
Manitoba interior elevators	2,850,000
Fort William, Port Arthur & Keewatin.....	8,915,000

Total stocks in the United States and Canada as reported by Bradstreet's were as follows, on January 27, 1896:

	Bushels.
East of the Mountains.....	98,486,000
Pacific Coast.....	8,276,000
Total stocks a year ago were:	bushels.
East of the Mountains.....	108,520,000
Pacific Coast.....	

Bradstreet's report for the week ended Feb. 1, shows a decrease of 844,000 bushels in stocks of wheat east of the mountains, making the total 97,592,000 bushels on the latter date.

World's stocks on January 1 1896 United States, Canada, in Europe and abroad for Europe) were 169,978,000 bushels, which is nearly 15,000,000 bushels less than the corresponding total one year ago, more than 20,000,000 bushels less than were so held two years ago, nearly 18,000,000 bushels less than three years ago but nearly 14,000,000 bushels more than were so held on January 1, 1892. 58,000,000 bushels more than on January 1, 1891, and about 55,000,000 bushels more than on January 1, 1890.

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. 4	Jan. 11	Jan. 18	Jan. 25.	Feb. 1
Extra Manitoba hard.....	0	0	0	0	0
No. 1 hard.....	17	27	31	18	62
No. 2 hard.....	29	34	32	18	20
No. 3 hard.....	16	18	32	15	23
No. 1 North'n..	5	6	6	7	9
No. 2 North'n..	2	2	0	3	5
No. 3 North'n..	0	1	0	1	1
No. 1 white fyte	0	0	0	0	0
No. 2 white fyte	0	0	0	0	0
No. 1 Spring...	4	0	0	0	2
No. 2 Spring...	0	1	0	0	0
No. 1 frosted ..	17	16	13	7	25
No. 2 frosted ..	0	16	9	4	11
No. 3 Frosted ..	0	0	2	3	3
No. 1 Rejected..	6	10	11	10	15
No. 2 Rejected..	16	43	32	18	45
No Grade.....	1	0	1	0	0
Feed.....	6	1	3	5	7
Total.....	139	176	176	107	218
Same week last year.....	66	31	51	30	30

Oats—For week ended Feb. 1—No. 1 white, 1; No. 2 white, 21; No. 3 white, 0; No. 2 black, 0; No. 2 mixed 16, feed, 5; total, 48.

Barley—For week ended Feb. 1—No. 2, 2; No. 3, 2; feed, 0; total, 4.

*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.

Winnipeg Clearing House.

Clearings for the week ending February 6 were \$1,066,228; balances, \$209,831. For the previous week clearings were \$883,057. For the corresponding week of last year clearings were \$790,687, and for the week two years ago, \$1,001,810 For the month of January clearings were \$1,937,200 as compared with \$1,067,403 for January, 1895, and \$1,318,326 for January, 1894.

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

Montreal.....	\$ 9,805,141
Toronto.....	6,238,078
Halifax.....	1,001,562
Winnipeg.....	838,057
Hamilton.....	557,812
Total.....	\$17,990,150

Manitoba Legislature.

The first session of the ninth legislature of Manitoba was opened at Winnipeg on Thursday afternoon.

Governor Patterson read the address, which is summarized as follows:

The harvest of the past season has been the most abundant in the history of the province since its settlement, and no doubt will go very far towards lessening the financial stringency which has affected our people during the last two years. The value of such products at the point of production as compared with the cost of conveying them to the

markets of the world, emphasizes the fact that the freight rates upon out-going grain are most exorbitant, and any relief which can be obtained from such rates will be eagerly welcomed.

A copy of the order-in-council, embodying the views and policy of my government upon this question (the schools), will shortly be laid before you.

A consideration of the estimates in the light of the knowledge which you possess of the requirements of the province and the increasing responsibilities of government will show very clearly that the revenue of the province is inadequate to supply its wants, the impossibility of meeting the just demands upon my government for needed public services without largely exceeding the revenue is a subject which demands your most earnest consideration.

You will be asked to consider among others an act respecting sales of goods, an act to amend the liquor license act, an act respecting life insurance agents, and an act to amend the Queen's Bench act, 1895.

The foreign relations of the motherland have recently proved of an exciting and menacing character. The people of this province join with the rest of the Dominion in declaring their unswerving loyalty to the Empire.

New Wholesale Stationery Business.

Love, McAllister & Co. is the style of the new wholesale stationery firm which starts business in Winnipeg on March 1st, in the Mitchell block, 178 McDermott Ave. John Love is a practical stationer. He represented the firm of Parsons, Bell & Co. on the road for a number of years previous to their amalgamation with O'Loughlin Bros. & Co., and since then he has been connected with the Consolidated Stationery Co. J. E. McAllister was formerly connected with the Winnipeg branch of Hodgson-Sumner & Co's, but later has been with the same firm as Mr. Love. They have both therefore had extended experience in the wholesale trade in general and the stationery trade in particular. J. Riley who joins them was formerly in the grain business at Cypress, River, Man., but latterly has had his office in the Grain Exchange here; he will assume the office duties. The new firm purposes carrying a full line of stationery goods in Winnipeg, and the handsome and commodious premises which they have secured, are well adapted to their business.

Insurance and Financial Notes.

An order was made by Justice Bain, at Winnipeg, on Thursday, in the matter of the winding up of the Commercial Bank of Manitoba calling upon the shareholders of the bank to pay up the fifty per cent. balances of their double liability on stock which they hold in the concern. This is the second call of 50 per cent on the shareholders, thus making the full amount to which they are liable under the banking act. In the instances of shareholders who have failed to meet the previous calls the order is imperative as to their doing so forthwith.

British Grain Trade.

The Mark Lane Express, of February 8, in its weekly review of the British grain trade says: English wheats have been 6d dearer and foreign is higher. California on passage having been quoted at 28s, and Oregon at 28s 9d. Flour has been 6d higher, with California in special demand. To-day English and foreign wheats maintained the advance. American flour was 6d up.

The output of the Kootenay Smelter is now \$10,000 a day. By spring it will be doubled. Canada should coin gold and silver.

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WINNIPEG, MAN.

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, Feb. 8, 1896.

While there has been a slight show of revival in some branches, the dulness which always prevails here in the first few weeks of the new year, still holds sway. A little more grain is moving, but farmers have not begun their spring marketing freely yet. If they should start in to market freely, there would be great difficulty in handling the crop owing to the limited storage room left. The principal feature of this week is the 4th of February settling day, which is the heaviest of the year in dry goods, clothing and boots and shoes. While there always is some diversity of reports as to the nature of payments, the general report this week is not at all unfavorable, and quite a large proportion of the paper falling due is reported to have been met. There have been very few failures in Manitoba, the Garland failure of Portage la Prairie being the only important disturbing factor. The magnitude of this failure has caused it to have an injurious influence, but the freedom of the country generally from mercantile disasters, should overcome the effect of this big failure. At any rate, this failure is traced clearly to outside investments, and not to anything defective in the business situation. Bank clearings at Winnipeg show a large increase over the previous week, but this is owing to the 4th of February settling day. As compared with the corresponding week of last year, bank clearings this week show the large increase of 46 per cent, and an increase of 6.5 per cent compared with the corresponding week two years ago.

The total clearings at all Canadian cities this week show an increase of 22 per cent. over last week. 11 per cent. over the corresponding week in 1895, 17 per cent. as compared with 1894, and 10 per cent. over the like week in 1894. Business failures in Canada continue heavy, with a total of 60 this week, as compared with 63 a week ago, 51 in the week a year ago, and 56 two years ago, 45 three years ago, and 63 four years ago.

The great success of the new government loan in the United States has improved the feeling there greatly. It was feared that the success of the free silver movement in the senate would injure the loan, but evidently the public are convinced that there is no hope that the silverites can carry any measure through the house. Bids for the loan were sufficient to take it up several times over, at good figures. In staple commodities prices are reported as follows: Cotton, coffee, lumber, wool, and coal are firm. Iron and steel markets are encouraged by increased orders for rails, one quarter of last year's output having been ordered at this time for 1896 delivery. Eastern rail mills are reported to have taken large contracts for delivery in California and Chili in competition with foreign mills. Receipts of live stock at western centres are heavy. Prices are lower for sugar, lard and petroleum.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Feb. 8.

[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.—The prevalence of so much mild weather has seriously reduced sales of coal. Early in the season it was thought that there might be an advance in prices during the winter owing to the reduction of stocks, but it is not evident that stocks will be ample for

all requirements, and any advance is now unlikely, in the face of the reduced consumption. Winnipeg prices are as follows: Pennsylvania anthracite, \$3.50 per ton, delivered to consumers; Souris lignite, \$4.25 per ton, delivered to consumers, and \$3.85 at the yard here; Lethbridge bituminous \$3.50 to consumers; western anthracite, \$3.50 per ton to consumers.

CORDWOOD.—Settlers around the country are hauling a great deal of wood in to the city and selling it on the market to consumers, thus taking the trade from dealers to a considerable extent. In this way wood is selling at about \$3.75 to \$4 for tamarac and \$2.75 for poplar. We quote prices as follows for car lots on track here; Tamarac, good, \$4.00; 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.

CEREALS.—National Food preparations in cartons: Dedicated rolled oats, 2 doz., 2 lb pkgs, per case, \$2.90; dedicated rolled wheat, 2 doz. 3 lb. pkgs per case, \$3.25; Dedicated wheat, 1 doz., 2 lb pkts., per case, \$2.75; Snowflake barley 2 doz., 2 lb pkgs., per case, \$2.90; Buckwheat flour, 1 doz., 5 lb pkgs per case \$2.75; Buckwheat flour 2 doz., 2½ lb pkts., per case \$2.90; breakfast hominy, 1 doz., 3 lb pkts., per case, \$3.25; prepared pea flour 1 doz., per case, \$2.50; gluten flour, 1 doz., per case, \$3.50; rolled wheat, in bbls., 180 lbs. \$4.50.

DRUGS.—Following prices are for small parcels, and will be shaded considerably for full package orders: Allum per pound, 3¼ to 4¼; alcohol, \$4.75; bleaching powder, per pound; 6 to 8c; bluestone, 4¼ to 5c; blue vitrol, 5 to 8c; borax, 11 to 13c; bromide potash, 55 to 75c; camphor, 75 to 85c; camphor, ounces 80 to 90c; carbolic acid, 40 to 65c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chloride potash, 28 to 35c; citric acid, 55 to 65c. coppers 3¼ to 4c; cocaine, per oz., \$7.50 to \$8.00; cream tartar, per pound, 28 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; epsom salts, 3¼ to 4c; extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 18c; do., boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 30 to 40c; glycerine, per pound, 20 to 25c, ginger, Jamaica, 25 to 40c, do., African, 20 to 25c, Howard's quinine, per ounce, 35 to 45c; iodine, \$5.50 to \$6.00; insect powder, 35 to 40c; morphia sul., \$1.90 to \$2.25, Opium, \$4.50 to \$5.00; oil, olive, \$1.25 to \$1.40; oil, U. S. salad, \$1.25 to 1.40; oil, lemon, super \$2.25 to 2.75; oil, peppermint, \$4.00 to \$4.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.25 to 2.75 per gallon; oxalica acid, 18 to 16c; potass iodide, \$1.25 to 4.50; paris green, 17 to 18c lb; saltpetre; 10 to 12c; sal rocnello, 30 to 35c; shellac, 45 to 50c; sulphur flowers, 3¼ to 5c; sulphur roll, per keg, 3¼ to 5c; soda bicarb, per keg of 112 pounds, \$3.75 to \$4.25; sal soda, \$2 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55c.

