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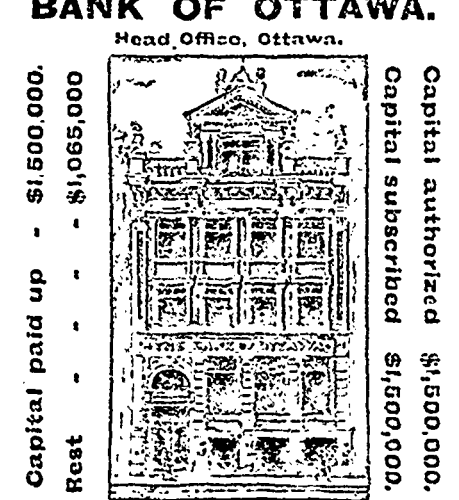
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Horse and Cattle Food!

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The Commercial

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.

FIFTEENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION.
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The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much larger circulation among the business community of the east coast lying 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 the great majority of business men in the district designated above, 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, MARCH 22, 1897.

Manitoba.

A clothing and men's furnishings store to be known as "The Ideal," will be opened by Ben. H. Swaffield at 563 Main street.

The stock of Jas. Lamont, boot and shoe dealer, Winnipeg, who recently assigned, has been sold to Burke Bros., of Winnipeg, at 70 cents on the dollar.

Mr. McChesney has disposed of his interest in the Portage la Prairie Review newspaper. J. M. Robinson resumes the proprietorship of it.

Wilcox & Ramsay, general merchants, Virden and Elkhorn, have dissolved partnership as noted last week, Mr. Ramsay retiring and Mr. Wilcox continues in Virden alone. F. W. Clingan who has been manager of the Elkhorn branch, has been admitted as a partner, and the Elkhorn business will be conducted under the style of Wilcox & Clingan.

Schultz & Hansen, general merchants, carrying on business at Greta and other points in Southern Manitoba, have dissolved partnership. Greta and Altona book debts and accounts are to be paid to Otto Schultz and Albert W. Stiefel, doing business as Schultz & Stiefel. Winkler and Morden book debts and accounts are to be paid to H. P. Hansen. Schultz & Stiefel will pay the liabilities of the late firm of Schultz & Hansen.

Northwestern Ontario.

An Ottawa telegram says that a strong company has been formed to erect an establishment at Rat Portage for the treating of the ores of the district. Mr. Mather, of the Keewatin mills, is interested. The old Dick & Banning water power has been secured and a fifty stamp mill will be erected as soon as possible.

A deputation of citizens of Toronto, Kingston, Port Arthur, Fort William, Rat Portage, etc., has waited on the Ontario government asking for aid to the Rainy River railway. The road is already subsidized by the Ontario government to the extent of \$3,000 per mile for eighty miles, and the deputation asked \$5,000 for 150 miles, to be traversed from the point at which the line crosses the Port Arthur, Duluth and Western,

forty miles west of Port Arthur, until it reaches Swell Bay on Rainy Lake, 20 miles east of Fort Frances. It was urged that the province would be amply repaid by the sale of mining and agricultural lands and increased trade from the development of the district.

Dairy Trade Notes.

R. Scott, of Shoal Lake, Man., has ordered eighty Alexandra hand cream separators for the patrons of his butter factory.

The supply of Canadian fall made cheese in England, it is said, will fill the requirements of the trade at the present rate of consumption until July 1st.

Filled cheese are being imported into Great Britain from the States in defiance of the law, being double banded and having the branding smudged in order to evade the regulations of the revenue department.

A cable from England to a Montreal produce firm says: Advise the cheese factorymen throughout the country not to open their factories before May 1st. Canadian fodder cheese are being offered in thousands for future delivery on the English market at a price equal to 7 cents in Montreal, thus causing great demoralization in the trade.

The growing importance of the dairy interest in Manitoba and the Territories is indicated by the decision of R. A. Lister & Co. of Dorsley, England, to open a branch in Winnipeg. The company manufactures a very large line of dairy machinery and supplies, including the Alexandra cream separator. These goods have been sold in Winnipeg for some time, and owing to the growing trade the English firm has decided to open a direct branch here. Wm. Scott, who is well known in Winnipeg, having been for several years connected with the dairy trade here, has been appointed manager of the branch. The company is fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Scott, who we believe is fully competent to handle the business to good advantage.

The Hardware and Paint Trade.

The Montreal Gazette says: "The firm feeling in white lead continues in sympathy with all lead products. Zinc oxide is scarce and somewhat dearer. Liquid paints are in good demand and values fully maintained. And active trade is reported in varnishes both for manufacturing and jobbing. A decline in gum shellac has been recorded in sympathy with lower quotations for forward delivery, and pale orange on spot is now quoted at 27 to 28c. Paris green is now quieter, but prices show no change. The weak feeling in linseed oil noted last week has continued and prices show a further decline of 1c per gallon. Raw in five barrel lots and over is offered at 43c and boiled at 46c. Seal oil is quiet and steady, while the stock of cod is in few hands and prices are firmly held. Castor oil has advanced £5 per ton in expectation of the export of the seed being prohibited from Calcutta, and the inside price on spot for barrels is now 9½c. Montreal prices are: Choice brands white lead, Government standard, \$5; No. 1, \$4.62½; No. 2, \$4.25; No. 3, \$3.87½; dry white lead, 4½c; red lead, pure, 4 to 4½c; do No. 1, 3½c to 4c; zinc, white, pure, \$7.25 glass \$1.85 first break; \$1.50 second break, per 50 feet; \$3.30 for third break, per 100 feet; linseed oil, round lots, raw, 43c to 44c; boiled, 46c to 47c; cod oil, 32½c to 35c; seal oil, 48c to 50c; castor oil, 9c to 9½c; putty, in bulk, \$1.75."

The Montreal rolling mills have closed down most of their shops, throwing about 400 men out of employment. Wm. MacMaster, general manager, states that this action is simply due to the uncertainty as to

tarriff changes, as merchants will not buy goods at present, and the company cannot afford to go on manufacturing. Wholesale merchants when they receive an order, simply send word to the manufacturer to have goods shipped direct from the factory, as they are afraid to stock their warehouses. Articles on which there is no duty sell briskly, but there are no orders for those which may be subject to a change in the rate of duty.

Grocery Trade Notes.

Referring to the situation in prunes on the Coast, the California Fruit Grower says in its issue of the 6th instant:—"The demand for the small sized prunes continues good. We learn of a sale of three cars in St. Louis at 8c for 120s to 150s in 80 pound boxes. This is equal to 1½c f.o.b. here. This fruit can be retailed at 5c per pound. One car of 80s to 90s in 25 pound boxes changed hands here at 2½c net. The four sizes are scarce and firm in price.

Direct shipments of tea from the Island of Ceylon for 1897 are three times as great as in 1896.

The New York Commercial Bulletin says: It is reported that the market for red Alaska salmon has an advancing tendency, as the principal holders are not disposed to sell what they have at present prices. Some of the small holders it is stated, are still ready to accept \$1.10 net, but on the other hand it is stated that the buyers stand ready to take up anything that offers below \$1.12½ less 1½ per cent.

Comparative Prices in Staples.

Prices at New York compared with a year ago.

	March 12, 1897.	March 13, 1896.
Flour, straight spring..	\$4.10 to \$4.35	\$3.10 to \$3.60
Flour, straight winter..	\$4.20 to \$4.35	\$3.30 to \$3.80
Wheat, No. 2 red.....	92 3-4	78 1-4
Corn, No. 2 mixed.....	23 1-2	38 1-2
Oats, No. 2.....	22	25 1-2c
Rye, No. 2 Western.....	43½	43
Barley, No. 2 Milwaukee	42½c	45c
Cotton, mid. upld. ...	7 1-4c	7½c
Print cloths, 64x64....	2 9-16	2 5-8c
Wool, Ohio & Pa., X....	18c	18
Wool, No. 1 combg.....	21 to 22c	22 to 23c
Pork, mess new.....	5.75 to 9.00	\$10.00 to 10.50
Lard, prime, cont't....	\$4.37½	\$5.60c
Butter, ex. creamery ..	18c	22c
Cheese, ch. east fly....	12	10½c
Sugar, centrif., 96°....	3 3-10c	4 1-3c
Sugar, granulated.....	4 3-9c	5c
Coffee, Rio, No. 7.....	9 1-4	14½ to 14½c
Petroleum, N. T. Co....	9½c	\$1.39
Petroleum, rfd. gal....	\$0.30	\$7.25
Iron, Bessemer, pg.....	\$10.65	\$12.50
Steel billets, ton.....	\$15.76	\$17.00
Steel Rails.....	\$20.00	\$23.00
Ocean Steam Freight—		
Grain, Liverpool.....	2½d	1 1-4d
Cotton.....	5-64 to 11-128d	3-32d

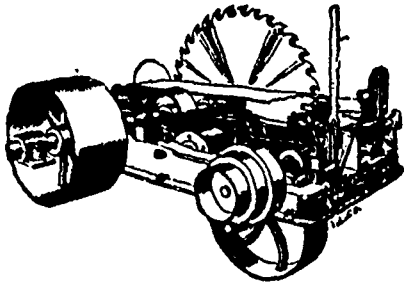
* Pittsburgh.

Grain and Milling.

The Montreal Gazette of March 13 says: "The feature of the flour market of late has been the cutting in prices that has been going on, and in consequence of which prices have been reduced 10 to 25c per barral all round. The feeling at the moment is very unsettled and the market on the whole is irregular. Prices are: Winter wheat patents at \$1.30 to \$1.50; straight roller at \$3.90 to \$4.10, and in bags at \$1.90 to \$1.95. Manitoba spring wheat patents at \$1.60 to \$1.80, and strong bakers' at \$1.25 to \$1.50"

The case against Beach and O'Brien, of Winnipeg, for dealing in options, has fizzled out, the prosecution having been withdrawn. The case is said to have been brought about by ill feeling over speculative losses.

The feature of the flour market at Montreal on March 12 was the demand from abroad for Manitoba strong bakers', and a sale of 1,000 sacks was made on London account for prompt shipment via Boston.—Gazette.

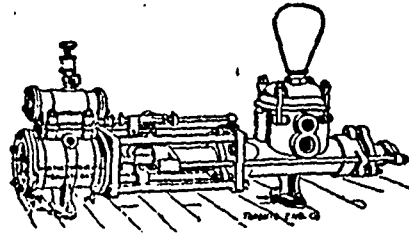


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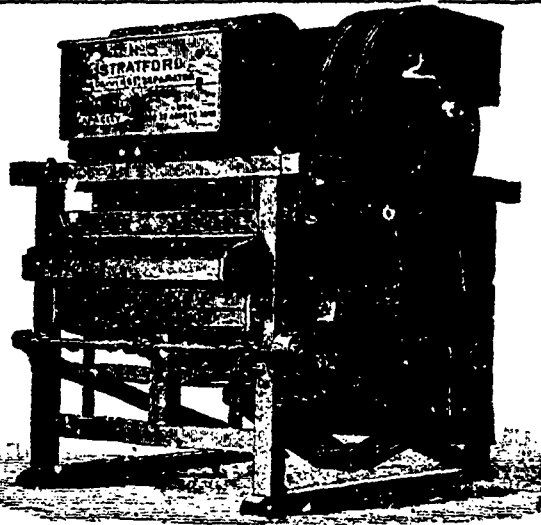
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SPRING ❄️ 1897

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330 Main St., Winnipeg

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, MARCH 22, 1897.

COMMERCIAL RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Prospects for freer trade relationship with the United States do not appear to be improving any. The new tariff bill, which was introduced into the house at Washington on Monday, is not encouraging to Canadians who are favorable to the extension of trade with the United States. The new tariff shows heavy increases in the duty on most commodities which are imported from Canada. One of these is the lumber schedule, which places \$2 per 1000 feet on rough lumber and 50 cents additional on planed stuff. A large number of United States firms and companies own timber limits in Canada, or purchase logs in Canada, for sawing in Michigan mills. It has been proposed that we should cut off supplies of logs for these Michigan mills, by placing an export duty on logs, in case the United States restored the duty on lumber. The new United States tariff bill, however, provides that in case any export duty is placed on logs, the duty on lumber shall be increased 25 per cent. ad valorem. An export duty on logs would therefore mean that the United States market would be entirely closed against our lumber. Perhaps, however, it would be advisable for us to impose the export duty on logs, and see which country will suffer the most by the transaction. This lumber schedule is a very unfair thing. They want our logs, to keep their own mills running, but will not admit our lumber. This is altogether too one-sided to be allowed to continue.

The lumber schedule is only one feature of many which are equally unfavorable to this country. On wools such as are imported from Canada, unwashed, the duty has been placed at 11 to 12 cents per pound, and much higher for washed and scoured wools. One cent per pound is placed on lead contained in lead ores, which will seriously affect some of the British Columbia mines. Agricultural products are generally subjected to heavy duties.

The new tariff bill is to have a reciprocity clause attached to it, but this has not been presented yet. It is believed, however, that this reciprocity clause will be of no benefit to Canada. The clause will merely permit the lowering of the duty on certain classes of goods, in return for like concessions to the United States. The principal lines of goods on which the duties may be lowered by reciprocity treaties will, it is understood, be sugar, champagne, silks, gloves, mineral waters, chicory, chewing-gum and crude tar. The president will be empowered by the bill to enter into treaties by which the duties will be materially lowered on importations of these goods from countries which make concessions to United States cattle and other products.

Evidently we can have very little hope of securing the opening of the United States markets on reasonable terms for our exports. We will have to confine our efforts, therefore, mainly to extending our trade with Great Britain, where we have a free and open market available for vast quantities of our surplus products. Should it not, therefore, be our aim, in revising the tariff, to reduce duties wherever practicable, upon imports from Great Britain, in return for the free market which we have in the mother country.

When the protective policy was first introduced we were told that it was necessary to protect ourselves against the United States, as that country taxed Canadian commodities heavily, and made a slaughter market of Canada. Such a one-sided arrangement, it was urged, should not be allowed to continue. The trade returns, however, show that our imports from Great Britain, are taxed much more heavily than our imports from the United States. While the blow was ostensibly aimed at the United States it has apparently fallen upon Great Britain. In the proposed revision of our tariff this situation should be kept in mind.

NOT IN OUR LINE.

The Commercial does not carry on a private detective agency. The information which we have to impart may be found in the columns of this journal. It is free to any one who wishes to obtain it, by begging, borrowing, stealing or purchasing a copy of the paper. We are pleased at all times to give any information within our power, regarding general trade matters, but cannot undertake to furnish private information regarding the standing of business firms or individuals. The information which The Commercial has at hand is of a general nature, relating to the business affairs of the country at large, and not of a specific character, relating to the standing of particular firms and individuals. Where information of a private nature is desired, we refer our patrons to such well-known and responsible agencies as Bradstreet or R. G. Dunn & Co.'s. We must decline to give information of a nature relating to the financial standing or private affairs of business men.

THE ARGENTINE.

The Buenos Aires correspondent of the Minneapolis Northwestern Miller gives a rather discouraging account of the condition of agriculture in that country. He states that at the meeting of congress then in session, a large grant of money was voted to provide seed grain to settlers, on account of the loss of their crops. Another bill passed by congress, provides for the distribution of no less than \$10,000,000 among settlers who are land owners. Referring to this vote to assist the farmers, the correspondent says:

"I can safely assert that it has not come one moment too soon. The situation in the colonies is simply heartrending. Numbers of families have not a single thing to their name; they have not the means of sustenance, their crops have been a failure, and the locusts have devoured all their vegetables.

