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\$25,000 *Winnipeg Consolidated at 50 per cent.; \$5 deposit and \$20 on allotment.*

\$10,000 *Lake Winnipeg at \$5 per share.*

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\$10,000 *Argyle, upon private terms.*

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ANDREW SCHMIDT, MANUFACTURER OF TELEGRAPH Instruments, Annunciators, and all electric work. Silver plating a specialty. All kinds of small work in brass, iron and steel to order. Hotels and private houses fitted up with electric bells. Brass Castings of every description. No. 15 McDermott street, cor. Arthur st.

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

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GEORGE MITCHELL, CONVEYANCER, DRAUGHTSMAN, Mining and Real Estate Agent, Commissioner in B. R., &c., County Court Office, Rat Portage, Man.

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MANUFACTURER OF AND DEALER IN
Fine Furniture, Office Desks, &c., Picture and Mirror Frames, &c.
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Subscription Price, \$2.00 per annum in advance;
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T. H. McPHILLIPS, L. N. CARON,
Editor Manager,

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SMALL WARES.

AND FANCY GOODS

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WINDOW GLASS

Mirror Plates, Paints, Colors, White Lead, Oils, Varnishes, Brushes, &c.

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THE VULCAN IRON WORKS.

CAST IRON, BRASS AND IRON,
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WHOLESALE DEALERS

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GENERAL WHOLESALE IMPORTERS OF

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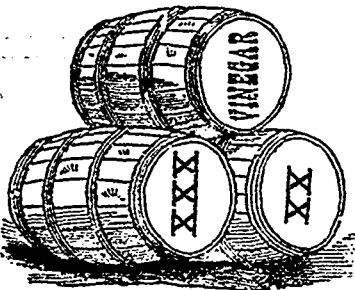
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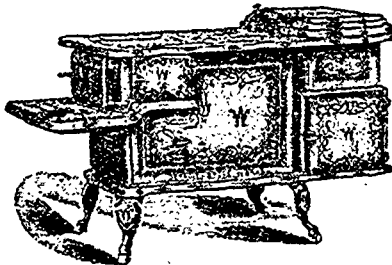
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Boots and Shoes, Trunks and Travelling Bags, Moccasins, Felt Goods, Etc.

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35 Queen St. East, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

LYON, MACKENZIE & POWIS,

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WHOLESALE GROCERS,

—AND—

PROVISION MERCHANTS.

5, 7, 9 & 11, McDermott St., Winnipeg.

Sutherland & Campbell,

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COMMISSION MERCHANTS

STOCK LARGE AND WELL ASSORTED.

PRICES LOW TO CASH AND

PROMPT MEN.

PRINCESS ST.

WINNIPEG.



We Have Received Our Direct Importations of

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

WHITE BEANS, DRIED APPLES
Evaporated Apples in 50lb. Boxes in
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Turner, MacKeand & Co.
BANNATYNE STREET.

THE COMMERCIAL

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

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

VOL. 1.

WINNIPEG, MARCH 27, 1883.

NO 26

The Commercial

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

ISSUED EVERY TUESDAY

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THE COMMERCIAL will be circulated extensively amongst wholesale and retail Merchants, Jobbers, Bankers, Brokers, Manufacturers, Hotel Keepers, Insurance and Loan Agencies throughout the entire Canadian North-West.

Book, Newspaper, Railroad, Commercial and Job Printing specialties.

Office, 16 James St. East.

STEEN & BOYCE,
Publishers

WINNIPEG, MARCH 27, 1883.

J. F. BOYD has leased the Minnedosa grist-mill.

JOHN STEWART, hotel, Manitoba City, has sold out.

COOK BROS., Carman, want to retire from the hotel business.

MATILDA EARL, hotel, Winnipeg, is giving up the business.

ROBERTS & WHIMSTER, mill owners, Straithclair, have dissolved.

JAMES LAWRENCE is opening a new general store at Clearwater.

FULLERTON & ROSS are starting a general store in Manitoba City.

SAULTS & McKAY, late of Nelson, are running the hotel at Manitoba City.

TWEED & EWARR will open a general store at Medicine Hat in about two weeks.

THE North-west Building Company are putting up an extensive workshop at Broadview.

DICKSON & PATENSON, of Winnipeg are about to open a general store at Medicine Hat. A

stock of six thousand dollars worth of goods is now on the way.

THE stock for Huston & Smith's general store at Medicine Hat is now on the way to its destination.

BLAIR & LARMOUR, dry goods, Winnipeg, have assigned in Trust to Robert Adamson as trustee.

J. & P. LYONS, contractors, Winnipeg, have assigned in trust. John Lyons is trustee for the estate.

ROBERT JOHNSON, of Nelson, has purchased the hotel at Stephen, and is now conducting the business.

SCOTT & MURCHISON, Minnedosa, have dissolved partnership. Mr. Murchison continues the business.

THE Winnipeg Warehousing Company, (limited) are putting up an addition to their warehouse, 36x96.

THE firm style of J. B. Smith & Co., hardware, Regina, has been changed to that of Smith & Ferguson.

MEIKLE & COPPINGER have purchased the general store business of David Mackey, Nelson, who is retiring.

T. H. BRAZIER, of Winnipeg, has purchased the tailoring business of T. Mather & Son in Nelsonville, and takes possession on the 1st prox.

CHAS. L. SHOREY, of Montreal, and Samuel Shorey, of Winnipeg, have been admitted as partners into the wholesale clothing house of H. Shorey & Co., Montreal.

THE estimated expenditure of the Dominion of Canada for the financial year ending June 30, 1884, is \$45,504,445. The amount voted for the present year is \$4,877,264.

MOFFAT & CALDWELL, warehousemen and commission merchants, intend putting up another building, 40x80, fire-proof, alongside their old warehouse on Point Douglas.

MR. JAS. PENNY, of the C. P. R., has been appointed a Justice of the Peace for Manitoba. This appointment will be a convenient one for the traveling public. An occasional affidavit sworn to at Mr. Penny's office in the new passenger depot, may save a great amount of pro-

miscuous swearing, and certainly will of annoyance to travellers.

A. SCHMIDT & Co., brass founders, etc., on McDermott street, have recently made large additions to their facilities. They have put in a six-horse power boiler and engine, also lathes and such other machinery as will enable them to turn out first-class work on short notice.

JAMES SWINTON, a market gardener and farmer, intends going extensively into the former business during the coming season in the suburbs of the city. Mr. Swinton formerly carried on the business near Runcorn, Cheshire, England, and principally supplied the Manchester market. He is a noted grower of celery.

R. ADAMSON & Co., the well-known private banking firm of this city, intend opening a branch in Rat Portage. This will be a boon to the people of that prosperous town. The firm's well-known reputation cannot fail to draw to them a large business, which will be at once profitable to themselves and an immense advantage to the people of Rat Portage.

A MEETING of the stockholders of the Portage Westburne and Northwestern Railway was held in this city on Friday. The directorate for the year are: President, Andrew Allan, of Montreal, vice-president, Duncan McArthur, of Winnipeg; secretary and treasurer, F. H. Brydges, Winnipeg. The other members of the board are A. T. Drummond, Montreal; W. L. Boyle and H. Ruttan, Winnipeg; E. Dewdney, Regina; and B. H. Buckstone, Foxmanen, England. It was resolved to increase the capital stock to \$5,000,000. The work of construction will be prosecuted vigorously beyond Gladstone, and it is expected that Minnedosa will be reached by July and Birtle by the end of the year.

ABOUT 2 o'clock Saturday morning a portion of the street and second floor of the new premises of G. F. & J. Galt, wholesale grocers, caved in with the weight carried. Only a small portion of the south division of the floors gave way, and although the damage will be considerable, the firm will not be inconvenienced to any extent. They have secured temporary premises close at hand, and will be able to give prompt attention to orders of their customers. The damage will be repaired during the coming week.

Leave Well Enough Alone.

A close observer of business in this country cannot fail to have noticed the tendency there is toward "branching out" and opening in other parts of the city from that in which the parent establishment is situated. There is a strong disposition on the part of many to press success and strain the limit of honest dealing by trading too largely on a reputation honestly and in many cases earned by dint of industry and many years of hard work. The history of business men tells us that such a course seldom brings with it that success which the projectors anticipated. Of course in cases where unlimited capital stands at the back of the operator there is not so much danger of failure, but when the capital is only limited, and required for the efficient management of one place of business the position is changed. "Too many irons" in the fire has proved the ruin of many a worthy, well intentioned man. His business prospers well so long as he confines himself strictly to that which he has already established, but so soon as his attention is divided in the management of outside branches he sinks beneath the load. Not having properly calculated the circumstances, he too often finds that the fabric which he had built up and placed upon a solid foundation suffers from the drain of the outside branches, which, like parasites, feed upon the parent stem. Our advice to business men is, "let well enough alone." If the business you now have is prosperous and proving a fruitful source of income, bend all your energies towards its further development, and in the long run a much more satisfactory result will be obtained than if the surplus money had been ventured in "branches." Too often is it the case that the demand for his goods which the merchant finds in his old store entraps him into going beyond his actual capacity, and he lives to see the monument of his years of experience, reputation and credit tumble before his eyes like rotten clay.