DRY GOODS.—There is nothing eventful in the trade, beyond the 4th of February settling day, which did not cause any special features here. The Toronto Globe dry goods article says: Advances in the price of hosiery are generally from 5 to 15 per cent. on repeat orders. Goods at present in stock will show good value, and those who are early buyers will gain some advantage. For years a good stocking to retail at 50c was the leader. Now the demand is for three pairs for \$1 and sometimes four or even five. This continued cry for cheapness causes makers to supply inferior goods, which do not and cannot give satisfaction. Some lines of cashmere half-hose have been advanced about 10 per cent. Bicycle hose are up 5 per cent. Cotton half-hose are not as popular, as they become hard in a short time. Men's bicycle and golf hose some with plaid tops are going to be worn very much.

DRIED FRUITS AND NUTS.—Grenoble Walnuts, 16c; Tarragona almonds, 16c;

princess paper shell almonds, 22c; Sicily filberts, large, 12c; Brazil nuts, 15c; peanuts, roasted, 15c; peanuts greens, 13c; Ontario black walnuts, 8c; butternuts, 9c; hickory nuts, 10c per pound; figs, old, 14 oz. boxes. \$1 per dozen; figs, new, 9 lb. boxes, 14c; figs, superior, 35 lb. boxes, 19c; figs, fancy imperial, 55 lb. boxes, 22c per lb; dates, new, 6 and 7c per lb., apricots, 18½ to 14c.

FISH.—Fresh fish are quoted here:—Cod 9c a lb; haddock 9c a lb; salmon 14c, halibut 12½c; smelts 9 to 10c; Lake Superior trout 9c; whitefish, 5c; pickerel 4c; pike 2c, perch 2 to 2½c; sturgeon 7c; finnan haddies 7½c, or \$2.25 per box; kippered gold-eyes 30c doz.; oysters \$1.90 to \$2.00 for standards and \$2.15 to \$2.25 selects, per gallon, extra selects \$2.95 to \$2.45; oysters, in cans, selects, 55 and standards 50c per can; shell oysters, \$7.50 to \$8 per barrel. Cured fish are quoted: Boneless codfish, 40 lb boxes 7c, do crates 7½c; boneless fish, 40 lb boxes, 5c; smoked herrings, 19c box; dry cod \$6 per box of 100 lbs.; salt whitefish \$5 per barrel of 100 pounds; salt lake trout \$8 per barrel.

FLUID BEEF, ETC.—Following are prices of the goods put up by the Johnston Fluid Beef Company of Montreal:—Johnstons Fluid Beef—No. 1, 2-oz. tins, per dozen, \$2.70; No. 2, 4oz., \$4.50; No. 3, 8oz., \$7.83; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.83; No. 5, 2 lb., \$24.30. Staminol—2oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do, 4oz., \$5.10; do, 8 oz., \$7.65; do, 16oz., \$12.75. Fluid Beef Cordial—20oz. bottles, \$10. Milk Granules—In cases of 4 dozen, \$5.10. Milk Granules with Cereals—In cases of 4 dozen, \$4.25

GROCERIES.—The weakness in the coffee market, according to the New York Commercial Bulletin, has become more pronounced and has spread until all grades are under serious depression. The advices received from Brazil since the opening of the year report a slightly larger quantity of all growths on hand than had previously been calculated upon, and on the average estimate a new crop of 8,750,000 bags of Rio and Santos together; and under the shadow of the supplies indicated the speculative holders of long contracts liquidated somewhat precipitately both at New York and in Europe, making a sharp break in value. Some operators are inclined to assume that distress holdings are pretty well sold out, especially on the near positions; but a great number entertain an idea that while temporary checks to the decline are likely and indeed desirable they will be temporary only until a much lower level is reached. The selling out of the European bull syndicate is by some looked upon as a by no means remote contingency.

GREEN FRUITS.—None of the frozen oranges which are reported to have been shipped from California have reached this market. It is reported that some of the best districts in California have been badly damaged by frost. The effect of frost on oranges is to destroy the oily covering of the outer rind, which acts as a protection to the fruit, and when this is destroyed the fruit rapidly dries out and becomes entirely worthless. Lemons are easier. Apples are firm and some very fancy fruit is held as high as \$6 per barrel. Malaga gaspals are firm and may be higher. There are none but frozen cranberries in stock here at present, which sell considerably lower than unfrozen fruit. Prices are: Lemons, New Messinas \$5.50 to \$6 per box; California navel oranges, \$1 to \$5 per box, as to size; Bananas \$3 to \$4 per bunch as to size; Apples, eastern Canada choice red varieties, \$5 to \$6 per barrel; Greenings and russets, \$1.50 per barrel; Southern red apples, \$4 per barrel; Malaga grapes \$7 to \$9 per keg as to size; Cranberries \$9.50 per barrel for frozen stock; Apple cider, 35c per gallon, in 30 gallon barrels; French comb honey, 22c per lb.

HARDWARE, PAINTS, ETC.—No stir in the local trade and prices are about nominal in the absence of any movement. Leads are firm, according to advices from abroad, owing to advances in England. Paris green has advanced 1c at Montreal, per lb., to 14½¢ for casks up to 16½¢ for pockets.

RAW FURS.—There is not a great deal doing in furs in this market, though there is active competition for the lots that are offering. 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 ¢ to 2 50
“ cubs	25 to 60
“ castors, per lb.	2 50 to 5 50
Fisher	3 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
“ Pale 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.—The Commercial reports this week will show that wheat has maintained a firm position in leading markets. Prices slumped off on Tuesday, but that was the only day which showed closing prices lower than last Saturday, and last Saturday was the highest market of last week. Easier European cables and foreign selling caused the slump on Tuesday. The success of the United States loan, unfavorable reports of the Argentine crop, export purchasing, etc., helped on the advance on the following days. A great deal will depend on the winter wheat crop outlook in the United States for the future of wheat. If the spring crop outlook is very unfavorable, The Commercial sees nothing to prevent a very strong movement in wheat. The present winter has been an open one in the winter wheat states, and that is generally taken to mean a poor crop, but this is only theory and the actual result may prove different. At any rate, The Commercial believes the present advance is warranted by actual conditions. Exports of wheat, flour included as wheat, from both coasts of the United States, this week amounted to 2,907,000 bushels, against 2,550,000 bushels last week, 2,020,000 bushels in the corresponding week a year ago, 2,678,000 bushels in the week two years ago and 3,931,000 bushels in the first week of February, 1903. Shipments from all exporting countries last week were 5,230,000 bushels.

WHEAT.—LOCAL SITUATION.—The advance predicted by The Commercial a week ago, went into effect in Manitoba country markets on Monday last, but it was 2c instead of 3c as expected. This brought the price of No. 1 hard to farmers up to 47c per bushel of 60 pounds at 18 cent freight rate points to Fort William. At a number of country markets, however, prices ranged considerably above

the general average, and as high as 50c was paid for choice hard wheats, to farmers, at several 18 and 19 cent freight rate points. The total advance from the lowest point is now about 8c in Manitoba country markets, which shows that prices here are keeping pace with the recent advances in outside markets. Farmers have not begun the usual spring delivery of wheat yet, but the time is now close at hand when they will have to begin to market their wheat actively, in order to get it out of the way before the busy spring season sets in. The difficulty before the trade is the lack of storage. If a heavy rush of deliveries should set in, there would soon be a great scarcity of storage at many points. There would have been a blockade before now, were it not that the farmers have been holding their wheat since the close of navigation last December. A considerable quantity of wheat is being shipped from Fort William, to Montreal, which has relieved the blockade at the lake port, and shipments are again going forward to Fort William. This wheat, it is understood, is being shipped on a through rate to British markets, via Montreal, on private terms. A rate of 35 cents per 100 pounds has been quoted from Fort William to Liverpool. There is nothing going through to winter seaports to speak of. Receipts at Fort William for the week ended January 25 were 168,919 bushels; shipments 224,967 bushels; in store 3,657,241 bushels. Receipts for the corresponding week a year ago were 5,681 bushels, shipments, 13,541 bushels, and in store 878,204 bushels. Stocks in store two years ago, 1,902,346 bushels. Stocks at lake ports, milling points and interior markets aggregate about 7,000,000 bushels, compared with about 8,500,000 bushels a year ago. In Manitoba country markets prices to farmers this week have ranged at 44 to 47c for No. 1 hard according to freight rates and conditions of the local markets. No. 2 hard and No. 1 northern, 2 to 3c under No. 1 hard. No. 3 hard, 3c to 4c, frosted wheats 23 to 38c. The regular price of No. 1 hard at 18 cent freight rate points to Fort William, was 47 cents, and other grades in proportion though there is a variation from this price, as high as 50c having been paid at a few points. Prices in the Winnipeg market have ranged on a basis of about 61c for No. 2 hard, c.i.f. Fort William. No. 1 hard held 2½ to 3c over No. 2 hard, No. 1 northern, 1 to 1½c over No. 2 hard. No. 3 hard about 5c under No. 2 hard. To-day, prices in Manitoba country markets were advanced to 50c per bushel, at all 18 and 19 cent freight rate points, and 49c at 20 cent freight rate points. This makes an advance in prices paid to farmers of 3 cents at 18 cents and 4 cents at 19 cent freight rate points or a total advance of 11 to 12c from the lowest point. This last advance only covers grades above No. 3 hard, and will throw these grades into the hands of millers. We quote prices here to-day: No. 1 hard, 69½¢; No. 2 hard, 61c; No. 3 hard, 5c, under No. 2.

FLOUR.—The further expected advance in flour, predicted by The Commercial of last week, went into effect on Thursday, but it was not as great as was expected, being only 5c per sack of 93 pounds. An advance of 20c on Manitoba patents and 10c on bakers', per barrel, was reported at Montreal on Monday, and Ontario grades were also 5 to 10c higher in that market. 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 93 pounds, delivered to city retail dealers; second bakers \$1.85 to \$1.45; XXXX \$1.20 to \$1.25, delivered. Brands of country mills are offered at 5 to 10c under these quotations. A further advance is expected in flour any moment.