To add to their misery, a drought has set in, and what maize was saved from the ravages of the locusts, has now been scorched up. In Santa Fe, the situation is the worst, as the legal authorities have been placing embargoes on some of the poorest colonists, who are then almost left to starve in the middle of one of the world's granaries.

It appears that several provinces have suffered severely. In Entre Rios, the crop area has been reduced during the past two or three years, owing to a succession of bad crops. The last crop was under 1,500,000 bushels of wheat, while in 1892, the last good crop year, it was 12,000,000 bushels. The agricultural population of the province is said to be rapidly decreasing. Regarding those who remain the Review of the River Plate says:

"About one-half of the number are tenant farmers, not only in arrears with their rent, but practically without means of livelihood, and deep in the books of the local tradesmen, for necessities supplied. To supplement this, let it be noted that 2,500,000 acres are mortgaged to the banks."

The province of Santa Fe is said to have suffered equally as severely. Regarding Buenos Aires province, the correspondent says:

"During the wheat harvest, heavy rains fell and did terrible damage, and everything has gone against the farmer; what things have now turned out blacker still for the farmer in Buenos Aires, as his maize, which, until a few weeks ago, looked promising, is now nothing but stalk and is utterly withered, and the locusts are overrunning the province, and we are experiencing a severe drought. From the south the daily information is to the effect that leagues and leagues of camp are being buried up on account of the pasturage being as dry as tinder. Unfortunately, several wheat fields have also been destroyed by the devastating element."

According to this picture, our wheat growers need not fear the competition of the Argentine farmers very much, though possibly such unfavorable seasons may not continue in the future. According to the best information, however, Argentine is a country of great uncertainties for the farmer.

LOCKING UP MINING LANDS.

It is certainly a matter for regret that the Ontario Government should have locked up such a large area of territory supposed to be in the mineral belt, just at a time when active development of this mining territory is starting. It cannot but have a damaging effect upon the development of the territory. The principal of granting individuals or companies the exclusive privilege of prospecting any area of territory, is entirely wrong. The granting of 64,000 acres of land, in the case referred to, certainly appears to have been a very unwise transaction. The withdrawal of such a large area of territory from exploration and inspection, places individual prospectors at a great disadvantage.

It is true the company which has obtained the exclusive right to prospect this large area of territory, for three years, has agreed to spend a certain sum each year in prospecting the property, but the amount agreed upon is trifling in comparison with the dis-

advantage of having such a large area of territory withdrawn from general competition. If this principle were to be followed generally in dealing with unprospected or partially prospected mining districts, the result would be that mining districts which afforded good prospects, would speedily fall into the exclusive hands of a few capitalists. The principle recognized by the Ontario government in this matter is so utterly wrong that it should be condemned in no uncertain manner.

It is supposed to be the duty of the government to protect the people from monopolies, but here is a monopoly not only permitted, but actually brought into effect through the action of the government. A monopoly of the most undesirable kind, giving a certain number of persons the exclusive right to search for minerals in a vast area of territory. By this action the government shuts out independent prospectors from a large area of supposedly rich mineral territory. No doubt this territory has been prospected by many other persons, some of whom no doubt intended continuing their researches in the region, perhaps with the object of following up encouraging prospects which they had previously discovered. The withdrawal of the territory from the right of free inspection cannot therefore be regarded otherwise than an injury to the country and a great injustice to the hundreds of individuals who have or may hereafter be interested in searching for minerals in this region.

The granting of exclusive privileges of this nature cannot be regarded otherwise than altogether vicious. It is most unfortunate that such a reckless act should have been permitted, especially just at a time when great expectations were being entertained as to the early development of the mineral wealth of north-western Ontario. The incident will have a very dampening effect upon the ardor of those who contemplated prospecting the country during the coming summer.

It is just such such transactions as this which will get a government into ill repute. It will be difficult to make many people believe that there is not something crooked somewhere about the matter. Opponents of the government will represent the transaction as one which indicates corruption, while even the friends of the government, though they may be firmly convinced that no one in connection with the government has personally profited by the matter, will not be able to defend it.

This granting of exclusive privileges of prospecting within a certain territory to certain persons, brings up the whole question of blanket claims. The principle seems to be wrong. Already a large amount of territory has been covered by blanket claims, under the general mining laws of Ontario. The law seems hardly fair to the practical prospectors, who spend their means searching for minerals. The most of these blanket claims have been taken up for speculative purposes, and the more of these claims taken up the greater is the disadvantage to practical prospectors, who wish to locate actual mineral deposits. We have been told that

north-western Ontario is the poor man's gold country, but if the lands are to be withdrawn from prospecting in this way, there is difficult to see where the application of this saying comes in.

TRADE WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA.

When the tariff commission visited Winnipeg a few weeks ago, many of the farmers who gave evidence before the commission appeared as out and out free traders on principle. They wanted the duties removed at once, regardless of any existing conditions whatever. It is well to reason things out as they will work in practice, rather than to stand to firmly upon the principle of the thing alone.

Reciprocity in natural products has been a favorite cry in Canada. Some people seem to imagine that if we could only secure reciprocity with the United States in products we would require nothing else to ensure our national prosperity. Reciprocity in products would no doubt be an advantage to the farmers of eastern Canada, but when we come to the West the advantage would be all the other way, as can be very easily shown.

Manitoba and the Territories have enjoyed a steadily expanding trade with British Columbia, in farm products, since the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The British Columbia market is not a very large one, but nevertheless in several classes of commodities it has been our best market. Moreover, it is a growing market. The active mining development now going on there, gives promise of a much larger demand in the near future for our food products than has existed in the past. It is therefore in our interest to hold this market and increase its usefulness to the best possible advantage.

Manitoba and the Territories send to British Columbia such agricultural products as flour, oatmeal, ground feed, millstuffs, oil cake, linseed oil, oats and other grains, butter, cheese, eggs, cured meats, dressed meats, poultry, live stock, vegetables, etc. The demand for Manitoba flour has steadily increased, notwithstanding the low price of wheat and flour in Oregon. In butter, cheese, eggs, cured and fresh meats, and poultry, the bulk of our surplus production has gone to British Columbia. In cured hog products, poultry, cheese, and eggs we may say our entire surplus has gone to British Columbia. The number of live animals, particularly hogs, which have gone to the Pacific province, is also considerable, in proportion to the total available surplus. This trade has been a great advantage to the farmers of Manitoba.

Now, it should be clearly understood that this trade would be practically entirely wiped out by reciprocity in products with the United States. All the commodities which we have mentioned above, are also produced in surplus quantities in the Pacific coast states. Many of the commodities are usually cheaper in the Pacific coast states than they are here, and with the long railway haul against us, our farmers could not begin to compete with the producers of the Pacific coast states, who are close to the

British Columbia markets, and have cheap water transportation to our coast cities.

We would lose practically our entire western trade in farm products by reciprocity, and it is therefore necessary to consider what we would gain in return for the wiping out of this trade. So far as Manitoba farmers are concerned, there would be very little direct gain to be secured in return for the loss of the western trade. The states to the south of us produce a surplus of everything which we have to sell here, and therefore we could not hope to make up for the loss of the British Columbia market by selling to our neighbors to the south of us. Minneapolis is the nearest large produce market to the south of us. Those who are familiar with prices in Minneapolis know that agricultural produce is usually lower there than here. The following comparison of prices at Minneapolis and Winnipeg will show this to be true. The Minneapolis prices are taken from the Daily Market Record, and are compared with Winnipeg prices as quoted in The Commercial of last week:

	Minneapolis	Winnipeg
Oats	16c to 16½c	18c to 21c
Barley	21c to 23c	20c to 23c
Hay, baled	\$3 to \$5.50	\$1.50 to \$3
Butter, dairy	10c to 13c	11c to 12c
Butter, creamery	12c to 17c	none
Eggs, fresh	10½ to 11c	21c to 22c
Turkeys	9½ to 11c	9c to 10c
Chickens	5c to 9c	6c to 7c
Hogs, dressed	3½ to 4c	4½ to 5c
Mutton, dressed	5½ to 6½c	7c to 8c
Potatoes	16c to 23c	30c

This is not an exceptional situation. The prices are taken just as they occur, and are not selected. These prices show that we could not sell anything to our neighbors to the south. We have not quoted wheat because it is well known that wheat has averaged higher here than in the states to the south, and our regular market columns will show the comparative value of wheat at any time. Flax seed is about the only commodity which we could sell to the States, and that is a comparatively unimportant crop here.

While we would lose our trade in British Columbia under reciprocity, we would not secure a market to the south for our agricultural products, for the reason that there is a large surplus of such products produced there. Reciprocity in agricultural products would be of no value to Manitoba, and on the other hand would wipe out our large trade with British Columbia. At present there does not appear to be much prospect of securing reciprocity with the United States, but in the event of a treaty of this nature being arranged between the two countries, Manitoba and the Territories should demand a wiping out of the duties on a number of important lines of manufactures and staple articles of consumption here, in order to recoup us for the loss of our home western trade. If we are to have reciprocity in farm products for the benefit of the farmers of eastern Canada, we should have reciprocity in manufactures for the benefit of the farmers of Manitoba and the Territories.

On the other hand, in view of the new United States tariff bill, largely increasing the duties on imports from Canada, it might

Continued on Page 608.

SEEDS

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TIMOTHY, BROMUS INERMIS
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 PURE VINEGARS.

Manufactured solely under the supervision
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MICHEL LEFEBVRE & CO.,
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Established 1849. Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals.
 30 1st Prizes.

40 DAYS LENT NOW ON

We have in stock full lines of Fish.
FRESH--White, Pike, Pickerel, Haddock, Codfish, Smelts,
Trout, Herring.
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HAS NO EQUAL. FLOUR. HAS NO EQUAL.

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

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Messrs THE OGILVIE MILLING CO., WINNIPEG MAN
Dear Sirs—We have pleasure in stating that the quality of the flour made in the Winnipeg mills, of which we have imported considerable on this crop has given the highest satisfaction to everyone who has baked it. Glasgow is pre-eminently a city of large baking establishments, some of them with a capacity of 2000 barrels per week, and all managed by gentlemen well qualified to give a sound verdict on the merits of any flour. With remarkable unanimity they have expressed the opinion that nothing finer than your Patent grade has ever been placed on the market. The baking results have been exceptionally high, both in regard to color and out-turn, and we can invariably command a higher price. We are, yours respectfully, WILLIAM MORRISON & SON.

—IN HANDLING—
OGILVIE'S FLOUR
YOU HAVE
THE BEST
Each bag guaranteed. Sewn with Special Twine, Red White and Blue.
OGILVIE'S HUNGARIAN,
Unequalled for fine Cakes and Pastry. Such is called for Bread Making. Make the sponge rise to the dough soft. Do not make it stiff. It requires little less flour than usual.

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Others Come and Go Again.

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Gold Label, as patronized by Royalty and the Leading Physicians.

Sold only in the Northwest by:
G. Velle. Strang & Co. G. F. & J. Galt. J. M. G.
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W. Ferguson, Brandon.

British Columbia Markets.

(All quotations are for such quantities and unless otherwise specified, are whole lots as are usually taken by retail subject to the usual reduction on large cash discounts.)

(BY WIRE TO THE COMMERCIAL.)

Vancouver, March 13, 1897.

Butter.—Manitoba Dairy butter, 17 to 18c; Manitoba creamery, 22c; small tubs, 22½c; eastern creamery, 22c; local creamery, 28c; California butter, 23½c; Manitoba cheese, 11c; local cheese, 11c lb.

Cured Meats.—Hams 12½ cents; breakfast bacon 12½; backs 9½c; long, clear, 7½ to 8c; short ribs 9½ to 10c; smoked sides 9½c. Lard is held at the following figures: Tins 9½c per pound; in pails and tubs 8½c lb.

Game.—Mallards, 25c. widgeon, 25c; teal, 20c; grouse, 85c to \$1; geese, 75c to \$1.25; Venison, 4c; sand snipe, 85c.

Fish.—Prices are: Flounders 8c; smolt 5c; sea bass 4c. Black cod 5c; rock cod 4c; red cod 4c; tommy cod 5c; herring 4c; spring salmon 6c; steelhead, 7c; whiting 6c; soles 6c; smoked halibut, 10c; kippered cod 9c; sturgeon 6c; smoked salmon, 10c; finnan haddie, 10c; kippered herring 12c; Columbia river oolochans, 7c.

Vegetables.—Local potatoes, \$20.00 to \$21.00 per ton; onions 8½c; cabbage, 2c lb; carrots, turnips and beets, \$7.50 a ton.

Eggs.—Oregon eggs, 13c.

Fruits.—Fruit is sold by box unless otherwise quoted. Standard American boxes measure one foot ten and a half inches by eleven and a half inches with depth of eleven inches, inside measurement, and contain from 280 to 300 lemons, from 125 to 300 seedling oranges, from 125 to 150 navel oranges. California lemons \$2.50; California oranges, seedling, \$3 to \$2.00, navel oranges \$3.00 to \$3.25; British Columbia apples, 50 lb. box, 75c to \$1, Eastern apples \$1.50 barrel.

Evaporated Fruits.—Apricots 11c per lb, peaches 9c; plums 9 to 10c; prunes, French, to 7½c; loose Muscatel raisins, 6c; Long layer raisins \$1.90 box; Italian prunes, 10 8½c lb.

Nuts.—Almonds, 13c; filberts, 12½c; peaches, 10c; Brazil, 12½c; walnuts, 18c lb.

Meal.—National mills rolled oats, 90 lb. 2s, \$3.00; 45 pound sacks, \$3.10; 22½ and sacks, \$3.20; 10.7 sacks, \$2.60. Oats, 10-10's, \$3.25; 2-50's, \$3.00. Off grades, 10, \$2.70.

Flour.—Delivered B.C. 100 lbs.—Manitoba patent, per barrel, \$5.40; strong bakers, 10, Oregon, \$5.80.

Grain.—Local wheat, \$30 to \$35. Oats, 10, per ton.

Ground Feed.—National mills chop, \$23 to \$24 per ton; ground barley, \$22 ton; shorts, 20 ton; bran \$18.00; oil cake meal, \$35 per ton. F. O. L. Vancouver, including duty on import stuff.

Hay.—\$15.00 per ton.

Canned Meats.—Beef, 7½ to 8½c; mutton, 7, pork, 6½ to 7½c; veal, 8 to 9c lb.

Pig Stock.—Steers, \$5.00 per 100 lbs.; hogs, \$1.50 to \$5.00 per 100 lbs; hogs, 10, per 100 lbs.

Poultry.—Chickens, 10c lb., turkeys, 12c; ducks, 12c lb. geese, 11c lb.

Flour.—Powdered and icing, 6½c; Paris 5½c; granulated, 4½c; extra C, 4½c; yellows 4c; yellow 3½c per lb.

Syrups.—30 gallon barrels, 1½c per pound, 10 gallon kegs, 2½c; 5 gallon kegs, \$1.50 each; 1 gallon tins, \$1 per case, of 10; ½ gallon tins, \$1.75 per case of 20.

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

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, March 20.

Business during the past week showed a marked improvement over the previous week, and collections were reported much easier by wholesalers. An unusual activity in mining and lumbering seems to be the cause of the general improvement. Quotations for cured meats are stiffening. The fresh frozen meat which arrived via the Australian steamer realized good prices. Although Manitoba flour is quoted 20 cents lower here the price of Oregon flour remains unchanged. Owing to the unexpected cold snap the quotation for potatoes is higher this week and is expected to still advance.

