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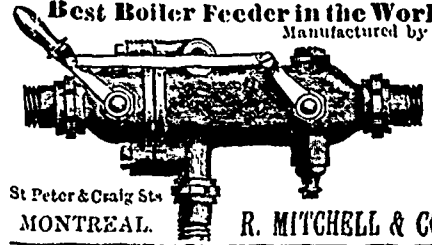
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# The Commercial

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

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

VOL. 4

WINNIPEG, AUGUST 24, 1886.

NO. 48

## The Commercial

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

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WINNIPEG, AUGUST 24, 1886.

GEO. MCPHEE, has opened the Birtle Hotel at that place.

R. W. DOLMAGR, tinsmith, has opened a shop at Battleford.

T. F. KIRKHAM, has opened a tinsmith shop at Lethbridge.

Mr. STOVEL, dentist, late of Prince Albert, has opened an office at Battleford.

The Bank of British Columbia are about to open a branch in Vancouver, B.C.

DAVID SMITH, baker, has established himself at Battleford and that luxury can now be had there at 10c per loaf.

F. & J. SHELDON, dealers in hardware, paints and oil, Neepawa, are about to dissolve partnership and discontinue business.

CLARKE & ROBINSON, trading under the name of A. A. Clarke & Co., druggists, Vancouver, B.C. have dissolved partnership.

C. P. GIBSON, fruit dealer, Winnipeg, has assigned in trust.

ROGERS & SHARPE, grocers, Winnipeg, are giving up business.

JAS. JERMYN, saw and flour miller, Minnedosa, offers his saw mill for sale.

A. W. DRAPER & Co., druggists, Fort Macleod, have succeeded J. D. Highinbotham & Co.

SIMCO & LEA, of Emerson, are negotiating to re-open the Farmer's Union elevator at that place.

JOSEPH TASSE, of Tasse, Wood & Co., cigar manufacturers, Montreal, is in Winnipeg at present.

The Hastings Saw Mill Company, of Granville, B.C., have opened a general store at Vancouver, B.C.

WM. BROWN & Co., dry goods dealers, Port Arthur, are about admitting into partnership R. J. Brown.

WENTWORTH F. WOOD, wholesale boot and shoe merchant, of Victoria, is about to remove to Vancouver, B.C.

BUCKOLL & KENNEDY, of Moosejaw, have dissolved partnership; business will be continued by S. E. Kennedy.

The Regina Leader is clamouring for the Long Lake Railway to be pushed through to Saskatoon so as to secure business from the construction of the Northwest Central Ry.

M. BRYAN & Co., of Winnipeg, request us to correct the statement in our last issue that they had gone out of business. They have merely given up handling ales, and confine their attention now to the wholesale cigar trade.

COMPLAINTS regarding inefficient mail service in this province and the territories are numerous. In our columns elsewhere will be found a communication from the district of the M. & N. W. R'y. Saskatoon complains that it takes six weeks to get a letter from Toronto.

We have received a copy of the Constitution and By-laws of the Regina Board of Trade. Such institutions are very useful in Western cities, and are the best safeguards against trade being made a football for politicians and scheming speculators, as it is too often made in this Northwest.

W. GIVIN has opened a blacksmith shop in Brandon.

EDMUND LYONS has opened a blacksmith shop at Edmonton.

LINDSAY & PATERSON have opened out a grocery store at Stonewall.

THE Elk hotel, John Carthew, proprietor, at Victoria, B.C. is advertised for sale.

S. J. EMANUELS, has bought out the hotel business of J. Campbell, of the Grosvenor Hotel, Moosomin.

JAS. ANDERSON, will open up a general dry goods store at Portage la Prairie, about September 1st.

ALLAN G. GRANT, of Gladstone, has purchased the blacksmith business of Duncan McLaren, of Neepawa.

MISSES McFAYDEN & FERRIER have opened a dressmaking and millinery establishment at Shoal Lake.

MESSRS. HUGHES & FLETCHER, of Moosomin, expect to have their grist mill running in the course of a couple of weeks.

HART & PATTERSON, furniture dealers, Solsgirth, have dissolved partnership. The business will be continued by West Bros.

ROTHERFORD & TOOMBES want the council of Stonewall, to grant a bonus of \$4,000 to aid in putting in a roller system in their mill.

THE Portage Milling Co are about to double the capacity of their mill. A 12 per cent. dividend has been declared on paid up capital.

A CITIZENS' committee is to be appointed to attend to the interests of Portage la Prairie, on account of the resignation of the town council.

SPRATT'S fish oil and manure manufactory, at Vancouver, destroyed by fire on the 11th inst., was insured for \$18,700; the estimated loss was \$70,000 or thereabouts.

A CAR load of linseed oil is on the way from Montreal to Vancouver. Supplies of this and other oils were formerly brought from England, taking from 8 to 12 months.

SIBBALD & LINDSAY, of Regina, have dissolved partnership. New partnership has been formed by D. Sibbald and C. B. Paget, under the style of John B. Sibbald & Co.

## BUSINESS EAST. ONTARIO.

J. Simpson, hotelkeeper, Toronto, has sold out.

Wm. Fitzpatrick, planing mill, Trenton, was burned out.

Leeds Bros., planing mill, Trenton, were burned out.

J. A. Pitman, dealer in mantles, Toronto, is asking an extension of time.

Chesabrough & Osborn, general storekeepers, Utterson, have sold out.

Whaley & Bell, confectioners, Orangeville, have dissolved—J. A. Whaley continues.

Blackwood Bros., soda water manufacturers, Port Arthur, have sold out to Elliott & Co.

## QUEBEC.

Roy Bros., grocers, Montreal, have assigned.

L. Chevalier, leather dealer, Montreal, has sold out.

Desrosiers & Page, carpenters, Montreal, have dissolved.

O. Hamelin & Co., butchers, Montreal, have dissolved.

Charbonneau & Leduc, grocers, Montreal, have dissolved.

Cawdrey & Knox, saloon keepers, Montreal, have dissolved.

Nap. Tourangeau & Co., traders, Montreal, have dissolved.

A. Racine & Co., wholesale dry goods, Montreal, have dissolved.

N. and B. Beaudin, shoe manufacturers, St. Henri, have dissolved.

## NOVA SCOTIA.

John Lindsay, grocer, Halifax, is dead.

Edmund O'Donnell, grocer, Halifax, is dead.

Guy B. Dakin, printer, Windsor, has sold out.

Geo. E. McNeil, jeweller, Melvern Square, has assigned.

J. R. Herdman, baker, Picton, advertises business for sale.

W. F. Harrison, hotel and general storekeeper, Wentworth, has sold out general store.

## NEW BRUNSWICK.

Hugh McLean, general storekeeper, Chipman, was burned out—no insurance.

H. Horton, saddlery and hardware, St. John, has admitted Geo. A. Horton under style H. Horton & Son.

T. & E. Taylor, dry goods and groceries, Moncton, have sold out dry goods business to MacGowan and Taylor.

## Board of Trade.

A special general meeting of the Winnipeg Board of Trade was held in the board room, Clements Block, on Friday afternoon, the chair being occupied by the President, Mr. Kenneth Mackenzie.

There were present Messrs. Elliott, Ashdown, Stephens, Burridge, Gallagher, Bawlf, A. McBean, J. A. Tees, J. H. Housse, G. F. Galt, E. W. Stobert, S. A. D. Bertrand, W. F. Thompson, G. R. Crowe, E. D. Moore, W. A. Hastings, R. J. Whitla, W. F. McCreary, the President and Secretary.

The president called the meeting to order,

and called upon the secretary to read the minutes of last meeting, which were read and approved.

The secretary reported that the committee on colonization were at work, but as yet had made no progress to admit of a definite report.

The president reported for the committee on stock yards that he had seen Mr. Van Horne, who had referred him to Mr. Olds, who would deal with the matter. He (the president) learned from Mr. Van Horne that the C. P. R. Co. would do anything reasonable in supplying stock-yard accommodation, and would allow rebates on traushipped freight in the same manner as was allowed on grain milled in transit.

The secretary stated that the grain examiners were already collecting grain samples from which to select standards for the ensuing year, and as the time for fixing these standards was drawing near it was necessary to authorize the grain examiners to send a deputation to represent Winnipeg at Toronto in this work.

On motion of Mr. Crowe, seconded by Mr. Housser, the grain examiners were empowered to select from their number a delegation to represent this board.

The question of the new arrangements for a close season of the fisheries was brought forward and discussed.

Mr. W. F. Luxton stated his belief that the order if allowed to stand would in a very few years deplete our lakes of whitefish. The close season was now fixed from the 5th of November to the 1st of February, which would allow of the most wanton slaughter of fish during October the time fish were spawning, while it would close winter fishing, and leave hundreds of poor people around the lakes without support, who depended mainly on the winter fishing.

Mr. W. F. McCreary spoke on the same subject, and stated that the fish and game protection club and a committee of other citizens were making efforts to induce the Minister of Marine and Fisheries to rescind the new order. He stated that inquiries made from parties all around the lakes who had studied the matter for years, it was learned that beyond a doubt the spawning time of whitefish was between the 10th of October and the 5th of November.