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

ed by country mills at about \$8 and \$10 per ton on track here and out rate sales have been made at even lower prices.

OATS.—The market has continued firmer and prices have advanced about 1c all around, both for the local and shipping trade. Prices East have advanced in about the same proportion. At Manitoba country points, for shipment east, cars are worth from 12 to 14c, as to quality and freight rate, and as high as 14½c has been paid for cars of choice white, in the country. In the Winnipeg market dealers are paying 16 to 17c for farmers loads, per bushel of 31 pounds.

BARLEY.—This grain is still dull and very little is moving. 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, but there is very little demand from any quarter. Winnipeg street market very dull at about 17c for feed barley, per bushel of 48 pounds, and 20 to 21c for malting samples.

WHEAT.—Local farmers' market.—The price paid at the city mills for farmers' loads is 50 to 52c 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 80 pounds in broken lots to retail dealers.

OIL CAKE.—Oil cake has declined to \$16 per ton.

FLAX SEED.—Prices to farmers in Manitoba country markets are about 60c per bushel. A part car sold on track here this week at 60c per bushel. Cash flax was quoted at 91½¢ at Chicago yesterday.

BUTTER.—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, but as high as 12 to 14c has been paid for fancy boxes of small rolls or bricks of uniform size, color and quality. Ordinary lots of assorted rolls are very slow however, at the lower range of quotations. Receipts are fairly liberal and the demand slow. There is very little demand from the west, and dairy butter is dull in Eastern markets.

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

EGGS.—The market is rather firmer. Dealers are paying 19c this week for receipt of good fresh stock, but the demand is slow.

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.—Prices are firm owing to light receipts. For native poultry dealers are paying 10 to 11c for turkeys, 9c for ducks, and 8 to 9c for chickens, according to quality and grade 10c. There is really a scarcity of poultry, and nice, tidy looking stock would bring ½c or more over these prices.

DRESSED MEATS.—There is no change in fresh meats this week, and there is very little selling. Hogs are firm owing to light offer-

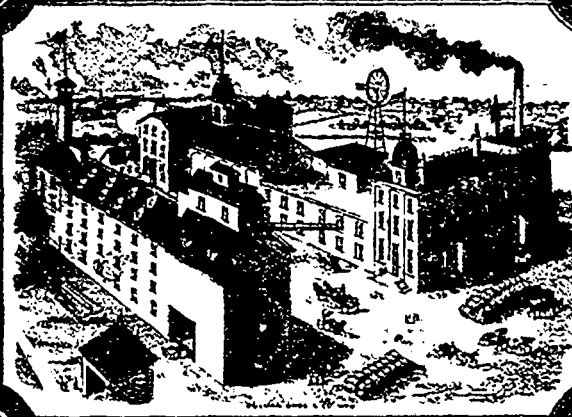
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British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, Feb. 1, 1896.

Trade is still dull owing to the rainy season, but wholesalers and retailers are prepared for an anticipated activity in the spring. The lumber trade is unusually brisk. There are indications that the wholesale market will firm up all around. Most important developments have taken place in dairying and fruit raising this week. The fruit growers of the province have formed themselves into a corporation with a capital stock of \$5,000, for the more advantageous placing of their fruit on the market. A committee was appointed to interview the C. P. R. who promised to reduce freight rates to Winnipeg, enabling British Columbia fruit shippers to compete successfully with Eastern shippers. The fruit growers of the province convened at Westminster, and for two days consulted together as to the best means of improving their condition, and many valuable conclusions were arrived at. It was generally conceded that Manitoba and the Northwest were the natural markets for B. C., and the big co-operative organization will direct their energies to supply these markets. The government will probably be asked to pass a law regulating the size of boxes to be used in shipping apples, and the size of boxes for all fruits and assortment will be given attention. Both the fruit growers and dairymen, which met in Westminster about the same time, spoke of the high passenger rate of 5 cents a mile charged by the C. P. R., and the boards of trade of the province were asked to take action, for the purpose of having it reduced to the same rate as prevails in other parts of Canada.

British Columbia Markets.

(BY WIRE TO THE COMMERCIAL.)

Vancouver, February 8, 1896.

Flour is up again 20c per barrel this week and wheat has advanced \$1 per ton. Eggs have declined heavily again. Cured meats, dressed meats and live stock are expected to advance next week.

Butter.—Dairy butter, 18 to 20c; creamery 25 to 26c; Manitoba cheese 10½c per lb.

Cured Meats.—Hams 12c; breakfast bacon 12½c; backs 11½c; long, clear 8½c; short rolls 9c; smoked sides 10c. Lard is held at the following figures: Tins 10½c per pound; in rails and tubs 10c. Mess pork \$14; short cut \$15.

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; crabs 60c dozen; smoked halibut 8c; bloaters 10c; kippered cod 9c; sturgeon 6c.

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

Vegetables.—Potatoes new, \$10 per ton; onions silver skins, 1½c; cabbage, 1½c; carrots, turnips and beets, ¾ to 1c a lb.; sweet potatoes, \$2.50 per 100 lbs.

Eggs.—Fresh, local, 25c; Oregon, 22c per dozen.

Fruits.—California seedling oranges \$3.00, navels, \$1.00; native apples \$1.00; California lemons, \$4.00 to \$4.50; California apples, \$1.20 to \$1.30; Jap oranges 50c.

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, \$4.30; Oak Lake patent \$4.50; dc 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; 2-45's, \$2.35. Manitoba Rolled Oats, 90's, \$2.25 45's \$2.35.

Grain.—Washington State wheat \$23.00 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, 3 to 3½ lb; cows 2½ to 3c; sheep, \$3.25 to \$3.50; hogs, 4½ to 5½c.

Poultry.—Chickens, \$4 to \$5 per dozen.

Sugars.—Powdered and icing, 6½c; Paris lump, 5½c; granulated, 4½c; extra C, 4½c; fancy yellows 3½c; yellow 3½c per lb.

Syrups.—80 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

H. H. Lennie & Co., stationery, New Westminster, are dissolving partnership.

C. C. Emmert, fish &c., Rossland, is out of business.

Archie Grant, hotel, Sandon, is out of business.

C. Christodolo, fruits &c., Victoria, has sold out to J. P. Sarantics.

E. Escalet, hotel, Victoria, is succeeded by Jos. Byrne.

Prof. Roberts was heartily thanked for his recent assistance to the farmers in the province.

The government will be asked for \$200 to buy literature to be distributed promiscuously.

From January 9th to 15th the new Kaslo and Slocan railway carried \$37,592 in ore.

The board of trade are arranging to have a steamer make periodical trips to the rich and famous Upper Yukon.

The city council and board of trade of Westminster are negotiating with a view to starting a smelter in Vancouver at an early date.

The late M. R. Smith of Victoria, was one of the old timers of that place. He carried on an extensive bakery and jobbing confectionery business in Victoria for many years.

In fact the fruit growers want to make a market for themselves in Manitoba and the Northwest, and the dairymen want to close up the B. C. market to Manitoba and Northwest shippers.

The lectures of W. A. Carlyle, provincial mineralogist, have been largely attended throughout the province. In fact the interest in mining is universal and growing.

In January the exports from Westminster were \$29,796. Imports \$18,881. In Victoria the exports were \$176,886 and imports \$193,263.

T. G. Earl, of Lytton was appointed president of the cooperative society for the disposal of fruit and A. H. B. MacGowan Sec. Treas.

The Adams mine cost \$125,000; the returns for last shipments were \$175,332. One dividend of \$35,000 has been paid and another will soon be due. The Idaho company recently shipped \$140,000 worth of ore. In Rossland everything points to a spring awakening.

The dairymen of British Columbia also amalgamated this week for the purpose of supplying the local demand for butter. It was stated that last season \$100,000 was sent out of the province for butter and cheese principally to Manitoba.

The bark Rufus E. Wood, Capt. McLeod, has beaten the coal loading record at Nanaimo. The R. E. Wood started loading coal on Friday at noon and completed a cargo of 2,22½ tons on Sunday evening. Nine days from when she started from Frisco she was ready to return.

The dairymen in convention have asked the local Legislature to lend them money on easy terms to enable them to purchase machinery to start creameries. They further informed the Government that a permanent veterinary surgeon was not necessary, but they would like a permanent inspector to inspect all separators and test the milk of every creamery cow, and report according to standard.

H. Roberts & Co., general merchants of Strathclair, Man., who were wiped out by fire recently, will resume business at the same place, and is arranging for a new stock.

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ings we quote \$5 to \$5.25 per 100 pounds. We quote country beef at 3½ to 4½ as to quality, good frozen beef has brought 4½ and sells mostly at about 4c to 4½ per lb. by the side or carcass. Fresh, unfrozen, city dressed beef, 5 to 6c, as to quality. Mutton steady, and we quote 6 to 6½ for good mutton.

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

VEGETABLES.—Cabbage are dearer, but potatoes do not bring any more now than they did last fall, and loads have sold as low as 15c. Carrots are higher. 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.—Competition is not so keen this week, and those who were paying 5c have evidently decided that it was an unprofitable price. At any rate they are down ½c. We quote prices here as follows: Green frozen hides, 4½c, 5 lbs tare off. We quote: Calf, 8 to 15lb skins, 5 to 6c per lb; deacons, 15 to 20c each; kips, 4 to 4½c; sheep and lamb skins recent kill, 50 to 60c. Tallow, 4 to 5c rendered and 2 to 3c rough.

WOOL—Manitoba fleeco, nominal 10 to 12c per lb. The London sales have closed firm at 10 per cent over the last series for merinos. Fine cross breeds were about 1c higher, but coarse wools were a shade lower. As coarse wools had the heaviest advance last season, compared with other grades, they were not so likely to advance at these sales. The next sales open on March 3.

SENECA ROOT—Nominal at 18 to 20c per lb.

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

LIVE STOCK.—There is very little business doing in any class of stock. Prices are nominal at 2½ to 3½ for fair to choice butchers' cattle. One car load was reported sold at 3c off cars here. A few dry dairy cows are selling at 2½ to 2¾c per lb. Sheep nominal at about 3½c. A car was offered for delivery next month at 3½c. Hogs are steady at 4c off cars here.

Live Stock Markets.

At Liverpool on February 3 there was a better demand for cattle, owing to the cold weather, and, as supplies were not excessive, the tone of the market was strong and prices advanced 1c per lb. Best United States cattle 11c, and Argentines 10c. Sheep were also stronger and values ½c higher, at 12 to 12½c.

The Montreal Gazette of February 3 says: "The feature of the live stock trade this week will be the first shipment of United States cattle via a Canadian port for many years. The steamer Concordia has been chartered to sail from St. John, N. B., for Glasgow, with a full cargo of United States cattle. The steamer Lake Ontario, of the Beaver Line, will also sail on Wednesday, for Liverpool, from the above port, with 123 head of Canadian cattle, 930 sheep and 172 horses.