Manitoba butter is completely out of the market, and the California article has taken its place. Though sold at a higher price it is of inferior quality to that produced in Manitoba.

Shipping is not so active this week there being 13 vessels loading against 16 last week.

A twenty-one seam of semi anthracite coal has been struck on the claims of the Western Prospecting and promoting Company, near Takush harbor up north.

Agriculture is in a very depressed condition in British Columbia, friends of the farmer are attempting to induce the local legislature to pass helpful legislation on their behalf. They want good roads, cheap money, their holdings are too large and the ground in many instances too hungry to work profitably. The farmers of small means fail to cooperate successfully. In the meantime British Columbia is importing \$3,000,000 worth of farm product every year. Wholesalers are compelled to import because they cannot depend upon a steady home supply.

While the growth of small fruit is up to expectation the large fruit crop is altogether disappointing.

An additional hardship is that mine camps can no more profitably in many instances procure their farm product from across the international boundary line.

The farmers are now forming themselves into an alliance. They ask for cheap money but the legislature under present conditions cannot grant their request. The agricultural question is perplexing the provincial parliament.

There is again some activity in the sale of mining stocks but buyers are more cautious in their purchases guarding against over capitalisation, assessable stock and weak directorate.

Golden Cache is still the popular stock in Vancouver and is being constantly transferred at \$170. Another company, The Lillooet Gold Reefs Company, have several excellent properties in Lillooet comparatively close to the Golden Cache. The ore looking very similar. The directorate is composed of prominent and very reliable Vancouver citizens who mean to commence development work at once, being much encouraged by surface assays. Complying with the popular demands the stock (25 cents) is issued at par and is non-assessable, and the capitalisation is placed at the comparatively low figure of

\$200,000. Fairview camp is also attracting great attention. C. N. Davidson of Vancouver, and A. A. Davidson of Victoria, have associated themselves with Mr. Levi of Hamilton and other wealthy capitalists of the east and purchased no less than 10 claims in the camp. The three chief mines are the Tinhorn, Winchester and Shamrock. On the Tinhorn there are 12 men at work continually and 800 feet of tunnelling has been done. The main tunnel is in 160 feet and the average of 58 assays to that depth is \$125 to the ton in free milling gold. The Winchester has 60 feet of shafting and several open cuts, and there is some \$5,000 worth of ore on the dump, the ore runs from \$5 to \$500 to the ton. The Shamrock has an open cut and shaft down 15 feet. This ore is so free milling that it can be pounded with a hammer and panned with excellent results. Fairview has a town-site registered and a hotel is being erected.

British Columbia Trade Items.

E. A. Hain, general store, Milway, is succeeded by Hain & Co.

M. Des Brisay & Co., general store, Victoria City, have opened a branch at Nelson.

Stanzard & Co., dry goods, Nanaimo is succeeded by Turner, Beaton & Co.

G. L. Esterbrooks, stationery, New Denver, has sold out to C. Nelson.

F. McCarty, butcher, Revelstoke, is opening branches at Trout Lake and Nakusp.

The business of the Revelstoke Lumber Co. is advertised for sale.

A. W. Fraser & Co. clothing Rossland, advertises retiring from business.

Campbell Bros., furniture Rossland & Vernon, are giving up Rossland branch.

Eliza R. Shupe, clothing, Rossland, advertises giving up business.

W. J. Abercrombie, butcher, Vancouver, is moving to Rossland.

Grassie & Co., Watchmakers Vancouver, are out of business.

Rachael Olmstead, groceries, Vancouver, has sold out to Webster Bros.

The Vancouver Sash and Door Co. has opened a branch at Roseberry.

John Hutchinson, provisions, Vernon and Revelstoke, is giving up business at Vernon.

W. J. Dwyer, grocer, Victoria, has sold out to Joseph Benoit.

Winnipeg Clearing House

Clearings for the week ending March 18 were 858,602; balances, 159,280. For the previous week clearings were 879,798. For the corresponding week of last year clearings were 926,517 and for the week two years ago, were 655,379. Clearings for the month of Feb. were \$3,851,013, compared with \$1,052,581 for Feb. 1896, and \$2,721,028 for Feb. 1895.

Bank clearings at Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Hamilton and Halifax aggregated \$17,072,000 this week, compared with \$18,399,000 last week and \$17,599,000 in the week one year ago.

The cheese cable from Liverpool advanced 6d on March 16.

G. Gilhuley, butcher, Winnipeg, has assigned.

Meldrum & McDougall, contractors, Winnipeg have dissolved partnership. G. W. Meldrum continues the business and assumes all liabilities.

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To Advertisers.

All changes for advertisements must be at this office not later than Thursday noon.

Montreal Grain and Produce Market.

Oats.—There was a good demand for oats at 22½c. but holders were firm at 22½c. and sales of several cars were made at this figure, while in some cases as high as 23c was asked.

Flour—There was a steadier feeling. Prices are: Winter wheat patents at \$1.53 to \$1.50; straight rollers at \$1.11 to \$1.10 and in bags, at \$1.90 to \$1.97. Manitoba spring wheat patents at \$1.60 to \$1.50; and strong bakers' at \$1.25 to \$1.50.

Feed—Sales of Manitoba bran, were made at \$12, and shorts at \$13 per ton, including bags.

Oatmeal—The demand for oatmeal continues slow at \$2.80 to \$2.90 per barrel, and at \$1.40 to \$1.45 per bag for rolled oats.

Butter—Stocks are not excessive and good creamery sold at 19c. Roll dairy brought 18c for choice.

Eggs—Sales were made at 11½c to 12c, while round lots were offered at 11c to 11½c. Lined, 9c to 9½c, held fresh at 7½c to 8c per dozen.—Gazette, March 17.

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THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, March 20.

The weather, which continued very wintry up to the first of this week, took a sudden turn on Tuesday, and has since been very mild, with light rains. The great quantity of snow on the grounds everywhere has been greatly reduced, and it is hoped railway traffic will not be subjected to so much delay from snow hereafter. Country roads will not be improved, but rather the contrary by the break up. Spring business has been delayed by the cold weather and bad roads, and it is hoped that steady, mild weather will continue until the country is opened out. A feature of the situation is the light receipts of produce. Winnipeg has not been so bare of stocks of country produce, such as butter, eggs, etc., for years. The market is now being supplied with eggs imported from the States. Receipts of home butter and eggs have been practically nil for weeks, but as soon as the roads are passable it is expected supplies will come in freely. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week were about eight per cent, under the corresponding week of last year, but 22 per cent greater than the like week two years ago.

There is a sharp decrease in the number of business failures in Canada this week, the total being 36 against 56 last week, 40 in the week one and two years ago, as compared with 41 in the like week of 1891.

In the United States this week prices ruled higher for wool, wheat, corn, oats, lard and sugar, while quotations for lint cloths, cotton, petroleum, and lumber are firm and unchanged. Iron, steel, beans and coffee are lower.

At New York yesterday call money was quoted at 4 per cent, and prime mercantile paper at 5 per cent. Bar silver was 1 1/2 per cent above a week ago, at 62 1/2. Mexican bars 4 1/2.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, March 20.

All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are wholesale quantities as are usually taken by retail traders and are subject to the usual reduction on large orders and to cash discounts.

WOOD—Prices are firmer, owing to the condition of the roads. Pine is held about 20 for cars on track here; tamarac, \$1.25 for cord on track and poplar at \$2.50 to 3.00.

COAL—The weather which kept cold up to the first of this week, turned suddenly mild and winter is apparently about over. The bid for coal from this out will be light, a larger proportion of wood, which is in demand as a summer fuel than coal, is taken. Prices here are the same, Pennsylvania anthracite \$10.00, bituminous anthracite \$9.50 per ton. Souris coal 10; Lethbridge \$5.50. These are delivered to consumers in Winnipeg. Car lots on track of Souris coal at \$3.55 to 3.90 per ton here, or 10 per ton on cars at the mines.

WHEAT—A rather firmer feeling is to be noted in canned goods, owing to the fact that stocks in first hands have been sold down pretty nice in several lines. There was considerable talk about a large fall, but stocks now do not appear so large as was expected. According to

reports, stocks of tomatoes are light, and strawberries and peaches are about exhausted, while stocks of plums and raspberries are small. Fair stocks of corn are held, and large stocks of gallon apples. This refers to stocks held by canners represented in the association.

DRUGS—Prices here for parcel lots are as follows, with liberal reductions for large orders: Alum per pound, 3 1/2c to 4 1/2c; alcohol, \$5.25 gallon; bleaching powder per pound; 6 to 8c; bluestone, barrel lots 1 1/2c. less than barrels, 5 to 6c; borax 11 to 18 cents; bromide potash, 65 to 75c; camphor, 80 to 95c; camphor, ounces 90 to 1.00; carbolic acid, 40 to 65c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chlorate potash, 25 to 30c; citric acid, 55 to 65c; copperas 3 1/2 to 4c; cocaine, per oz., \$5.00 to \$5.50; cream tartar, per pound, 80 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; epsom salts, 3 1/2 to 4c; extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 18c; do., boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 35 to 40c; glycerine, per pound, 80 to 35c; ginger, Jamaica, 30 to 35c; do., African, 20 to 25c; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 45 to 55c; 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 \$2.75 to 3.25; oil, peppermint, \$4.00 to \$4.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.50 to \$4 per gallon as to brand; oxalic acid, 13 to 16c; potassium iodide, \$1.25 to 4.50; Paris green, 18 to 20c lb; saltpetre, 10 to 12c; sal rochelle, 30 to 35c; shellac, 45 to 50c; sulphur flowers, 3 1/2 to 5c; sulphur roll, per keg, 3 1/2 to 5c; soda bicarb, per keg of 112 pounds, \$1.00 to \$1.25; sal soda, \$2 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55c; strychnine, pure crystals \$1 to \$1.25 per oz.

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., \$7.85, No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.85, No. 5, 2 lb., \$21.30. Staminol—2oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do. 4oz \$5.10.

FISH—The soft weather this week had a demoralizing effect on the market for frozen fish which were not held in cold storage and prices were in consequence somewhat irregular. Haddies were offered as low as 10c in some cases, in an irregular way. The following prices are as follows:—Hudson haddies 4 per lb, whitefish, 4 to 5c; Lake Superior trout, 9c; pickerel, 3 to 4c, salmon, 12c halibut, 12c; cod, 8c; haddock, 8c per lb; smelts, 10c; herrings, 25c per dozen; oysters, \$1.60 per gallon for standards, \$1.30 for selects, and \$2 to \$2.25 for extra selects and counts; shell oysters, \$8 per barrel; smoked salmon, 15c lb.; bloaters, \$1.10 to \$1.40 box; red herrings, 20c box; pickled trout, \$7.50 per barrel of 100 lb.; pickled whitefish, \$5 per barrel; salt herrings \$3.50 per half barrel; boneless fish, 5c lb.

GREEN FRUITS—Choice apples are still scarce, and the most of those in stock are poor to common stock. Owing to the blocked condition of the railways, there has been much delay in getting in fruit from the south, and most of the bananas that have come in were spoiled before they reached here. Hereafter it is expected there will not be so much trouble on this account. Seedling oranges are a little easier. Malaga grapes are out of the market just now. Prices are as follows. Apples, spiced, \$1.75 to \$1, other fair to good stock, \$3.00 to \$3.50 per barrel as to quality, poor stock, \$2 to \$2.50. California oranges, navels, \$1.50 to \$1.75 per box, California seedling oranges \$3.50 to \$4.00 per box; Messina lemons, \$1.50 per box; California lemons, \$1.50 to \$2 box; Cape Cod cranberries, frozen, \$5 to \$2.50 per barrel; Malaga grapes, \$9.50 per keg; bananas, \$2.75 to \$3.50 per bunch; pineapples \$1 per dozen; sweet potatoes, \$1 to

\$1.50 per barrel; dates, 6 1/2 to 7c lb.; figs, 13 to 15c lb. for layers.

NUTS—Tarragona almonds, 16c; Sicily filberts, large, 15c, filberts ordinary, 12c, peanuts, roasted, 12c; peanuts, green, 9c. Ontario butternuts 9c; Ontario Walnuts 9c; hickory nuts, 10; Grenoble walnuts, 15c, French walnuts, 12 1/2c lb.

HARDWARE—Prices here are:

TIN, lamb and 56 and 28 lb. ingots, per lb, 19 to 20c.

TIN PLATES.—Charcoal plates, I. C., 10 by 11, 12 by 12 and 11 by 20, per box, \$1.50 to \$1.75, I. X., same sizes, per box, \$5.75 to \$6; I. C. charcoal, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$9.00 to 9.25; I. X., per box, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$11.00 to 11.20.

TERNE PLATES.—I. C., 20 by 28, \$9.00 to 9.25.

IRON AND STEEL.—Bar iron, per 100 lbs. base price, \$2.35 to \$2.50; band iron, per 100 lbs., \$2.85 to 3.00; Swedish iron, per 100 lbs.; \$5.25 to 6; sleigh shoe steel, \$3.00 to 3.25; best cast tool steel, per lb., 9 to 11c; Russian sheet, per lb, 12 to 13c.

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

CANADA PLATES.—Garth and Blaina, \$3.15

GALVANIZED IRON.—American, 20 gauge, \$1.00, 22 and 24 gauge, \$1.25, 26 gauge \$1.50, 28 gauge, \$1.75 per 100 lbs.

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

LEAD.—Pig, per lb., 4 1/2c.

SHEET ZINC—In casks, 5.75 lb., broken lots, 6.00.

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

AMMUNITION—Cartridges—Rim fire pistol, American, 40 and 45 cal. rim fire cartridges, Dominion 50 and 55, rim fire military American, net list, central fire pistol and rifle American, 12 per cent., central fire cartridge, Dominion, 30 per cent shot shells 12 gauge \$9. to 7.50, shot Canadian soft 7 1/2 shot Canadian, chilled, 6c.

WIRE.—Galvanized barb wire, plain twisted wire and staples, \$3.10 per 100 lbs.

ROPE.—Sisal, per lb., 7 1/2 to 8c base; manilla, per lb., 9 1/2 to 10 1/2c base; cotton, 1/2 to 1 1/2 inch and larger, 15c lb.

AXES.—Per box, \$6.00 to 9.00.

NAILS.—Cut, per keg base price, \$2.63 for 60 d, with usual extras; common steel wire nails, 3 to 6 inch, \$3.20 per keg; 2 1/2 inch, \$3.33, with usual extras for smaller sizes.

HORSE NAILS—Pointed and finished, oval heads. List prices as follows: No. 5, \$7.50 box; No. 6, \$6.75 box; No. 7, \$6 box; No. 8, \$5.75 box; No. 9, 10 and 11, \$5.50 box. Discount off above list prices, 45 per cent.

PAINTS, OILS, ETC—Prices are as follows:

WHITE LEAD—Pure, \$5.75 per 100 lbs.

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

DRY COLORS.—White lead, per lb., 7c; red lead, kegs 5 1/2c; yellow ochre in barrel lots, 2 1/2c, less than barrels 3c, golden ochre, barrels, 3 1/2c; less than barrels 4c; Venetian, red, barrels, 3c, less than barrels, 3 1/2c; American vermilion, 15c; English vermilion, 31 per lb., Paris green, 18 to 19c; Canadian metallic oxides, barrel lots 2 1/2c; less than barrel lots, 3c; English purple oxides, 100 lb. kegs, 4c; less than kegs, 4 1/2c lb.