Dams and Embankments.

The utilization of the water privileges throughout this country is a matter of importance to all, especially situated as we are in a land where the scarcity of wood as fuel material makes steam a very expensive motor. The power of water under the intelligent control of man, says a writer on hydraulics, is one of the chief instrumentalities in promoting human comfort and spreading the blessings of civilization. The uses to which it may be turned are so various and the products for the manufacture of which it is a serviceable agent are of such manifold forms and minister to so many wants of our nature, that the country which is possessed of abundant water power is looked upon as especially favored by Providence. But this invaluable servant, if once it bursts over the bounds which have been set for its action, becomes a destructive scourge, laying waste the very tillage it had made profitable, and bringing to poverty the community whom until then it had sustained in prosperous industry. The number of water privileges in a country like this are of course not as numerous as in a more hilly region. But still we have good privileges

which can be utilized, and from which a tremendous amount of power can be obtained. The proper construction of dams is a matter of the greatest importance. The American Engineer offers some valuable suggestions on this question which may be read with profit. The dam, or embankment, it says, must be united to the foundation on which it rests with a watertight joint. A permeable foundation will give the most trouble, but moderate filtration through such a bottom will do no harm, if the water has to traverse a sufficiently long path, owing to breadth of base or obstacles in its way, so that the fractional resistance will reduce the pressure practically to zero. Water may then soak through without having the power to remove the earth or sand. The loss of water in this way is of no consequence in an abundant water power, but is more likely to be objectionable in the case of a reservoir, both on account of the loss and from the inconvenience which leakage may cause to adjacent property. There still remains the danger that the increased head from rise of water in time of freshet may increase the leaks to the point of bringing away the material through which the water percolates, when a washout will ensue in most cases. Thus leaky dams have stood for a number of years, and then failed rapidly at some time of unusually high water. So long as the issuing water is clear there is no immediate cause for anxiety, but when the flow is turbid the danger is imminent, and heroic measures for stopping the leak must at once be applied. The ends of the dams must be prolonged a sufficient distance into the banks to cut off any escape for the water in this direction.

Modern Milling Requirements.

A very sensible article is that written by Mr. Putz, of Buda Pesth, Austria, on modern milling requirements. Every one, he says, beginning the milling business, either poor or rich, should fit himself to be a head miller. If he is poor and in course of time becomes head miller, he is then always welcome and secure of position. If he becomes rich and has no longer need to continue milling, his knowledge remains in itself so much gain to him. It is a mistake for any miller to set a limit to his desire for success in his occupation, short of its whole possibilities of attainment; for in case he does this, having reached the desired position, he remains satisfied and does not seek further improvement, so that if opportunities to still greater advancement present themselves he is unable, for lack of preparation, to take advantage of them. It behooves every beginner to learn all he is able of each process in all departments of milling, studying while working in one capacity the theory of the next in advance, so that when called upon to do the superior work he will have only the practice to master. What the milling schools teach is good, but the comparative number able to profit by them is very small. The preparation of the schools is not indispensable, as every miller can obtain the knowledge needed to fill the position he aspires to, if he has good courage and resolution. I had myself only the benefit of two terms at a village normal school, where I learned little more than the A B C, but

I have, through indefatigable diligence, obtained position, and that in spite of strong opposition. I do not say this in self praise, but only as an example of what subsequent industry can do by way of making up for lack of early study. The feeling that sooner or later a man is to be a head miller, and that the success of his efforts depends on himself, gives him a sense of responsibility and leads him to assiduous habits in acquirement of knowledge outside of business hours.

Business Reform.

That there is need, and very great need for a reform in the conduct of business in the North-west no one can deny. The record of the past few weeks has only served to show that business as a rule has been carried on in a very loose manner, and without sufficient regard (on the part of the wholesale men) to whom they were selling. There seemed to be a feeling abroad that no matter who the man was that ventured into business could succeed. Men whose previous experience had only been at the tail of a plough or in some department of mechanical operation, rushed into business of which they had no practical experience or the slightest knowledge. Those who are engaged in wholesale trade in this city (men of experience themselves) ought to have known better than have made the advances on credit they did to this class of business men. The population of the country is as yet only limited, and they might have foreseen the difficulties they would have to overcome in getting their own back again. Perhaps there will not be much lost on this account, after all, but still there will be more than there should have been had there been careful supervision.

It seems to us that the caption of our article, "Business Reform," should be acted on at once. Let the long credit system which has played havoc in many cases, and caused serious embarrassment in others, be done away with, and that as soon as possible.

If a man can't afford to start and pay for his goods on short dates, he has no right to go into business at all. The feverish excitement of the past year has led people into many an enterprise which they would not have dreamed of. The wholesale men let them have goods freely. The crash came, and now they have the inevitable (for it cannot be characterized otherwise) result to deal with. Let all parties govern themselves accordingly.

Grain and Meat in Europe.

In a paper on agricultural statistics, read before the British Association, Mr. W. Botley gave some interesting facts concerning the food of Great Britain and the continent, as follows: "At present the food supply produced in Europe is equal to about eleven months' consumption, but in a few years the deficit will be sixty instead of thirty days. The present production and consumption are: Grain consumption in the United Kingdom, 4,607,000,000 bushels; continent, 4,794,000,000; total, 5,401,000,000 bushels. Production of the United Kingdom, 332,000,000 bushels; continent, 4,736,000,000 bushels; total, 5,058,000,000. Meat consumption in

the United Kingdom, 1,740,000 tons; continent, 6,372,000 tons; total, 7,319,000 tons. It appears that the bulk of the deficit belongs to Great Britain; but as the continent is unable to feed its own population, we must in the future look to some other hemisphere for the needful supply, rather than to the supposed surplus of Russia, Hungary, Holland or Denmark. Europe paid last year £35,000,000 for foreign meat, and £85,000,000 for grain, a sum equivalent to a tax of £10,000,000 per month. In the United Kingdom the importation of meat, including cattle, has risen as follows: 1860, 91,230 tons; value, £4,390,000; per inhabitant, 7 pounds; 1870, 144,225 tons; value, £7,705,000; per inhabitant, 10 pounds; 1880, 650,300 tons; value, £26,612,000, or 40 pounds for each inhabitant."

The State of Trade.

The statement of the condition of Dominion banks for February is very satisfactory. The receipts, for example, says the Gazette, increased \$322,060, during the period, an unusual occurrence for this period of the year, and which actually shows the sustained activity of general trade in spite of a lull in some quarters. The movement in foreign exchange has been favorable, for although heavy remittances of exchange were made by importers during February, the net foreign balance in favor of Canada at the close of the month is \$202,000 more than at the opening. The balance due to agencies in Great Britain was reduced \$531,870, while the amount due from these agencies decreased only \$288,886. In government deposit the changes are unimportant, those of the Dominion declining \$272,000, while those of the Provinces increased \$71,000. The public deposits, however, are reduced \$760,000, and this wholly in deposits payable on demand, a result which seems to indicate that a good deal of pressure has been exerted, and not without effect, for the collection of debts. The total liabilities at the close of February were \$145,603,500, a decrease of \$1,437,000 on the month. Turning to the other side of the account, we find that specie has increased \$637,700, while the Dominion note reserve is reduced \$54,000. The largest decrease, however, is exhibited in the items of notes and cheques on other banks and of balances due from other banks in Canada, the former being reduced \$920,000 and the latter \$480,000. The firmness of the money market, and the demand for trade purpose has left its mark on the loans on stocks and bonds which were curtailed \$740,500 during the month. The trade discounts show a net increase of \$407,400, or very little more than the increase of circulation, an excellent sign, considering the amount of paper maturing and various kinds of obligations to be met in the period under review. The changes in this item of discounts are a decrease of \$500,000 in loans to commercial corporations and an increase of \$907,000 in advance to the public. The overdue debts, however, have considerably augmented, those unsecured increasing \$290,000 and those secured \$116,000, making a total increase of \$406,600 in overdue debts during February. The aggregate assets at the close of the month are \$226,843,600, a decrease of \$1,239,360. Taken altogether, as we have said, the statement is of a

more favorable character than might have been expected, and from this time out we look for a steady improvement from month to month in the condition of trade as reflected in the bank statements.

