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 Reserve Fund ..... 6,000,000 00  
 Divided Profits ..... 823,000 00  
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 Seller's Circular Letters of Credit and Commercial Letters issued for use in all parts of the world. Sections made on favorable terms. Interest allowed on deposits at current rates.  
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 RESERVE, 300,000  
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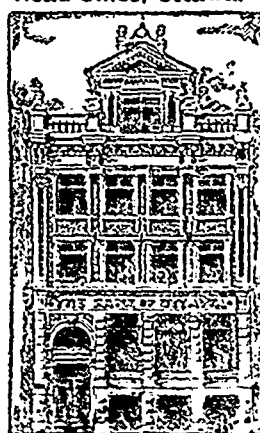
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Head Office, Ottawa.

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Reserve	\$1,065,000.	Capital subscribed	\$1,500,000.



This Bank offers to clients every facility which their Balance, Business and responsibility warrant.

Winnipeg Branch, J. B. MONK, Manager.

**The Western Canada Loan & Savings Co.**

CAPITAL, \$1,500,000.  
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**BRITISH COLUMBIA.**—The Bank of British Columbia.  
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 Reserve Fund £275,000 "  
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**The Western Loan and Trust Co. Ltd.**

Incorporated by Special Act of the Legislature.  
**AUTHORIZED CAPITAL, \$2,000,000.**  
**ASSETS, \$2,417,237.86.**

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 This Company acts as assignee, administrator, executor, trustee, receiver, committee of lunatics, guardian, liquidator, etc., etc., also as agent for the above offices.  
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New Goods for the

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In these days when so many low grade TEAS are put upon the market, it is a consolation to have

## MAZAWATTEE

to sustain the ancient credit of the Herb, and to remind tea drinkers of the delicious China Teas of thirty years ago, which it actually surpasses.

The teas of Ceylon are to-day the finest in the World, and there is no more representative Ceylon Tea than

MAZAWATTEE

which forms one of the most delightful beverages ever made from the leaves of the Tea Plant

Kenneth Mackenzie and Co.,  
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Dealers in Men's Furnishings, Hats and Caps.

Our Travellers are now showing samples of our stock of Clothing, Hats, Caps, and Furnishings for

SPRING 1897

We would draw especial attention to the fact that we have the only stock now in existence of good Buffalo Coats

Assuring orders by letter for fall and winter goods in our lines will receive prompt and careful attention.

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White and 16 beautiful Tints. Send your orders early and be ready for the spring rush.

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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.

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Publisher

The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much larger circulation among the business community of the east 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 mentioned 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.

Frederick Rocket, hotel, Treherne, is out of business.

Herron & Evans, general storekeepers, Deloraine, have assigned, with liabilities of about \$11,000, and assets of \$8,000, including \$1,000 in book debts.

M. Kerack, book store, St. Boniface, has opened a branch in Winnipeg.

The stock of J. Brennan, boots and shoes, Winnipeg, has been sold to W. Wood & Co.

The resolutions passed by the business men's convention have been printed in pamphlet form by the board of trade.

D. G. McBain, formerly in the grocery trade in Winnipeg, but latterly a resident of the rural suburban district of Kildonnan, is dead.

The general store business of L. Montgomery & Co., Deloraine, will hereafter be carried on under the style of Montgomery & Colquhoun.

The second special colonist train of the season reached Winnipeg Thursday afternoon. It had on board over 300 people, about 140 of whom were new settlers.

Louis LeBlanc, general merchant, St. Agathe, has had his dwelling and store destroyed by fire. Loss, \$1,400; insured for \$500.

A deputation of Winnipeg auctioneers has interviewed the local government in opposition to the contention that the compulsory early closing law should be applied to auctioneers.

The salt industry around Lake Winnipegosis may develop into quite a business this summer. A salt mining outfit was taken to Dauphin last week and will be set in position at once. Manitoba may therefore soon become self sustaining in the matter of salt.

The Winnipeg Property Owner's association will oppose the legislation sought by the city council, to introduce Ald. Baker's scheme for civic government. Proposals for exemption from taxation and for giving the council power to pass money by-laws without submitting the same to the city, were condemned.

A meeting of shop-keepers, mostly of Israelitish persuasion, was held in Winnipeg on Monday to protest against the early closing of stores. It was claimed that early closing was an injury to the smaller dealers. A committee was appointed to present the views of the meeting to the local government.