VARNISHES.—No. 1 furniture, per gal., \$1; extra furniture, \$1.35; pale oak, \$1.50; elastic oak, \$1.50 to \$1.75; No. 1 carriage, \$1.50 to \$1.75; hard oil finish, 1.50 to \$2; brown Japan, \$1; goldsize Japan, \$1.50; No. 1, orange shellac, \$2; pure orange shellac, \$2.50.

SUNDRIES.—Gline, S.S., in sheets, per lb., 12½ to 15c; glue, white, for kalsomining, 15 to 18c. Stove gasoline, per case, \$4.00; benzine, per case, \$1.00; benzine and gasoline, per gallon, 50c. Axle grease, Imperial per case, \$2.50; Fraser's axle grease, per case, \$3.75; diamond, do, \$2.25 per case. Coal tar, per barrel, \$8; Portland cement, per barrel, \$4.00; plaster, per barrel, \$3.10; plasterer's hair, P.P. 90c per bale putty, in bladders, barrel lots 2½ per lb., for less than barrels per lb., 2½c.

WINDOW GLASS.—1st break is quoted at \$1.75 per box of 50 feet and \$2 for second break.

LINSEED OIL.—Raw, per gal., 52c; boiled, per gal., 55c in barrels; less than barrels 5c per gallon extra, with additional charges for cans.

TURPENTINE.—Pure spirits, in barrels, per gallon, 55c; less than barrels, per gallon, 58c. An additional charge for packages for small quantities.

OILS.—Range about as follows: Black oils, 25 to 30c per gallon; clear machine oils, 33 to 40c; cylinder oil, 50 to 75c, as to quality; castor oil, 10c per lb.; lard oil, 70c per gal.; tanner's or harness oil, 65c; neatfoot oil, \$1.20; steam refined seal oil, 83c; pure winter bleached sperm oil, \$2 per gallon.

REFINED PETROLEUM.—Prices here are as follows: Silver star, 19½c; crescent, 22½c; oleopheno, 4½c in barrels. Car lots 1c per gallon less. United States oils in barrels are quoted at 28c for eocene and 25c for sunlight.

RAW FURS.—There is more doing, and some good sized lots have come in lately. There is good competition, as usual, for offerings. Following gives the range of prices paid here for skins:

Badger	\$ 05 to \$ 60
Bear, black or brown.....	5 00 to 24 00
Bear, yearlings.....	2 00 to 8 00
Bear, grizzly.....	5 00 to 22 00
Beaver, large.....	5 50 to 7 50
" medium.....	3 00 to 4 50
" small.....	50 to 2 50
" cuts.....	25 to 60
" castors, per lb.....	2 50 to 5 50
Fisher.....	8 00 to 8 00
Fox, cross.....	50 to 10 00
" kitt.....	10 to 40
" red.....	25 to 1 50
" silver.....	20 00 to 75 00
Lynx, large.....	1 00 to 2 25
" 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 10
" spring.....	05 to 15
Otter.....	2 00 to 9 00
Skunk.....	25 to 70
Wolf, timber.....	1 00 to 1 50
" prairie.....	25 to 65
" bush or large prairie....	75
Wolverine.....	1 00 to 4 00

WHEAT—GENERAL SITUATION.—The situation in wheat is not materially changed. Crop reports have been contradictory, but not of a sufficiently important nature to affect prices much either way. The political

situation in Europe has only assisted in causing fluctuations in prices from day to day.

Exports of wheat, flour included as wheat, from both coasts of the United States and Canada this week, indicated a continuation of the recent check to the export movement, amounting to 1,629,484, bushels, compared with 1,599,000 bushels last week, 1,592,000 bushels in the third week of March 1896, 2,998,000 bushels in the like week of 1895, 2,843,000 bushels in 1894, and as contrasted with 2,766,000 bushels in the corresponding week in 1893. Corn exports continue enormous, amounting to about 5,000,000 bushels per week.

WHEAT.—LOCAL SITUATION.—Country roads were not improved any by the soft weather this week, and practically nothing has been doing in country markets. Receipts of wheat at Fort William last week aggregated 51,932 bushels, and the shipments were 14,678 bushels, leaving in store on Saturday last, 2,972,788 bushels. For the corresponding week last year, receipts at Fort William were 168,623 bushels, and shipments were bushels 61,796. Stocks at Fort William a year ago were 3,800,000 bushels, compared with 909,000 bushels two years ago. Stocks of Manitoba wheat at lake and interior points a year ago were estimated at about 8,000,000 bushels, compared with 8,250,000 two years ago. For the corresponding week two years ago, receipts of wheat at Fort William were only 2,417 bushels, and shipments 3,312 bushels. At present, stocks of Manitoba wheat at lake ports and interior points are estimated at about 5,750,000 bushels. Earlier in the week some wheat was being marketed by farmers, but yesterday deliveries were very light. Prices to farmers have held steady at about 56 to 57c for No. 1 hard. In the Winnipeg market a little business has been done at about 74c for No. 1 hard, Fort William, afloat basis, for spot stuff, and about 3c higher for wheat to ship later, which would bear a lower storage charge. No. 2 hard about 3c under No. 1.

WHEAT—Winnipeg Street Price.—The millers were paying about 60c to farmers for choice samples of hard wheat, per bushel of 60 lbs; feed wheat brings 45 to 50c.

FLOUR.—Eastern markets are reported to be somewhat irregular, owing to cutting in prices. We quote \$2.05 to \$2.10 for patents, \$1.85 to \$1.90 for bakers, \$1.45 to \$1.50 for second bakers and \$1.00 to \$1.05 for XXXX, per sack of 93 lbs.

MILLSTUFFS.—Bran is firm, and a larger demand is looked for, as usual in the spring. We quote here \$5 for bran and \$3 for shorts, per ton, delivered to the local trade, in a jobbing way.

BARLEY.—City brewers are paying 23 to 25c for malting samples to farmers here, and 27 to 28c on track here for car lots. Feed barley 20 to 23c here.

OATS.—The situation in oats is about the same. From 15 to 20c per bushel of 34 pounds is paid to farmers in this market as to quality, per bushel of 34 lbs., for loads. Car lots range from 18c for light up to 20c for choice and for fancy seed or milling oats as high as 21c has been quoted for car lots on track here. Most sales of feed oats are about 18 to 19c.

OATMEAL.—The car of eastern oatmeal reported a couple of weeks ago to have been sold here at a very low price, is being offered to the trade and it is a disturbing feature in the market. It is being offered as low as \$1.15 for rolled oats, to retail dealers. This, however, must not be taken as a fair value of eastern meal. This car was refused here on account of poor quality, and was sold at a knock-down price to get rid of it and stop the accumulation of charges against it. It cannot be considered as competing with ordinary quality of meal. Following are prices here in large lots, with small lots to retail dealers held about 15c more. Rolled oatmeal in 80 lb sacks \$1.50 per sack; standard, \$1.85 and granulated \$1.90 in 98 lb sacks. Rolled wheat, 80 lb, \$1.60 in round lots. Pot barley, \$1.60; pearl barley, \$2.50 to \$2.75 in round lots.

GROUND FEED.—Prices are steady. Prices range from \$13 to \$17 per ton, as to quality, the top price for rolled oat feed. Ordinary mixed mill feed is held at \$13 per ton.

FLAX SEED.—The prices paid to farmers at Manitoba points is nominal at 45 to 50c per bushel for good milling seed.

OIL CAKE.—Oil cake is still quoted at \$16 per ton, including bags, for nutted or ground meal.

BEANS.—Round lots to jobbers held at about \$1.10 per bushel.

BUTTER.—This market is very bare of butter. Stocks have probably not been reduced down so fine for years. There is practically nothing coming in from the country, and dealers have cleared about every thing out that is at all good. Considerable stuff that would not sell when there is a good selection, has been worked off on account of the scarcity. Anything that is at all good will bring 16c in a small way, and an odd package or two of choice has brought 17 and even 18c. The blocked condition of the country roads is no doubt the cause. Holders of dairy tubs should get it in as soon as possible, as it will be now. Dealers expect new butter to begin to come in at once, and then held stock will be slow sale. Low grade stuff, 5 to 7c medium grades, 10 to 12c.

CHEESE.—The local jobbing price is the 9½ to 11c in small lots.

EGGS.—Eggs held firm most of the week owing to short supplies, caused by the blocked up condition of the railways, which made it difficult to keep up stocks. Sales by dealers were made mostly at 21c, and in some cases at 20c, but yesterday sales were made 19c per dozen. Everything offered is reported stock, from the States. No Manitoba eggs are coming, but dealers expect dealers supplies to begin to come in freely at once. At this time last year receipts of Manitoba eggs were quite large.

POULTRY.—Very little poultry is coming in. Dealers will pay the following prices for receipts: Chickens, 6 to 7c; ducks, 8 to 9c; geese, 9 to 10c; turkeys, 9 to 10c.

LARD.—Lard is higher, the market having advanced 10c. Prices are: \$1.55 to \$1.60 for 20 lb, and \$3.50 for 50 lb. pails; pure lard in 3, 5 and 10 pound tins, \$5.75 per case of 60 pounds, tierces \$5.75.

CURED MEATS.—Prices are steady, in sympathy with the east. Smoked meats are: Hams, assorted sizes, 10 to 12c.



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breakfast bacon, bellies, 10 to 10½; do., backs, 9 to 9½; short spiced rolls, 7 to 7½; shoulders, 6 to 6½ smoked long clear, 7 to 7½; Fancy clear, 7½ to 8; Dry salt meats are quoted; Long, clear bacon, 6 to 6½ per lb.; shoulders, 5½; backs, 7 to 7½ cents; barrel pork; clear mess, \$12.00; short cut, \$15.00; rolled shoulders, \$13.50; per barrel. Pork sundries; fresh sausage, 7½; bologna sausage, 6; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 10c per package; pickled hocks, 3c; pickled tongues, 5c; sausage casings, 25 to 30c lb.

DRESSED MEATS—Dressed meats are generally firmer. The principal feature is the advance in mutton, owing to the light stocks. Stocks of frozen mutton are well cleaned up, and no fresh stock has been offered yet, but will likely be offered next week. Beef is quite firm, and good beef has brought 5½ this week, and choice is held at 6c, we quote city dressed beef at 5½ to 6c. Mostly selling at 5½ to 5¾. We quote frozen mutton at 7 to 8c, fresh will sell at about 10c. Hogs are slow, and the season is about over for large offerings of dressed hogs. Packers are paying 4½ to 4¾. A few fancy city dressed hogs have sold as high as 5c.

HIDES—Holders of frozen hides should ship them in at once, before they get soft and damaged. Prices are high, prices here being above a parity with other markets. Conditions are therefore favorable to the seller, and the market is more likely to decline than advance under such conditions. Dealers generally quote 6½ for frozen hides, though 6½ has been paid in some cases. We quote 6½ for frozen hides, calf, 8 to 15c lb., skins, 6 to 8c per lb.; dokius 10 to 20c each; tips, 6 to 6½; sheepskins range from 40 to 60c, according to quality. Horsehides, 75c to \$1.25.

WOOL—Nothing doing here and prices nominal at 7 to 9½c.

TALLOW Dealers are paying 4c for No 1 extra and 2½ to 3½c for undergrades. Rough tallow 2c.

SWEET ROOT—We quote 19 to 20c per lb. for dry root.

HAY—Held at about \$5 per ton for baled prairie on track here. Owing to bad roads loose hay on the market has not been offering so freely and is held at \$1 to \$5 per ton.

VEGETABLES—Prices are higher for most lines. Celery is scarce. Onions are quite scarce and are much higher. Stocks here are well cleaned up. Prices are: Potatoes, 30c; Onions, 2c to 3c lb; carrots, 40c bushel; turnips, 20c; parsnips, 60 to 75c bushel; celery, 50c dozen; cabbage, 50 to 75c dozen. These are prices dealers buy at from market gardeners.

LIVE STOCK.

CATTLE—There is a firm feeling in cattle. Some buying for shipment east is going on in the country. Gordon & Ironside made a shipment this week eastward of five car loads of cattle, and they have a few more in the yards to-day. Fair to good cows 2½ to 3c and butchers' steers and heifers 3 to 3½c here, off cars.

SHEEP—We hear of one car of sheep, the first of the season, bought for the local trade. We quote sheep at 3½ to 4c off cars here.

HOGS—Prices have continued firm and a further slight advance has been made. 4c having been reached for choice bacon hogs. Gordon & Ironside shipped a few cars of hogs east this week. We quote: Good bacon stock, weighing 150 to 300 pounds, 4c. Sows and heavy hogs 2½ to 3½c, according to quality. Stags 1½ to 2½c, off cars here.

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 lba per 100 pounds.

On Monday wheat was firmer, closing ¾ to 1c over Saturday, influenced by unfavorable crop news, firmer cables and decreases in stocks. Closing prices were:

	Mar.	May	July	Sept.
Wheat.....	73	74	72½-¾	70½
Corn.....	23½	24½	—	—
Oats.....	16½	17½	—	—
Mess Pork..	—	8 82½	8 95	—
Lard.....	—	4 80	4 87½	—
Short Ribs.	—	4 72½	4 75	—

On Tuesday wheat was weak, most of the day, on a reversal of crop reports, and cables. Closing prices were:

	Mar.	May	July	Sept.
Wheat.....	72½	73½	72½	70½
Corn.....	24½	24½	25½	26½
Oats.....	16½	16½	17½	—
Mess Pork..	—	9 92½	9 05	—
Lard.....	—	4 32½	4 42½	—
Short Ribs.	—	4 82½	4 82½	—

On Wednesday wheat opened firm on more warlike news from Europe and unfavorable crop reports, and held fairly firm all day. Closing prices were:

	Mar.	May	July	Sept.
Wheat.....	73½	74½	73	70½
Corn.....	23½	24½	—	—
Oats.....	16½	17½	—	—
Mess Pork..	—	8 72½	8 82½	—
Lard.....	—	4 25	4 32½	—
Short Ribs.	—	4 70	4 72½	—

On Thursday there was not much change in prices. A moderate decline was recovered, influenced by firmer cables and war like rumors from Europe. Closing prices were:

	Mar.	May	July	Sept.
Wheat.....	73½	74½	73½	70½
Corn.....	23½	24½	—	—
Oats.....	16½	17½	—	—
Mess Pork..	—	8 90	8 97½	—
Lard.....	—	4 27½	4 37½	—
Short Ribs.	—	4 82½	4 85	—

On Friday wheat was firmer and prices showed a moderate gain, influenced by warlike reports from Europe and less favorable crop reports. Closing prices were:

	Mar.	May	July	Sept.
Wheat.....	74	75	73	70½
Corn.....	24½	25½	26½	27½
Oats.....	16½	17½	18½	—
Mess Pork..	—	8 92	9 05	—
Lard.....	—	4 30	—	—
Short Ribs.	—	4 85	—	—

On Saturday, March 20, May wheat opened at 75 to 75½c, and ranged between 74½c to 75½c, the lowest prices being reached at the close. Closing prices were:

	March	May	July	Sept.
Wheat.....	73½	74½	72½	69½
Corn.....	23½	24½	25½	27
Oats.....	16½	17½	18	—
Mess Pork..	—	8 85	8 97½	—
Lard.....	—	4 27½	—	—
Short Ribs.	—	4 80	—	—
Flax Seed..	81½	78½	80	81½

A week ago May wheat closed at 73½c. A year ago May wheat closed at 62½c and two years ago at 55½c.

New York Wheat.

On Saturday, March 20, May option closed at 83½c and July at 73½c. A week ago May option closed at 79¼ and two weeks ago at 82½c

Minneapolis Wheat.

On Saturday, March 20, No. 1 Northern wheat closed at 72½c for May option, 73½c for July, and 68½c for September. A week ago May wheat closed at 71½c.