Messrs. Carman, Galt, E. D. Moore, Gallagher and others spoke in support of the stand taken by the two previous speakers, and the following resolution was moved by Mr. G. R. Crowe, seconded by Mr. P. Gallagher, and unanimously carried: That in the opinion of this Board, the recent change in the Manitoba fishing regulations is calculated to work most injuriously to the business interests of the Province. In the first place, it will deprive a section of the community, which has hitherto largely depended thereupon, of the means of subsistence; and secondly, which is of still greater importance, it will speedily and entirely deplete our lakes of that very valuable commercial commodity, the whitefish; that the president nominate a committee to gather definite information co-operating with other bodies as to the desirable close season, and submit the matter to the Minister of Marine and Fisheries upon his return from British Columbia.

The resignation of Mr. J. M. Egan, C. P. R. superintendent, was brought up, and the secretary stated that several members of the Board had suggested to him that in some manner the Board should express their respect and esteem for Mr. Egan before he left the city, as such an expression would come with a good grace and show a feeling of magnanimity from the Board.

Some suggestions as to a banquet were made, but the feeling was general that Mr. Egan would not relish such a public compliment.

Mr. Whitla suggested that an address and something of a testimonial, like a silver set, be

presented, which was favored by Mr. Burridge, Mr. P. Gallagher, Mr. Bawlf and others. Mr. J. H. Ashdown suggested simply an address, which was favored by Mr. Galt, Mr. Carman and others.

Some discussion took place as to the position the Board would place itself in, as to approving the policy of the C. P. R. management, when it presented an address to the General Superintendent of the road.

Mr. Luxton explained that while the Board to a man could express their approval of Mr. Egan as a good citizen, a genial gentleman and a courteous official, it need not in any way endorse the policy which he, as a company's servant, was compelled to carry out. This view of the matter was taken by Mr. Whitla, Mr. Ashdown and others.

On motion of Mr. Whitla, seconded by Mr. Gallagher, the following resolution was unanimously carried:

"That this Board is of opinion that an address from its members should be drafted and presented to Mr. J. M. Egan, General Superintendent of the C. P. R., on the occasion of his leaving the city, which address, while not committing the Board to any portion of the policy of the C. P. R. management, shall convey to him an appreciation of him as a citizen, friend, and courteous and obliging official."

At the request of the meeting the president appointed the following committee to draft and present the address: W. F. Luxton, R. J. Whitla, G. F. Galt, P. Gallagher, J. H. Ashdown, E. D. Moore, Jas. Burridge, N. Bawlf, J. E. Steen and the president.

Mr. D. K. Elliott brought the question of the late Government inquiry into the conduct of the Collector and Surveyor of Customs at this port, and asked the Secretary regarding recent correspondence on this subject.

The secretary stated that on July 18th he had written to the Honorable the Minister of Customs asking for a report or decision of the Department on the inquiry made last winter by Mr. S. W. McMichael, and received the following reply.

Ottawa, August 13th, 1886.

James E. Steen, Esq., Secretary Board of Trade, Winnipeg, Manitoba: I am desired by Hon. the Minister of Customs to acknowledge receipt of your letter of 29th ult. in re the matter between the Board of Trade and the Customs officials at Winnipeg, concerning which Mr. McMichael made a report last winter. From the evidence submitted it was not considered that a report was necessary, but as it appears that one is expected, the matter will receive early attention and you will be communicated with on the subject with as little delay as possible.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

W. E. EARLLEE, Assistant Commr.

Mr. Elliott contended that the Board had been treated with contempt in this matter, and that a deputation should be appointed to see Sir John A. Macdonald and urge the Board's views on this question.

Mr. Burridge thought that as there had been a decided improvement in the treatment of people at the Customs House since the Board took action, they should content themselves and let the matter drop.

Mr. Whitla urged that this very improvement at the Customs House was a proof that the Board were right in the demand they made, and he believed the matter should be laid before Sir John A. Macdonald.

Alderman F. D. Moore and others favored a similar course.

It was moved by Mr. Elliott, and seconded by Mr. Bawlf, that the president, vice-president, and Messrs. Powis, Moore, Elliott, Georgeson and Crowe be a committee to wait upon the right Honorable gentleman when he came to this city, and press the views of the Board upon his notice.

The meeting then adjourned

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We the undersigned do hereby warn Merchants and others  
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The Best in the World for the Throat and  
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# The Commercial

WINNIPEG, AUGUST 24, 1886.

## TRADE ACROSS THE PACIFIC.

We believe there are few people who comprehend the trade relations which can be opened between Canada and places in and across the Pacific Ocean, now that we have the C.P.R. connection to that coast, and the bulk of our people look only to the borrowed or reflected commercial greatness which Canada can secure through this trans-continental highway.

Since the completion of the C.P.R. to the Pacific shore, and for some time before that we have been hearing of the wonderful lines of traffic it will open up. The tea trade of China and Japan is calculated to contribute to C.P.R. traffic, even New Zealand and Australia, are expected to contribute in this way, and the dazzling view of the road becoming a great military highway between Great Britain and India, has been studiously held up for our admiration. The greatest of Canadian statesmen has spoken of Liverpool and Hong Kong, as termini of a great globe semi-circumferencing route, of which Canada and its greatest railway was merely a link and a gateway for through traffic. Few have viewed the opening of this road as a basis on which Canada can open up direct trade with new fields on and beyond the Pacific shores, and with the exception of the appointment of a Canadian Agent General for Canada in Australia no important move can be said to have been made in this direction. All this traffic between the mother country and its Asiatic and Oceanic colonies we Canadians wish to profit by as much as possible, and even as a military highway we should be well pleased, to have a route through our country made use of should such highway be required, although we hope war's demands will never call for such. But we insist that more attention should be given to the opening up of new foreign markets for our own products, and to the development of industries and branches of trade in places where they did not formerly exist, but where the completion of the C.P.R. has made them possible, and encouraging to capitalists as paying investments.

Such new fields for foreign trade, and openings for new industries as above referred to, are not difficult to discover in

lands washed by the greatest of oceans, and they are to be found without having to cross to the Asiatic shores. Along the western coast of this continent from California south to Cape Horn are a succession of Spanish speaking republics, with which Great Britain, and even the United States, have long done a profitable trade via Cape Horn voyages. The imports of these countries comprise many commodities, in the production of which Canada excels, and is able to compete with any other country. Still the Andes shadowed coast of South America is still to us, so far as our trade interests are concerned, a *terra incognita*.

Again in the great Archipelago of the Pacific we have an inviting field for trade. There as Montgomery puts it.

"The immense Pacific smiles  
Round ten thousand little isles."

And with these thousands of islands it is astonishing the trade United States merchants and manufacturers have opened up and controlled, owing to the short route they possessed via San Francisco. Now they possess no advantage over Canadians in that respect, and there is a wide field for Canadian as well as United States products, in the Sandwich, Fijigea, Marquesas and other groups of islands, in which the effort is all that is necessary to make our commercial influence felt there.

A very careless consideration of climatic affairs is enough to convince any man that nature has laid the ground work for an interchange of products between Canada and the countries we speak of. Our arid northern air produces what cannot be produced in the warm humid air of the Pacific, and there we can find products foreign to our climate. On our British Columbia coast are numerous sheltered harbors for shipping such as few if any other countries in the world possess, and in that same province can be found the timber and spars, and if necessary the iron and coal for ship building, inferior to none in any other country, so that we need not seek foreign bottoms with which to distribute our exports around the shores and islands of the great Pacific. We can avail ourselves of all these advantages, and at the same time in no way interfere with our becoming a prominent link in the traffic way of Great Britain and its Asiatic colonies, or making the C.P.R. one whit less valuable as a military highway.

To enable Canadian exporters to move intelligently in the direction we have above indicated, it is necessary that they have reliable information to guide them, and we believe the Dominion Government have done many more foolish things, than appoint a commission, to inquire into and report upon the chances for opening up such fields for Canadian foreign trade, as the C.P.R. route to the Pacific coast has made practicable.

## THE SOUTHWESTERN MAILS.

The cry which is now being heard from Southwestern Manitoba for improved mail accommodation is one very likely to be passed lightly over by the city newspaper reader, who enjoys the luxury of two or three mails every day, and the pleasure of reading the telegraphic news of the world condensed in his morning and evening paper. But it is one which has good cause for being heard, and the people who live in these needlessly isolated towns and villages are complaining of a genuine grievance, the hardship of which is aggravated by the utter inutility of its continuance, and the unnecessary and even wanton expense incurred in its maintenance.

By referring to the letter of Mr. W. Walton, to be found elsewhere in our columns, the utter inadequacy of the mail service in southern Manitoba from Manitou westward can be clearly comprehended. A railway has been in operation for nine months with regular daily trains running since last winter, which pass through such growing towns as Pilot Mound, Crystal City, Clearwater, Cartwright and Killarney, besides some smaller places. Yet these daily trains do not carry a single mail west of Manitou. Pilot Mound, Crystal City and other points from Cartwright east have to content themselves with an apology for a tri-weekly mail, sent from Manitou, behind a span of spavined horses or mules, and Killarney and other points west of Cartwright, have the luxury of a semi-weekly service forwarded from Brandon in a similar manner. How the residents of the towns referred to are served by this ante diluvian system of horse and mule whacking, our correspondent's letter truthfully explains, and saves us the necessity of wading through such a maze of block-headed stupidity.