A board of trade has been formed at Emerson, as a result of the recent business men's convention at Winnipeg. The following officers were elected: President, J. W. Whitman; 1st vice-president, George Christie; 2nd vice-president, W. W. Fraser; secretary and treasurer, T. E. McGirr; board of directors, J. Sullivan, F. S. Bell, D. McArthur, G. Pocock and G. Cumming.

## Alberta.

The following weather report showing the highest and lowest reading of the thermometer at MacLeod for a week, will indicate the condition of the weather in the range country. The dash preceding the figures indicates below zero:

	Max.	Min.
Feb. 27 .....	48	19
" 28 .....	20	3
Mar. 1 .....	15	0
" 2 .....	30	8
" 3 .....	48	12
" 4 .....	44	8
" 5 .....	10	3

## Grocery Trade Notes.

Canned peas are firmer at 75c to \$1, says a Toronto report, owing to the shortage of stocks, and higher prices are expected later on.

A recent circular from Patras, Greece, says with reference to currants:—"Since our last report the statistical position of currants has become much more defined, and we can now state with confidence that it is stronger than it has been for many years past. Stocks in Greece are about one-third of what they were at this date last year, and all markets of consumption are holding much lighter quantities."

## Dairy Trade Notes.

Some sixteen fully equipped creameries and seventeen tributary cream collecting stations will be carried on by the government this season in the territories. Several of these are old creameries which have been taken over by the government.

The cheese cable on March 6 reported another decline of 6d.

## Insurance and Financial Notes.

The finance department at Ottawa has published a summary report of the life insurance business of last year. Thirty-nine companies were doing business in Canada during 1896, of these, eleven were Canadian, fourteen British and fourteen United States. Of the latter, three have ceased doing new business, while six British companies have dropped out of the Canadian field. These thirty-nine companies had on the 31st of December the considerable amount of \$327,730,511 in force, an increase of \$8,472,930 over the amount in 1895. Premiums for the year totalled \$10,557,076, an increase of \$304,722. Of the total, \$6,075,995 was taken in by Canadian companies. Claims were paid during the year to the amount of \$1,706,157, an increase of \$376,114. Canadian companies alone paid out \$2,123,561. There are 150,148 life insurance policies in force in Canadian companies, out of a total of 261,259 policies in force throughout the Dominion in various companies.

## The Hardware and Paint Trade.

Linseed oil has declined 1c at Montreal to 44 to 45c for raw add and 47 to 48c for boiled.

Turpentine declined 1c in eastern markets, but later recovered again.

A Toronto report says: Bolts, carriage, tire, stove and plough have been reduced. This is about the only change of any importance.

## Hog Products.

The Toronto Globe of March 8 says: "There is an active demand for hog products owing to the advanced price of dressed hogs. Purchasers have been anticipating the rise and are sending forward orders freely. Prices are very firm. Choice light northern hogs would bring \$6 in rail lots here; heavy sell at \$4.50 upwards."

Barrel Pork—Heavy mess, \$11 to \$11.50; short cut, \$12 to \$12.50; clear shoulder mess, \$10.

Dry Salted Meats—Long clear bacon, car lots 5½c, ton lots 6c, case lots 6½c.

Smoked Meats—Hams, heavy 9½c, medium 10 to 10½c, light 11c; breakfast bacon 10½ to 11c; backs, 10 to 10½c; picnic hams, 6½ to 7c; rolls, 7½ to 7¾c.

Green Meats—Out of pickle are quoted a cent less than cured.

Lard—Tierces, 6½c, tubs, 7½c, pails, 7½c, compound, 6c."

The Montreal Gazette reports that market as follows: "In sympathy with the recent steady advance in prices for dressed hogs a firmer feeling in the provision market for pork has prevailed, and prices are quoted 50c per barrel higher, heavy mess now being held at \$11.50; light at \$12.50, and old at \$10.50 to \$11. We quote:—New packed Canadian pork, \$11.50 to \$12.50, old at \$10.50 to \$11 per barrel; pure Canadian lard, in pails, at 5½ to 6c, and compound refined at 4½c per lb; hams, 9 to 11c and bacon, 8½ to 9½c per lb."