Minneapolis Markets

Flour—The Market Record of March 18 reports the market more active, but export bids were too low to make much business. Prices are as follows, in bbls. f. o. b. First patents, \$1.00 to \$1.20; second patents, \$3.80 to \$4.00; first clears, \$4.11 to \$3.60, second clear, 2.30 to \$2.50; Red Dog, per ton, 140 for lbs. jute, \$9.00. These prices are the same as a week ago.

Millstuffs—Bran in bulk, \$6.25 to \$3.75; bran in sacks, 20 lbs. \$7.25 to \$7.75, bran in sacks, 100 lbs. \$7.75 to \$8.25; shorts in bulk, 6.25 to \$6.50; shorts in sacks, 100 lbs. 7.75 to \$8.00 middlings, fine, \$7 to \$7.25. These prices are the same as a week ago.

Oats—Range mostly at 16 to 16½c for No. 3.

Barley—Quoted at 20 to 22c per bushel as to quality for feed grade.

Flax—Quoted at 75½c per bushel.

Hay—Prairie, \$3.00 to \$7.00 per ton, as to quality.—Market Record, March 18.

The United States and Canada.

A large part of the people of this country are so imbued with protectionist heresies that they are seriously grieved that an impassable gulf or a range of insurmountable mountains some ten or fifteen miles high does not separate the United States from Canada so that Canadian products of all kinds could not by any possibility find a market for themselves in the United States. The other part of our people does desire a larger and freer trade intercourse with Canada, realizing that if we could both buy more and sell more in the Dominion, and the Canadian people could buy more and sell more in the United States, both country's would be materially benefited.

For a number of years past more extended trade relations have been spoken of both at Washington and Ottawa, but it was merely a farce to have Sir Charles Tupper and Secretary Blaine attempt to negotiate a treaty, for the good and sufficient reason that neither of the two negotiators intended the least cession, or in this way do anything calculated to bring about the alleged wished for result. Under Mr. Laurier we should be able to make more headway in matters of this kind, and it is chiefly on this account that Americans who are not protectionist fanatics have welcomed the Liberal victory in Canada. If we had complete reciprocal trade with the Dominion it would be worth more to New England than the increase of the population of this section by a million people.—Boston Herald.

Safety Deposit Boxes.

The branch of the Union Bank of Canada, in Winnipeg, is the first institution here to put in a number of safety deposit boxes. These boxes have been fitted up within the vault of the bank, where they are understood to be fire and burglar proof. These boxes will be rented to persons, whether or not they are patrons of the bank, at a small annual fee, and they should prove a great convenience to persons who have papers or other valuables which they wish to place in safe keeping. Parties renting a box will be provided with the key thereto, and the box will be under their personal supervision. In the eastern cities these safety deposit boxes are largely used and have been found a great convenience to the public. No doubt they will be likewise appreciated here.

Hides, Wool, Etc.

Hides at Montreal have advanced 1c per lb. which is due to opposition buying on the part of some tanners. Dealers are paying 8c for No. 1, 7c for No. 2, and 6c for No. 3. Lambskins, 90c each. Calfskins, 8c for No. 1 and 6c for No. 2.

At Toronto dealers were paying 7c for green hides, and 75 to 90c for country sheepskins.

The London wool sale opened March 9, with good competition among European and United States buyers. Prices on wools suitable for the United States were well sustained, on the basis of the previous sale. It looks as though United States buyers would operate abroad as long as they feel safe as regards getting the wools into this country before any tariff change goes into effect.

Toronto Grain and Produce Market.

Wheat—Cars of red are quoted at 73c north and west, with millers bidding 72c, and white is quoted at 71c west. Manitoba wheat is dull and easy: No. 1 hard is quoted at 82½ to 83c. Midland, and No. 2 hard at 80½ to 81c; No. 1 hard is quoted at 89c grinding in transit Sarnia.

Flour—The demand is slow and the market is steady at \$3.65 to \$3.70 for straight roller west.

Millfeed—Is in active demand, and firm at \$9 for shorts west and \$3.50 for bran.

Barley—Is dull and easy; No. 1 is quoted at 30c outside. No. 1 extra at 32c to 33c. No. 2 at 27, No. 3 extra at 24c and feed at 20c to 21c.

Oats—Are dull at 17½c for white for car lots at country points. Mixed, 16½c.

Butter—Good stock sells readily. Jobbing prices are: Large rolls, 12½ to 14c; dairy tubs, 9c to 12c; dairy rolls, 14c to 15c; creamery tubs, 19c to 20c; creamery rolls, 2c to 2½c.

Eggs—New laid offering freely at 11c to 11½c; limes, 7c to 8c; held, 5c.

Potatoes—Very dull; car lots 20c.

Baled Hay—Offerings liberal; prices easy from \$8.00 to \$10.00.

Dressed hogs—Market is very firm for hogs and hog products. Light weight, \$6 to \$8.15 on the track.

Cured meats—Heavy mess, \$11.75 to \$12; short cut \$12.50 to \$13; clear shoulder mess, \$10. Dry salted meats, long clear bacon, car lots 5½ to 6c, ton lots 6c to 6½c, case lots, 6½ to 6¾c. Smoked meats, Hams, heavy, 9½ to 10c; medium, 10½ to 11c; light, 11c to 11½c; breakfast bacon, 10½ to 11c; backs, 10c to 10½c; picnic hams, 6½ to 7c; rolls, 7½ to 7¾c. Green meats out of pickle are quoted less than cured. Lard, Tierces, 6½c; tubs, 7½c; pails, 7½c and 6c for compound.—Globe, March 17.

The Live Stock Trade.

At London on March 15 the supplies of cattle was larger, and trade was quiet. Prices were unchanged at 12c for choice United States cattle, with Argentines quoted at 11c. The market for sheep was weaker, and prices declined ½c, best being quoted at 12½ to 13c.

A cable from Liverpool quoted choice Canadian cattle at 11c, and United States at 11½c.

Cables from Glasgow the first of the week noted a sharp advance within the past two weeks. Sales of choice Canadian steers are reported at £16 16s, £11 13s and heifers at £15 12s.

At the East End Abattoir market, Montreal, on March 15, the supply of cattle was in excess of the requirements. Choice sold at 3½ to 4c; good at 3c to 3½; fair at 2½ to 2¾c, and common at 2c to 2½ per lb live weight. Sheep and lambs were scarce.

At the Point St. Charles market, Montreal, on March 15, the receipts of hogs were small, and the demand also limited. Prices ruled easier, sales being made at \$1.80 to \$1.90 per 100 lbs.

At the semi-weekly market at Toronto on March 16 prices were steady for cattle. Sixteen loads of stock were taken for Buffalo. Lambs were in good demand. Sheep quiet. Hogs were in good demand, except stores, which are not wanted. Prices were: Export cattle 3½ to 4c, few fancy touched 4½; butchers' cattle, 2½ to 3½; stockers' 2½ to 3c, feeders, 3 to 3½; export bulls, 3½ to 3¾c, sheep, 3 to 3½; rams 2½ to 3½; lambs (yearlings) 4½ to 5½; milch cows, \$20 to \$35 for fair to choice; poor, \$15 to \$17; hogs, choice bacon, \$1.90 to \$5.00 for 100 lbs., heavy fat and under weights, \$1.25 to \$1.50, cows, \$2.75 to \$3.00, stags, \$2.25 to \$2.50.

At Chicago on March 19 hogs ranged from \$3.70 to \$4.15 as to quality; packing hogs, \$3.70 to \$3.90 and choice light weights up to \$4.10.

Saskatchewan.

A \$50,000 brewery has been completed at Prince Albert, by a couple of Germans. The next thing in order will be to secure raw material, and then get in enough beer-drinking people to keep the brewery employed. Prince Albert farmers can no doubt supply the barley, but we are not sure about their ability to consume the product of the brewery.

A Haldenby has opened a harness shop at Prince Albert.

D. L. Shannon, & Co., saw mill, Prince Albert, have sold out to S. McLeod.

Barke & Co., general storekeepers, of Morris, Man., have sold out to John McIntosh.

Richard & Co., wholesale liquors, Winnipeg, have sold out to H. Beliveau & Eugene Richard, who continue under same style.

According to the provisions of a new joint stock company's bill now before the Ontario legislature, directors and promoters of such companies will be held responsible for the contents of a prospectus issued by them and may be held liable for damage sustained by reason of any untrue statement regarding such company published while acting as directors.

The assignee is still in charge of the business of the Riddell Manufacturing Co., Winnipeg, as the property did not sell at the recent sale. It is hoped that a good sale will be made of the property soon. It is not expected the estate will pay over 25 cents on the dollar.

Horse Meat in Belgium.

The correspondent of the London Chronicle at Brussels writes: Official figures having been recently quoted to show that the number of horses imported last year from England exceed 22,000 instead of 6,000, as stated in the Belgium chamber, I visited Antwerp with the object of finding out approximately what proportion of this enormous total is actually slaughtered for human consumption. From information courteously placed at my disposal by the director of the abattoirs, it happens that the bulk of the animals arriving from England find their way direct to the slaughter-house. Although the greater part come from London, the trade is by no means confined to this quarter, the imports in last week's official list showing that no less than seventy-six were brought from Hull and Newcastle. One dealer in Antwerp alone (an Englishman) disposed of upwards of 8,000 horses last year to the local butchers. On the other hand, it is positively denied, as far as Antwerp is concerned, that any of the meat finds its way back to England, either in the form of "tinned meat" or soup. Not a single meat-preserving establishment exists in the city. My informant, who is a staunch adherent of horseflesh as a "wholesome and nutritious diet for the working man," confirmed the measures adopted to be taken for guarding against tuberculosis and glanders.

A further experiment is about to be tried at Rotterdam by subjecting all "suspicious" meat to treatment in steam chambers heated to 110 degrees centigrade (a temperature which has been scientifically proved sufficient to kill the bacillus) and to sell the meat so treated at prices ranging from 1f. 50c per kilo (about 6d per lb), the residue of the broth included. There are in Antwerp about thirty shops devoted entirely to the sale of horseflesh. I visited several of these establishments; but with the thermometer at 80 in the shade, the meat, of which the bulk had been slaughtered at least two days previously, did not present an appearance which was calculated to make converts. Still less so were the sausages of dusky hue, which appear to form the staple delicacy when the meat is unfit for sale in its natural state. The prices run from 4½d. per pound for "prime cuts" to about 2d for "scraps." When it is remembered that, apart from the government ban laid upon imported horseflesh, there is in Belgium a duty of nearly 3d per pound on all other imported meat, it is easy to understand why Australian mutton is yet practically unknown here, and why among the poorer classes horse is the only flesh food available.

Duluth Wheat Market.

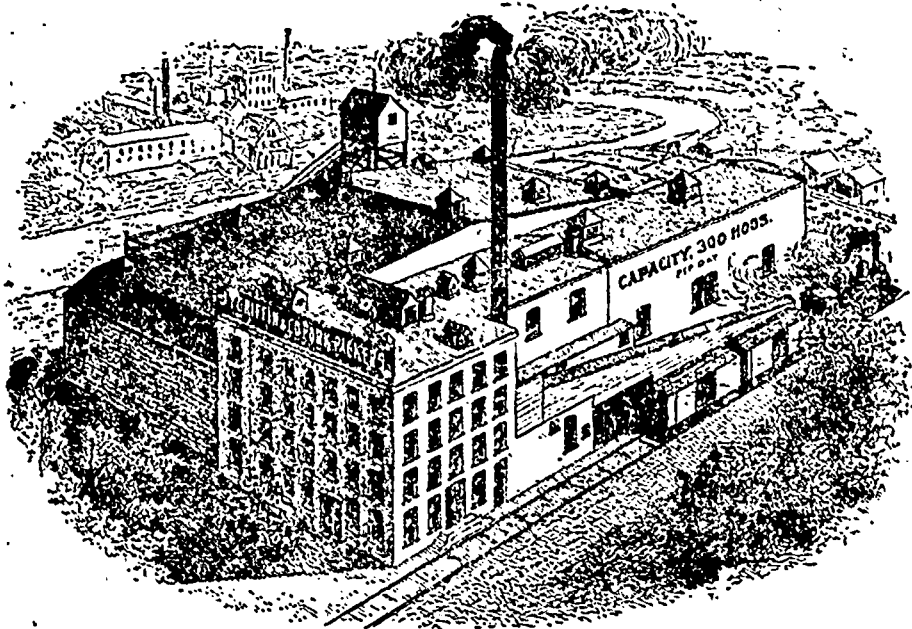
No. 1 northern wheat at Duluth closed as follows on each day of the week:

- Monday—May, 74½c—July, 74½c.
- Tuesday—May 74c—July, 74½c.
- Wednesday—May, 74c.
- Thursday—May 74½c.
- Friday—May, 75½c.
- Saturday—74 3-4

On Saturday, March 20 cash No. 1 hard closed at 76½c, and cash No. 1 Northern at 74½c.

Last week May delivery closed at 73½c. A year ago May closed at 60½c. Two years ago at 60½c, and three years ago at 60½c.

A Bare Market Means Quick Returns.



We want Butter in Tubs or Rolls, Fresh Eggs, Dressed Hogs and Beef. We are out of stock and the demand is particularly active. Send your shipments quick and the results will make you happy.

Note--We want live Hogs. Our plant is running full capacity and we need hogs.

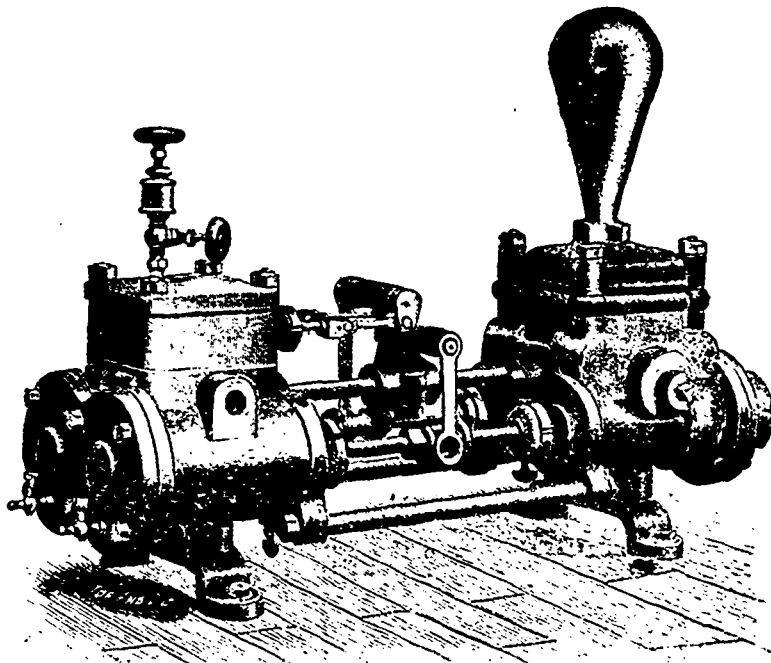
Write or wire.

J. Y. GRIFFIN & CO.

Pork Packers and Commission Merchants

DUPLIX STEAM PUMP

All sizes at very lowest prices. Every pump guaranteed. Ask for circular and prices. State service required.



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Branches, MONTREAL, BRANTFORD and LONDON.

MANUFACTURERS AND DEALERS IN ENGINES AND BOILERS, Iron and Woodworking machinery, Saw Mill machinery, Shingle Mills, Electric Dynamoes and Motors, Contractors machinery, Mining Machinery and Mill Supplies etc.