It is said of the early Dutch settlers in Pennsylvania, that when sending a sack of grain to mill, they hung it on one side



of a horse or mule, and another sack containing a stone about as heavy as the grain on the other side as a means of balancing it, the idea of balancing grain with grain never having crossed their benighted minds. The Hoosiers of Indiana in early times got the credit of a peculiar style of weighing hogs, which was to fasten the porker to one end of a fence rail, a stone to the other end, balance the arrangement across a fence, and change stones until an equal balance was secured, after which they guessed the weight of the stone. Stupid as these mythical appliances of early pioneers may seem, they are not more so than what is accomplished by the postal official, who ignores the existence of eighty miles of railway, and sends mails to points along the same, over rough and imperfectly graded roads, behind a team of spavined horses or ring-boned mules.

To get at the official, who is directly responsible for such stupidity as above described, would be a hopeless task. But there is such a thing as finding an official who is not responsible or to blame in the matter. Such an one we have in the Inspector of Post Offices for the Northwest. By some unaccountable Ottawa blunder we have in this position one of the most efficient officers in the civil service of Canada. This same official could grasp and handle the whole difficulties of his position during last year's rebellion, and secured to the citizen soldiers at the front a mail service, almost as regular as that of the towns of Manitoba. Such an official is not responsible for the stupidity in connection with Southern Manitoba. We know that long ago he has faithfully represented the case in its proper light to his so called superiors at Ottawa, and at that head-quarters of official blundering we lay all blame. We hold that the head of the Post Office Department is directly responsible, and this and other pieces of blundering under his control, prove that he is either incompetent or wilfully tardy. It may be that the latter is the case, and that some piece of political "thimble rigging" or "pick at the loop" requires that these contracts for carrying mails by stage be kept in force until after the next Dominion election. If such is the case we would advise the people of Southern Manitoba to handle their own mail service by appointing a special messenger on the trains. The experiment would be a paying one we believe.

### THE CLOSE FISH SEASON.

The new order in council which has changed the close season for white fish in our Northwestern lakes, seems to be condemned by all in this country, who are possessed of the knowledge and experience necessary to frame a reliable opinion upon the subject, and has raised a storm of indignation such as has seldom if ever followed any action in our affairs taken at Ottawa, and the mystery to all such informed people is, how could the Minister of Marine and Fisheries be persuaded to sanction such an order?

For several years there has been a fear both here and in Ottawa, that some abuse would crop up, which would have the effect of permanently injuring if not destroying our fisheries; and as these are considered second in importance only to our agricultural resources, the fear was a commendable feeling. It has prompted several pieces of protective legislation, and as the fisheries develop more of these will be necessary.

It has been generally accepted here that somewhere between the beginning of October and the middle of November the white fish in our lakes spawned. The time of spawning seldom exceeded fifteen days, but it varied according to time and season. The dates named were supposed to cover the outside limit under any circumstance. This limit was specially favorable for some hundreds of people around the lakes who lived mainly by the fishing, as it came in at a time between summer fishing and winter fishing on the ice, and has gathered around the lake quite a population of industrious people composed largely of Icelandic settlers, who were quite an element in the development of our resources. But the new Order in Council changes the close season to the rather lengthy period between the middle of November and the first of February, which it is easy to see will effectually shut off the winter fishing operations of the people we refer to, and will leave hundreds of families without a means of subsistence during the biting months of winter.

If there was no argument against this new arrangement but that of humanity, we cannot see how any Minister could refuse to have it rescinded. But the argu-

ment of protection is equally strong, and from facts gathered during the past few weeks from all points on the lakes, it is clear that if the netting of fish is permitted during the whole month of October, the most wanton slaughter will ensue, and a few years will clean our lakes of white fish and other species which subsist upon the white fish. There are men here who remember similar work before the days of a close season, when five canoes landed in a single day some ten thousand fish, all or nearly all in a spawning condition. It is needless to say that we do not wish to see a repetition of such wanton slaughter, and we question if an Order in Council or even an Act of Parliament will protect those who dare to engage in it.

It is the easiest thing in the world for a Dominion Minister to get misinformed in a question of this kind, there are so many parasites and interested barnacles in Ottawa misrepresenting affairs in the Northwest to him. Minister Foster can easily get properly informed in this matter when he returns from his trip to British Columbia, and once he does, we do not fear but he will take prompt steps to get the mistake rectified.

But there should be care taken not to allow this agitation to carry matters to a foolish extreme. There are those who wish to make the present a time to urge the prohibition of the export of white fish, a step which would so lessen the demand, as to make the employment of the hundreds of poor people engaged in the fishing unprofitable. We hope Minister Foster will not be misled into this foolish step, for we know he will be pressed on the matter.

Some time ago we had occasion to refer to a class in this province, who wish to import the European vagary of valuing pheasants higher than peasants. "Sportsmen" such people ostentatiously dub themselves, and assume that the interests of those engaged in fisheries and those of trade must be made subservient, to or for that matter trampled on to suit their whims. This country develops too many practical ideas, to admit of such nonsense, and when industry and trade are served sport will be attended to. There is not the slightest reason from a protective point for any such prohibition, and all it would do, would be to pamper a class which embraces more worthless loafers, than any other in the Northwest.



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**Sparkling Lager Beer!**  
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**REDWOOD BREWERY**  
Delivered anywhere in the City at \$3.50 per keg  
EQUAL TO ANY IMPORTED BEER.

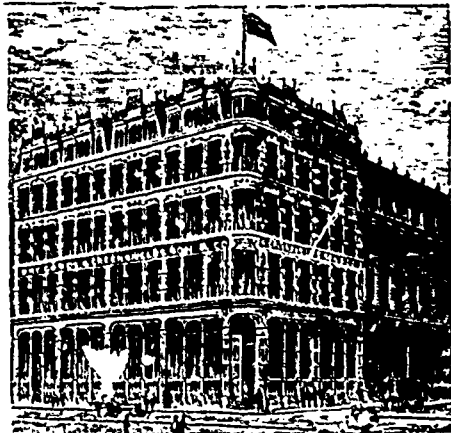
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I am prepared to pay the Highest Market  
Price for  
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PELTS, WOOL AND TALLOW.  
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Corner of William and Princess Streets  
**WINNIPEG.**

## WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

Quietness still reigns in monetary circles in the city, and banks have been during the past week rather deserted institutions. The call for commercial discounts is at a very low ebb, and until the opening of September no improvement can be expected. As yet no grain is moving and no funds are called for in that trade, but within two weeks it is expected there will be a lively call from that source, and a more active state will be entered upon, and kept up during the fall and winter. General commercial paper is not plentiful, and the occasional part renewals which the dull time of harvest usually brings are by no means unwelcome at the banks, especially as the prospect for the coming season shadows no fear of commercial trouble or even annoyance. Even promiscuous paper outside of regular lines is rather scarce, and there is a conspicuous absence of that kite flying stuff, which was too plentiful up to the beginning of 1885, but which has since gradually dwindled to almost nothing. Discount rates are steady at 7 to 8 per cent. for first-class trade paper, and about 9 for ordinary. Real estate mortgage business is rather slow, and even payments of interest are at a lull for the present. There is however, quite a hopeful feeling among companies agents, over a general improvement in the security for old loans some of which were one time considered a little shady, and this with the prospect of a good business in farm loans as soon as harvest and stacking is over causes general satisfaction. Interest on new loans is quoted steady at 8 per cent. although some special business would be done at a little lower rates.

## WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

The reports from the wholesale trade of the city during the past week have varied considerably in different branches, and of a consensus could be reached, it would probably be summed up in the words "no reason to complain." For instance in goods of every day consumption the sales have been a steady volume reaching, but not exceeding an average, while in one or two instances the report of rather quiet was received. This is the state expected to continue until September opens and grain begins to move, when greater activity is confidently looked for. In season goods lines the feeling shows a little improvement since our last report. The shipping of first fall orders has pretty nearly reached an end, and from numerous customers have come demands for sorts, not contained in these shipments, which demands have kept matters moving a little. Still the real demand for sorts has not set in, but only that which probable future wants suggest. The sorting trade for actual wants is not looked for until a snap of frost dictates these, and the hot weather of last week was not such as to make the necessity for fall lines felt. In lines dependent upon building and contracting the report is a little mixed. Some state that business is fairly active, while others who handle finishing material state that it is still rather quiet. In fancy lines which generally begin to move after season lines are fairly started, there have been some signs of waking up, and a general improvement

is looked for with the opening of September. Altogether the wholesale business of the city has been in that steady but not over active state, which can be best described in these words, "no cause for complaint" so far as sales are concerned, and in cash returns there is no cause for alteration of the report. Payments are on the whole a little slow, and the volume of cash coming in is rather light; a fact which is in a great measure due to the arrangements merchants usually make to have no obligations maturing during the slow-going harvest time.

## AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

In this branch sales are at a standstill, and houses are prepared to commence the collection season with the first grain coming to market. There is literally no demand for any class of goods, not even binding twine, and dealers are getting ready their stubble plows, wagons and other wheeled vehicles, while stocks even of bob sleds are being opened out and prepared for early shipment to outside agents and dealers.

## BOOTS AND SHOES.

There has been considerably more life in this branch during the past week than in the early part of the month, but there is nothing approaching to real activity yet. Fall orders are all about filled, and retailers are calling for a few sorts found short in these. Collections are reported a little slow but fairly satisfactory.

## CLOTHING

Fall orders are still being filled, and a few sorting orders are coming in, but not enough to cause any life. Collections are also reported rather slow.

## CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

There is still the same moderate movement in this branch, with nothing that could be called rush or bustle. Staples are in fair demand and some fancies are also moving.

## DRY GOODS.

Like other season line branches, there has been a slight increase in sales since our last report, but there is no real activity yet. Filling of fall orders has kept matters lively, but the work is now drawing to a close. Some travellers are out, and they report the prospect of a steady business during September, the beginning of which a turn of cool weather or a touch of frost would hasten. Cash returns are rather slow.

## DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

No change to report in this line, and nothing to disturb the even steady flow of business. Quotations are unchanged and are as follows: Howard's quinine, 90c to \$1.00; German quinine, 80 to 90c; opium, \$4.50 to \$5.00; morphia, \$2 to \$2.50; iodine, \$4.25 to \$4.50; bromide potassium, 60 to 65c; American camphor, 40 to 45c; English camphor, 45 to 50c; glycerine, 25 to 35c; tartaric acid, 70 to 75c; cream of tartar, 35 to 40c; bleaching powder, per keg \$8 to \$10; bicarb soda, \$4.50 to \$5; sal soda, \$2.25 to \$2.50; soda ash, \$3 to \$3.25; chlorate potash, 30 to 35c; alum, \$3 to \$3.75; copperas, \$3 to \$3.25; sulphur, flour, \$4 to \$4.50; sulphur, roll, \$4 to \$4.25; American blue vitrol, 6 to 8c.

## FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

The improved feeling noted in our last report

still continues, and in both staples and fancies there is considerable movement. The regular season will open with September and much greater activity is then expected.

## FRUITS.

Business in this branch has been brisk during the week, and would have been more so but for the lack of stock and variety of green fruits. There have been some changes in prices, and some green fruits have fluctuated too much to allow of quoting. Apples are now quoted at \$4.50 a bbl; Lemons \$10.50 to \$11 a box; Messina oranges \$9 to \$10, Malaga grapes are on the market and quoted at \$8.50 a bbl; tomatoes are quoted \$3 to \$3.25 a bushel basket; California peaches and other stuff are arriving but are not quoted. Other goods stand: golden dates 10c a lb; peanuts 17c; walnuts 15 to 18c; almonds 15 to 20c; filberts 13 to 15c. Dried fruits are quoted as follows: Valencia raisins \$3.15 to \$3.25; London layers \$3.00 to \$4; black crowns \$5 to \$5.25. Apple cider is worth \$10 a barrel.

## FUEL.

This trade has been very quiet during the week. Quotations nominal as follows: tamarac on track in round lots \$3.25 to \$3.50; poplar \$2.25 to \$2.75. Anthracite coal is worth \$9 to \$9.50; bituminous \$6.85; and Lethbridge at \$6.50.

## FURNITURE.

There has been some shipping of orders to western points during the week, and orders are on the increase. A general improvement is looked for with the opening of September.

## GROCERIES.

The feeling in this staple has been one of moderate activity, with no disposition to rush or bustle, and wholesalers express satisfaction. Collections are reported a little slow. Prices of goods are quoted. Yellow sugar, 6½ to 7½c; granulated 8c to 8½c; lump sugar, 9c to 9½c; Coffees, Rio, 12 to 13½c; Government Java 28c, other Java 22c; Mochas 31 to 34c. New season's teas are quoted as follows: Japans season 1886-7 28 to 45c; Congous 1886-7 50 to 55c; Indian teas 35 to 50c. Teas range, Moyune gunpowder 25 to 70c; pan-fired Japan 23 to 45c, basket-fired 25 to 40c, Ping Suey young hyson 25 to 35c; Moyune young hyson 25 to 50c; Season's congous, 1885-86, 20 to 55c. Syrups, corn, \$2.00 to \$2.35; sugar, cane, \$1.85 to \$2; T. & B. tobacco \$10.

## HIDES.

Receipts are still light, and price, nominal as follows: Steers. Winnipeg inspection, No. 1 7c; No. 2, 6c; cows, No. 1, 6c. No. 2, 5c; bulls, 5c. calf, fine haired real veal, 7 to 13 pound skins, No. 1, 10; No. 2, 8c. Sheep pelts, 30 to 65c. Tallow 3½c per lb.

## HARDWARE AND METALS.

In this trade there has been no improvement since our last report, but rather a quieter feeling prevails. The lull has not affected shelf goods so much, but was more felt in heavies and building supplies. Some of the following quotations are in a great measure nominal. Cut nails, 10d and larger \$3.35 to \$3.75; I. C. tin plates, \$5.50 to \$5.75; I. C. tin plates, double, \$11 to \$11.50; Canada-plates, \$3.50 to \$3.75; sheet iron, \$3 to \$4.50, ac-

cording to grade; iron pipe, 50 to 55 per cent. off list prices; ingot tin, 26 to 30c per lb., according to quality, bar iron, \$2.50 to \$3 per 100 lb; shot, 6½ to 7c a lb; tarred felt, \$2.60 to 2.85 per 100 lbs; barbed wire 7 to 7½.

## LEATHER AND FINDINGS.

Business still continues satisfactory in this branch. Prices are unchanged and as follows: Spanish sole, 28 to 32c; slaughter sole, 33 to 35c; French calf, first choice, \$1.35 to \$1.50; Canada Calf 90 to \$1.30; French kip, \$1 to \$1.10; B Z kip, 85 to 90c; slaughter kip, 55 to 75c; No. 1, wax upper, 45 to 50c; grain upper, 55c; harness leather, 33 to 35c for plump stock American oak sole, 45 to 60c; buffe, 17 to 22c a foot; cordovan, 25 to 27c; pebble, 21 to 23c; colored linings 12c.

## LUMBER.

There is really no change in the state of this trade since our last report. Manufacturers and dealers report a moderate volume of sales at small but steady profits all round.

## PAINTS, OILS AND COLORS.

Business has been rather quiet in this branch and dealers are rather impatient in expectation of things settling down to a more active state. There are no changes in prices, and scarcely enough of business to call for quotations which are to a great extent nominal and as follows: Turpentine 75c; harness oil, \$1.10; Neatsfoot oil, \$1.50; linsced oil, raw 68c per gal., boiled 71c; seal oil steam refined, \$1.10; castor, 14c per lb; lard No 1, \$1.25 per gal; olive, \$1.00 to \$2, according to quality; machine oil's, black 25 to 40c; oleine, 40c; fine qualities, 50 to 75c. Coal oils, headlight, 26c; water white, 30c. Calcined plaster, \$3.75 per bbl; Portland cement, \$4.75; white lead, genuine. 7.00; No 1 \$6.50; No 2 \$6.00 and window glass, first break, \$2.40.

## SADDLERY AND HARNESS.

Business in this branch is in a fairly satisfactory state. Sales hold at a steady if not heavy volume, and the tendency is towards an increase. Demands come about equal from all parts of the country.

## STATIONERY AND PAPER.

There is no cause for complaint in this branch, although sales are not heavy, but steady in volume. Collections are reported satisfactory.

## WINES AND SPIRITS.

There is a rather quiet feeling in this trade, the week's sales being somewhat below an average. Collections are also reported slow. Prices are not changed and are as follows: Gooderam & Wort's 5 year old, \$2.40; 7 year old, \$3.00; old ryc, \$1.75; Jules Robin brandy, \$4.50; Bisquet Debonche & Co., \$4.75; Martell, \$6.50 Hennessy, \$6.50; DeKuyper gin, \$3.50; Port wine, \$2.50 and upwards; Sherry \$2.50 and upwards; Jamaica rum, \$4.45; DeKuyper red gin, \$11 per case; DeKuyper green gin, \$6.50 per case; Tom Gin, \$9.00 to \$10.00; Martell and Hennessy's brandy \$13.50 per case of 12 bottles.

## WOOL.

No change to report in this trade, prices are: Leicester and Cotswold, washed, 14c; cotted and broken, washed, 10c unwashed 8c; Southdown, washed, 16 to 18c; unwashed and tags off, 10 to 12c; Montana sheep, unwashed, 11 to 22c.