At the East End Abattoir, Montreal, on Feb. 3, values for good cattle were fully ½c per lb higher than the previous Monday, due to smaller receipts, and a general improvement in the quality of the stock offered. There was enquiry for export cattle, but there were very few offered suitable for this trade. For stock suitable for shipment 4c would have been paid and perhaps a fraction more for something very good. Good cattle sold at 3½c to 3¾; fair, 2½ to 3½c; common, 2 to 2½c, and inferior 1½ to 2c per lb. Sheep sold at \$3.50 to \$5 each; mixed lots of sheep and

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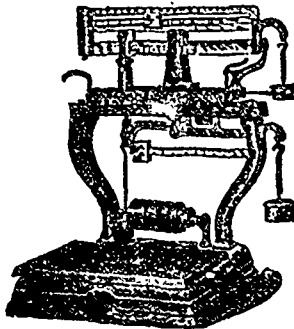
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 "It is a daily saver."—J. G. Hargrave & Co., Winnipeg, Man.
 "Satisfactory to ourselves and our customers."—Geo. Craig & Co., Winnipeg, Man.
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lams at 3½c per lb., and lambs at 4c per lb. At the Point St. Charles market, Montreal, on Feb. 3, a few good lots of really good stock were bought at \$10 per head, equal to 4c per lb. A lot of lambs were sold at 4c per lb. and hogs were bought at \$1 and one shilling per 100 lbs.

At Chicago, on Feb. 7, receipts of hogs were again light, and prices advanced 5c. Common to prime droves sold at \$1.05 to \$1.35. The bulk of the sales were at \$1.25 to \$1.30. These prices are 5c higher than a week ago.

At the semi weekly market at Toronto on February 4, butchers' cattle were dull and weak; 3¾c to 4c was offered for choice, and only the pick of the market brought these prices. Ruling prices were 3c to 3¾c; medium cattle sold at 2½c to 2¾c, and some poor lots sold at 1½c to 2c per lb. Export cattle were quiet, some bulls sold at 2½ to 2¾c per lb. Few feeders sold at 2½c to 3c per lb. Butchers' sheep sold at 2½c per lb. Lambs, quiet at 4 to 4½c per lb. Milch cows and springers were lower, at \$20 to \$35 each. Hogs were in active demand, and firm and higher. Choice bacon hogs sold at an advance of 10c to 15c per cwt., bringing \$1.20 to \$1.25 per cwt. Light and thick fat hogs sold at 4c per lb, and stores at \$3.80 to \$4 per cwt.

Montreal Grain and Produce Market.

Grain prices are: No. 2 oats, per 34 lbs, 80 to 80½c; barley, feed 88 to 89c; Barley malt—ing 53 to 55c,

Flour—The advance of 5 to 10c on Ontario grades and 20c on Manitoba patents and 10c on Manitoba bakers is maintained. Prices are: Winter wheat, \$1.25; Spring wheat, patents \$4.20; straight roller, bags \$1.90; extra bags \$1.65 to \$1.75; Manitoba bakers, \$3.90.

Oatmeal.—There was a firmer feeling in the oatmeal market in sympathy with the recent advance in oats, and millers are now asking more money, but no actual change has taken place here. Standard brls, \$3 to \$3.10; Granulated brls, \$3.10 to \$3.20; Rolled oats, brls, \$3 to \$3.10; Rolled wheat, per 100 lbs, \$2.10 to \$2.15.

Feed.—Bran, \$14 to \$15; Shorts, \$15 to \$16.

Dressed Hogs.—The demand for dressed hogs continues good and the market rules active and firm at the recent advance of 10c. We quote car lots \$5.40 to \$5.50, and jobbing lots at \$5.75 to \$6 per 100 lbs.—Gazette, Feb. 5.

Our Annual.

The annual number of The Commercial will be issued about the middle of February, giving a review of commercial developments for the past year. It will be handsomely illustrated. These annual numbers of The Commercial are the finest things of the kind published here. The one issued in a few days will be superior to previous efforts in many respects. Extra copies can be had on application. Price 25 cents. New subscribers to The Commercial, paying \$2 for one yearly subscription in advance, will be sent a free copy of the Annual.

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For a man with moderate capital To be sold as a going concern, on account of advertiser having other large interests away from Victoria; a profitable manufacturing business, with plant complete, located in the city of Victoria, B.C. A long lease of premises can be had at very low rental. Liberal terms. Address: "X. Y. Z.," Commercial Office, Winnipeg.

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One Gallon of Diamond Graphite Paint at the Proper consistency for the brush will cover over 800 square feet of new iron, or 1000 square feet on second coat. It is the best known paint for resisting heat, water, alkalis, acids or atmospheric influences.

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It costs very little extra to have clothing waterproofed by the Rigby process, and does not alter the feeling or texture of the material. There is no rubber in the compound, and the marvellous thing about Rigby is that it remains porous. Patterns and price lists will be forwarded on application from the trade only.

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 sians, Taffetalines, shot and plain colors, Poplins, ditto,
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 Rago Sable, Granite, Cotele Croquella, Cotele Cheval.

BLACK AND COLORED DRESS GOODS in Bengalines,
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 lians, Mohairs, Cashmeres, Serges.

FANCY COTTON DRESS GOODS in Muslins, Zephyrs
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 and Fancy Stripe Linen Grenadines.

Linens, Laces Velvets, Linings,
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J. H. MACDONALD, McINTYRE BLOCK.

Business Tax.

A meeting of the legislative committee of the Winnipeg city council was held Thursday evening for the consideration of proposed legislation to be asked for at the present session of the legislature.

The chairman, in inviting discussion of the business tax, called first upon those who were opposed to the tax to state the grievances complained of.

Wm. Grundy, chairman of the committee of the retailers' association, made the first presentation of the case. He spoke of the impression that had prevailed that the present system of taxation was due to the Jobbers' union. Mr. Bole had proposed to bring in some scheme which would reduce the grievance of the retail merchants, but it had been observed that he had left the city. The present system was more favorable to the large dealers, and worked hardship to the small ones. The association was not prepared to take the initiative to-night in submitting a system.

A. Dykes said the taxes of the retailers had even been trebled, and in some cases increased six times by the present law. He told how Main street had been made a street of small stores, through the efforts to evade the tax. His own tax had been increased from \$10 to \$60, and he had in consequence moved away from Main street. He suggested the placing of a minimum tax of \$15 upon all doing business in the city, and taxing half the stock above that.

Gilbert Fowler took the position that there were grievances; that the present system was not giving satisfaction. He considered that the only correct principle of taxation was that of taxing on valuation.

Mr. Wright, of Wright & Wright, grocers, held that the present system was anything but equitable, though at present it was not working hardship to his firm, as they now occupied a small building.

A. Christie said the present system had nearly doubled his taxes; his tax was four per cent. of the value of his stock.

Ald. Sproule said it was the business of the council to look into the facts and find a remedy. The present system had had to be frequently readjusted.

J. P. Keeler spoke to a petition from the barbers of the city. The taxing of barbers chairs was a bad law. He favored imposing taxes according to valuation.

Ald. Black said, in defence of the present system, that it reached many classes of people, lawyers, doctors, and others, who had paid no taxes before.

Ald. Craig would not go back to the old system, but he was in favor of equalization. He thought the present system could be improved.

J. H. Ashdown, speaking for the wholesale dealers, said they hoped there would be no friction. He pointed out that the wholesalers must be placed on a reasonable position to compete with those in the east who have certain advantages in their favor. They had much larger constituencies and lower taxes. If the old law had been acted up to in assessing up to the full value, he would not have been able to carry so large a stock. Under the new law he had erected a large building and was able to carry his full stock here. He would be glad if relief were given to the barbers and others who had grievances; but this should not be done by burdening the wholesale men.

R. J. Whitla dwelt upon the proposition that had been made to tax stocks up to their full value, this would have meant bankruptcy to some of the business men. The wholesale men could do their business as well in St. Boniface, but they had largely improved property in the city, and made unimproved property more valuable, besides paying their taxes. Men doing a much larger business in

Montreal were paying less than half the business tax he was paying.

G. F. Galt said he was one of those who pay as much now as he ever did. The question was how to induce other wholesale men to come here and do business; none had come since he started here in 1882. He spoke of the advantage to the city from the work done in connection with wholesale establishments, and of the keen competition with eastern firms. It was for the council to correct mistakes that might have been made and remedy individual grievances; but do not go back to the old system of taxing stock and thereby retard the growth of the city and prevent people from coming here.

R. T. Riley stated emphatically that the present system had not been originated by the Jobbers' union, but presented to them for consideration by some of the aldermen. He showed the inequalities of the old system; bankers, for example, were not assessed; and the assessor could not value the stocks equitably. Mr. Riley gave instances to show that merchants whose stocks were far from being equal had been assessed and taxed for equal amounts. The present system, he said was a great deal fairer than the old one, though he did not claim that the present one was perfect. He favored an income tax; he thought it would be as easy to levy as the tax on stocks had been.

T. D. Degan said the total amount of over-tax that was claimed was only some \$3,000. He suggested that the Retailers' Association and the Jobbers' Union meet and try to come to an understanding.

W. Georgeson said it had been charged by those aggrieved that the wholesalers had fixed the rate. This was not the case. The present tax was excessive, being two and a half times that in Montreal. Wholesalers had left the city, but none had come to take their places.

Mr. Teichman believed that if small committees of three each of the retailers, the Jobbers' union and the city were appointed, the question could be settled in an hour.

Mr. Riley was prepared to favor a meeting on the line of reducing the tax on the retailers, but not on the line of increasing the tax on the wholesale men.

The meeting adjourned at 11.15 o'clock, with the understanding that committees were to be appointed and a conference held, as suggested. When the joint sub-committee is prepared to report, the legislative committee will be called together again.