## Guessing at Grain Reserves.

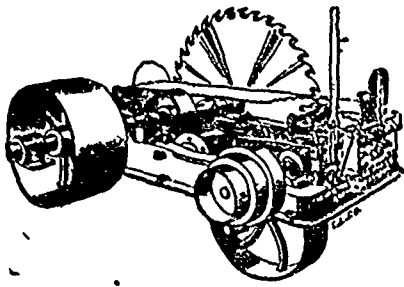
The last crop report of the United States department of agriculture, relates principally to the distribution of the principal grains, stocks remaining on farms and proportion of merchantable and unmerchantable. All grains in the hands of farmers, including amounts remaining over from previous years are included in the estimates given. The corn on hand, as estimated, aggregates 1,164,000,000 bushels, or 51 per cent of the last crop, against 1,072,000,000 bushels in March, 1896.

The wheat reserve in farmers' hands amount to 20.6 per cent of the crop, or 83,000,000 bushels against 123,000,000 bushels last March. Of this amount, 3 per cent is reported as coming over from previous crops.

Of oats there are 313,000,000 bushels, or 44.2 per cent of the 1896 crop yet in farmers' hands.

The reserves of corn and oats, as estimated above, are very large.

We have recently been shown by the representative of H. Shoray & Co., wholesale clothiers of Montreal, a very simple little device for preventing buttons from pulling off garments. From our own experience we should say that this would be a boon to the public. Buttons are liable to come off at the most inopportune time, and this peculiarity of the button is not infrequently the cause of more or less bad language. We may view this invention therefore, as something of a moral benefactor of mankind.

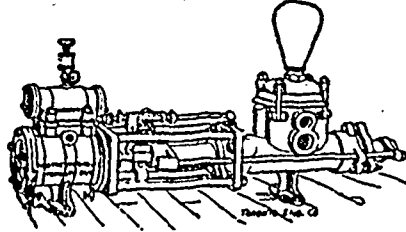


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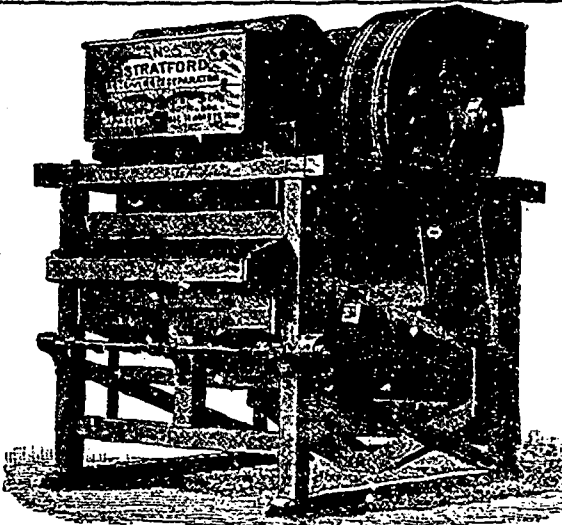
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Try these Brands. They are Unsurpassed.  
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# The Commercial

WINNIPEG, MARCH 16, 1897.

## COLLECTING SMALL DEBTS

The necessity for some improvement in the law respecting the collection of small debts, has been brought very forcibly to the attention of the Manitoba legislature this session. Several deputations have been before members of the government or committees of the legislature, with the object of pressing this matter upon the attention of our legislators. The two resolutions passed by the Business Men's convention, one dealing with the collection of small debts, and the other referring to the exemption laws, have been brought to the attention of the government by a deputation from the Winnipeg board of trade. These resolutions were published in *The Commercial* last week.

Besides the resolutions of the Business Men's convention, the Winnipeg Caterers' association had a deputation before the law amendments' committee, to ask for improvements in the law regarding the obtaining of judgments, and in regard to garnishment. The Winnipeg Retailers' association also took up the same matters with the legislators, and asked that the cost of issue of garnishes and summonses be so reduced as not to exceed \$1.50, and that the amount of exemption from garnishment be reduced to \$25.

Mr. Teichman, of the Retailers' association, made the statement before the law amendments' committee, that the association had lately appointed a committee to watch those attending the first concert of Madame Albani, and there it was discovered that while the creditors were generally satisfied with \$1 seats, the debtors, on the contrary, were occupying the high priced chairs. This discloses a state of affairs that is not at all new to business men in this city. There are hundreds of people from whom nothing can be collected, who always have money to spend for theatres, balls, and general amusements. For some years the tendency in Manitoba, and the Territories also, has been to change the law in the direction of affording increased protection to dead beats and persons unwilling to pay their debts. We have been increasing exemptions and making it more difficult for creditors to obtain their rights. It is now high time that some change was made, first, in the direction of reducing costs of legal action, secondly, in rendering the law more effective in reaching the debtor who will not pay, and thirdly in reducing exemptions. Business men do not ask for the entire removal of the exemptions, but it is reasonable to expect that hereafter the tendency should be in the direction of the removal of exemptions.