## THE MARKETS.

## WINNIPEG.

## GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

The grain market of the city registered another blank last week, there being no movement worthy of notice. There was a little moving of old grain from storage points west, but this did not cause any sales, as it was only going from storage to mill or elsewhere at owner's instructions. One car of new wheat arrived in the city on Wednesday, and others are about to arrive. These, however, were for local millers, and were not sold on this market, so that their arrival furnishes no key to prices. It is exactly similar with barley prices, and nothing but samples of the latter have yet appeared. With wheat there seems to be a delicacy about fixing prices, no firm in the trade being desirous of taking the responsibility of making the first bid. This fall, unlike previous ones, millers are not hungry for wheat, and are not compelled as they formerly have been to start in with prices far above what will allow a shipping margin, and they would just as soon lay off a little and let export buyers fix the opening figures. This the latter are by no means anxious to do, and are waiting for the local millers to strike the first blow. There is certainly no chance of prices going above shipping margin figures, but the quality of wheat promises to be so good, and the grain all sound and without damage, and we may expect that buying will be done on very close margins. There are no new oats offered yet, and even samples of hand threshed are very scarce. Flour has been in moderately steady demand for local and western trade, but there is no export business going on, and millers are not prepared to do any, unless at figures which cannot be secured. In provisions the movement has been rather light and prices have changed very little. Meats are very firm and would be higher had imports to be made now, present prices being only about what the goods can be laid down at. Dairy products are moving quietly and steadily, and almost at fixed prices.

## WHEAT.

One car of good hard wheat reached the city on Wednesday, and others are hourly expected. A bona fide offer for new crop cannot be had, but from the feeling manifested, we should say that good hard samples would bring about 60c; but of course that is purely a matter of judgment. The quotations here by grade here are purely nominal as follows: No. 1 hard, 70c; No. 2, 65c; No. 1 northern, 65c; No. 2, 60c; No. 3, 55c.

## FLOUR.

The local trade has been moderately active, but no exports are reported. Prices are steady. Quotations are unchanged as follows: patent, \$2.60 strong bakers, \$2.00; XXXX \$1.50, and superfine, \$1. Prices are for broken lots, delivered in the city or f.o.b.

## BRAN AND SHORTS.

Sales of these products have been up to a regular average, and prices have been steady at \$9 a ton for bran and \$10 for shorts. It is understood that car lots might be had a little cheaper.

## OATMEAL.

There is no change to report and none is expected, until the new oats are available.

## OATS.

No new offered yet, and old are held firmly at 30c. Buyers are slow to take hold at that figure, and the sales of the week have been confined to a few cars.

## BARLEY.

None offered not even by sample, and no quotations are to be had.

## POTATOES.

Small lots from farmers' wagons are still being sold at 75c, but no round lots are yet offered. It is now becoming generally known, that the yield of late varieties will be much heavier than was expected three or four weeks ago.

## CHEESE.

There is really no change to report. Sales have been about an average and prices stand, medium 9½ to 10c; good to choice 10½ to 11c.

## EGGS.

The supply is still ample and the demand only moderate. Prices have a wide range according to quality. Some cases sell as low as 10c, but really fresh range from 12 to 12½c.

## BUTTER.

There is still very little if any change to report. Receipts are still, rather light and there has been an opening for more choice to fancy lots than could be secured, although receipts keep up to a very good average in quality, and there is an absence of inferior stuff. There is no export business doing, and the local trade has been moderately active. Medium lots sold from 9 to 10c; good to choice from 11 to 12½c; while some small fancy lots sold from 13 to 14c.

## BACON.

The demand is steady, and fears of supply coming short still exist. Lots imported now could not be sold at a profit at present prices, and figures are consequently firm and inclining upwards. Dry salt-cured last week at 9½ to 10c; smoked at 11 to 11½c; holls 12c, steady and breakfast 12½c.

## HAMS.

Demand has been moderate and prices firm. A few lots of smoked sold as low as 15½c during the week, but no canvassed could be had under 16c, and they were held firm at that.

## MESS POPK.

There is almost no change to report. Sales have been moderate and prices have been \$15 for round lots, and \$15.50 to \$16 for small lots and single barrels.

## LARD.

The demand has been steady and prices firm and steady. Pails stood all week at \$2.25.

## DRESSED HOGS.

Not enough receipts to allow of reliable quotations.

## LIVE HOGS.

No shipments are reported and a scarcity prevails. No quotations can be had.

## MINNEAPOLIS.

The wheat market has been excited and higher, for a few days, but the bulls find a lift of two or three cents very exhausting, and in the face of a weak situation are compelled to halt just when they ought to be getting a good grip on the market. The visible supply is beginning to move back toward the phenomenal figures of last year, the spring crop is not yet moving freely, and the marketing of winter wheat is not as lively as it is likely to be another month. The heavy movement along the Manitoba road, expected as a consequence of reduced rates, has gone mainly to Duluth, where the increase in store was nearly a million bushels last

week. Exports continue quite heavy and in this fact lies the only hope for a strong market later on. "There is plenty of wheat, and good wheat," said a heavy buyer. "Putting up prices will simply result in overflowing elevators and a stoppage of exports. It has been selling for all it is worth, and farmers who sell now will get as much as they will by holding it six to ten months, without the risk of heating or weevil. I can't see anything to bull wheat on."

The highest and lowest wheat prices by grade on 'change during the week ending to-day, closing prices, and prices one year ago were:

	August 17.			
	Highest.	Lowest.	Closing	1885
Wheat. No. 1 hard..	75½	73	75½	85½
No. 1 north'n	73	71	73	82
" 2 ..	69	68	69	79

Futures were higher and strong, in sympathy with cash, September 1 hard opening at 74½c and closing at 76c; October opened at 75½c and closed at 77½c; November opened at 77c and closed at 77½c. September 1 northern opened at 72c and closed at 73½c. New wheat sold 1 to 2c below old on all grades. Coarse grains were quiet, corn closing at 38 to 44c and oats at 24 to 27c, all by sample.

MILLSTUFF—Has been easy and in fair supply, bulk brai closing at \$8.50 to \$8.75 and shorts at \$9.25 to \$9.75 per ton.

FLOUR—There is a fair export demand, at slightly better figures, bakers grades being most wanted. Domestic trade is moderate in volume, the markets of the east being crowded as hard as possible by millers of all sections, who wish to run their mills full time, if possible. Local millers are not working very hard for orders at small margins, because of the prospect of insufficient power for some time to come. They say they can not afford to use steam until there is more profit on flour, and do not care to get behind on orders while they depend on the river.

Quotations at the mills for car or round lots are: Patents, \$1.30 to \$4.50; straights, \$3.90 to \$4.25; first bakers', \$3.40 to \$3.60; second bakers' \$2.90 to \$3; best low grades, \$1.70 to \$1.90; bags; red dog, \$1.30 to \$1.40, in bags.

These quotations are on flour in barrels, except as stated. The rule is to discount 30c per bbl for 250 and 140 lb jute bags, 20c for 112 lb cotton sacks, 15c for 49 lb cotton sacks, 10c for 24 lb cotton sacks, and 20c for 49 lb paper sacks.

The mills did not close down the latter part of last week as was expected, and the flour production reached a very fair figure, considering the difficulty experienced from low water. The output of the week was 121,175 bbls—averaging 20,130 bbls daily—against 142,230 bbls the preceding week, and 72,620 for the corresponding time in 1885. The matter of letting the water out of the canal to clean it was reserved for the present week, this being done Sunday morning, and since that time all except three of the mills have been idle. The three running are the Pillsbury A, Columbia and Phenix, representing a capacity of about 9,000 bbls. With the other mills down, they have ample power, and are running strong. Those who have the cleaning of the canal in charge state that they will be able to finish up the job so that the mills can resume work Thursday, but the general impres-

sion prevails that Monday will be nearer the time when this will occur. Most of the mills are taking advantage of the stop to make needed repairs, instead of closing down later. The exports are kept in the forties, not varying greatly up or down. With a slightly stronger wheat market, flour has taken on rather a better tone. There is quite a brisk demand for bakers', but not at prices to induce millers to sell freely.

The table below gives the exports of flour from Minneapolis for a series of weeks:

Week ending—	Bbls	Week ending—	Bbls
August 14 .....	45,920	July 3 .....	62,200
August 7 .....	49,025	June 26 .....	56,552
July 31 .....	44,650	June 19 .....	44,400
July 24 .....	49,500	June 12 .....	50,000
July 17 .....	48,000	June 5 .....	79,750
July 10 .....	48,000		

The following were the receipts at and shipments from Minneapolis for the weeks ending on the dates given:

	RECEIPTS.		September 1 to	
	Aug. 17.	Aug. 10.	Aug. 17.	Aug. 10.
Wheat, bus ..	357,750	409,750	31,934,080	
Flour, bbls ..	377	160	147,308	
Mills off, tons.	25	29	18,425	

	SHIPMENTS.		September 1 to	
	Aug. 17.	Aug. 10.	Aug. 17.	Aug. 10.
Wheat, bus ..	81,950	56,650	5,974,880	
Flour, bbls ..	108,010	100,435	5,218,726	
Millstuff, tons..	2,956	2,874	170,435	

The wheat in elevators in Minneapolis, as well as the stock at St. Paul and Duluth, is shown in the appended table:

	MINNEAPOLIS.		DULUTH.	
	Aug. 16.	Aug. 9.	Aug. 16.	Aug. 9.
No. 1 hard, bus..	1,119,947	1,136,412		
No. 1 northern, bus ..	586,442	591,946		
No. 2 northern, bus ..	277,760	305,160		
No. 3,	9,125	8,248		
Rejected ..	23,750	20,465		
Special bins ..	223,533	267,502		
	*2,239,567	2,329,736		

Amount in store same date last year .....