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 irregular on Monday, but generally higher, influenced by reductions in stocks. There were sharp fluctuations in prices, which gained $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ c over Saturday. Closing prices were:

	Feb.	May.	July.
Wheat.....	66 $\frac{3}{4}$	68 $\frac{3}{4}$	68
Corn.....	28 $\frac{3}{4}$	30 $\frac{3}{4}$	32
Oats.....	19 $\frac{3}{4}$	21 $\frac{3}{4}$	21 $\frac{3}{4}$
Mess Pork..	10 50	10 75	—
Lard.....	—	5 95	—
Short Ribs..	5 25	5 50	—

On Tuesday weaker cables and foreign selling caused a downward tendency, further aggravated by lack of export demand and heavy speculative selling, under the influence of which prices declined heavily. Closing prices were:

	Feb.	May.	July.
Wheat....	61 $\frac{3}{4}$	66 $\frac{3}{4}$	66 $\frac{3}{4}$
Corn.....	27 $\frac{3}{4}$	30 $\frac{3}{4}$	31 $\frac{3}{4}$
Oats.....	19 $\frac{3}{4}$	21 $\frac{3}{4}$	21 $\frac{3}{4}$
Mess Pork..	10 15	10 40	—
Lard.....	5 60	5 82 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Short Ribs..	5 10	5 30	—

On Wednesday Argentine reported unfavorable weather and cables were improved, causing a small panic among shorts, and as a result of their buying, prices advanced. Closing prices were:

	Feb.	May.	July.
Wheat.....	65 $\frac{3}{4}$	67 $\frac{3}{4}$	67 $\frac{3}{4}$
Corn.....	27 $\frac{3}{4}$	30 $\frac{3}{4}$	31 $\frac{3}{4}$
Oats.....	19 $\frac{3}{4}$	21 $\frac{3}{4}$	21 $\frac{3}{4}$
Mess Pork..	10 15	10 40	—
Lard.....	—	—	—
Short Ribs..	—	—	—

On Thursday wheat was strong at the opening, assisted by foreign buying at New York. The full advance was not held and the close was quiet at a shade above yesterday. Closing prices were:

	Feb.	May.	July.
Wheat....	65 $\frac{3}{4}$ - $\frac{5}{8}$	67 $\frac{3}{4}$ - $\frac{5}{8}$	67 $\frac{3}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn.....	28 $\frac{3}{4}$	30 $\frac{3}{4}$	31 $\frac{3}{4}$
Oats.....	19 $\frac{3}{4}$	21 $\frac{3}{4}$	21 $\frac{3}{4}$
Pork.....	10 37	10 57	—
Lard.....	—	—	—
Short Ribs	—	—	—

On Friday prices were easy at the early session, on large receipts in the west and foreign selling at New York, but improved later under good exports and unfavorable crop reports from Argentine. Closing prices were:

	Feb.	May.	July.
Wheat.....	66 $\frac{3}{4}$	68 $\frac{3}{4}$	67 $\frac{3}{4}$
Corn.....	28 $\frac{3}{4}$	30 $\frac{3}{4}$	31 $\frac{3}{4}$
Oats.....	19 $\frac{3}{4}$	21 $\frac{3}{4}$	21 $\frac{3}{4}$
Mess Pork..	10 17 $\frac{1}{2}$	10 37 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Lard.....	5 52 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 72 $\frac{1}{2}$	—
Short Ribs..	5 12 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 32 $\frac{1}{2}$	—

Wheat opened lower on Saturday at 67 $\frac{3}{4}$ c for May option and had a narrow range. Closing prices were:

	Feb.	May.	July.
Wheat.....	65 $\frac{3}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$	67 $\frac{3}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$	66 $\frac{3}{4}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$
Corn.....	28 $\frac{3}{4}$	30 $\frac{3}{4}$	31 $\frac{3}{4}$
Oats.....	19 $\frac{3}{4}$	21 $\frac{3}{4}$	21 $\frac{3}{4}$
Mess Pork..	10 12 $\frac{3}{4}$	10 32 $\frac{3}{4}$	—
Lard.....	—	—	—
Short Ribs..	—	—	—
Flax Seed..	—	95 $\frac{3}{4}$	—

A week ago May wheat closed at 67 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, and July at 67 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. A year ago February wheat closed 50 $\frac{3}{4}$ c, and May at 53 $\frac{3}{4}$ c.

Minneapolis Wheat.

No. 1 Northern wheat closed on Saturday as follows: May delivery at 62 to 62 $\frac{3}{4}$ c, and 63 $\frac{3}{4}$ c for July. A week ago May wheat closed at 62 c.

New York Wheat.

On Saturday, Feb. 8, May delivery closed at 73 $\frac{3}{4}$ c, and July delivery at 73 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. A week ago wheat closed at 73 $\frac{3}{4}$ c for May.

Duluth Wheat Market.

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

Monday—Feb. 61 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, May, 65 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
Tuesday—Feb. 60 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, May, 63 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
Wednesday—Feb. 60 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, May, 61 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
Thursday—Feb. 61 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, May, 64 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
Friday—Feb. 61 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, May, 65 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
Saturday—Feb.— c, May, 64 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

A week ago to-day, (Saturday) prices closed at 61 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for May. A year ago May delivery closed at 58 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. Two years ago May closed at 60 c. No. 1 hard was quoted at about 1 c over No. 1 northern, No. 2 northern, $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ c lower than No. 1 northern for cash wheat.

The Toronto Land and Loan Company has assigned. The liabilities are about \$40,000 and assets nominally about the same, but consisting principally of unproductive real estate, which would bring little at a forced sale.

All the difference in the World Between a **Mixture and a Blend**



The old style formula of mixing half a dozen teas together and attempting to disguise their dissimilar qualities with a liberal dose of scented Orange Pekoe, only resulted at best in a nauseating mixture seldom twice alike in varying degrees of disappointment.

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Special attention to consignments of Furs and Skins, Butter and Eggs.

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AGENTS Eldorado Oil Works, B.C.; D. Richards, Laundry Soaps Woodstock, Ontario; Teller, Bothwell Co., Montreal, Parisian Washing Blue.

We have a large cool warehouse with good facilities for handling Butter and Produce in quantities.

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Quote prices on first quality Dairy Butter or consign it to us and get top market prices.

OSMUND SKRINE & CO.,

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Sole Agents for British Columbia for Alexander, Kelly & Co's. Celebrated Rolled Oats and Flour.

Special Attention given to consignments of Produce from Manitoba and N.W.T.

121 TO 123 WATER STREET, VANCOUVER, B.C.

MAJOR & ELDRIDGE, COMMISSION MERCHANTS, Vancouver, - B.C.

Butter, Eggs, Cheese and Pork Products FRESH EGGS WANTED.

Sole Agents for Vancouver, New Westminster and District for Leitch Bros. Celebrated Oak Lake Manitoba Flour.

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Special attention to Confidential Business Enquiries. Corner 2nd. Avenue and 2nd St. North, WINNIPEG MAN

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ON VERY REASONABLE TERMS, A

Magnificent Farm

Of rich black soil, situated on Lulu Island, North Arm Fraser River, B. C. being composed of west halves of lots 12 and 13 and part of 1, Block 4 North, Range 7 West, 200 acres more or less; over two-thirds under good cultivation, mostly in meadow, the balance having been plowed once or twice and yielding abundance of grass for stock; has a very large barn, house and orchard of good bearing trees, all well fenced with stakes and boards; all well dyked and ditched, and about 3-4ths well underdrained; it is six or seven miles from the city of Vancouver; good roads, with stages to and from Vancouver daily; the river at the door teems with salmon, and has excellent shooting for ducks, geese and snipe; also pheasants in the near future; good school and churches near by; climate lovely and scenery simply charming.

For further particulars apply to J. H. TODD & SON owners, Victoria, B. C. or to Messrs. Rand Bros. Vancouver.

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Feed Wheat for Chickens

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Board of Trade Banquet.

In the evening after the annual meeting of the Winnipeg Board of Trade, a banquet was held at the Manitoba Hotel. The dinner was largely attended by the members of the board and representatives of leading business interests, the large dining hall being filled, and very few vacant chairs were left at the tables.

After the dinner, president Riley called the assemblage to order and arose to propose the first toast, "The Queen." Before proceeding further with the toast list, he drew the attention of those present to the fact that there were only seven toasts upon the list and that owing to the absence of His Honor, Lt.-Gov. Patterson, only six of them would be responded to. He said the committee in charge of the banquet had determined on bringing the evening's enjoyment to a close at or about midnight, so that the gentlemen would not have to look back to the occasion as one upon which they had been called upon to sacrifice a night's repose in the cause of conviviality. They had resolved to order it so that a banquet every night in the week might be enjoyed without seriously disturbing the digestion or business habits of the participants.

After the health of the governor had been drunk, the next toast, "The Dominion and Provincial Parliaments," was proposed, coupled with the name of Hon. Thos. Greenway. Mr. Greenway remarked that he was very much pleased with the innovations mentioned by the chairman in cutting short the flow of eloquence which sometimes made such gatherings tiresome. He was rather nonplussed at being called upon to respond to this toast, as he had understood that he was to speak to the toast of live stock and dairying interests, and he failed to see the connection between the illustrious bodies mentioned and the live stock and dairying interests. He would remind them that their prosperity and all material progress in every line of trade and industry depended entirely upon the well-being and advancement of the farming community—the backbone of the Northwest. He detailed the early struggles of the settlers on the bush farms of Ontario, and asked why with greater natural advantages the Northwest had not advanced with the rapidity which all the conditions of soil and climate would warrant. He considered that the answer would be found in the fact that we had attempted too much. We had endeavored to settle up the whole country from the eastern border of Manitoba to the Rocky Mountains and north to the Saskatchewan, instead of concentrating our efforts in the settlement of Manitoba. Continuing Mr. Greenway said the first object that we should hold in continual prominence was a comprehensive scheme to insure the settlement of the vacant lands of Manitoba. An Ontario man who casts his lot in Manitoba though lost to the old provinces, is actually of more value to Ontario than if he had remained there. He deprecated the idea of spending large sums of money on irrigation in Southern Alberta. The farmers of Manitoba are suffering a hardship from the tariff and prices of lumber. Prices of lumber are twenty five per cent more than they should be. They also have a grievance in the high rates of freights exacted by the railways. He quoted from the Montreal Trade Bulletin to show that the freight rates on hides from Sydney, New South Wales, to Montreal, was 75 cents per 100 pounds, while the same character of freight is charged 75 cents per 100 pounds, from Winnipeg to Montreal. The only remedy for this state of things with regard to barley and oats was for the farmer to feed them to stock. Twelve dollars' worth of chopped feed would fatten an animal in 150 days, and make him worth \$60 at the end of that time, or 72 cents per 100 pounds for his grain instead of 52 cents. By keeping the animal for a longer period and increasing its weight the farmer would derive

a profit in the same proportion. The railway companies charged freight in carload lots of cattle, which amount to 19½ per cent of the value, while on butter and cheese the rates are notably lower, only 6 per cent of the value of these products being charged on ordinary lots, and where the goods are for export the rates are considerably lower. On the subject of immigration he said: If the farmers of the eastern provinces and the older lands knew the advantages that were afforded by our soil and climate the problem would be to keep them out, for nothing short of bodily force would prevent them from flocking in to share the grand advantages presented by our fertile prairies.

Mr. Angus Kirkland, in replying to "Our Banking and Financial Interests," said that his subject was one fraught with much interest. The banking facilities possessed by Winnipeg are unsurpassed by any city of its size in this world, and our clearing house transactions for the past year gave us the fourth place of Canadian cities, aggregating \$55,000,000. Mr. Kirkland's remarks were brief but well chosen, and were received with applause.