Freight Discriminations.

The Iowa board of railroad commissioners have rendered a decision relating to the discrimination and allowing of rebates by transportation corporations, the particular case in hand being one in which grain dealers were involved. The trustees of Red Oak township complained that a combination of grain buyers existed in Montgomery county at different railroad stations with the Burlington & Quincy Railroad, and claimed that these grain buyers, in consideration of the railroad binding itself to give the members of this grain association better facilities, commissions and rebates than were allowed outside parties, they bound themselves to ship all their grain over the road of this one company. The board says. "When rebates are given to an association of shippers that are denied to an individual, it puts him at a disadvantage in purchasing and tends to the encouragement of monopolies, resulting in neighborhood dissatisfaction. There is no reason why a farmer or merchant should not get the same rate as an elevator man gets, provided he loads substantially in the same time." The investment in elevators has sufficient advantages over side track loaders, without rebates, and they do not believe that the law requiring like rates under like conditions and circumstances justifies discriminations between owners of elevators and other shippers. In this case they recommend that like charges be made where not less than full car loads are offered at the same station, and if any concession or drawbacks be given, they should be open to all shippers offering freight of the same class in the same line of business.

Certificates of Competency.

An act to compel fresh water sailors to undergo an examination before taking command of lake-going craft is to be passed at Ottawa during the present session. The act will be similar to which was passed in 1818 in England. The latter enforces that all apprentices or men employed before the mast in square rigged ships shall put in four full years of service before passing the examiner (a practical seaman) in seamanship and navigation. After serving in that capacity for two years the applicant can take command as first officer if the examination is successful. One year will suffice as chief mate before acting as master. The latter, however, before being allowed to carry H. M. mails, government transports, etc., has to undergo an extra masters' examination. Five years' service before the mast is required before acting as first officer in fore and aft vessels. The boatswain takes the position as second officer engaged in square rig. The coasting limits are between the rivers Brest in France and Elbe in Germany. Even tug boat masters have to pass an examination before they are allowed to tow beyond the coasting limits. First and second engineers have also to pass an examination before taking charge of the steam de-

partment. Dominion crews trading foreign to and from Dominion ports are compelled to pass same as in England. If the act comes in force it will compel the owners of lake trading craft to employ thorough practical masters in place of purser captains, and reduce the rate of marine insurance.

The Wheat Prospect.

It is now a settled question, says the New York Produce Exchange Reporter, in regard to the English area under wheat. Well informed agricultural writers agree in placing the deficiency at 30 per cent at least, and much of that now under seed, it is claimed, does not promise well; so that the farmers, or many of them, are quite disheartened at the prospect before them, as they have had but two good crops the past ten years, and only a small proportion of their stocks on hand is found to be really good. It is too late in the season to overcome or repair the shortage and damage done. In France and Germany the situation is not so bad, but the areas under wheat and rye will be much below that of last year, with a considerable portion of the areas now under seed that cannot be counted on to produce a crop, so that it is safe to assume that western Europe will have to import 65,000,000 bushels more wheat than last year.

Wood and Timber.

Last week we threw out suggestions regarding the timber trade. Now we return to the same. That lumber will be considerably reduced in price this year there cannot be any doubt of. The enormous production, both in Canada and the States, will necessarily cause a reduction in prices. In the Lake Winnipeg and Lake of the Woods districts the output will be very large, much in excess of that of any previous year, and the abundant supply will tend to bring with it the drop in prices we have already spoken of.

Wood will also be plentiful, and there need not be any fear of a scarcity in that direction. One firm alone has 20,000 cords to bring into the city and this is supplemented by large lots from other sources. This industry which is of vast importance to the city has been well looked after, and, so far as circumstances can be judged, there will be a good supply.

The Ice Harvest.

Just now ice harvesters are hard at work laying in their season's supply. We notice that some are cutting below the point where the refuse of the city is dumped. The ice cut there must necessarily be considerably contaminated by the filth which is poured into the stream above. Towards the junction of the Red and Assiniboine rivers, away from this pollution, there is abundant scope for ice harvesters, and the quality will be much superior to what is now being cut. The health of the city depends to some extent upon the quality of ice the citizens have to use, and those dealers who display the greatest energy in getting the best article in the shape of ice will in the end reap the larger profit.

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, MARCH 27, 1883

BOLSTERING PRICES.

Early in February a committee of the iron producers of the United States met at Pittsburg, Pa., at which great fears were expressed that a period of stagnation was unavoidable. As in most trade complications a determination to honestly accept the situation was the last thing to be entertained, and a search for some temporary, or rather artificial means of tiding over the threatened period was resorted to. Bolstering of prices by a system of shortening production, was the method adopted, and with what results, it will not require a year of time to demonstrate.

The method of bolstering the iron trade seems to have had an epidemic effect and has rapidly spread into other branches of industry all of which we need not enumerate. Probably the most glaring instance is that of the lumber trade of the North-western States. A convention of lumbermen which met at Chicago on the 12th of the present month decided that a shortening in the lumber cut of the coming season of at least 20 per cent from that of last year was an absolute necessity in order to maintain present prices, and a thought of reducing these seems not to have entered the minds of those present.

Even in this system of bolstering prices by checking the natural law of supply and demand, there may be in some instances a seeming argument in favor of such a course, and if it exists anywhere, it is in connection with the United States iron trade. The overproduction which has been going on for the last two years, which even great reductions in prices seem unable to check lends a coloring to this theory. In connection with the lumber trade, however, it is totally different. There is no slacking up in the demand throughout the North-west, but on the other hand rather a steady increase, and the threatened fall in prices is purely the out-come of an unnecessary overproduction.

Both the Canadian and United States governments have distributed the timber of both countries among those, who have with scarcely an exception, become immensely wealthy thereby, and as a natur-

al consequence, there has been a rush into the lumber business, with the result of overproduction even in the face of a rapidly increasing demand.

But this bolstering of lumber prices is not confined to the North-western States as the non-manufacturing dealers of Manitoba are aware. More than one of these has discovered that the lumbermen of the Georgian Bay district have made careful calculations upon the opening of the Thunder Bay route to Manitoba, and have their prices doctored, so as to take full advantage of the reduction of freights to the North-west, which the same will doubtless inaugurate. Looking therefore to Lake Superior or south of the International Boundary Line, there seems a solid combination for the purpose of extracting the last dollar from the lumber consumers of the Canadian Prairie Land. Nor can any better state of affairs be looked for from the lumber regions of the North-west. The ring seems perfect, and invulnerable at every point so to speak. The only hope comes from some quiet mutterings which have recently been heard on this side of the Boundary Line to the effect, that if American lumbermen attempt to cut prices, they will get more than they want of cutting. How much value is to be placed upon this threat, it would be difficult to estimate, but this much is certain, that if the Americans decide upon cutting, the threat will not deter them very much.

The general shrinkage in values which has been going on over this continent for some months, must and will reach the lumber trade, and as producers of the same are, as a rule, a government favored class, they have less reason than most others for exemption from the general drift of trade, and are less entitled to public sympathy, even if the shrinkage in their case is a severe one. The true friends of commerce and industry, especially in the Canadian North-west can scarcely refrain from wishing for the threatened strife above mentioned, by which the general public must assuredly be the gainers, even if they are compelled to account for the gain by quoting the old proverb "when rogues fall out, honest men get their own."

INSOLVENCIES OF THE YEAR.

With the close of the present week the first quarter of 1883 will be completed,

and it is but prudent to take a fair view of the record of commercial disasters in the North-west for that period. At first sight this looks anything but encouraging, especially when we look at the large number of insolvencies. Fifty concerns have gone to the wall during the three months, which is thirty-two in excess of the whole number for the year 1882. This gives a clear index to the trying time the commercial circles of the country have passed through, and still when we consider the rapid shrinkage from a period of inflation in every branch of business to a rock-bottom state, the figures cannot surprise any who carefully studies commercial affairs.

There are, however, some encouraging features even in this record of misfortune. The liabilities of the fifty insolvents aggregate close to \$450,000, while the estimated assets reach about \$500,000, a comparison which confirms the growing impression that many of the unfortunate parties could have, with an extension of time, pulled through eventually. Then there is the fact that a very large proportion of the failures were of men in a very small way, and in fact parties who never should have been in business at all. There has evidently been a severe purging process carried out, and it is only natural that in such a work more or less indiscrimination should have occurred.