\*These figures do not include a considerable quantity of wheat in private elevators and sheds and annexes to regular elevators, nor that in mill bins.

	ST. PAUL.		DULUTH.	
	Aug. 18.	Aug. 11.	Aug. 4.	Aug. 2.
In elevators—				
bus ..	530,000	577,000	631,000	
Same date last year	580,000	503,000	502,000	

In store, bus. .. 2,819,036 3,038,300 3,332,605  
Same date last yr. 1,935,746 2,301,300 2,658,900  
—Northwest Miller.

Communication.

To the Editor of The Commercial, Winnipeg:

Sir,—Your well timed remarks, in your issue of the 10th instant, about the need of proper mail arrangements in Southwestern Manitoba, have been read in this neighborhood with much interest.

A fortnight ago I wrote a letter on this pressing subject to the Free Press, but so far as I am aware this has not been published, and consequently I conclude it has not reached its destination.

Some months ago my sons and I were asked and readily signed a petition for a bi weekly mail service to this district; to that more than respectful application we have, so far as I know, not been favored with any reply, but a short

time ago we were indignantly surprised at an alteration in our mail service which not only does not give us any increase, but positively makes it worse than it has hitherto been; this I will demonstrate as follows:

UNDER THE OLD PLAN.

We got our mail on Monday morning, it went out again to Pilot Mound, on Tuesday; thence to Manitou on Wednesday; on to Winnipeg, and if a letter was immediately answered we got our reply on the following Monday, or say eight days in all.

UNDER THE NEW PLAN.

Our letters come in on Friday, answers go back to Pilot Mound on Saturday, and actually lie there until the following Tuesday and after various delays reach Winnipeg shortly after our following week's mail has left; the result is, our answering post has another long detention in Manitou and Pilot Mound, and we get our supplies (provided our letters are answered immediately) in about 15 days.

The whole distance is by road or rail under 130 miles; you can drive to Winnipeg and back by a shorter route (about 225 miles in all) so by the moderate walking of 20 miles a day, would walk to Winnipeg and get our replies in at least four days less than by "Her Majesty's Mails."

The mail sent west is as bad as this if not worse; I have had disagreeable experience of this lately in letters, I have written to the Turtle Mountain district; I will instance one only as illustration of all. On the 8th of July I sent a letter to Fairburn P.O., in the reply my correspondent wrote "I have just received your letter and have just time to answer it before the mail goes out again," that reply reached me on the 30th ultimo, or nearly twice the time that it takes for a letter to reach Winnipeg from England. The mail authorities manage to absorb this time by sending the mail the longest possible route; now what I have to write about this I can hardly expect you or your readers to believe but the following are the facts: a train goes along from Pilot Mound west daily, and stops at Killarney, some 14 miles from Fairburn P.O., by this route the distance would be say 60 miles, and we should get a reply in 3 days, but instead of this the Postal Department manage to get through 22 days, or more than 7 times what they should by sending the letter 130 miles dead away from Fairburn, viz. to Winnipeg thence 132 miles to Brandon, and from there through an end of post offices. South some 75 miles to Fairburn, in short go over five and a half times the distance that is necessary.

The railway west from Manitou has been running fully 9 months and has been in excellent working order for the last two thirds of this time, but it will hardly be credited that the mails are still treated as if the extension had never been made, in fact the service as shown in this letter, is now worse than it was before we got the Railway.

The above facts not only concern us locally, but they very seriously concern Winnipeg as well; the country affected is very large and contains many scores of settlements in the very best part of Manitoba, and so wretched a mail service must seriously damage the trade, development and best interests of the Province; if what I have related concerned a country ruled by Turkey, or some part of Central Asia, or even one of the South American States, it might be credited, but it can hardly be believed of this country which is supposed to be managed by good vigorous Anglo Saxon blood.

I saw a short time ago that the head of the Postal Service of Canada, is ill, I fear that the whole Department must be sick and requires drastic remedies.

I have written this letter at the request of many friends and neighbors, and if you will kindly give it early insertion you will much oblige them, and

Yours obediently,  
W. WALTON.

Maringhurst, Man., 10 Aug., 1886.

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**EASTERN MARKETS.**

**CHICAGO.**

The struggle still continues in wheat circles, and the past week developed a tough and determined one in which the bull element had decidedly the advantage. The week opened with a rumor of very heavy increase to the visible supply, which for a short time on Monday staggered matters, and made an undecided if not a week feeling. But this was short lived, and the first day closed with the firm feeling still maintained. Like the previous week, the past one has shown markets in response to foreign demands, and not in sympathy with any speculative demand. Of course local speculation was at work, but with its calculations based upon supply and demand, and although the Monday opening was weak shorts were soon compelled to cover. Day after day brought the news that foreigners were taking hold freely, owing mainly to the reported good quality of the American crop, and as news of charter after charter for Europe came from Atlantic ports, the buoyant feeling gained ground, until on Thursday the bulls rather lost their head with continued success and with a flicker they sent September wheat up to 80 cents. This move like all other rash ones brought its scalper's reaction, and before the end of the week one cent of this advance had been lost. Still the bear element were powerless all week to make any marked impression, although every fraction of an advance was keenly contested. Saturday's closing showed that by this slow but sure system an advance of three cents clear had been made in two weeks, and let operators see while no bear organization could run any corner in wheat, the state of affairs was particularly favorable for any bull combination to take hold of it. Other grains were comparatively lifeless and both corn and oats were in a drooping condition. Pork was fluctuated within a limited range, but was inclined downwards, while lard was steady and firm with an upward tendency during the last two days. But whatever may have been the tendencies of other products that of wheat was decidedly upwards, and there seems now no possible circumstance which would tend to break prices for some time to come, although there is an absence also of any influence that would cause any very sharp advance. The tug is likely to continue pretty hard.

On Monday the weak opening soon gave way to a better feeling in wheat, and a report of unusually heavy additions to the quantity on sight failed to stem the firm feeling. The reports of over fifty boat loads taken at Atlantic ports only added to the firmness which was maintained to the closing. Other grains were steady and pork and other grains were the same. Closing quotations were:

	Aug.	Sept.
Wheat .. .. .	\$0.76½	78½
Corn .. .. .	42½	44
Oats .. .. .	26½	28½
Pork .. .. .	9.62	9.67½
Lard .. .. .	7.30	7.35

On Tuesday there was another stubborn attempt made to hoist wheat prices, but the advance secured early in the day was lost later,

and the closing was almost the same as the previous day. Export business was reported still good, and although no advance was held to, the feeling was firm. Corn and oats were both a shade firmer, while pork was weaker and lard a little stronger. Closing quotations were:

	Aug.	Sept.
Wheat .. .. .	\$0.76½	78
Corn .. .. .	42½	43½
Oats .. .. .	27½	28½
Pork .. .. .	9.62½	9.62½
Lard .. .. .	7.40	7.40

On Wednesday the drawn battle on wheat was again renewed, and although they were within a very limited range, and at the closing prices were the same as on Tuesday. Early in day pork threatened to break, but later recovered. Lard was steady but weak and a shade lower. Corn was steady and oats weak and lower. Closing quotations were:

	Aug.	Sept.
Wheat .. .. .	\$0.76½	\$0.78
Corn .. .. .	42½	43½
Oats .. .. .	27	28
Pork .. .. .	9.55	9.55
Lard .. .. .	7.35	7.35

On Thursday the tug was decided in wheat, and the bulls hoisted things for a while, raising September wheat to 80c, where however they were unable to hold it, and a decline set in near the close. An advance, however, of 1½c was maintained notwithstanding the weakness. Corn was steady as were oats also. Pork was weaker. Closing quotations were:

	Aug.	Sept.
Wheat .. .. .	\$0.78½	\$0.76½
Corn .. .. .	42½	43½
Oats .. .. .	27	28
Pork .. .. .	9.47½	9.47½
Lard .. .. .	7.42½	7.42½

On Friday the feeling in wheat was weak, and the tendency downwards, there being an evident special effort to break prices which was only partially successful. Every change was contested, but at the close there was a drop of ½ of a cent from Thursday's closing. Corn was inclining downward and oats were weak. Pork showed some firmness and advanced a little, while lard was lower. Closing quotations were:

	Aug.	Sept.
Wheat .. .. .	78½	79
Corn .. .. .	42½	43½
Oats .. .. .	26½	27½
Pork .. .. .	9.55	9.55
Lard .. .. .	7.37½	7.40

On Saturday wheat was again tending downwards, and dropped during the day ½ of a cent from Friday's closing. Corn was decidedly weak and lower. Pork was again firm and inclined to advance, while lard was steady. Closing quotations were:

	Aug.	Sept.
Wheat .. .. .	\$0.77½	\$0.78½
Corn .. .. .	41½	42½
Oats .. .. .	27	28
Pork .. .. .	9.60	9.62½
Lard .. .. .	7.35	7.40