Geo. F. Galt responded to the "Commercial and Manufacturing Interests." He touched briefly on the history of commerce in Manitoba and was happy to have to state that his conviction, founded on actual conditions of trade, was that we have passed the experimental stage of development. Our commercial institutions stand to-day on a sound and stable basis, and their future is assured. In early days the farmers had to struggle against the high rates of interest paid by poor settlers who came here without sufficient funds to begin operations and were forced to borrow at the then prevailing rates. But now, happily, such a condition of things is almost unknown. The high prices of all necessities of life was also a powerful brake to progress in the early years, but present prices are as reasonable as in any part of the world. He was proud of our railways and proud of the men who managed them, those roads are monuments to Canadian energy and enterprise; he was proud of the railway that can carry hides for 1,400 miles over its own rails. We require more railways, competition in railways; we want the Hudson's Bay railway, and we are bound to have it. The importance of the dairying interests could not be overestimated. With a properly organized cold storage system available to our dairymen and stock raisers, the trade of Manitoba and the Northwest in butter, cheese and dressed meats, would increase with unparalleled rapidity. 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 northwest, as something that every citizen was bound to support. The people in the east were blind to their own interests when they opposed the development of our great western country. With half a continent of agriculture, mineral and timber lands, with our teeming fisheries and every natural advantage, there could be no question as to the grand future in store for the Canadian west.

J. H. Ashdown, speaking to the same toast, dwelt upon the fact that despite the depreciated value of wheat Manitoba had been able to hold her own. It was important that we should establish factories that would give employment to numbers of citizens and would tend to keep the money of the people within the province. Apart from flouring and oatmeal mills we have already established about one hundred factories of various kinds, and the policy of our people should be to encourage these home industries

and take steps for the establishment of others. The spruce and poplar of Lake Winnipeg might be used to great advantage in the manufacture of paper pulp. The coarse grains and damaged wheat could, he was informed, be made into brandy successfully. Starch could also be manufactured from the over-abundance of potatoes with which we are blessed. The manufacture of leather goods offers a favorable opening to the capitalists. These were a few of the possibilities; there were many others that would suggest themselves to his hearers and he hoped before many years to see Winnipeg a city of tall chimneys and busy workshops.

Mr. Stephen Nairn spoke to the "Grain and Produce Interests." Last year Manitoba raised 60,000,000 bushels of grain, off less than 2,000,000 acres. Twenty-five thousand farmers, scattered far and wide over the prairie, produced this immense and magnificent crop. How much better would it have been if one section of the province, say that lying between Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie, which comprises over 2,000,000 acres, of as fruitful land as can be found in the wide world, produced that crop. What a crop would we have produced if the whole province had been under cultivation, instead of only a small proportion? Although our farmers have cause to rail against the freight charges, freight rates for grain have been very materially lessened in the past ten years. The low prices of grain have tended to militate against our prosperity, and the lower prices which are obtained by farmers for their damaged grain, have also served to reduce the profits of grain culture. The speaker gave some practical hints in the treatment of wheat to prevent smut, and dwelt on the importance of farmers devoting the utmost care to their seed grain so as to prevent injury to their crops.

At this point F. W. Mathewson, the president-elect, proposed the health of R. T. Riley, the retiring president. He complimented the board in having had the valuable services of Mr. Riley during the past year and paid a graceful compliment to that gentleman's sterling qualities as a business man.

"The City of Winnipeg" was replied to by Mayor Jamieson in an eloquent address. He alluded to past differences and misunderstandings which had sometimes arisen between the city council and the board of trade, differences which were sure to occur between such bodies even when they had at heart the development of the city and its institutions. Those differences were merely of opinion as to the better method to be adopted to attain a certain end. The future success of Winnipeg depended largely on the hearty co-operation of the board of trade with the council and he hoped that all their future relations would be harmonious and productive of the general progress and welfare. The Imperial government was expending millions to provide transportation by rail and water in Africa. Might we not reasonably expect that it would see the necessity of assisting us in the same way in building the Hudson's Bay railway, which is an Imperial as well as a Canadian necessity.

The company then joined in singing "Auld Lang Syne," and dispersed at 12.30 o'clock.

The Toronto Land and Loan Company has assigned. The liabilities are about \$40,000 and assets nominally about the same, but consisting principally of unproductive real estate, which would bring little at a forced sale.

The financial statement of McCabe, Robertson & Co., Toronto, shows a much worse condition than expected. The liabilities amount to \$31,000 direct, \$27,000 indirect, \$5,000 preferred, total of \$63,000 of which all is owing to Canadian creditors save \$18,000 to English firms.

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Hudson Bay Company. Richard & Co.

London Fur Sales.

Two weeks ago The Commercial gave a report of Canadian furs at the recent London sales. The following more extended report is from the New York Fur Trade Review:

C. M. Lampson & Co. offered at their sales on January 20 to 24 the following articles:

Musquash	1,000,000
Skunk	185,000
Squirrel	100,000
Raccoon	140,000
Beaver	125,000
Opossum	120,000
Mink	90,000
Thibet lamb	20,000
Bear	9,000
Lynx	2,500
Gray fox	5,000
Red Fox	7,000
Wolf	2,500
Marten	80,000
Bastard chinchilla	21,000
Sundries

On January 15, at London, 60,000 African monkey skins were offered.

Result of the sales by cable:

HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY'S SALE.

Beaver, 5 per cent. higher than in Jan., 1895.
Muskrat, 85 " " " " " " " "
Salted Northwest coast fur seal sold very well.

C. M. LAMPSON & CO.'S SALE.

Marten	15 per ct. higher than in Mar. '95.
Russ. sable	20 " " " " " "
Jap.	20 " " " " " " " "
Black bear	40 " lower " " Mar. '95.
Brown	55 " " " " " "
Grizzly	55 " " " " " "
Russian	55 " " " " " "
White	25 " " " " " "
Wild cat	10 " " " " " "
Badger	80 " " " " " "
House Cat same as	" " " " " "
Chinchilla, real, same as	Oct. '95.
Japanese fox,	" " " " " "
Chin., bast.,	20 per ct. higher than in " "
Kolinsky,	25 " " " " " "
Aust. opossum	20 " " " " " "
Kangaroo,	20 " " " " " "
Wombat,	40 " " " " " "
Wallaby,	15 " lower " " " "
Thibet lamb,	10 " " " " " "
Grebe,	50 " higher " " " "
Beaver, same as in	Jan., '95
Muskrat,	40 " " " " " "
Black muskrat	15 " " " " " "
Mink,	10 " " " " " "
Opossum,	50 " lower " " " "
Red fox,	7 1/2 " " " " " "
Lynx,	17 1/2 " " " " " "
White fox,	40 " " " " " "
Squirrel,	10 " " " " " "
Gray Fox,	10 " higher " " " "

Wolf,	10 per ct higher than March '95
Raccoon, same as	" " " " " "
Kitt fox,	50 " " " " " "
Civet cat,	15 " lower " " " "
Skunk,	25 " " " " " "
Hairseals, dry,	40 " " " " " "

Phillips, Politzer & Co. report as follows on the January sales, compared with October, 1895:

Hudson's Bay Company's sale: Beaver advanced 5, muskrats 25, marten 20, baum, marten 25, Russian sable 17 1/2, bastard chinchilla 20, wombat 20, muskrat 40, mink 15, gray fox 20, wolf 10 and raccoon 15 per cent. Skunk advanced 15 per cent. on June, 1895.

Unchanged: Stone marten, real chinchilla, thibet lamb, red fox, white fox and lynx.

Declined: Bears 25, beaver 10 and American opossum 15 per cent.

In the minor sales, thibet of the first quality remained unchanged; medium grades advanced about 10 per cent.; thibet crosses also advanced about 15 per cent. on last October prices.

The Fur Trade Review says: The London sales have shown an improvement in American furs, indicating a better state of affairs than was supposed to exist. It should be remembered that articles which advanced—muskrat, for instance—were very low in price, and that caution should be exercised in buying to avoid an unreasonable increase in values prior to the more important March sales.

Australian Wheat Crop Short.

The London Millers' Gazette, of January 8, says of the Australian crop in Victoria the yield of wheat this season is estimated at only a minute fraction over four bushels per acre, the smallest yield ever known in the colony. The area of the crop is estimated at 1,510,000 acres and the total produce at 6,080,500 bushels, or 1,349,500 bushels less than the probable consumption, including seed. Therefore, Victoria, instead of the usual surplus of 5,000,000 to 7,000,000 bushels will have a deficiency. In South Australia also, the yield just after harvest began was expected to be only four bushels per acre, and a surplus of 1,000,000 bushels was regarded as an outside estimate. The New South Wales crop is put at not more than 5 1/2 bushels per acre, and the deficiency, which was 1,824,575 bushels last season, will be fully 5,000,000 bushels this year. Already, wheat has been imported from California, and other cargoes are on their way. The Queensland crop is described as an utter failure, and at least 1,500,000 will have to be imported. Thus, for the first time in a great number of years, the Australian continent will not be self-supporting in respect of wheat. New South Wales, Queensland and western Aus-

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PARTNER P.P., Commercial Office, Winnipeg.

tralia are always importers of wheat; but hitherto for a great many years, the combined surpluses of South Austria and Victoria have been sufficient to meet the demands of their sister colonies, and to spare some wheat for Europe also.

The wholesale boot and shoe firm of William Griffith & Co., Hamilton, Ont., has assigned. Liabilities estimated at \$17,000; assets considerable. The principal creditors are in Montreal and Quebec.

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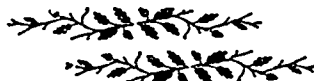
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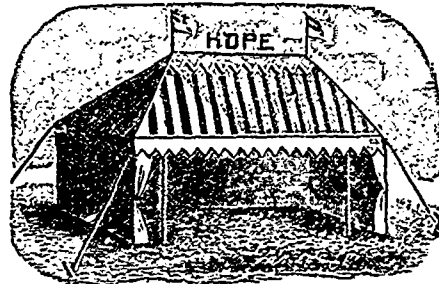
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Coal Supply of the World.

Coal was first discovered in the United States, in Rhode Island, in 1768—that is, in one of the States into which practically all the coal used is imported. Coal mining was begun at Pittsburg before it was tried in Rhode Island. Fifty years ago the three coal producing States of the country were Pennsylvania, Virginia and Rhode Island. There is a very close relation, political economist have not failed to notice, between coal and manufactures, and in the expansion of the manufacturing interests of civilized countries during the present century the rate of increase in supply of coal, taking, of course, these manufactures into which steam power enters.