The comparative magnitude of the liabilities in the different cases, and of the two periods gives also a hopeful coloring to the record of the past quarter. The twenty-eight insolvencies of 1882 showed liabilities of \$290,000, and assets of \$213,000, leaving a discrepancy of \$69,100; while the fifty of the past quarter show a surplus of assets over liabilities amounting to \$50,000. The liabilities of 1882 show an average of \$10,356 to each insolvent, while those of the past three months show only \$9,000. Nearly one half of the insolvencies of the last quarter show liabilities of less than \$5,000, while the heavier cases all show assets about equal and in some instances considerably larger than liabilities, the highest case showing liabilities of about \$70,000 and assets of about \$90,000.

Taking the insolvency record of the last quarter altogether, it should rather inspire than discourage business men in the North-west, and it certainly shows a record of misfortune and not of rottenness.

CHICAGO TRADE FIGURES.

The report of the Board of Trade of the city of Chicago for 1882 has reached the office of THE COMMERCIAL, and is a well gotten up and bulky pamphlet of some 200 pages, containing an amount of lucid information, which notwithstanding the bulkiness of the pamphlet, proclaims it a *multum in parvo*. Board of Trade reports are as rule trustworthy documents, although in some instances facts have to be guessed at. In Chicago the system of storage, inspection, and general handling of produce is so complete, that actual facts can be more easily reached there than in any other city of America; and the report now in our possession may be relied upon in every particular.

The figures of Chicago's produce business for 1882, although admittedly lower in many respects than those of former years, furnish a matter of wonder for the statistician, and to the uninitiated in trade affairs appear actually fabulous. The receipts of flour in the city for 1882 have been 4,177,912 barrels or 637,327 less than 1881. The receipts of wheat were 23,008,596 bushels against 14,824,990 in 1881. The receipts of corn were 49,061,755 bushels or 29,000,000 less than the previous year; oats reached 26,802,272 bushels or 2,000,000 over 1881; rye 1,984,516 bushels; and barley 6,188,140, the heaviest receipts of that grain for any year. The figures in connection with live stock are equally astounding, and are as follows: Number of cattle and calves received during the year, 1,607,195, hogs 5,817,504, sheep 628,887, horses 13,856, the whole having an aggregate value of \$196,670,221. An estimate of the value of shipments of farm products from the city for the year gives the following figures: Flour and grain \$90,388,000; live stock \$100,930,000; meats, lard, tallow, and dressed hogs \$117,592,000; butter and cheese \$17,114,600; wool and hides \$24,788,000; seeds and broom corn \$9,358,000; miscellaneous products \$12,375,000, giving a grand total of \$372,544,000.

The above figures are those connected with the trade of a city which fifty years ago was only a frontier village, whose inhabitants were not strong enough in numbers to repel the attacks of the marauding Indians of that district, and which thirty years ago held pretty much the same relationship to the North-Western States that Winnipeg does to the

Canadian North-West. At that time Chicago was only a small city, located in a swamp on the shore of Lake Michigan, and many wisheads predicted that such a mud hole could never advance to a position of commercial importance. The same class have similar ideas of Winnipeg, although its rapid growth of late years has shaken many in their former opinions. Winnipeg holds a position as good as ever Chicago held, and it will only be by the apathy of her citizens that she will fail to become the commercial center of one of the richest and most extensive sections of the American Continent. To insure her progress to such a position her citizens must strain every nerve to make her the center of the produce business of the North West. Not by a system of compulsion, either, but by taking steps to make it the best interests of the surrounding country, to center their trading within her limits. While other pursuits may to a great extent assist in building up and enriching the city, the handling of the agricultural products of the North-West must be the foundation on which any great city's commerce must be built, and it would be well to be careful, and not expect too much effort in other directions. Winnipeg to rise to commercial greatness must be the sun and center of North-Western grain markets, the hub of that country's produce transactions, and the depot for export of these products to foreign markets. As yet but little has been done by the people of Winnipeg towards raising the city to the position indicated, and a concentration of effort in that direction must soon be made or the day of golden opportunity may pass, never to return.

A CONSERVATIVE REACTION.

By the above heading we do not mean to imply any particular movement of political feeling, nor in any way enter into the field of politics. The term, however, applies well to the present feeling in mercantile circles in the North-west, and it may safely be stated that a more conservative system of conducting business generally throughout this country has set in. There is no use in trying to deny the fact that the rapid success which attended the speculative investments of many people in Manitoba during the past few years produced a state of business intoxication which permeated more or less the whole transactions of the country, and

built up a system of reckless trading from which the most staple branches of commerce were not exempt. Thus the little leaven of speculation leavened the whole lump of our business system, and few were the minds level enough in their calculations not to be injuriously affected by this general tendency. Such a state of affairs naturally brings its own cure, although that in some instances is accomplished through a very trying ordeal. Like the atmosphere we breathe, the commercial atmosphere becomes overcharged with explosive elements, and the shocks which occasionally shatter portions of a country's business structure, are merely the sharp electric storms which purify the air and bring it back to a healthful condition. There can be no doubt but that the North-west has, during the past three months passed through such a crisis, and the wonder is that its destructive effects have been so slight. A calm view of the business system of the country at present inspires the belief that the after effects and benefits of the past storm are beginning to be felt in the form of a conservative reaction, the evidences of which are apparent everywhere.

Eighteen months ago wholesale dealers in this city scarcely stooped to inquire into the standing, resources and general reliability of persons asking credit of them. Prosperity was general; money was free; and poor payments were almost unknown. The necessity for inquiry was certainly very little, and credit was a thing easily obtained. In the same way the consumer could get all the credit he wanted from the retailer, for failures to pay were so rare. The hard experience of the winter, now about over, has put an end to this loose system, and while wholesale houses are acting with caution and good judgment in the matter of giving credit, we can hear of contemplations of retailers in quite a number of small towns binding the members thereof to hold to a strictly cash system of trading. The reaction thus setting in may run to an extreme, but that extreme will be in the right direction, and will moderate as the safety of trade dictates. The lesson recently learned will prove a valuable one; and will convince merchants of every description that trade in the North-west can no longer be conducted upon a principle suited to a frontier community; but upon principles in keeping with the wants of a great and growing commercial system.

CHINESE IMMIGRATION.

A British Columbia member of the House of Commons is about to introduce a bill at the present session similar to the "Influx of Chinese Resolution Act of 1881" of New South Wales. The bill will provide that the master of every vessel arriving from ports beyond the colony having Chinese on board shall, on making entry at the customs, deliver to the collector of customs a list of all Chinese on board, giving the place of birth, place and date of shipment, and the occupation, under the penalty of \$1,000. The vessel shall not bring, in proportion, more than one Chinese for every hundred tons of the tonnage of the vessel, under a penalty of \$500, except the Chinese so carried is a British subject. The master of each vessel, before making entry at the customs, must pay \$50 for each Chinese arriving by his vessel, under a penalty of \$250 for each Chinese landed surreptitiously or permitted to escape. A similar sum has to be paid for Chinese arriving otherwise than by sea. Any Chinese attempting to enter the Province who has not paid, or had paid for him, the entrance fee, is liable to a penalty of \$50 and a payment of \$50 in addition thereto, or twelve months' imprisonment. Penalties and payments made under this act are to go to the consolidated revenue. If a Chinese is, at the time of the passage of the act, a bona fide resident of the colony, a certificate of exemption may be granted by the Colonial Treasurer, and Chinese who are British subjects are exempt from the operation of the act. Chinese duly accredited in the Country by the Government of China, or who are, under the authority of the Imperial Government, on a special mission, are exempted from the provisions of the act. The penalties and restrictions of the act are not applied to any Chinese being one of a crew of any vessel arriving at the ports of this country. All penalties and sums of money recoverable under the act may be recovered in a summary way at the suit of a customs officer, before two or more justices of the peace. Any vessel may be detained if there is suspicion that she is an offender or defaulter under the act, but such detention shall be for safe custody only, and the vessel may be released if a bond of two sufficient sureties is given, except when the master is in default, when the vessel may be seized, condemned and sold to satisfy the claims

under this act. Any vessel on board which Chinese shall be brought to any port or place in this Province shall be deemed to be a vessel bringing Chinese into the said Province from parts beyond the said Province, and shall be subject to the provision of this act.

A great want felt in Winnipeg at the present time is of apartments of three or four rooms where small gentee families can live at a moderate rental. There are plenty of vacant lots in the city where apartment houses of the character so common in New York could be situated, and divided in size and graded in price, as to pay a handsome dividend upon the investment.