**TORONTO.**

**STOCKS.**

The stock market during the past week has been in a rather steady state, and the leading

bank stocks have as a rule been firmly held at even higher figures than were reached during the previous week. The gap between buyers and sellers has on some occasions been too wide to bridge, and the business done has not been heavy. There has been no marked decline in any of the regular bank stocks, while some have advanced a little. Closing bids of Wednesdays August 11th and 18th shows the inclination of the market, and are as below:

	Aug. 11.	Aug. 18.
Montreal .. .. .	216½	216½
Ontario .. .. .	120	120
Toronto .. .. .	203	204
Merchants' .. .. .	125½	125
Commerce .. .. .	123	122½
Imperial .. .. .	135	134½
Federal .. .. .	111	111
Dominion .. .. .	214	212½
Standard .. .. .	124½	124½
Hamilton .. .. .	135	136
Northwest Land .. .. .	66	64½
C.P.R. Bonds .. .. .	105	105
do Stocks .. .. .	—	—

**GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.**

There seems to have been more of a movement in wheat during the past ten or twelve days than for some weeks previously. Various reasons are assigned for this, and one is the fear of old wheat not keeping in store owing to continued hot weather. Another is that buyers are getting more eager since the estimate of a storage of about three and a quarter million bushels of fall and one and a quarter millions of spring wheat from the new crop became generally believed, and are taking more freely to the old wheat still on hand. This belief is not supported by advanced prices, although the carelessness of holders about selling gives strength to it. Anyhow last week brought out quite a lively demand, and quite a business was done in small lots for immediate delivery. Oats have been coming out more freely, and in sufficient quantity for the regular demand. Flour has been slow in sale, but millers and holders have not been inclined to concede any lower prices, and buyers have been rather shy. In provisions business has been quiet and prices steady. Butter also has shown a weakening while cheese has been higher, and meats although not in heavy demand have been held very firm and at slightly higher figures. There is still a strong belief that the local supply will not last out till curing commences, and this is the back bone of firmness.

**FLOUR.**

Patents have been held steady at \$3.80 to \$3.85 but with few buyers. Superior extra was steady at \$3.60, and extra at \$3.50. Spring extra was wanted at \$3.30, but was held higher. The aggregate of business done was very small.

**WHEAT.**

The business done although considerable was of a scattered character, and quotations hard to secure. No. 1 spring seemed to sell about 82c, while 78c was offered for No. 2. Red winter changed hands at 80c, while No. 2 fall could be had at 77c. There has been very little variation from these figures.

**OATS.**

Quite a business in small lots has been done at prices varying according to quality, but not unsteady. Primo sold at 37 to 37½c, and poorer lots at 39c.



## BARLEY

Another blank week in this grain none being offered.

## PEAS.

Sales of a car lot or two are reported at 59c, which may be taken as the quotation of the week. No more were offered.

## POTATOES.

There are no car lots offered yet and barrels have been selling on the street at \$1.50 to \$1.75.

## APPLES.

Sales of imported were made at \$2.50, while natives were quoted in small lots at \$1.50 to \$2.

## EGGS.

The supply has been on the increase and has produced an easier feeling. Round lots were freely offered at 12c.

## BUTTER.

Receipts have been increasing especially of medium and lower grades, while the demand for these is slower. Good to choice sold at 13 to 14c, but could be had in plenty at these figures. Some lower grades sold at 9c, but were very little called for.

## CHEESE.

The export demand has improved, and prices are firmer and higher. Good qualities sold freely at 9 to 9½c.

## PORK

The feeling has been quiet and only small lots called for, which sold for \$13.50.

## BACON.

Offerings have been light, and sales have been correspondingly so, and confined to small lots. Cumberland was firm at 8c, while long clear ranged from 8½ to 8¾c. Rolls were steady at 10c, and breakfast was held at 11c.

## HAMS

The scarcity still holds out, and all offerings of smoked were freely taken at 14 to 14½c.

## LARD.

The demand has been good and prices tending upwards. Round lots of pails sold at 9½c, and small lots at 9½c. Tierces were held at 9c.

## HOGS.

The demand has been in excess of the supply, and all offerings have been freely taken at \$7.25 to \$7.50.

### The State of Trade.

Special telegrams to *Bradstreet's* this week record a continuance of the favorable features in trade circles heretofore noted. The moderate increase in eastbound trunk line tonnage, backed by heavy lake shipments and rail around Chicago, is significant. Westbound shipments are also increasing, particularly of dry goods from New York and Boston. The movement of general merchandise at over twenty leading distributing centers is reported to be above the August average in late years, with a steady improvement noted in many instances. Stocks of merchandise at interior points are reported moderate. The total of clearings at twenty-nine cities for the current week, as wired to *Bradstreet's*, is \$868,004,556 against \$849,199,165 a week ago, and \$728,927,945 the second week in August, 1885, an increase of but \$18,805,091 this week over last, and of but \$39,076,611 against the corresponding week in 1884. Earnings of fifty-three railways (excluding companies not giving comparative data for three years) give totals \$122,324,000 in 1886, \$119,033,000 in 1885, and \$120,687,000 in 1884. The increase this year over 1884 being but one-eighth of the increase over 1885, indicates a recovery only

from the severe competition of last year. The large decrease in the New York bank surplus, caused by the demand for funds at the west, put up the rate of interest for loans to 5@6 per cent. This acted as a discouragement to ball speculation in the stock market, which is feverish and weak. Bonds are steady and firm, with transactions amounting to \$19,000,000, against \$15,000,000 last week. Foreign exchange is weak, quotations being on the verge of the gold importing point. Commercial paper is scarce, but rates are quoted higher. Share transactions aggregated 1,300,000, against 1,290,000 shares a week ago. The stronger money market at New York is reflected at almost all centers, discount rates being higher and firmer, in response to the decline in the supply and increase in the demand for funds. Staple dry goods at eastern markets are firm and in good demand. Some cotton brands are ¼@½c. higher per yard. Raw wool shows signs of weakening, after a steady advance during two months past. Some few concessions have been made, and makers' takings are light. There are no changes in iron or steel. Anthracite coal is 15@25c. higher, only a portion of which has been realized. Petroleum is depressed under the influence of increased new well output, and certificates are lower. Fears of serious effects from the drouth are stiffening corn prices. The actual yield of spring wheat appears to be in excess of the quality lately anticipated. Cotton is doing well in Arkansas, Tennessee and the eastern cotton belt, except Alabama, where worms have done some damage. In Texas the hot weather continues and has caused shedding. Rain is still needed in some sections of the western tobacco region. Special hop crop reports to *Bradstreet's* point to a probable total crop of 65,000 bales in New York state and the remainder on the Pacific coast. Old hops on hand aggregate 120,000 bales, and the probable consumption the coming year is placed at 140,000 bales. The old hops are of very poor quality. Sugar is again lower in price owing to heavy supplies in sight. Higher prices for coffee in Europe strengthened spots, but *Bradstreet's* Rio correspondent reports a larger crop there than last year. The total number of failures in the United States reported to *Bradstreet's* this week is 132 against 124 last week, last year, 160 237 in 1884. Canada had 20 against 12 last week and 17 last year. The total in the United States this year to date is 6,389 against 7,367 last year, a decline of 678 in seven and a half months. In a like portion of 1884 the total was 6,664; in 1883, 6,178, and in 1882, was 5,425.—*Bradstreet's*.

### The M. & N. W. Ry. Country.

Proceeding westward from Minedosa the next point of trade importance is the new town of Shoal Lake. The country hereabout is fairly well settled and has been for some years, owing to the fact that it was at one time expected that the C. P. R. would pass through the district. The country has every appearance of an excellent mixed farming district, similar to the greater portion of the land along the railway, and is dotted with bluffs and well watered. Shoal Lake is a pretty body of water about seven (7) miles long. The old Battleford trail

passed to the southern end of the lake, and here there were formerly a couple of stores and two hotels. These have now been deserted and the keepers moved to the new town on the railway, at the northern end of the lake. Shoal Lake has been built up entirely this year and already there are quite a list of business places. There are two licensed hotels, the Commercial and the Queen's, and in addition to these two good temperance houses. All the hotels were crowded and it was difficult to obtain a bed. The two general stores are kept by Thos. Parkinson and R. Scott, and both carry good stocks. A tin shop has also been opened by Geo. Raymer. In addition to these there are a photo studio, blacksmith, paint shop, a newspaper called the *Echo*, and two liveryies. A doctor had just arrived and located in the town, and A. E. Munson was about opening a drug store. The Hudson's Bay Co. have a building in course of construction which will be used for a general store, and another large building was going up, which will be fitted for two stores. It is also understood that the railway company contemplate erecting a large hotel, which will be used as a summer resort for tourists. The chief industry of Shoal Lake at present is a cheese factory, managed by J. G. Wellock. The factory commenced operations this year and 450 pounds per day are turned out. Next season it is thought there will be a sufficient number of cows in the vicinity to allow of doubling this amount, for which the factory is capable without alteration. The district is well adapted for stock and the grasses rich and prolific. A market for the cheese has been found principally in the territories. A prospective industry is a roller flour mill, for which a bonus has been granted by the district. Ground for the building had been broken. A pump factory was also contemplated. Beyond Shoal Lake is the village of Solsgirth. The railway had its terminus at this point last winter and the place was the scene of considerable activity. Since the railway passed on westward the place has been less active. It now contains two general stores and two hotels.