At the head of all the coal-producing countries of the world is Great Britain, with a yearly average of about 180,000,000 tons. At the head of the countries using steam power for purposes other than railway traction is Great Britain, also. Second of the coal producing countries are the United States, with a yearly average of 140,000,000 tons, and the United States are also second in respect of steam power exclusive of railroads. Third in production of coal, 100,000,000 tons a year, and also third in steam power for manufactures is Germany, and France is fourth. Russia comes fifth, the increase of the coal production of the Russian empire having been very marked during the last few years. It doubled from 1875 to 1885, and nearly doubled from 1885 to 1895. Among political economists it is pretty generally admitted that the dearth of coal in Italy is one of the chief barriers to a material development of manufactures which would otherwise be sufficient to put that country in a position of greater prominence in the commercial world. There is the same trouble to be found in Spain, though Spain furnishes some of the coal required for domestic use. Some 25,000,000 tons of coal mined in England are annually exported to European countries which either have no coal supply or mine an amount inadequate to their needs. France, Italy and Spain receive a very large share of this imported coal. Some, too, goes to Egypt, and some to Canada. A table which recently appeared in England makes this subdivision of 150,000,000 tons annually mined: Used in manufactures, 55,000,000 tons a year; for domestic purposes, cooking and heating, 40,000,000 tons; for railway locomotives and for steamships, 20,000,000 tons; for gas or water works (particularly gas works), 20,000,000 tons, and for mining, 15,000,000 tons.

The general extension and utilization of the electric current has diminished the demand for coal in many parts of the United States, and the utilization of natural gas, in the natural gas belt, has had a like effect. One paradox connected with the production

and the use of coal in the United States has come up for discussion again at the Atlanta Exposition, where many of the Southern speakers have been pointing out as peculiar the fact that hundred of thousands of tons are transported from Southern ports to New England ports for use in Yankee factories, and that the products of such factories are in turn sold to the States and districts from which comes not only the coal, but also the cotton.—Boston Journal of Commerce.

United States Winter Wheat Crops.

The snow covering for wheat has been light or none at all in different parts all winter. It is not possible to know the full effect of such open weather until the time for the plant to begin to grow in the spring. Past experience teaches that wheat is winter killed when there is an absence of snow during the winter period. At one time, for some ten days, there was snow in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, with the ground uncovered before and after it. Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas have been bare all winter, excepting the late few days, when they were covered with a light snow, in many parts being only a trace. As such a winter never passed without great injury to the wheat plant, it is only to be expected that there is great harm now.

The condition of winter wheat in this country is therefore most assuredly in an unsatisfactory state. The fixing of per cent. of condition like say 79.5, etc., as compared with a full crop, is too fine for practice although correct in theory. It is practical facts that people have to face and not theories. The main trouble now is the uncertainty of the effect of all this winter of too little snow or none. Considerable of the time even Wisconsin and Michigan were bare, and Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Kentucky have been without any, with very little in Nebraska. The winter wheat crop cannot be a big crop, with indications of a light one.—Minneapolis Market Record.

Montreal Grocery Market.

The sugar market is somewhat excited, and the strong feeling that has prevailed for the past two or three weeks still continues. In fact, it is more pronounced than ever, still higher prices being looked for in the near future. Advices from abroad on the raw article noted a further advance. There has been no further change here in values for the refined article, and the impression is that there won't be until New York responds to the advance in raws. The demand here for refined from refiners has been limited, and business has been quiet, owing to the fact that large buyers are pretty well supplied for the present, but as soon as they work off present stocks, an active trade is looked for. Granulated has sold at 4½c in 250 barrel lots,

and over; 4 11-16c in 100 barrel lots, and 4½c in smaller quantities. Yellows range from 8½c to 4½c, as to quality, at the factory.

The stock of syrups in refiners' hands has been reduced of late, and the offerings are small. The market is firm, but values are unchanged at 1½ to 2½c per lb, as to quality, at the factory.

The market for molasses has been quiet, the demand being only for small lots. The feeling, however, is very firm, in sympathy with the strong advices from primary markets, and values are fully maintained. Barbadoes are selling at 37c; Porto Rico, at 35c, and N. O. at 25 to 35c.

The demand for rice continues fair, and the market is moderately active, with no change in prices to note. The following quotations are what millers sell at:—Japan standard, \$1.25 to \$1.40; crystal Japan, \$1.75 to \$5; standard B, \$3.45; English style, \$3.30; Patna, \$1.25 to \$5; and Carolina at \$6.50 to \$7.50.

In spices there has been no important change. The demand is up to the average for the season, and the market is fairly active. The following quotations are what jobbers can buy at only:—Ponang black pepper, 6 to 7½c; white pepper, 10 to 12½c; cloves, 7½ to 9c; cassia, 8½ to 9½c; nutmegs, 60 to 90c; and Jamaica Ginger, 15½ to 18½c.

There has been no change in coffee, the market having ruled quiet, and business principally of a jobbing character. We quote: Maracaibo, 19 to 20c; Rio, 18 to 18½c; Java, 21 to 27c; Jamaica, 17½ to 18½c, and Mocha, 27½ to 30c.—Gazette, Feb. 1.

Dressed Beef.

The dressed meat market is in a very depressed state at present, says the Montreal Trade Bulletin. Dealers state that they have never known prices to be so low in the history of dressed beef. Cattle sold here during the last three markets at lower prices than was ever known for the quality at this or any other season of the year. Nice heifers, averaging 1150 lbs., sold at \$2.25 to \$2.30 per hundred pounds. This is about 1½c lower than was paid a year ago, when prices were considered ridiculously low. The lamb market is also glutted, best lambs, which were selling at 7c two weeks ago, are now down to 6c. An experiment has been tried by a western shipper, by shipping a carload of dressed beef to this market by a refrigerator car; but it is stated that he will be sadly disappointed when he receives his account sales, which will be very small, owing to the depressed state of the market, and dealers say the experiment has proved a failure in a financial way. Best dressed beef carcasses are selling at 5c, which brought 6c a year ago.

Proposed Insolvency Bill.

An Ottawa telegram says: Mr. Martin's insolvency bill, which was introduced in the house this afternoon, provides for a trader or producer being declared insolvent on application of a creditor before a judge, for an equitable distribution of assets, for the abolition of preferential claims, for the selection of liquidation by creditors, for a government discharge of an insolvent, for making others than the insolvent parties to an investigation, for instance, an insolvent's wife, etc. Mr. Martin explained the bill at great length, and a long discussion ensued, in which several members took part. Hon. Mr. Davies opposed the bill flatly. He said wholesale merchants were behind it, and he did not believe the evils complained of were sufficiently widespread to demand such legislation. Prior to 1880 there had been a similar law on the statute book, but it had been repealed, owing to the difficulty of enforcing it.

Winnipeg Board of Trade.

The annual meeting of the Winnipeg board of trade was held on Tuesday afternoon. In the absence of president R. T. Riley, who was obliged to be absent to attend the annual meeting of the Canadian Fire Insurance company, F. H. Mathewson, vice-president, presided. The following new members were elected: A. Kirkland, Bank of Montreal; G. F. R. Harris, Canada Permanent Loan and Mortgage Co.; W. M. Fisher, Western Canada Loan Co.; and J. B. Somerset, of the Free Press.

The president's annual report was read by the secretary, and ordered to be printed in the official report. The seventeenth annual report of the council was also laid before the meeting in printed form and adopted. More extended reference will be given to the president's address and the report of the council, in the special number of The Commercial, to be issued in a few days.

Mr. Strang's report as treasurer was presented and adopted as follows:

Receipts.—To balance from last year, \$547.13; to entrance fees and subscriptions, \$154.13; to interest, \$12.90; total \$1715.03.

Disbursements.—By secretary's salary, \$900; by rent, share, \$100; by printing and advertising, \$92.50; by postages, \$23; by telephone, share, \$15; by petty accounts, \$15.66; total, \$1,448.86; balance, \$566.17. No liabilities.

A. Strang, J. Y. Griffin and S. A. McGaw were appointed a committee to nominate members of the council to represent the various business interests. Their report was presented and adopted, and a ballot cast electing the following members: J. H. Ashdown, hardware; R. J. Campbell, groceries; N. Bawlf, grain; S. A. McGaw, milling; R. J. Whitla, dry goods; Thos. Ryan, boots and shoes; R. T. Riley, clothing; A. M. Nanton and John Russell, financial and loan; D. W. Bole, drugs; J. Y. Griffin, packing; T. H. Webb, agricultural implements; T. D. Robinson, fuel and lumber; R. D. Richardson, stationery; Thos. Gilroy, insurance; J. W. Harris.

This was a new mode of selecting the council, but it was thought a slate nominated by a committee would be more representative of the different lines of business than a council nominated and elected as in the past.

The election of officers then took place, the following being unanimously chosen:

President—F. H. Mathewson.

Vice-president—Thomas Anderson.

Treasurer—Andrew Strang, re-elected.

Secretary—C. N. Bell, re-elected.

The board of arbitrators of last year was re-elected, with the exception that S. Nairn was substituted for W. B. Scarth; the members are: K. McKenzio, E. L. Drewry, G. F. Galt, G. J. Maulson, S. A. D. Bertrand, J. H. Brock, R. T. Riley, S. Spink, Jno.

Galt, Wm. Hespeler, J. E. Steen, and S. Nairn.

Mr. Strang gave notice of a motion that new members be required to pay only the annual fee of \$10, the entrance fee of \$15 additional being abolished. On motion of Messrs. Brock and Steen, the secretary was instructed to accept \$10 from the new members proposed to-day as part payment until Mr. Strang's motion should be considered.

Ex-Mayor Gilroy, president of the Canadian Northwestern Immigration convention, wrote, asking the board to appoint three delegates to the approaching convention. He addressed the meeting in support of the request. The matter was referred to the council to appoint the delegates.

Flax in the United States.

Flax growing is now reviving, but it is not by any means a new industry in this country, as some may suppose: It is really one of the oldest crops, and in New England it formed the staple articles of clothing for a quarter of a century or more. The old spinning-wheels, flaxbrakes, and hatchels have all been relegated to the attic, but new machinery promises to bring the old product into general use again. Flax-growing was formerly abandoned in New England when the cotton crop in the south became so large that cotton goods were sold to the farmers much cheaper than they could make them out of flax. The crop was exhausting to the soil, and the growers soon discovered that it was economy to raise corn and other products and buy the Carolina cotton goods or European linen.

For a considerable period after the introduction of cotton goods flax fell into general neglect as a farm product, and the old flax ponds or brooks, where the farmers rotted the straw of the parish, were abandoned. Then came another period when the demand for flaxseed oil and linseed meal (made from flaxseed) made it profitable for farmers to raise flax again on their farms. But the industry never received much notice in New England, where the price of Virgin soil was high, but in the western States large acreages were devoted to the crop. Their rich virgin soil could be had for a small sum, and one crop was considered as good as another as far as exhausting the land was concerned. Flax growing has consequently been carried on ever since in the West upon newly-broken sod. It has been raised for its seed, or for long staple fiber. For the latter object it has to be pulled before the seeds are ripe, and a double profit cannot be realized from it in consequence. But when raised for fibre the flax is allowed to ripen its seed so that the straw and seed both bring in a fair profit to the grower.