A Cincinnati compilation on the condition of the winter wheat belt puts the prospect about 10 per cent below last year's product, making the probable grand total about 450,000,000 bushels.

R. Carrie & Co., dry goods, Toronto, have failed. Liabilities, \$80,000, mostly in England and Scotland.

MORRIS.

Two bridges have been finished in the principality to cross coolies.

The Morris River bridge, in course of construction, is being rapidly pushed forward. The bridge is built of piles, with Howe truss span.

The addition to the Commercial Hotel is finished. The house now contains forty bedrooms, billiard parlor and a very much larger bar-room.

A large force of men are being engaged by the Morris Water Power and Manufacturing Company to dam up the river Morris. The charter of incorporation has been issued: capital, \$100,000.

J. R. Mullett, formerly proprietor of the Commercial, is busily engaged collecting his whisky bills. After finishing this arduous task he intends going to San Francisco to join Mrs. Mullett and child. The wild animal trade tempts the captain once more. For some years Mr. Mullett has been supplying circuses, menageries, zoological gardens, etc., with fishes and animals.

REGINA.

Regina has fourteen barristers.

The new safe for the Merchants' Bank arrived on Friday last.

On Tuesday last \$50 per foot was offered for property on Broad street.

Regina has been made a port of entry, and a custom house is to be erected at once.

Rev. Mr. Hewitt is building two stores on South Railway street; both are rented.

The Government land office was moved from Troy last week, and located on the corner of Broad and Victoria streets in this place.

Messrs. Moulton & Houston, of the Royal

Hotel, are building an extension seventy feet long and one story high, to be fitted up with bed-rooms.

South Railway and Broad streets may now be considered the two principal thoroughfares of this new city. Both will present a fine view from the station.

A plentiful supply of water was found at the police barracks at this place. The well is 160 feet deep, and at this writing has 75 feet of water and constantly rising.

Mr. Black, late of Parsons & Ferguson's, Winnipeg, has rented one of Mr. Dawson's stores in the new block on Broad street, with a view to opening a book and stationery store.

Messrs. Aitchison and Reilly, of Winnipeg, formerly of Ontario, are talking about starting a planing mill here. This is something very much needed, and we hope the gentlemen named will complete arrangements.

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

There is a decidedly better feeling in the money market to record this week. Renewals are still being asked for freely, but a hopeful sign of the times is the fact that while heretofore the time sought for has been from ninety days to four months, now very little accommodation is wanted for over thirty days. The banks, as a rule, grant the accommodation freely to good houses. There is a feeling abroad that in some cases unwarrantable pressure has been brought to bear by some of the banks upon firms which, had they been accommodated a little at the critical period, would have weathered the storm, and not have been forced to make an assignment. There are several known instances where such has been the case. The pressure on the banks is, however, considerably less than it was, and they therefore feel more justified in extending their discounts. Rates of discounts remain the same, and there will not likely be any noticeable change in that respect for a week or two yet. Gilt edged commercial paper is negotiated at from 9 to 10 per cent, ordinary from 10 to 12 per cent, and the latter mentioned figures are nearer the rule than the former.

Money for the purposes of real estate payments is still scarce, and only available from private sources. Pretty stiff rates have to be paid for accommodation in this respect, and only those in good standing and who can furnish undoubted security can get it at all.

With the return of the lumbermen from the woods, the influx of immigration, the commencement of railway construction and the opening of the building season there will be a large amount of money put into circulation which will go far to relieve us altogether from what financial stringency still exists. In the eastern Provinces money is reported very tight, and this no doubt has considerable of an effect upon the market here.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE MARKETS.

In wholesale circles there is a very hopeful feeling to report this week. Extensive preparations are being made for spring trade, which promises to be very brisk. Orders are beginning to come in freely, and with the close of

winter an era of prosperity is confidently looked for.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

There is increased life and activity in the agricultural implement trade. Heavy consignments are being received from the factories, which are handled with the utmost dispatch and forwarded on to western agencies. One firm in the city alone shipped twelve car loads west this week. Inquiries are being freely made by farmers, and harvesting machinery is even at this early season of the year being asked for. The business to be done this season will certainly be far in excess of that of any previous year.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

There has been a very decided improvement in this line of business during the week, and the prospects for spring trade are bright. Heavy stocks are being received from eastern points, and the demand both from town and country is good and steadily improving. Collections show much improvement over the past few weeks. Boots and shoes people must have, and there cannot but be a big season's trade to be done this spring.

CLOTHING.

There has been a decided jump up in the clothing trade. Orders are coming in more freely, and the prospects for the future are very hopeful. Collections cannot be said to have improved much, but still they are no worse.

DRY GOODS.

There is this week a decidedly better feeling noticeable in the dry goods trade. Orders both from town and country have increased considerably. The worst has certainly been passed and from now on a much more satisfactory state of things is confidently expected. Collections, although not showing very much improvement, give a great deal better ground for hope. The leading houses have laid in heavy stocks of goods and are in every way prepared for a big season's trade, in which, judging from circumstances, there is no danger of disappointment.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

Travelers are now out on the road and are sending in fair orders. Trade is evidently stirring up, although the improvement cannot be said to be very marked as yet. Collections are reported anything but good.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALL WARES.

Orders are beginning to come in more freely, but trade generally is still quiet. No particular rush of business is expected till next month. Collections are reported fair.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

Trade in this line has shown a decided improvement during the past week, especially so far as the country is concerned. City trade is still a little dull. Collections are more promising than they have been for some time.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

In this line of business there is a lower tendency, and with eastern competition injurious price cutting has set in. Collections are reported very fair. Quotations are as follows: Tin plate, 14x20, \$7.25 to \$7.75; 20x28, \$11.50 to \$15.00; bar iron, \$3.75 to \$4; sheet iron, 5½ to 6c; iron piping 25 per cent off price list; ingot

tin, 32 to 34c; pig lead 6½ to 7c; galvanized iron, No. 25, 8½ to 9c.

FRUIT.

There has been a very fair demand for fruit during the week. The supply on hand is fairly large and prices are firm at the following quotations: Apples, \$7 to \$7.50 per barrel, a very choice article bringing as high as \$8; lemons, in boxes, \$8; cases, \$10.00; Alameda grapes, \$9.50 to \$10.00 per barrel; figs are scarce, in mats, 10c; large boxes, 14c; small boxes, 20c; raisins, unchanged, loose Muscatelles, \$3.50; black crown, \$5.25; triple crown, \$8.50; four crown, \$8.75. There are no novelties in the market. Collections are very fair.

GROCERIES.

Trade has been looking up considerably during the past week. Good orders are being received from the country, and the city trade holds up to about the usual standard. Collections have not shown much signs of improvement of late, but the prospect for the future is more promising.

FISH, POULTRY AND GAME.

There is no change in prices to report. The stocks held in the city are limited, but sufficient for the trade being done, which is very light. Poultry is very scarce, in fact it may be said to be almost out of the market. Game, outside of rabbits, cannot be had as a rule, although a small lot now and then finds its way to the city.

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

Trade is brisking up considerably. Good orders are coming in from the country, and the town trade also shows some improvement. Collections have been fair to good.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

Business is reported very dull, nothing doing beyond little sorting up orders. Collections are not much to brag of.

FURS AND SKINS.

There is very little doing in this line. Hides are not in much demand, and the price has dropped to \$4 per cwt.

FUEL.

The fuel market remains just about as it was. Since the break in the cold spell the demand is of course not so great as it has been. Wood and coal are both in good supply and no danger of a scarcity is anticipated. Quotations are: Coal, egg, stove and nut by carload on track, \$14; Blossburg, car lots, \$13.25; soft coal, car lots, \$10.80 to \$12, according to quality. Wood, poplar, \$5 to \$6; ash, oak and tamarac, \$7 to \$8.

THE MARKETS.

WHEAT.

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

For the week grain receipts have been more liberal than for some time past, especially oats. Prices have held firm, and in some cases there has been a slight advance. The provision market is well supplied and there has not been any particular change in prices.

WHEAT.

The receipts of wheat have not been very

heavy for the week, and eastern shipments have been confined to a few cars. Quotations are 78 to 80c. For a specially fine car load of hard wheat 82c was paid.

BARLEY.

The street receipts for the week have been reasonably good, and the quality of grain brought in has been very good, both as regards color and plumpness. There is no change in quotations, the ruling figures being from 40 to 48c, according to quality.

FLOUR.