Special Canadian agents for Sturtevant's Dry Kilns and Blowers. Barnes foot and hand power machinery

Representative for Manitoba and N. W. Territories,

ROBERT DOUGLAS, 95 ALEXANDER AVE. WINNIPEG.

Commercial Legislation

Hon. Mr. Cameron has introduced a bill in the Manitoba legislature to reduce the amount of salary exemption in the Garnishment Act to \$25 per month. The exemption was formerly \$40.

Mr. Burrows has introduced in the Manitoba legislature a bill to amend the Mechanics' Lien act. Two different amendments were proposed, the one providing that no garnishee order, special order or assignment shall be good unless for providing material or for work done; and the other that a mechanic's lien holds good against any other instrument afterwards registered.

The Canadian Pacific railway has closed a contract with Thos. Tompkins, of Brockville, to build a large hotel at Revelstoke, B.C.

The excursion train for the west which left Toronto on March 17, was patronized by about 300 settlers.

Early Closing Meeting.

A meeting was held in Winnipeg on Thursday evening, called by the clerks, to protest against any contemplated changes in the early closing act which would endanger the present early closing arrangements in force in the city. The meeting was fairly well attended. After considerable discussion of the situation, a committee was appointed to watch legislation, for the purpose of protecting the interests of the clerks and to interview the law amendments committee of local legislation.

Revival in Railway Building.

A very considerable revival in railway building is now in sight in the United States. Since the first of the year the Railway Age has been notified of a considerable number of new undertakings which promise to begin work soon, while a still larger number of enterprises carried over from previous years, and on some of which work has already been done, appear now to have secured the means for going on. Thousands of miles of lines can be enumerated for which room and need seem apparent on an intelligent study of the situation, and whose construction, therefore, is merely a question of better times. For a few of these contracts have already been let, while the promoters of others are sanguine that they will get under way this year. Besides the legitimate enterprises there are various paper schemes, such as that of a new transcontinental line, which have little likelihood of accomplishment; but altogether there is already a better outlook for railway building than has been observed for several previous years.

Wheat a Comparatively Small Factor.

Not until wheat advances to \$1 per bushel will permanent prosperity to the farmer return," is the cry of many who fail to appreciate or positively refuse to understand the true situation.

The foregoing is from the Orange Judd Farmer, and is the opening paragraph in an interesting statement showing that the wheat crop is in importance exceeded by corn, hay and cotton, and that corn is really king.

Continuing the Farmer adds:

"Were this proposition entirely tenable it must follow that wheat leads in importance every other product of the farm. This is far short of the facts.

"The wheat crop is only 13½ per cent of the value of all staple crops, and a scant 7 per cent or 1-14 of the total value of the big crops and live stock on farms.

"Wheat is the great speculative commodity, is much talked about in wide channels, and the pessimists delight to ring the changes on this magic word. They make the most of the decline in prices, and refuse to recognize the enormous world's extension in wheat growing, together with the cheapened cost of production and transportation, which go far to explain and offset the fall.

"So far as actual value is concerned, however, corn is king, while last year, as will be seen in the official figures here presented, cotton and hay each show greater aggregate worth, and oats nearly as much, to say nothing of live stock, this last representing a sum equal to that of all leading crops combined.

"It must also be considered that the prices of everything the farmer buys are also very low, but it is no doubt safe to say that the purchasing power of the farmers' crops is nearly as great now as when prices were higher.

"It is safe to say that with a return of business confidence, following a decisive stand for sound money in November, with adequate and just protection for farm produce, with encouragement to our farmers to produce the \$200,000,000 worth of sugar, wool and fruits now imported annually, and with a consequent outward flow of timid capital into trade activities, permanent prosperity can come and will come, whether wheat ever again sells at \$1 or not."

Next follows the table of various crops and their value, together with the value of live stock raised. It will be found an interesting condensation of statistics and is as under:

LEADING FARM PRODUCTS AND VALUES IN 1895.

Product	Value	Per ct	
Corn, bu . . . 2,151,189,000	\$667,509,000	.319	
Hay, tons . . . *47,079,000	893,168,000	.221	
Cotton, bal's	*6,669,000	253,422,000	.142
Wheat, bus . . . 467,104,000	287,939,000	.143	
Oats, bus . . . **824,444,000	163,655,000	.092	
Potatoes, bu **297,287,000	78,985,000	.014	
Tobacco, lbs	491,541,000	85,574,000	.020
Barley, bu . . . 87,078,000	29,812,000	.017	
Rye, bu . . . 27,210,000	11,965,000	.007	
Buckw'ht bu	15,841,000	6,936,000	.004
Total	\$1,778,493,000	1000	

*Serious shortage. **Extra large.

LIVE STOCK.

	Number	Value	Per ct
Cattle	82,085,000	\$ 508,928,000	.145
Horses	15,121,000	500,140,000	.143
Milch cow	16,188,000	863,936,000	.101
Mules	2,279,000	103,204,000	.030
Sheep	*88,299,000	65,168,000	.018
Hogs	42,843,000	186,530,000	.053
Total	\$3,506,409,000	1000	

*Much reduced.

Our authority—The above statements of the volume of farm crops and values are taken from the final returns of the department of agriculture at Washington, covering the year 1895. The totals of course vary year by year, but the proportion remains much the same.

Live Stock in Montana.

News of a very discouraging character is being received here concerning the condition of the thousands of herds of cattle on the ranges in the northern part of the state. The latest advices received this afternoon are to the effect that old cows and young calves are commencing to die in large numbers. If relief in the shape of warm weather does not come soon, the loss of stock, including sheep, will be very great. The winter has been a very severe one. In January there were heavy falls of snow and the thaw in February was accompanied by a freeze which formed a crust over the snow through which the cattle were unable to break to get at the grass underneath. To add to this, the recent falls of snow have covered the crust considerably. The lack of food is making the stock weak and the old cows and young calves are commencing to drop from sheer exhaustion. Stockmen claim that if a chinook does not come soon to the relief of the cattle, which have been compelled to go through a winter more severe than usual, the loss will be very great during the next few weeks.

Big Binder Twine Deal.

An Ottawa telegram says: Hobbs, M.P.P. of Ottawa, was in town today and has closed a contract with the department of justice, whereby he handles the total output of binder twine from the Kingston penitentiary. Last autumn the government sold 500 tons to a St. John firm, who have resold to Hobbs, and the latter has now arranged to take the balance of the penitentiary output, which will be fully 500 tons more.

Silver.

Prices for bar silver in London have responded further to the discouraging influence of the recent announcement of the Japanese government's currency policy. There are no other features in the market, and prices have sagged off both here and in London, the quotations at the latter city falling to 29½d, which is the lowest figure yet reached. Silver prices on March 12 were: London, 29½d; New York, 63½c.

Government Creameries in the Territories.

Following are the conditions for the operation of the government creameries in the Territories:

The government will pay rental annually of 7 per cent to the butter and cheese manufacturing association on the value of the buildings provided by it. In addition to the manufacturing charge of four cents per pound, a rate of one cent per pound of butter will be levied, half of the amount from it being put to the credit of a loan fund to repay the government for advancing the price of the apparatus and equipment and half of it being applied to the payment of the shareholders who furnish the money for the buildings. Paid up shares in the butter and cheese manufacturing association will be issued at the end of each year to the patrons in proportion to the amounts which they have contributed to the loan fund. The net proceeds of all sales will be accounted for and paid to the patrons severally. Ten cents per pound of butter manufactured will be advanced to the patrons after the end of each month.

The transportation and cold storage charges on butter from the Territories to Great Britain will be less than 10 per cent of its value at the starting point. This puts the producers of milk for butter making in the Territories within six cents in every dollar of realizing as much for their products as the farmers in the most favored parts of Quebec and Ontario. The butter from each creamery will be specially marked with the name of the creamery, as "Butter from Government Creamery, at ———." This it is hoped will be an effective way of making known the resources of the country and the opportunities it offers for farmers of a desirable class as immigrants from Great Britain.

Winnipeg Prices a Year Ago.

Eggs declined 3c. Hides were easier. Sheep were ¼c higher.

Following were Winnipeg prices this week last year:

Wheat—About 46c to 50c for No. 1 hard, country points, to farmers, afloat Fort William, 62c to 63c.

Flour.—Local price, per sack. Patents, \$1.85 to \$1.90; Bakers, \$1.65 to \$1.70.

Bran.—Per ton, \$9.

Shorts.—Per ton, \$11.

Oats.—Per bushel, Winnipeg street price, 16 to 17c. Car lots at country points, 12 to 14½c.

Barley —Selling at 17c for feed here.

Car lots at country points worth 13c to 15c.

Flax Seed.—60 to farmers at country points.

Butter.—Dairy, choice, 12c to 15c.

Cheese.—Jobbing price 9½ to 11c.

Eggs.—Fresh, jobbing at 11c.

Beef.—City dressed, 5 to 6c; country 3½ to 4c

Mutton.—Mutton, 7½ to 8c.

Hogs.—Dressed, 5c.

Cattle.—Nominal at 2¼ to 3¼c for butchers' stock.

Hogs.—Live, off cars, 3¼c.

Sheep.—Sheep nominal at 4c off cars.

Seneca Root.—Dry 18 to 20c lb.

Poultry.—Chickens, 8 to 10c lb, turkeys, 10 to 12c; ducks, 10c, geese, 10c.

Hides.—Green frozen, 4 to 4½c.

Potatoes—20c per bushel.

TRADE WITH BRITISH COLUMBIA

(Continued from Page 654.)

be worth while considering whether we should not increase our duties so as to give the entire British Columbia trade to the farmers of Manitoba and the Territories. At present a large quantity of agricultural products are imported from the United States into British Columbia, the lower freight rates in favor of the Pacific coast states enabling the producers there to compete to good advantage for the British Columbia trade even with the present duty against them.

EXEMPTIONS.

It is pleasing to note that at last some members of the Manitoba legislature are beginning to realize that the exemption business has been overdone in Manitoba. In supporting the bill providing for the reduction of the exemption in the garnishment act, Hon. Mr. Cameron is reported to have said that "it was just a question if Manitoba was not in danger of passing the safety line in exemption legislation. The large exemptions had resulted in only \$1,600 being recovered through the county court here by process of execution."

It is a good thing that the attorney general recognizes this situation. Only a week or two ago The Commercial said that it was evidently time to begin reducing exemptions. A start has been made in this direction, and it is hoped hereafter the tendency will be to gradually reduce exemptions.

DEVELOP THE WATER-WAYS.

Andrew Pattullo, in a speech in the Ontario legislature recently, dwelt upon mineral development in northwestern Ontario, in which he urged the recognition of the claims of the prospector as superior to the speculator. Coming to another subject he said:

The first and chief duty of the government is as to transportation. We must bring the people who go into those regions, and we must bring the products of their energy and capital nearer to the rest of the world. A great deal can be done at once. Although all through that country, say for instance the Rainey River region, nature has provided a marvellous system of inter-communication by water in summer, much of it is useless for lack of a little expenditure, a portage here, a lock there, or a canal, it may be. Such work would help the mines already in operation and stimulate work on new prospects.

This brings us again to the question of the development of our western water-ways, a matter which The Commercial has frequently discussed. In northwestern Ontario, all the way from the eastern boundary of Manitoba, to within a short distance of Lake Superior, there is a chain of waterways which it is believed could be opened out for continuous navigation. Years ago it was the policy of the Mackenzie government to develop these water stretches, instead of building a through line of railway from Lake Superior westward. It is not necessary now to discuss the wisdom of that policy as applied to the situation eighteen or twenty years ago. The development of these water-stretches now, however,

would appear to be a wise and even necessary policy, in the interest of the mineral development of those great regions.

Mr. Pattullo refers more directly to the development of these water-stretches for local purposes. The Commercial would like to see it taken up with a much grander object in view, namely; the opening up of a through water-route from the Red river to Lake Superior. In an article which appeared recently in The Commercial upon the subject of western water-ways, the following reference was made to the possibility of opening a route from the Red river to Lake Superior

"Last but not least we have another great water route which has received more or less consideration for many years. We refer to the proposal to establish a water route from the Red River through to Lake Superior. This would appear superficially to be a very heavy undertaking, and many persons will be inclined to doubt the feasibility of such a route, on first thought. They will be inclined to consider that the cost would be so great that it would be foolishness to undertake it. Parties who have given the question some study, however, claim that a water route from the Red River to Lake Superior is not only feasible, but that the cost of opening such a route would not be out of proportion to the importance of the work. It will be remembered that it was the policy of the late Alexander McKenzie Government to develop the water stretches of this route in opening communication between the older provinces and Manitoba. However, that idea was dropped and a railway was built instead. Now that a second outlet to Lake Superior is being considered necessary, it would appear to be a wise thing to have a thorough examination of the proposed water route made, before deciding that we must have another railway. If the water route be feasible at a reasonable cost, it would be a more valuable acquisition than a second railway, and it would provide a means of handling heavy freight at rates with which the railways could not begin to compete.

"From the Red river to Lake of the Woods it is believed that a light draft canal could be opened at a very moderate expense. The The Rosseau river rises near Lake of the Woods and flows eastward to the Red river. The land in south-eastern Manitoba, west of the Lake of the Woods, is low and marshy. There is an abundance of water everywhere. In fact to much, and the canal would be a means of reclaiming a large area of land which is now to wet for settlement. It has been alleged that it is possible to pass from the Lake of the Woods to the Red river, via the Rosseau river, during high water, in a canoe, without making any portages, thus indicating that the country between the Lake at Buffalo Bay and the head waters of the Rosseau is inundated in high water.

"From the point where the proposed canal would enter the Lake of the Woods, there is navigable water all the way to Fort Frances, a distance of over 100 miles. The opening of a canal to the Lake of the Woods would bring that great timber country to our doors. The logs for sawing into lumber would be brought by water to the Red river, and sawn here, and thus the expensive railway haul of 130 to 150 miles would be saved to the purchaser of lumber. The opening of this part of the route alone, regardless of connections east of Fort Frances, would be an undertaking of immense advantage to Manitoba, providing the work can be done at a reasonable cost.

"From Fort Frances eastward there are stretches of navigable water which it is claimed could be utilized at a moderate cost,

to open the proposed water route to within about forty miles of Lake Superior. From that point to the latter lake, the work would be very heavy and a short railroad would probably be necessary, instead of carrying the canal through to the lake, but even with the transfer which would be caused by this break in the water route, the cost of transporting goods from Red river to Lake Superior would be about cut in two."

Perhaps Mr. Pattullo will use his influence as a member of the Ontario legislature, in securing a preliminary survey of this proposed route. No doubt the Manitoba government would co-operate with that of Ontario, by having an examination made of that portion of the route from the Red river to the Lake of the Woods. If it is then decided that the route is feasible at a reasonable cost, it would be in order to approach the Dominion Government for assistance.

The opening of even a shallow water-way to Lake Superior would be of such inestimable value to the West, that it would appear desirable to have a survey of this route made as early as practicable. As the route lies principally through the province of Ontario, it would be quite appropriate that the Ontario government should move first in the matter.

HAIL INSURANCE ONCE MORE.

The advocates of the proposed provincial government system of hail insurance, as now before the legislature, claim that the cost would range only between \$1.00 and \$1.50 per quarter section of land. The amount is so small that it is given as an argument in favor of a general land tax for hail insurance purposes. If the amount were likely to be much less than the minimum estimate, it would not change the arbitrary and unjust principle of the proposed law. Why should a new settler, who has taken up half a section of land (320 acres), but who has only been able to bring twenty-five acres under cultivation, be obliged to pay a sum possibly amounting to \$3 or \$10 per annum, for the protection of the well-to-do farmer who cultivated 200 to 300 acres, the latter paying no more than the former, though receiving eight to twelve times as much protection. Apply the same reasoning to the farmer who devoted his land principally to stock-raising or dairying, or to the struggling farmer who had started with limited means, and who has not been able to accumulate sufficient plant to work more than a limited area of his land.