In the west the flaxseed is sown broadcast for the fiber at the rate of two bushels to the acre, and all the cultivation given to it is that to keep down the weeds until the leaves shade the ground. The plants are allowed to ripen their seeds and then the straw is pulled up in small bundles for drying. The seeds are threshed out a good deal as an ordinary farmer would thresh his oats or wheat, that is, with a flail or with a machine thresher, the latter being the more desirable, as it does not injure the straw so much. Some still resort to the "rotting" process, so common in early New England days. The bundles are taken to the shallow pond or brook and stood in it with the butts downward. After standing there for five or ten days the ore will come out of the fiber when the stocks are broken. When rotted sufficiently the bundles are taken out with a pitchfork and stood up to drain and dry.

The next process is that called "grassing." The stalks are spread out upon the grass and turned over once or twice a day for a week. This improves the color of the fiber. The

"breaking" process which follows is done by a set of fluted rollers, and the "hatchelling" by a machine that separates the fine and coarse fibres. New and improved machinery has been invented for all these purposes, and some factories take the flax direct from the farmers before the rotting and bleaching processes have taken place. A good crop of flax will produce 600 pounds of fibre to the acre. Sold in the open market, this means about \$70 per acre.

But flax seed is exhausting to the soil, and after it has grown two or three years on one field, a period of from five to eight years should elapse before another crop is planted. The soil has to be heavily manured, from 400 to 600 pounds of mineral fertilizers being required each year to the acre, besides barnyard and other manures. Potash and phosphoric acid are the chief ingredients that the soil requires to produce good flax.—New York Tribune.

Australian Wine.

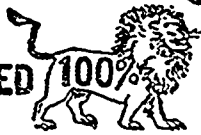
According to an English journal, Australian wine is making considerable headway in England. The matter was taken seriously in hand by the government of South Australia in 1894, and in that year over 10,000,000 vines were planted. In that year also the colonial government established a bonded depot in London to which the wines could be consigned, and where they could be matured before being placed on the market with what is practically a government guarantee. Seventeen hundred hogsheads were imported in 1895, representing a contribution to the customs of over £5,000.

Good Export Demand for Cattle.

The demand for export cattle is remarkably good compared with the inquiry in other directions. For the past few weeks exporters have bought more cattle here than ever before at this time of year and have succeeded in demoralizing the trade in England. When prices decline so that there will no longer be a profit in shipping them, of course business will decrease. Home supplies in England have not been excessive, but the receipts from both this country and Argentina have been more than sufficient to supply the demand at London and Liverpool. Besides, there has been an unusual amount of dressed meat sent across the Atlantic, and supplies from New Zealand have also been heavy. All these things make a good reason for the recent decline.—Chicago Drover's Journal.

Replying to Mr. Davin in parliament, Hon. Mr. Foster said that ample means were being taken to prevent scab being introduced into the Territories from the States. Dr. McEachran was watching the matter closely, and would not allow any chances for improvement of regulations to escape his notice.

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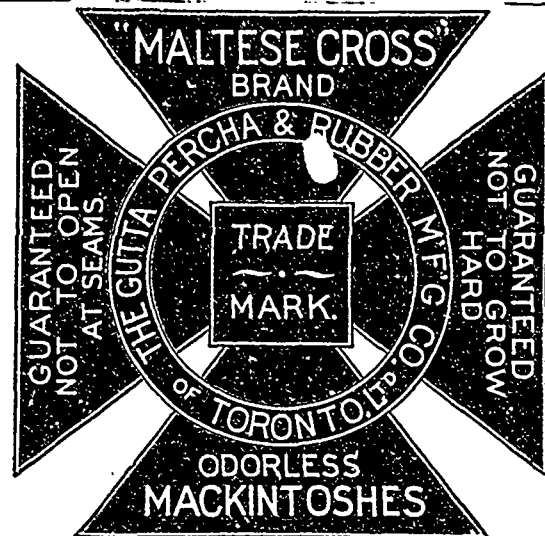
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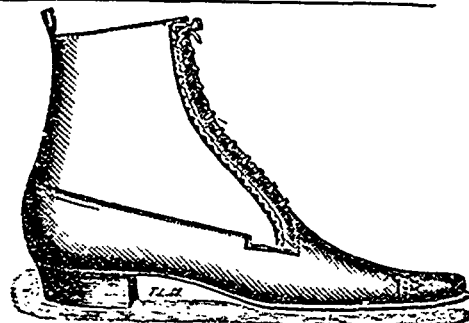
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Merchants are complaining of present rates of discount on their commercial paper being too high in the present epoch of excessive competition and diminutive profits. Six and seven per cent. on four and six months' paper they argue is too much, and they suggest that current rates be reduced to 5 and 6 per cent. They claim that present rates are exorbitant, and act as a barrier to legitimate business; and that the shareholders of our banks should not receive such a large share of profits in these hard times. The Trade Bulletin has repeatedly made the statement that the time is coming when owners of bank stocks, who, as a rule, are of the well-to-do class, will of necessity have to be satisfied with less rates of interest. There can be no doubt that many of our merchants are passing through trying times, and any small concessions on the part of bankers would be of great benefit to the commercial community. —Montreal Trade Bulletin.

British Trade in 1895.

The London Daily Financial Times says: "The returns for the last month of the old year show that the marked improvement in our foreign trade noticeable since June has been well maintained. Imports have advanced £3,897,000, or 10.7 per cent., while exports have improved £1,678,000, or 9.5 per cent. These gains are equal to the average of the previous five months, and must be regarded as quite satisfactory. It is, however, with the trade of the year that we are now more concerned than with the month's results. Looking back over this period it will be seen that up to the end of June there will be little or no improvement in business. Trade was fluctuating up one month and down the next, but with no decided tendency either way. There were, however, indications that we were drawing near to the turning point, and in July it came. In that month there was a remarkable increase both in exports and imports, and the improvement has since been continued.

"It was in 1891 that the effect of the modified tariff in the United States made itself felt, and this has been in a still greater degree the case during the past year. Our exports to the United States for the twelve months have undergone a wonderful expansion, and this fact should certainly tend to produce a feeling of amity towards our American cousins, who have proved themselves to be such good customers. Take as an example woollens and worsteds, which are representative articles of export to America. The total value of these exports for 1891 amounted to £1,538,000; last year they came to no less than £3,293,000, or, roughly speaking, the trade was quadrupled.

"In like manner the shipments of linen rose from £2,081,000 to £2,199,000, and of cotton piece goods from £1,074,000 to £1,589,000. In many other articles of export, such as woolen and linen yarns, carpets hardware and cutlery, apparel, pig-iron, railroad iron, certain steel manufactures, etc., we did a largely increased business with America, and the chief falling off was in tin-plates, which after long endeavors, they are at last beginning to manufacture in earnest on the other side of the Atlantic, though it is questionable whether the industry is as yet on a paying basis. Some idea of the injury which will be inflicted on British trade if the tariff in the United States be again raised may be gathered from these figures.

"Undoubtedly the most discouraging feature of the export trade last year was the heavy decline in shipments of cotton piece goods to British India. It is a very big trade—in fact, one of the most important of our outward commerce. The total exports of this class

for 1891 amounted to no less than £19,270,000, while last year they fell to £13,638,000. There were several reasons for this decline. The markets at the end of 1891 were overstocked in anticipation of taxation, and the imposition of the five per cent. duty certainly tended to check imports, and also to a certain extent to stimulate native manufactures. In addition, the lessened exports of the chief Indian products, due to low prices and foreign competition, must also in some degree have diminished the purchasing power of the Indian people.

"The disturbances in the Turkish empire considerably reduced our exports of this class to that market, and Egypt and one or two other countries also took less of us. On the other hand, we did a better trade with China, Japan, Chili, Argentina, South Africa, the United States, Central America, Australasia, etc., so that the total decline in shipments only amounted to \$3,500,000 in value. The diminution in this class of textile exports was, however, more than made up for by increased shipments of woollens, worsteds, linens, yarns, etc., so that on balance textiles show an advance of £5,398,000.

"Metals and machinery and mill-work advanced by about a couple of million sterling. South Africa took nearly half a million sterling in mining machinery, or more than double the quantity of the previous twelve months, and we shipped to various countries considerably larger quantities of copper, hardware, pig iron, iron wire, galvanized and sheet iron, etc. In tin plates and agricultural machinery a decline occurred, and there is some fear that in the last mentioned item our rivals are getting ahead of us, particularly as regards the light agricultural implements suited to new countries which the United States manufacturers are very successful in producing. In 'all other articles' there is an advance for the year of £3,872,000, principally in such things as earthenware, arms and ammunition, cycles, rubber, paper and stationery, saddlery and harness, skins, wools, etc., extending over a great variety of industries.

"In the imports for the year the leading feature is an advance of no less than £3,700,000 in manufactured articles. We have already referred to the increasing competition of these goods in the home market, and the tendency still continues. A considerable porportion of such articles are 'made in Germany,' and they have forced their way here by reason of their cheapness, in spite of that very equivocal distinction. After recent events we cannot help thinking that 'made in Germany' will be less of a recommendation than ever. As regards food supplies, we imported more wheat than in 1891, but less wheat-meal and flour. The United States still heads the list as our source of wheat supply, but this time it is closely followed by Russia, Argentine making a bad third, while the British East Indies and Australasia considerably increased their exports of this class.

In sugars the heavy fall in values affected the total import, the amount falling from £8,317,000 to £8,274,000, although the quantity imported came to 2,700,000 cwts more. Germany was a severe loser by this decline. Except for a large advance in imports of frozen meat, there is little worthy of note in the variations of our other food imports. In raw materials there was an increase of £1,169,000, wool figuring very largely, as also flax, but there was a falling off in the quantity of raw cotton imported, and a still greater contraction in value. In the transportation business, which has been lagging a little during the past few months, picked up again in December, and for the whole year exhibits an advance of £2,009,000.

The only important decline in imports was under the head of miscellaneous articles, and is mainly in seeds, cotton, flax, etc. Altogether, the retrospect of the year's trade is

very encouraging. A period of hesitation and uncertainty during the first half of the twelve months was followed by a really remarkable revival, extending to nearly every leading branch of manufacture, with the single exception of cotton-spinning. Prices, indeed, are still very low, but money and raw materials are cheap, and, on the whole, manufacturers and shippers have little to complain of.

If there is not an upheaval in the political world, we may reasonably hope that from the second half of 1895 we may date the commencement of a cycle of improved business. Better still is it to find that British trade still holds its own in the world's markets, in spite of the much-vaunted German and other competition.

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