Prices are unchanged. The shipments to eastern markets will be over twenty cars for the week. On Tuesday evening a train of fourteen cars started for Montreal. The outlook east is rather dull, and it is not expected that shipments in that direction will be very heavy for some time. The home demand is good. Quotations are: Patents, \$3 to \$3.20; xxx or strong baker's, \$2.50 to \$2.60; baker's, \$2 to \$2.10; trader's or xx, \$1.50.

OATS.

Street receipts for the week have been very liberal, and the offerings of car lots from outside points heavy. There is evidently an abundant supply of oats in the country, and there will not likely be any necessity for importation from outside points. Quotations are from 40 to 45c.

BRAN.

There is a good supply in the city. Prices are unchanged at \$10 per ton on track or \$11 delivered.

SHORTS.

Prices are the same as last week, viz., \$12 per ton on track and \$13 delivered.

CHOPPED FEED.

Stands firm at the old figure of \$28 per ton. The demand for home consumption has been good.

EGGS.

The market is abundantly supplied with eggs and prices have consequently dropped considerably. Strictly fresh are worth 27 to 30c per dozen, and in some cases they have been sold as low as 25c.

POTATOES.

The market has been well supplied. The moderate weather has given farmers an opportunity to bring in the contents of their pits. There is still an abundant supply in the country. Quotations are from 65 to 75c per bushel.

BUTTER.

There has been no change in the price of butter this week. Several consignments from Ontario have reached the city, and the supply is consequently large. The demand is good. Choice dairy is worth 25 to 27c; superior extra, 16 to 21c. Ontario creamery bring as high as 31c.

DRIED APPLES.

The supply in the city is quite sufficient for the demand. Prices are firm at 12½c per lb. Evaporated fruit is quoted at 19 to 22c.

CANNED MEATS.

Still hold firm with a tendency to advance. The opening of spring will bring a keen demand for this class of goods.

CHEESE.

Is firm and slightly higher than last week, consequent upon a big advance in the Liverpool market. Quotations are from 15 to 17c.

MEATS.

Prices hold firm at old quotations, which were: Ham per lb., 16c; spiced roll, 16 to 16½c; barreled pork, \$25.50 to \$26; mess beef, \$18.50 to \$19.

MINNEAPOLIS.

The grain market for the week fluctuated considerably, and provisions also acted in sympathy with the ups and downs in the grain trade. Various reports as to the weather in the grain producing districts on this continent and abroad, and the manipulations of speculators through combinations had their effect. On Tuesday the feeling was weak, and buyers were holding back. The business of the day is represented by the quotations given below:

WHEAT, No. 1 hard, \$1.10 to \$1.11; No. 1, \$1.05 to 1.08; No. 2 hard, \$1.04 to \$1.07; Scotch Fife seed wheat was held at \$1.20 to \$1.25.

CORN, No. 2 51c to 51½c; no grade, 45 to 49c.

OATS, No. 2 white, 42 to 42½c; No. 2 40 to 40½c; rejected, 35 to 38c.

FLOUR, patents, \$6.50 to \$7; straights, \$5.50 to \$6.50; clears, \$5.25 to \$5.65; low grades, \$2.25 to \$3.25.

On Wednesday the market was dull but steadier than for a day or two previous. The business of the day is represented by the following quotations:

WHEAT, No. 1 hard, \$1.10 to \$1.11; No. 1, \$1.01 to \$1.08; No. 2 hard, \$1.05 to \$1.08.

CORN, No. 1, 51 to 51½c; no grade, 45 to 49c.

OATS, No. 2 white, 42 to 42½c; No. 2. 40 to 40½c; rejected, 35 to 38c.

FLOUR, patents, \$6.50 to \$7; straights, \$5.50 to \$6.50; clears, \$5.25 to \$5.65.

Thursday was another dull day in the market, but notwithstanding prices advanced slightly in sympathy with eastern advices. The following quotations represent the business of the day:

WHEAT, No. 1 hard, \$1.10½ to \$1.11½; No. 1, \$1.00 to \$1.08; No. 2 hard, \$1.06 to 1.08.

CORN, No. 2 new, 51 to 51½c; no grade, 45 to 49c.

OATS, No. 2 white, 41 to 42c; No. 2, 39 to 39½c; rejected, 35 to 38c.

FLOUR, patents, \$6.50 to \$7.00; straights, \$5.50 to \$6.50; clears, \$5.25 to \$5.65.

Friday being a holiday there was no meeting of the Board.

On Saturday the receipts were very small and transactions light. Wheat held about the same. Corn was weak and lower, Oats firm. The business of the day is represented by the following quotations:

WHEAT, No. 1 hard, \$1.10½ to \$1.11½; No. 1, \$1.01 to \$1.07½; No. 2 hard \$1.06 to 1.08

CORN, No. 2 new, 50 to 51c; no grade, 45 to 49c.

OATS, No. 2 white, 42 to 42½c; No. 2, 39½ to 40½c; rejected, 35 to 38c.

FLOUR, patents, \$6.50 to \$7.00; straights, \$5.50 to \$6.50; clears, \$5.25 to \$5.65.

There was no meeting of the Board of Trade on Good Friday.

CHICAGO.

The produce markets have been very irregular during the week and subject to considerable fluctuation. The general tendency has been in a downward direction, and the probability is that bottom has not been reached yet, especially in wheat. Provisions have also fluctuated, but not to any great extent.

On Tuesday the market was slow and irregular. Wheat was very unsettled, and the same

remarks were true of corn. Oats were slightly firmer, and so were provisions. Towards the close quotations were:

Wheat, March, \$1.05	April, \$1.05½
Corn, " 54½	" 55
Oats, " 40	" 40½
Pork, " 18.10	" 18.22½
Lard, " 11.20	" 11.25

On Wednesday the market was generally dull, with a good deal of anxiety on the part of buyers. Wheat declined and coarse grains were weak. Provisions dropped considerably and closed at the lowest figures for the day.

Quotations toward the close were:

Wheat, March, \$1.04½	April, \$1.04½
Corn, " 53½	" 54
Oats, " 39½	" 39½
Pork, " 17.90	" 18.05
Lard, " 11.87½	" 11.15

On Thursday there was considerable activity in the market; wheat was firm and prices advanced slightly on account of reports of the damage done to the California crop on account of drought. Corn dropped slightly and oats were unsettled. Quotations toward the close were:

Wheat, March, \$1.05½	April, \$1.05½
Corn, " 52½	" 53
Oats, " 39½	" 39½
Pork, " 18.00	" 18.07½
Lard, " 11.07½	" 11.15

On Saturday the market was tolerably steady and prices remained about the same. Towards the close quotations were:

Wheat, March, \$1.05½	April, \$1.05½
Corn, " 51	" 51½
Oats, " 39½	" 39½
Pork, " 17.95	" 18.30
Lard, " 11.08½	" 11.22½

TORONTO.

STOCKS.

Canadian stocks for the week have been quiet, but there has been much more firmness than for some weeks past. It is not expected that there will be any special activity for some days, but the bulls then are looking forward to a marked improvement. The Montreal market has improved somewhat. The closing bids in Toronto on Wednesday were: Montreal, 199½; Ontario, 111; Molsons, 120½; Toronto, 182; Merchants, 121½; Commerce, 133; Imperial, 139½; Federal, 159; Dominion, 200; Standard, 114; Hamilton, 113; North-west Land company 88; Ontario and Qu'Appelle, 197.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

The past has been another dull week in the grain and produce trade, and prices have been weak with a tendency to decline. The blockade on railways caused by the recent storm has helped considerably to bring about this state of affairs. The difficulty of shipping goods either in or out has made business men inert.

FLOUR.

The market has been inactive and considerably unsettled. There has been very little uneasiness. Quotations are, f. o. c.: Superior extra, \$4.45 to \$4.50; extra, \$4.35 to \$4.40.

WHEAT.

A dull feeling pervades this as well as all other branches of produce business. The market for the week has been dull and prices weak and unsettled. Some days there was scarcely a business transaction to record. Quotations are: Fall wheat, No. 1, \$1.02 to \$1.03; No. 2, \$1; No. 3 95c; spring wheat, No. 1, \$1.08; No. 2, \$1.06; No. 3, 93c.

OATS.

The receipts for the week have been insufficient to supply the demand, and prices have

been firm. Good Canadian oats are worth 44 to 45c, f. o. c. Sreect prices are 48 to 50c.

BUTTER.

There has been no shipping demand, but all good quality offered is wanted for local consumption. Choice is scarce and firm at 21 to 22c; medium, 15 to 18c; inferior, 13 to 14c; rolls, 18 to 20c.

Markets by Telegraph.

STOCKS.