The old town of Birtle is the next point reached, and here there is considerable activity going on, the citizens having lately been aroused to new energy by the arrival of the iron horse. The county around Birtle has also been settled for some years, and the town is probably the oldest in western Manitoba. It has long been isolated from the outside world, but now that the railway has arrived the town is expected to improve rapidly. Already several buildings are in course of erection, and these will be occupied mainly by the old business men of the place, who now think they will require more modern conveniences and more commodious premises. Messrs. Manwaring & Wright, are building a commodious solid stone building, which they will occupy with their large stock of general merchandise. The vicinity provides plenty of building material of this description. A. Doig, hardware, and J. & W. Walley, grocers, have lately moved to new quarters. Logan & Dalton, have lately opened a livery, and they have one of the finest stables in the province. Richmond & Lepper, general store-



koopors, will dissolve partnership, and each will continue separately. Lepper will take his son into partnership and occupy new quarters, which he is building. Dr. J. H. Morrison, has a drug store in connection with his practice, and a second drug store will be opened by Dr. A. B. McKinnon. E. H. Irish, is doing a good trade in the harness line and F. Patterson, carries on business in furniture. Besides these there are several other business institutions, such as blacksmiths, butchers, implement agencies, hotels, etc., and a newspaper, the *Observer*. In manufacturing there is a grist mill, run by water power, for which there is ample supply for eight months in the year on the Bird Tail Creek, Mr. P. Barclay, the proprietor, contemplates changing to the roller process. Mr. D. W. Cummings, has had the saw mill in operation during the summer the logs for which are floated down the Bird Tail whilst the water is high in the spring. Grant Bros. have a flour mill some distance up the town, which is run by water power. Unlike many other places Birtle has secured the railway without going into debt for a heavy bonus. In this respect the town is in a better position than many of the older towns of the Province, and its citizens would do well that they are not carried away by too glowing expectations for the future and endeavor to keep expenses down. By keeping the town out of debt, they will be much more likely to have new industries established among them, as manufacturers are not likely to locate in a place carrying a heavy debt. An issue of \$10,000 debentures has lately been voted for local improvements, but these have not yet been taken up, and it is understood it will not be placed unless a good offer is received. We would advise the people of Birtle to go slow in this matter. The only improvement that is actually required at the present time is a shorter and better road to the depot, and this could be constructed at a cost of about \$2,500. This amount, added to the floating liability of the town, (now something like \$8,000 or \$9,000, would make a total liability quite heavy enough for the present, or until the population increases considerably. Birtle, like the other older settled districts, has suffered from second homesteading, which has left many farms vacant. The Government auction sale of unoccupied lands in the Birtle agency in 1882 has also worked great mischief. The boom was at its height about this time, and the lands were bought up readily by speculators, thus checking settlement. The crops north and west of Birtle are perhaps the finest in the province this season, and promise an excellent yield around, harvesting was going on actively during the last week of July. To the south in the Beulah district the outlook is not so good, the drought and gophers combined having caused considerable damage.

To the south of the M. & N. W. Ry. and 20 miles from Minnedosa lies the old town of Rapid City. A few years ago this place was one of the most prosperous in the province, but lack of railways has nearly ruined it and many houses are now vacant. A great many farmers in this district sold out to speculators during the boom, land having gone as high as \$25 per acre in the vicinity of the town. Many

of these took up second homestead west. The removal of these farmers has greatly curtailed the trade of the town and several of the merchants have been compelled to give up business. The people remaining are very anxious for a railroad, which they think would bring in settlers to the unoccupied lands. There is a cheese factory here, managed by Mr. A. Patterson, which is supplied with the milk from 200 cows. The product is marketed in Brandon and has so far brought 10½¢ per pound, which speaks well for the quality of the article. A bonus of \$10,000 has lately been voted by the municipality of Saskatchewan, for the erection of a roller flour mill and woolen mill at Rapid City, and if this work goes on it will likely greatly benefit the district. The district is a good stock and grain section. Mr. D. McNaught has some fine bred cattle, and has just imported a splendid specimen of a Holstein bull calf.

Taken altogether, the country along the line of the M. & N. W. Ry. is the best mixed farming region in Manitoba. It is well wooded and watered throughout, and the natural grasses are rich and luxuriant growth even during this dry season. It undoubtedly leads the province this year in the excellence of its crops, having suffered less from the drought than the more open prairie districts to the south. There is no such thing as a short crop at any point along the line this season, and hay is also abundant notwithstanding its scarcity this year in some sections. The railway itself is doing a good business carrying agricultural machinery, settlers' effects, etc., which goes to show that the country is settling up and being brought rapidly under cultivation. A good many settlers have gone in this summer beyond the present terminus of the road. In the fall and winter the road is kept busy hauling the grain and products of the region to market, and we are creditably informed that it is already a well paying piece of railway property, thus proving that there is room for independent railway lines in the province of Manitoba.

### Mistake of Sticking too Closely to Business.

Many business men make the mistake of sticking too closely to the office. They should become acquainted with outside affairs, should know what their neighbors are doing, and familiarize themselves with their mode of business. We frequently speak of such and such a man as an "old fogey;" in other words he is out of date is like last year's almanac. He is always too late for the train; always behind time; some other person has preceded him, and the early worm is gone, and the next thing we know the shutters are up, and "Sheriff's sale" posted on the door. Fault is often found with the travelling men because their sales are small, when the fault really is with the houses. There is a lack of familiarity with the wants of the trade; the goods are out of date, or prices too high to compete with other houses. The proprietor should take a little time now and then, to visit the trade, study their wants, become acquainted with them, and if he has any doubts as to the efforts put forth by his travelling men, let him try his own hand a few days

and we think the result would prove very beneficial, and all concerned be better prepared to avoid meeting face to face that familiar, though unpleasant word "failure."—*Ex.*

R. H. BRATNOBER, saddler, of Prince Albert has opened a branch store at Battleford.

REPORTS from Medicine Hat and other places in the territories state that an order has come from Regina, prohibiting the further sale of cider manufactured by Blackwood Bros., of Winnipeg.

There is estimated to be forty-six million tons of iron ore in sight on Big Island, Lake Winnipeg of the highest quality, that can be placed on the market at Winnipeg for \$13.50 a ton. There is found also red oxide of iron or mineral paint, yellow ochre, and fire brick clay.

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**Recent Legal Decisions.**

**MARINE INSURANCE—EFFECT OF GENERAL CLAUSE.**—An insurance policy on a steamer and her machinery specified among the risks insured against "all the perils, losses, and misfortunes that have or shall come to the hurt, detriment or damage of the aforesaid subject matter of insurance or any part thereof." The donkey-engine on the steamer was employed in the ordinary course of navigation in pumping water into the boilers, and in consequence of a screw valve which should have been open being accidentally or negligently closed, the water was forced into the air chamber of the donkey-engine which was split open. The English Court of Appeal held (Hamilton vs. Thames and Mersey Insurance Company) that the injury was a peril insured against under the general words of the policy.

**FIRE INSURANCE—ELECTION TO REBUILD.**—A policy of insurance provided that the insurance company should pay the loss within sixty days after the proof of loss, or might within fifteen days after the proof of loss notify the insured of its intention to rebuild or repair the premises insured. A fire occurred, and nine days thereafter and after the agent of the company had appraised the loss, the mortgagee of the property insured to whom the insurance was payable began to repair the premises. The repairs, it appeared, were reasonable and necessary to protect the property from further damage. The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts held (Eliot Five Cents Savings Bank vs. Commercial Union Assurance Company), that under the circumstances the insurance company was deprived of its right to elect to rebuild or repair the premises.

**CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT — FRAUDULENT INDORSEMENT.**—The United States Circuit Court for the District of Nebraska lately decided that the indorsement of a certificate of deposit by an insane person in whose favor it is drawn, the indorsement having been obtained by fraud carried no title even to an innocent purchaser, Anglo California Bank vs. Ames, reported in the Chicago Legal News. The court said, in giving judgement. "Does the plaintiff, as a bona fide purchaser, occupy any better position than the wrong-doer from whom it purchased? Doubtless it is entitled to all the protection given to such a purchaser of negotiable paper, but such protection does not extend to an indorsement like this. There was no valid contract of indorsement created by defendant's signature on the back of the paper. It was no better than a signature written in a state of somnambulism, or even than a forgery. No negligence is imputable, for one who is incapable of prudence cannot be guilty of negligence nor can there be an estoppel. He who is legally disabled to act cannot be estopped from denying that he has acted. An estoppel creates no power; and while in favor of a bona fide purchaser inquiry is denied as to equities between prior parties, yet such protection does not cut off inquiry into the contractual capacity of those parties. Such at least is the better doctrine, although it must be conceded that there are authorities to the contrary, especially in the English courts."

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