No matter how the question is viewed, a little reasoning will show that the proposed general tax system is entirely wrong. If a government system is thought necessary, let it be based on business principles, each one paying in proportion to the protection received—in proportion to the amount of property at risk.

COAL PRICES.

The Winnipeg Free Press says: "A gentleman interested in the hard coal mines up in the Rockies disputes the statement made in these columns, that a duty on Pennsylvania anthracite would raise the price of hard coal in Winnipeg." The

(Continued on Page 670.)

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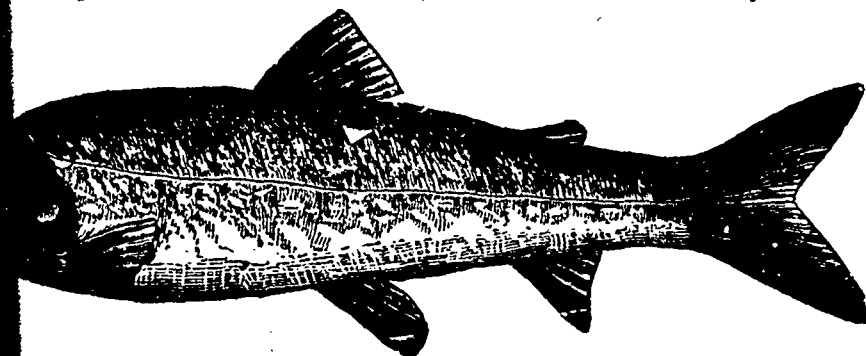
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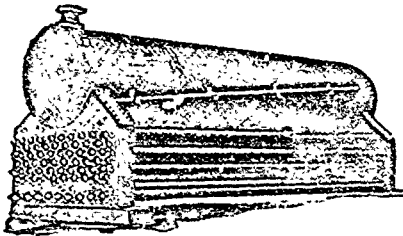
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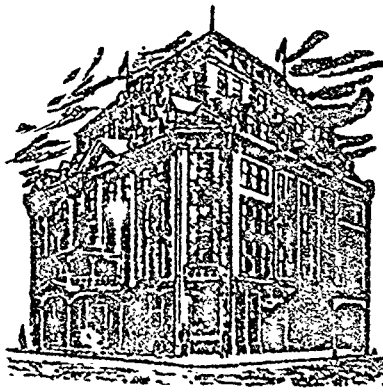
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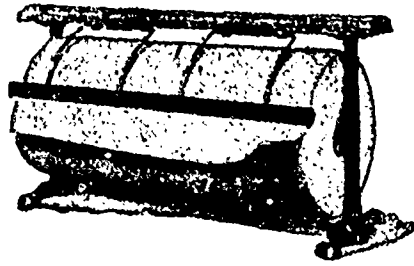
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Exporting Rabbits From Australia.

The cablegram from London dated January 8 indicates a state of things that should not exist with regard to the market for Australian rabbits. The report states that the market in London is flat. This is undoubtedly evidence that the great demand for rabbits in England is not properly worked by the markets for rabbits at prices that should be very well is almost unlimited. What is required is that the Australian rabbits should be placed in the centres where the rabbits are required and where the people are anxious to have them and willing to pay good prices for them. The trouble is that the Smithfield people do not get hold of the trade, and the market is controlled by the jobbers of Leadenhall. Australian producers has an uphill battle to fight in Great Britain, and the rabbit export industry is undoubtedly meeting with some of the hindrances which beset the frozen meat trade. We have the rabbits; Great Britain has millions of consumers who would gladly purchase them. Yet glutts are constantly being sent to the market despite the fact that the supply is in a most absurd disproportion to the demand. In nearly the same state of affairs prevails with regard to the export of hares. Hares are required in England at prices ranging to 6s 6d apiece, yet the Australian trade does not progress as it should. The fact that the cablegram we have quoted states that rabbits are selling at 9s each, while the market is so low, proves that there is much money in the rabbit trade if it were conducted on practical lines. The very best rabbits can be purchased here at 5s per pair, and 6d is a high price to the trappers of hares in Australia. It will be seen that the margin to work on in both cases is considerable, and will well repay colonists enterprising enough to go thoroughly into the matter and secure all the advantages the demand of Great Britain provides.—Sydney Mail.

Montreal Grocery Market.

There has been a much firmer feeling during the past week in all primary markets for sugar and refined sugar, and prices have recovered somewhat. Cable prices show an advance of 3d since this day week. In New York there was an advance of 8-16c in the best most grades of soft yellows and an advance in granulated. In sympathy with the New York market, and the fact that the demand on spot has improved some, the tone of the local market is firmer but no actual change in prices has taken place. The volume of business, however, has been larger, and, as a result, second hands throughout the country are in light, the prospects for the future being encouraging. We quote granulated at

4c to 4 1/2c, and yellows at 8 1/2c to 8 3/4c, as to quality at the factory.

There is no change in the situation of the syrup market, sales being slow and prices steady at 1 1/2c to 1 3/4c per lb., as to quality at the factory.

Business in molasses has continued quiet, and the market is without any new phase to note. Cables from the Island this week were steady at the recent decline, and quoted first cost Barbadoes at 8c, which means that cargo lots would cost 23c laid down here direct, but up to the present no sales have been made, owing to the fact that buyers are afraid to operate on account of the possibility of a change in the tariff. On spot, round lots of Barbadoes are offering at 27c, and small quantities are selling at 22c.

The demand for rice continues slow, and the market is quiet with no change in prices to note. We quote: Crystal Japan, \$5.00 to \$5.25; standard B., \$3.50; Patna, \$1.50 to \$5.25; Carolina, \$5.75 to \$7.75; choice Bermuda, \$1. and Java kinds, \$1.25.

A fair business in a jobbing way was done in spices, and prices are firmly held. We quote: Black pepper, 8c to 10c; white, 11c to 14c; Jamaica ginger, 20c to 25c; cloves, 7 1/2c to 10c, and nutmegs, 60c to 90c.

There has been no improvement in the coffee market, business being quiet and sales principally in small lots to fill actual wants. We quote: Maracaibo, 17 1/2c to 18c; Santos, 14 1/2c to 16c; Rio, 15c to 16c; and Mocha, 24c to 26c.

There has been no improvement in the tea market since our last, business having continued quiet, which is no doubt due to the fact that buyers have ample supplies on hand for the present. The offerings from first hands are not large and in consequence the position of the market is strong and prices are fully maintained.—Gazette, March 13.

Railroads in 1895-96.

The Philadelphia Ledger says: "The business of railroad construction has been almost suspended for four years, nor does it seem likely that there will be a great revival under any circumstances, for the trunk lines were pushed to completion some years before they were needed, and it is probable that trolley lines will become the feeders of the future. During the twelve months ending June 30, 1895, only 1,949 miles of track were laid, an increase of only 1.09 per cent. This is the lowest rate of increase on record. Nor have the railroad companies added to their equipment, their lack of enterprise in this respect being due in part to the large increase of rolling stock made a few years ago to move the crops and to accommodate the increase in passenger traffic due to the World's Fair at Chicago. The report of the

Interstate Commerce Commission shows that there was a decrease of 9 050 in the number of freight cars in service in 1895-96, compared with the preceding year, and the number of employees has also been reduced, partly on account of dullness of trade, and perhaps in part by improvements to cars through the increased use of air brakes and automatic couplers. There were 873,602 railroad employees in 1893; 780,000 in 1894, and 785,031 in 1895. That means that the business of transportation is transacted on a scale at least 10 per cent. below the established figures of prosperous times. The large crops of this year and the European demand for our products, due in part to the crop failure in India, will no doubt help to restore the conditions of 1893.

"The loss of revenue from passenger travel last year as compared with the year of the World's Fair is estimated by the commission at \$10,000,000. There were 593,000,000 passengers carried in 1893, 540,688,199 in 1894 and 507,421,362 in 1895-96. The freight moved increased nearly 60,000,000 tons, but was last year nearly 50,000,000 tons behind the record year 1893-94. Rates have been forced down with the decrease of business so that the business has been comparatively unremunerative. The more important trunk lines have, however, been very prudently managed and have reduced expenses in proportion to the decrease of business, while they have at the same time maintained the efficiency of their lines and rolling stock. They are, therefore, in good condition to take advantage of the better times now apparently to open up. The Pennsylvania Railroad company, in its last annual report, which was for the calendar year 1895 showed for the three grand divisions east of Erie and Pittsburgh an increase of nearly \$6,000,000 in earnings, an increase of little over \$4,000,000 in expenses, and a resulting increase of \$1,775,981 in net earnings from operating. The net income, which amounted to \$10,530,482.88 exceeded the net income of 1894 by more than a million dollars.

"The Interstate Commerce Commission's report includes all the railroads in the country, and they of course do not show as good results as the Pennsylvania, which is one of the most prudently managed roads in the United States."

The feature of the egg market at Montreal on March 12 was the weak feeling which prevails, and prices scored another decline of 3c to 1c per dozen, with sales of new laid at 12c to 12 1/2c. Montreal limed slow at 10c, and Western limed and held fresh quoted at 7 1/2c to 8c per dozen.

Eggs declined again 3c at Montreal on March 13 to 11c to 11 1/2c for fresh and 6c to 9c for limed and cold storage stock.

COAL PRICES.

(Continued from page 670)

ment given, according to the Free Press is, that the duty would keep out Pennsylvania coal, and thereby enable the home miners to operate on a much larger scale, under which conditions they would be able to reduce prices.

The Commercial is not quite sure that this would be the result. A year ago coal was selling in Winnipeg at about \$3.50 per ton, to consumers. Pennsylvania anthracite and our own western anthracite were selling at the same price. Last summer the price of coal was advanced in Pennsylvania to such an extent that the local dealers were obliged to put the price up to \$10 per ton in Winnipeg. Now, here was a chance for our home miner to keep his price down and increase his output. But he did not do anything of the kind. He simply took advantage of the increased cost of the imported coal to add \$1 per ton to the price of the home commodity. If the cost of Pennsylvania coal were further increased by a duty upon the article, could we expect our western producers to drop prices back to below what they were during the winter of 1895-96? "Not much so." More likely they would take advantage of the increased cost of the imported article to give the screw another turn against the consumer.

EARLY CLOSING OF STORES.

It is to be hoped there will be no retrograde legislation affecting the law governing the early closing of stores. A great deal has been accomplished in Winnipeg, in the interest of early closing, but there is still much room for progress in the same direction, and it is hoped that further progress will be made, rather than that there should be a move backward. What has been already accomplished has proved of great benefit to hundreds of persons, including business men and their employees in the city of Winnipeg.

The present danger appears to be, as The Commercial mentioned last week, that the opening of auction rooms will cause the merchants to withdraw from the present early closing arrangement, and thus there would soon be a retrograde movement back to the old system of late business hours. If merchants are compelled to close at a given hour, it certainly seems unfair that auction rooms should be allowed to open up after the stores are closed, for the purpose of selling ordinary store merchandise. If this is to be allowed under the law, it will no doubt speedily lead to the breaking up of the early closing arrangements as now in force. Such a result could not be regarded otherwise than as a moral calamity to the entire community.

The regular auctioneers who are engaged in selling household furniture, etc., should not be affected by this law. Those who would sell ordinary store merchandise after the stores were closed, would be the Cheap John class of traders, who are, to put it mildly, of very little benefit to the community. They generally have a lot of shoddy rubbish to dispose of, which they often manage to sell at far in advance of actual values.

It is greatly to be hoped that nothing will be done to weaken the law. After the hard fight which has been waged for years to secure what has been accomplished, it would be most discouraging to have all this good work destroyed now.

BAD NUMBERING

The numbering of the buildings in Winnipeg is exceedingly bad. It is some years since the numbering was done, and many houses are not now numbered at all. Many of the old numbers have been defaced, covered up or removed. Where the numbers remain on the buildings, it would take a search warrant to find them. The figures are small and of a dull lead color, which renders them almost indiscernible on most of the buildings. This bad condition of the numbering of the buildings is a great nuisance to citizens, who have frequently to attend calls at the door, sometimes at a very inconvenient hour in the night, only to discover that some one is hunting for a certain number, and the only way it can be found, is to repeatedly ring up people along the street. It is time the numbering was revised, and the present useless numbers replaced by something which could be more easily observed.

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.	Feb. 13.	Feb. 20	Feb. 27.	Mar. 6.	Mar. 13
Extra Man. H'd	0	0	0	0	0
No. 1 hard.....	74	52	49	19	49
No. 2 hard.....	22	3	7	8	13
No. 3 hard.....	11	7	7	7	4
No. 1 North'n..	0	0	0	1	0
No. 2 Nor h'n..	0	0	0	0	0
No. 3 North'n..	0	0	0	0	0
No. 1 white type	0	0	1	0	0
No. 2 white type	0	0	0	0	0
No. 1 Spring...	0	0	1	0	1
No. 2 Spring...	0	0	0	0	0
No. 1 frosted...	1	4	2	6	3
No. 2 frosted...	2	2	5	2	0
No. 3 frosted...	0	0	0	1	2
No. 1 Rejected..	10	1	1	0	2
No. 2 Rejected..	2	0	0	0	1
No Grade.....	0	1	0	1	1
Feed.....	0	0	0	0	0
Total for week.	122	75	77	45	76
Same week last year.....	227	352	383	358	354

*Wheat inspection at Emerson going on via the Northern Pacific to Duluth, included in Winnipeg returns. A considerable portion of the wheat moving is inspected at Fort William, and does not show in these figures.

Wheat Stocks.

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains, for the week ended March 13, 1897, shows a decrease of 1,819,000 bushels, against a decrease of 473,000 for the corresponding week last year, a decrease of 814,000 bushels the corresponding week two years ago, and a decrease of 1,248,000 bushels three years ago.