TORONTO, March 26.—The stock exchange adjourned on Thursday to Tuesday, so no report for three days. The feeling was generally firmer. There was but little advance on banks. Closing bids: Montreal, 201; Ontario, 111; Toronto, 182; Merchants, 122½; Commerce, 132½; Imperial, 139½; Federal, 159; Dominion, 200½; Standard, 114; North-west Land, 60; Ontario and Qu'Appelle, 195; Manitoba Loan was held at 23½.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

TORONTO, March 26.—Produce generally dull and inactive with rather more demand. Sales of superior extra flour at \$4.50; extra \$4.40 to \$4.42. Bran, very scarce with \$14.50 bid. Wheat, neglected, but held steadily, No. 2 fall worth \$1; No. 1 spring, \$1.08; No. 2 spring, \$1.06. Oats, firm, sales at 45c. Barley, quiet and weak, No. 1 sold at 75c; No. 2 worth 70c; extra No. 3 offered at 64. Peas, nominally unchanged. Rye, firm at 66. Clover scarce and firmer at \$7.75 to \$8.10. Butter, scarce and steady at 16 to 18c; medium, 21 to 22c. Choice meats, firm, four cars sold for Manitoba, mostly long clear, at 11c. A lot of lard in pails sold at about 14c.

Monday being Easter Monday we are without our usual telegraphic dispatches from Chicago and Minneapolis.

Rat Portage.

A representative of THE COMMERCIAL made a short visit to this promising town during the past week, and took in the general rounds including a visit to and descent of the shaft of the Keewatin Mining Company's works. Any description of these would only be a repetition of what appeared in THE COMMERCIAL a few weeks ago. Gold mining in the Lake in the Woods district is now in such a state that the production of a gold brick or two is what is wanted to confirm the growing belief of the wealth of the finds. Indications of gold we need not mention, as they can be found at a hundred points around the Lake.

People at a distance are too apt to look only at the mining prospects of Rat Portage and its surroundings, and overlook the value of the town as an industrial and commercial center. Situated as it is in the finest lumber region of the North-West, and with a natural water power unequalled north of Minneapolis, it must soon become a great industrial center. Already two large lumber mills are being constructed. Other industrial institutions are bound to spring up, and the town of Rat Portage, supposing not a dollar's worth of mining work was carried on, cannot help being a prosperous and busy point in the near future. In Manitoba, as in all other portions of the American Continent, people are too apt to have all their attention turned westward, as the direction in which success lies. It would be well for the intending settler to look eastward to Rat Portage, especially if he wishes a mercantile or manufacturing location. Few points seen in the North-West offer better advantages,

and few give promise of such rapid progress. There are many residents of the town, who have waited long for its coming prosperity and rapid growth, and we venture to predict, that they will not have much longer to wait.

The Portage la Prairie Manufacturing Company are about to open premises in Winnipeg, at the corner of Main and Post Office streets, for the supply of the city trade. W. P. Niles, the manager of the company, will reside in this city and superintend the business here, which will no doubt greatly add to its volume in a very short time.

EMERSON.

The freight receipts are increasing week by week.

No grain of any account came in this week. The prices remain unchanged.

Our druggist, Mr. F. T. Carman, will open a branch in Morris soon, with Mr. Casselman in charge.

An item in last week's correspondence should have read, "The indications are that there will be no flood this spring."

Business is looking up considerable. The hotels are well filled, which tends to make things more active all around.

Mr. R. Foster has been in Brandon during the past week making arrangements for opening a branch of his establishment there during the coming season.

Messrs. Field & Co., of Winnipeg, have purchased the stock in trade of J. H. Fleury, of this town, at 35 cents on the dollar, and intend to carry on the business.

At the meeting of Messrs. J. Agnus & Co.'s creditors on Monday, it was decided to advertise for tenders for the whole stock, shop, fixtures, etc. The invoice value of the stock, etc., is over \$10,000.

J. Reid's stock, what was saved from the late fire, has been sold by Beemer & Co. Mr. Reid has left for Rat Portage, and if an opportunity offers will open out in the restaurant business.

The force of circumstances has sent the old pioneer journalist, C. S. Douglas, to the wall. The sheriff has seized all the stock except the power press, at the suit of Mayer Nash, and will sell it at the International office next week. The people look upon the procedure with considerable suspicion.

Messrs. Buckingham & Rushton, lessees of the C. P. R. hotel, on Wednesday concluded to skip out. Buckingham left a day or two before, with all the cash, about \$1,100, and Rushton, finding himself without cash to meet the next quarters' rent, attempted to remove the personal property. Some of the creditors prevented this and had a policeman stop the proceedings. There is no cause for their actions, as the firm had made a success of the business. Mr. Beckstead, the owner of the hotel, will assume charge in a few days.

BRANDON.

Messrs. McDougall & Macpherson, builders, have erected a large factory on Tenth street,

in which they will prepare building material and make doors and sashes.

Mr. Wood, the late proprietor of the Windsor House, is building a store on Ninth street, 50x60 feet. It will be well fitted up, and a general stock will be carried.

Business has greatly improved this week, no doubt on account of the large number of immigrants which are coming in. Business men expect a large spring and summer trade, as this city appears to be the objective point of three-quarters of the new comers. Several train loads of settlers' effects have arrived during the week.

A mass-meeting of the citizens is called for Wednesday evening to consider the financial condition of the city, and the actions of a few members of the Council. Considerable dissatisfaction is felt by the citizens at the way things have been run by our City Fathers. A board of trade will be formed and other important matters discussed.

One thing required in this city is a large grain mill. Its position in the centre of a large wheat growing country makes Brandon a most desirable point for a structure of this kind. If some reliable party or a good joint stock company would take up the matter, they would receive, without doubt, liberal support from the citizens and City Council. The subject is one which should receive the attention of experienced parties, and they will receive every encouragement at the hands of the C. P. R., as special rates will be made for carrying grain and flour to and from this point.

L. M. Fortier & Co. have decided to tear down their warehouse, over which considerable trouble has occurred. It was put up as a grain warehouse, but when completed Mr. Egan, Superintendent of the C. P. R., would not allow them to use it on account of their not fulfilling their agreement with the road. After some time it was agreed between the interested parties and agreed to by the C. P. R. that the Ogilvie Milling Company should be allowed to use the building, and with this end in view they had their scales put in position and ready for work. Upon learning of this, we asked, through THE COMMERCIAL, why the Ogilvie Milling Company should receive more consideration at the hands of the C. P. R. than L. M. Fortier & Co. The reply, though not a direct one, was most surprisingly rapidly given. Upon Mr. Egan seeing the question, he at once rescinded his order allowing the Ogilvies to use the building, and telegraphed their agent here to that effect.

KEEWATIN.

Potatoes retail here at \$2 per bushel.

Capt. Johnson is building a very handsome residence, which will be one of the architectural beauties of the town.

Mr. R. I. Cole has made extensive improvements in the retail department of his store, and it now presents a nice appearance.

Mr. W. Tullock is putting up a large two-story building. He proposes to carry on a "wet grocery" business, and will also have a billiard table in connection.

Lumber is being shipped from here to Winni-

peg and westward at the rate of seven cars daily. Messrs. Dick, Banning & Co.'s yard is almost empty, but the Keewatin Lumber Company appear still to have a good stock on hand.

Our genial and obliging station agent, Mr. Read, has removed his office from R. I. Cole's store, where he has been installed since the station burned down, to a temporary building which has been erected on the site of the old station.

Messrs. Dick, Banning & Co. are building a fine dock almost directly opposite their mill, which will be very convenient for shipping and storing material to be sent up the lake. Mr. Dick has been in town for the past week superintending its construction.

WEST LYNNE.

The first debentures of the town, namely, \$20,000 for public improvements, are now on the market, and considering the security, it is expected they will be disposed of at a good figure.

A horse, with every appearance of glanders, was brought into town last week by a Frenchman. The animal was so far gone that it was not difficult to get the owner's consent to put an end to its suffering, which was accordingly done by order of the Mayor.

There was not much grain marketed here last week, which is a usual occurrence on the approach of any holidays kept by the Mennonites. Prices remained about the same as the previous week, except eggs, which declined from 5 to 10c per dozen for large lots.

The project of uniting Emerson and West Lynne into one town occupies the attention of the Emerson people, but so far has but few advocates on our side of the river. Our people evidently think it will be soon enough to consider the subject when our railroad is in running order. There is no doubt, however, but that in union there would be strength, provided everything else were equal.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

Peter Lovitt's hotel is in the hands of the sheriff.

The Portage has been made a port of entry, which will be a great advantage to the business men of the place.

The proprietors of the new paper, The Manitoba Liberal, has been issued. It is expected to begin publication about the beginning of next month.

Business has been quite brisk during the week, merchants generally doing a good business. Grain quotations are: Wheat, 70 to 75c; oats, 38 to 40c; barley, 35 to 37c.

The lumber inspector has been in town looking after the wood seized a few weeks ago by the Government. The difficulties are being straightened out without much trouble.

The Portage & Westbourne Railway company have made a final offer to the Council regarding the purchase of land for workshops, etc., which will be considered at the next meeting.

Fort Macleod.

The following notes in reference to Fort Macleod will be interesting to our readers: Fort Macleod has a population of about 500 people. It is miserably situated on an island, and the people are not making many improvements, wishing first to have the town site laid out. There is but one hotel in the place, and the business there is conducted in the original western style.

The principal business in that part of Canada is cattle raising. At present, at Fort Macleod, the headquarters of the Cochrane Ranche Company, the Winder Ranche Company, the Stewart Ranche Company, and the Halifax Ranche Company are located. These are the principal ranche companies and are all now doing business. There are other ranche companies already formed and preparing to do business in that locality, but those named are the only ones in active operation at the present time. Of the large cattle owners there Mr. McFarland has 400 to 500 head, and is the largest individual cattle owner thereabouts.

The Indians at Fort Macleod are said to be among the best of that race in the world. In the neighborhood of the fort are found 8,500 Indians, divided into tribes, 4,000 being called Bloods, 1,500 Peigans, and 300 Blackfeet. They have felt the advance of civilization and show no resistance at its advance; they have settled down to work under good instructors on farms. The past season the Bloods especially have cultivated the soil and have brought their products to the fort for sale. The past year the Dominion Government has paid out \$45,000 to the Indians, and with the use of this money they make Fort Macleod a lively business centre. The four stores in the town are full of intending customers from morning till night, and the clerks are so busy that it is no uncommon thing to be compelled to wait for half an hour before one's turn comes. All the supplies for the stores are procured from St. Louis and other points on the Missouri River. Everything goes by rail to Benton, Montana, and from thence to Fort Macleod by team. By the time the duty is collected upon crossing into Canada and the fort is reached, the price of the provisions has become considerably enhanced. Sugar sells for 40 cents a pound, flour, from the mills at Moorehead, Minnesota, \$16 a bag, tea from \$1 to \$2 a pound, coffee 50 cents a pound. Of the Canadian products at the fort grain was bought at wholesale of the farmers at five cents, and retailed at seven cents a pound, and potatoes sold at four cents a pound.

The demand for laborers, such as herders and farm hands, is very great, and cannot be supplied. There is no fear of scarcity of work, but the great difficulty, and one which deters many from going to the place, is the cost of getting into the new country. The wages of herders and farm hands average from \$40 to \$50 per month with board. Nearly all of these classes of men are from Texas and Montana. These "cow boys" are kept strictly in order by the Mounted Police, and do not commit the excesses with which the same fraternity are engaged in the Western States. Many of the herders have cattle of their own. The annual "rounding up" and branding of cattle takes place in the spring and fall, by which means the owners are enabled to keep track of their herds.

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 - C—Whether you wish to supply any materials, and if so what quantities and kinds.
 - D—Size, height, arrangements, numbers and uses of rooms and floors.
 - E—Style and amount of outside finish—porches, verandas, balconies, bay windows, tower, etc.
 - F—Outbuilding and offices, and distance of same from main building, also fences.
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Gents' Furnishings	3,713 58
Rubber Goods, Itugs, etc.	637 28
Boots and Shoes	2,200 96
Shop Furnishings	330 11
	\$10,767 75

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R. H. Hunter, Esq., Manager, Imperial Bank of Canada, Winnipeg.

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This Company has been formed expressly for the purpose of lending money on the security of Real Estate in Manitoba. Advances made on the security of farm and city property at lowest current rates.

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**WESTERN CANADA
LOAN AND SAVINGS CO.**

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ASSETS.....4,000,000

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

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OPPOSITE NEW C. P. R. STATION,
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Strictly first-class in every respect. Commercial Sample Rooms Attached.

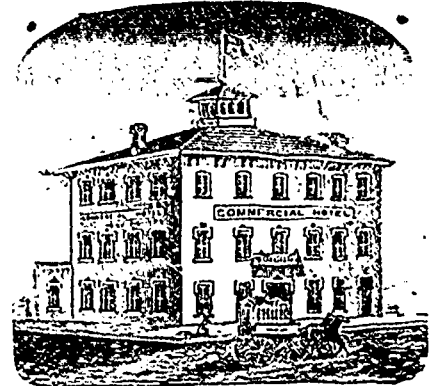
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PICKLES in Glass, Barrels and Half Barrels.

FISH Boneless Cod, Mackerel in Kits, Trout, Etc.

NEW FRUITS.

Finest Prunes in Kegs, Valencia Raisins, London Layers, Muscatelles, Currants, Elmo Figs, Leghorn Lemon Peel, Orange Peel, Citron Peel, etc., etc.

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Ale and Porter in Wood and Bottles.

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Canadian Pacific R'y Co.



(WESTERN DIVISION)
TRAIN SERVICE.

CHANGE OF TIME

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

Going West.		Going East.	
8.15 a.m.	leave Winnipeg	arrive 6.15 p.m.	
10.35 ..	Portage la Prairie	3.55 ..	
1.55 p.m.	Brandon	12.6 ..	
4.15 ..	Oak Lake	10.20 a.m.	
11.30 ..	Broadview	3.30 ..	
5.55 a.m.	arrive Regina	leave 8.30 p.m.	
9.40 a.m.	leave Rat Portage	arrive 4.03 p.m.	
1.45 p.m.	Whittemouth	12.20 ..	
3.45 ..	Selkirk	9.50 a.m.	
5 ..	arrive Winnipeg	leave 8.45 ..	
8.25 a.m.	leave Winnipeg	arrive 5.15 p.m.	
9.45 ..	arrive Stonewall	leave 3.40 ..	

Daily except Sundays.

Going South.		Going North.	
Leave	Winnipeg	Arrive.	
7.35 a.m.	7.35 p.m.	7.05 p.m.	\$0.50 a.m.
Otterburn.			
9.00 a.m.	8.50 p.m.	5.50 p.m.	5.20 a.m.
Emerson.			
10.25 a.m.	10.18 p.m.	4.40 p.m.	4.05 a.m.
Arrive.	St. Vincent.	Leave	
10.40 a.m.	10.28 p.m.	4.20 p.m.	3.45 a.m.

* Daily except Mondays.
* Daily except Saturdays.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

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

Trains run on Winnipeg time.

JOHN M. EGAN, Gen. Superintendent.
W. C. VAN HORNE, Gen. Manager.
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Money Advanced on Consignments.

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H. G. PEDLAR'S TINWARE, Oshawa, Ont.

THE WINNIPEG WAREHOUSING COMPANY.

(LIMITED)

Store every description of goods Free or in Bond. Special attention paid to Emigrants effects, trunks, furniture, agricultural implements, &c., Insurances effected at lowest rates.

Warehouse receipts issued negotiable at all Banking Offices. All goods shipped to the company or to R. W. FRANCIS & Co., when in car lots will be delivered at Warehouse (which has a switch of C. P. R. running directly to them) free of charge.

We make a specialty of receiving car lots from the Eastern Provinces consigned to different parties throughout the Province, passing Custom entry and distributing to their several destinations.

R. W. FRANCIS, Manager.

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GREAT NORTH-WEST

Trades Protection, Gen'l Enquiry,

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DETECTIVE AGENCY.

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Collection of Debts, Rents, Etc.

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ROYAL OF ENGLAND, Assets \$31,000,000
CITIZENS OF MONTREAL, Capital 2,200,000
CITY OF LONDON of England 10,250,000

Fire, Life, Marine and Accident Insurance.

Cunard Steamship Line passage tickets granted. Agents for Collingwood Lake Superior line of steamers. GOLDIE & McCULLOUGH'S SAFES, VAULT DOORS MONEY TO LOAN. OFFICE, NO 10 McLELLMOTT ST., WINNIPEG, MAN.

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TENDERS.

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

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

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

LINDSAY RUSSELL,

Deputy Minister of the Interior.

FRED. WHITE, Comptroller, N. W. M. Police. Ottawa, February 19th, 1882.

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

GOING EAST.

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

GOING WEST.

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

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

GOING SOUTHWEST.

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

BY STARR. GEO. T. ALEXANDER. FRED. J. STARR.
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On improved farm and city property mortgages bought.

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PLANING MILLS.

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Our Goods are giving General Satisfaction.

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