The following shows the visible supply by weeks, for four years; the second table shows the visible supply at the end of each week in the current year, compared with the three previous years;

	1896.	1895.	1894	1893.
Jan. 4	69,842,000	87,896,000	79,957,000	81,756,000
" 11	68,948,000	86,616,000	80,433,000	81,000,000
" 18	67,853,000	85,220,000	80,388,000	81,237,000
" 25	67,553,000	84,665,000	80,284,000	81,431,000
Feb. 1	66,734,000	83,876,000	79,893,000	81,529,000
" 8	65,719,000	82,822,000	79,669,000	81,723,000
" 15	65,020,000	80,733,000	78,600,000	81,917,000
" 22	65,011,000	79,476,000	77,955,000	82,111,000
March 1	64,050,000	78,701,000	76,587,000	82,305,000
" 7	62,690,000	77,717,000	74,607,000	82,499,000
" 14	62,123,000	76,873,000	73,300,000	82,693,000
" 21	61,818,000	75,773,000	72,100,000	82,887,000
" 28	61,018,000	74,808,000	71,480,000	83,081,000
April 4	60,322,000	72,703,000	70,702,000	83,275,000
" 11	59,330,000	70,457,000	69,217,000	83,469,000
" 18	58,453,000	68,030,000	68,425,000	83,663,000
" 25	57,940,000	66,770,000	66,993,000	83,857,000
May 2	55,619,000	62,100,000	65,150,000	84,051,000
" 9	54,000,000	59,623,000	63,511,000	84,245,000
" 16	53,140,000	56,484,000	62,044,000	84,439,000
" 23	52,208,000	54,244,000	60,324,000	84,633,000
" 30	50,940,000	52,283,000	59,391,000	84,827,000
June 6	50,347,000	49,739,000	58,311,000	85,021,000
" 13	49,450,000	47,787,000	57,105,000	85,215,000
" 20	49,619,000	46,551,000	55,852,000	85,409,000
" 27	47,830,000	44,661,000	54,657,000	85,603,000
July 4	47,199,000	43,859,000	54,114,000	85,797,000
" 11	47,220,000	41,237,000	53,154,000	85,991,000
" 18	46,743,000	40,435,000	53,771,000	86,185,000
" 25	47,142,000	39,329,000	52,144,000	86,379,000
Aug. 1	47,734,000	38,092,000	50,601,000	86,573,000
" 8	47,429,000	37,839,000	50,321,000	86,767,000
" 15	45,870,000	36,809,000	49,000,000	86,961,000
" 22	45,570,000	35,438,000	47,711,000	87,155,000
" 29	45,574,000	35,438,000	46,933,000	87,349,000
Sept. 5	46,403,000	36,764,000	46,163,000	87,543,000
" 12	47,052,000	38,092,000	46,214,000	87,737,000
" 19	46,855,000	39,055,000	46,189,000	87,931,000
" 26	48,716,000	40,785,000	47,413,000	88,125,000
Oct. 3	50,116,000	41,482,000	47,614,000	88,319,000
" 10	54,434,000	44,430,000	50,707,000	88,513,000
" 17	57,800,000	46,100,000	53,659,000	88,707,000
" 24	57,298,000	46,456,000	54,190,000	88,901,000
" 31	58,650,000	52,000,000	56,027,000	89,095,000
Nov. 7	60,043,000	56,956,000	61,329,000	89,289,000
" 14	61,009,000	60,326,000	62,282,000	89,483,000
" 21	62,071,000	62,201,000	63,914,000	89,677,000
" 28	63,014,000	63,903,000	65,159,000	89,871,000
Dec. 5	66,312,000	68,760,000	68,978,000	90,065,000
" 12	64,284,000	66,834,000	68,172,000	90,259,000
" 19	55,163,000	69,393,000	69,071,000	90,453,000
" 26	54,433,000	69,638,000	68,561,000	90,647,000

	1897	1896	1895	1894
Jan. 2	54,651,000	60,812,000	87,886,000	79,333,000
" 9	53,872,000	63,015,000	86,615,000	80,423,000
" 16	52,469,000	67,058,000	85,539,000	82,322,000
" 23	51,205,000	67,058,000	84,065,000	83,294,000
" 30	49,691,000	66,734,000	83,376,000	84,266,000
Feb. 6	47,835,000	66,119,000	82,322,000	85,238,000
" 13	46,653,000	65,930,000	80,733,000	86,210,000
" 20	45,215,000	65,011,000	79,416,000	87,182,000
" 27	43,707,000	64,539,000	78,701,000	88,154,000
March 6	42,708,000	62,696,000	77,717,000	89,126,000
" 13	41,449,000	62,123,000	76,373,000	90,098,000

Bradstreet's report of stocks of wheat in Canada on March 6, is as follows:

	Bushels
Montreal.....	459,000
Toronto.....	200,000
Kingston.....	13,000
Winnipeg.....	235,000
Manitoba, interior elevators	2,412,000
Fort William, Port Arthur & Keewatin.....	3,153,000

Total stocks in the United States and Canada as reported by Bradstreet's works follows, on March 6, 1897:

	Bushels
East of the Mountains.....	60,419,000
Pacific Coast.....	1,537,000
Total stocks a year ago were:	bushels
East of the Mountains.....	92,633,000
Pacific Coast.....	4,296,000

Bradstreet's report for the week ended March 13, shows a decrease of 1,213,000 bushels of stocks of wheat east of the mountains, making the total 59,206,000 bushels on the latter date.

Worlds stocks of wheat on March 1, 1897, (United States, Canada, in Europe and for Europe) were 119,121,000 bushels compared with 154,042,000 bushels on March 1, 1896; 170,659,000 on March 1, 1895; 181,116,000 on March 1, 1894; 178,000 on March 1, 1893; 145,615,000 on March 1, 1892; 99,523,000 on March 1, 1891; 95,811,000 on March 1, 1890; 109,724,000 on March 1, 1889.

PROSPECTUS OF

**THE LAKESIDE
Gold Mining Co.,**

OF RAT PORTAGE, LTD.
NON-PERSONAL LIABILITY.

CAPITAL, \$750,000.

In 750,000 Shares of One Dollar each.
Head Office, RAT PORTAGE, ONT.

PRESIDENT—R. W. JAMESON, ESQ., Mayor of the City of Winnipeg.
VICE-PRESIDENT—R. H. AGUR, Manager of Massey-Harris Co., Winnipeg.

DIRECTORS.

H. H. BECK, Insurance Manager, Winnipeg.
F. W. DREWRY, Brewer, Winnipeg.
JOHN PLATON, Plumber, Winnipeg.
H. G. WILSON, Solicitor, Winnipeg.
Sec. Treas.—H. S. CROTTY, Real Estate Agt., Winnipeg.
Solicitor—EWART, FISHER and WILSON.
Bankers—IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA.

These gentlemen have agreed to act as a directorate and the following are identified as promoters of the Company:

R. W. JAMESON	F. W. DREWRY.	H. G. WILSON
R. H. AGUR.	G. H. CAMPBELL	H. H. BECK.
J. PLATON.	E. R. WHITEHEAD	H. S. CROTTY
	D. WILSON.	

CONSULTING ENGINEER for British Columbia—Jno. J. Morrison, of Moyrahan and Campbell, Rossland.
CONSULTING ENGINEER for Rat Portage—J. R. Mason, C. E. and M. E.

Incorporated under the Ontario Joint Stock Company and Mining Acts.)

OBJECTS—

To acquire properties either by purchase or by leasing interest, from prospectors unable to properly develop their claims, develop the same to a stage when they can be placed upon the market as paying mines.

PROPERTIES—

SNOWBIRD (gold), situated half way between Rossland and Trail, on surveyed line C. P. R.
QUEEN BEE (gold), situated four miles from Harrison Lake Sanitarium.
Both fine tunnel propositions.
Eighty acres on steamboat channel, 25 miles from Rat Portage.
Ten options at Rat Portage and Seine River districts for working interest.

ADVANTAGES—

The investor in shares of this company is not confined to dividends obtained from one mine only, but from a large number, which have been developed and sold by the company, and which gives him 100 chances to one over the average in stocks of ordinary companies.
100,000 shares of stock are now offered for \$10 cents per share, par value one dollar. No liability beyond the amount actually paid upon stock in the company attaches to the subscribers thereto or to holders thereof.

The practical operations of the company are carried on under the supervision of the managing engineering skill that can be guaranteed so that the stockholders will have the fullest guarantee for the practical as well as the financial management of the company.

Applications for allotment of shares should be made to the secretary of the company H. S. Crotty, Main street, Winnipeg, when further information can be had:

The company is now securing powers to operate in the Province of British Columbia.

The company has made financial connections in the East and in Great Britain, and its directorate are in a position to float legitimate mining schemes of any magnitude in the financial centres of the world.

Payments on stock can be made to H. S. Crotty, sec.-treas., or to credit of trustees at any branch of Imperial Bank of Canada.

FOR SALE

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Virden**

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Overshoes, Rubbers, Mitts & Moccasins

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Farm in the Winnipeg district to rent, with possession of buildings at once.

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Merchandise Brokers, 462 Main St., Winnipeg

Danger Signals.

J. A. Badeu, M. D., read the following paper on assessment insurance at the convention of the Fraternal Congress:

The writer of this paper would fail to perform his duty if, from his standpoint of observation, he should not aid in throwing out the danger signal to the fraternal orders. There are questions before this body for consideration, too grave to admit of temporization or delay. They should be met promptly and decisively, at least so far as its influence may extend, and that which should burn itself with greater intensity than any other into the mind and conscience of every advocate of the system of insurance represented by the Fraternal Congress is "Is the plan of each of the several orders and associations which are recognized by their connection with the Congress as exponents of the system and which each of them is laboring to work out, a safe one? Or, is it a house built on the sand, which, when rains come and beat upon it will fall? Will the system survive the coming of the inevitable time when the limit of expectancy of the membership, reckoned from the average age of each of them, shall have been reached?"

The response to this question involves very closely the interests of nearly two millions of families now in our own country and the Dominion of Canada, the heads of which themselves incapable of grappling with the question are relying upon the wisdom of those who incorporated the several orders and associations and so inaugurated the system, and who are fostering and promoting their plans. Shall these persons be rewarded for their faith, or shall the bread that the husbands or fathers ignorantly imagine they are providing for their families, turn to ashes upon the lips of their widows and children? For my own part, it seems that the plans of these organizations, if not modified to some extent, are as a ship at sea driving on without a reliable chart, without an objective port and, consequently, with little promise of other than a calamitous destiny.

Personally, the writer derives small comfort from knowing that he does not stand alone in his want of faith in the system, as it is now operated, or in his judgment of its fallaciousness. The report of the Committee on Statistics and Good of the Order made to the Congress at its session held in Toronto last year, and the individual papers read at the same session, attest the unfixedness of the judgment of our best thinkers upon the subject. I may be permitted to mention also the majority and minority reports of the Joint Committee, appointed by the Supreme Council of the Royal Arcanum in 1895, to consider and report upon the same subject. The reports were submitted at the session of Council held in Savannah last May, and action upon them was deferred. Each of them suggested an assessment plan widely differing from that of the other and from that now in force in the order. The majority report has this significant feature. It was signed by Brother H. H. Morse, the author of the equalization plan, yet the plan suggested in that report and Brother Morse's equalization plan bear so slight a resemblance to each other as to leave room for doubt of their title to the same paternity. These discrepancies show plainly enough how utterly at sea the fraternal orders are as to a safe remedy for the difficulties confronting them. The roar of the breakers is heard by all alike, but no two of them seem able to agree upon a way of escape.

Viewed by the light of the paper read by Brother Morse before the Congress at its last session, to which allusion has been made, nothing could be plainer than the insecurity of the superstructure built by many of the orders upon the ground-work of fraternity—

a foundation which, thank the Divine Architect, we know to be secure. In that paper he alluded to the many organizations, that, a few years ago, by kindling upon the rock of a false fraternity or a false system beacon fires promising security and a great gain to all who might be attached to them, allured thousands of victims to disaster. I do not seek to defend their plan, but I am willing to go on record as declaring my belief that the plan of these organizations was a safer one than that of many of the fraternal orders represented in this Congress. We all know within how short a time they collapsed after reaching the limit of their expectancy of seven years, and the fraternal orders may profit by their experience if they do not correct their chart.

The appeal that comes up to the Fraternal Congress from every order and association that is awake to the peril of the situation is, "What plan can you recommend by which we can escape the danger of driving out our more timid and suspicious members and of deterring insurance-seekers from joining with us, by a too sudden and violent increase in our assessment rates and which, at the same time, if operated wisely, will have the effect of establishing us firmly and unquestionably upon a permanent basis?" By this is meant a "permanent business basis." Fraternity which we talk about as the cornerstone and basis wall of our system can best be secured and made available for good by reciprocal advantages and an equitable exchange of values. It is the imperative duty of the Congress to respond to the appeal by formulating out of this material it has and recommending a uniform plan upon which the orders can operate without prejudice or injury to each other. Suited in its general features to all alike, but susceptible of such modification as any one of them might consider necessary to meet conditions peculiar to itself.

No better opportunity has ever presented itself or will, perhaps, ever present itself to the Fraternal Congress, for the exercise of its advisory functions for the good of the orders than the one now present to it, and certainly no greater emergency could arise than the one confronting us to enable it to demonstrate its usefulness to the fraternal orders.

The plan herewith submitted, and I beg to add, submitted with great diffidence, while it may not be accepted in whole or in part, is at least an effort in the direction of evoking an expression of judgment by the Congress. This accomplished, the writer will not go home to the Supreme Lodge of his order with the mortification of knowing that he failed to represent his people with fidelity.

The plan proposes a unit cost, per annum, at the age of twenty-one for a specified amount of insurance, say of one, two, three, four or \$5,000. This cost to be met by the payment of monthly assessments to the mortuary fund. The assessments should be graded to the age limit prescribed by the order adopting the plan, so that every member who lives through the period of his expectancy, reckoned from the date of his admission, shall have paid at the close of that period an aggregate amount equalling one-half of the face value of his certificate. Should his death occur before the limit of his expectancy has been reached, the redemption value to his beneficiary of his certificate, to be ascertained by deducting from its face value the sum of his assessments remaining unpaid by reason of his death, and the amount so deducted to be credited to a reserve or emergency fund to be used so far as necessary in keeping the insurance within the limit of cost per annum originally adopted.

Danger might ensue to an order if, through a desire to rapidly increase its membership by commending its cheapness, it

should fix its unit of cost per annum too low. This danger should be foreseen and avoided in the beginning.

The writer has endeavored to present in an intelligible way the general features of the plan proposed, leaving it to the Congress to be rejected or approved, or may in its wisdom determine. Suggest, however, before dismissing the subject, that its operation no member need be forced to suspension or withdrawal by having imposed upon him when the infirmities of age have fallen to him an unbearable burden of cost.

Objections have been urged in any plan that embraces a provision for a reserve fund, on the ground that it tempts litigation. To this it may be answered, that the absence of a reserve fund does not always or necessarily secure immunity to an order from the operations of that class of attorneys that is known to hang about the courts seeking receiverships.

The acquaintance of the writer with the history of the order that he has the honor to represent, and with the experience through which it is passing enables him to warn, with emphasis all other fraternal orders of the danger to which they are exposed from a spirit of insubordination and rebellion as the part of mischief-making demagogues (such as are met with in all societies) against legally constituted authority. Some persons seem to be afflicted with a kind of monomania for creating discord and dissension in all associations whether social or political, or religious or non-descript in character to which they find ingress, resembling Anarchism, as to permit us to conjecture that the latter has its double in the former.

Given a case. A fraternal order incorporated and doing business as such—a legislature of the State under whose general law it was incorporated,—a legislature easily influenced by political, social or other considerations. (I do not use the term verbal) and a score of members belonging to a dozen subordinate branches of the order who have been disappointed of getting office or are seeking office in the supreme body, or have at one time or another been subjected to necessary disciplinary restraint. Given these factors and I will demonstrate through the experience of the Order of Golden Chain within the past eight months the danger to which every fraternal order in this country is exposed at every recurring session of the legislature of the state under whose law it was incorporated.

The announcement is made to the Fraternal Congress with pain and a deep sense of humiliation that our order is now in a Court of Equity defending itself against the ill-advised and unwarranted action of such persons as my proposition embraces.

I shall on behalf of the order of the Golden Chain beg to express sincere thanks to the president of the Fraternal Congress, for having without loss of time come to us when we were informed of our trouble. That his efforts were at the time unsuccessful does not detract from our obligation to him.

Before closing this paper I beg to offer means of averting, to some extent, the danger mentioned, the suggestion that of the fraternal orders adopt an amendment to its laws, which will include in its list eligible persons any member of another fraternal order who shall be known to have contributed to the enactment of any law tending to subvert the government of the order, or who shall institute proceedings in any court of law or equity against the supreme lodge, council or executive body. Any such persons should be treated as unworthy of membership in a fraternal organization and ineligible for membership.