One effect of the exemption law has been to create a demand for special privileges to certain persons. Hence we have such laws as the threshers' lien law, etc., giving preferential claims to certain persons. The general effect of special class legislation of this nature is bad. Such laws are in the main ob-

noxious, though possible exception should be made in the case of wage-earners.

Through all these exemptions and special privileges, the country merchants, who supplies the farmer with such necessities of life as food and clothing, is the least protected of all. If any class should be specially privileged in the matter of collections, it is the country merchant, but in our vicious system of exemptions and special privileges, the country merchant, who often carries the farmers through trying circumstances, is left with the least protection of the law.

## ORGANIZATION OF BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS.

The first resolution passed at the Business Men's convention, held recently at Winnipeg, was one in favor of the organization of business associations of some kind in towns and villages throughout the country. It is very important that business men should have some means of communicating with each other, so that the consensus of opinion among business men upon any important matter which came up, could be obtained. If some sort of a business association were established in the towns and villages throughout the country, it would be a comparatively easy matter to obtain the opinions of the business men upon any question. It is often desirable that concerted action should be taken by the business men throughout the country, but without organization, it is almost impossible to obtain this end. The Winnipeg board of trade has at times been anxious to secure the opinions of the business men or secure their assistance in furthering some desirable object, but it has not been practical to carry out such desires on account of the fact that at a great many points the business men were not organized. Farmers, mechanics, and others have their organizations and why should not the business men organize associations of some kind. Following is the resolution passed at the convention, upon this subject:

Moved by W. G. McLaren, seconded by J. W. Whitman, and resolved, "Whereas, it would be of great advantage to the business men of Western Canada if some means existed that would enable those in one town or village to meet together for the consideration of matters of common interest and to communicate with those in other towns and villages, and whereas, boards of trade may be incorporated only in places having a population of 2,500, making it impossible to establish such boards in small places; and whereas, this convention considers that some form of trade councils, with a simple form of constitution and by-laws, might be inaugurated and made workable; be it resolved, that this convention appoint a committee to be named by the chairman to draft such form of constitution and by-laws as may be deemed necessary; and further, that members of this convention agree to take steps to give a fair trial to the attempt to establish such trade councils in the towns and villages where they reside."

As a result of the action of the convention, a move has already been made at some points to carry out this programme. Emerson is

the first place to organize. The business men can call their associations by any name that they like, such as boards of trade, business associations, etc. There is nothing to prevent the use of the words "board of trade" in the smaller towns. It is only the incorporation of the association under the act which cannot be obtained in a town of less than 2,500 population. But it is not at all necessary to have an incorporated board of trade, to have an active association of business men. It is only necessary that the business men should organize an association, and keep up the organization. There will be plenty of subjects of local interest to keep such associations busy, and occasionally subjects of general interest will come up upon which it may be desirable that the different associations should take united action. A committee, composed of members of the Winnipeg board of trade, was appointed at the convention to draw up constitution and by-laws, suitable for the government of business associations in the smaller towns, copies of which will be obtainable on application to the secretary of the Winnipeg board, as soon as they are ready for distribution. It is to be hoped an organization will be effected in every town in the province and territories.

## HAIL INSURANCE AGAIN.

Referring again to the question of hail insurance, *The Commercial* wishes to explain that it is not opposed to a provincial government system of hail insurance, provided that it is carried out on a business basis. The proposals so far made in the legislature however, are altogether wrong in principle, and it is to be hoped the government will do its duty by opposing any such measures.

We have been for years advocating mixed farming in this country, but here is a proposal to discriminate directly against mixed farming. The proposal to raise a fund for hail insurance purposes, by levying a general land tax, simply means that the farmer who devotes his land largely to dairying or stock-raising, would be taxed to provide hail insurance for the large grain grower.

The principle of such a law, it must be evident to any one, is most objectionable. It is discriminating and vicious. Why should the new settler, who has been able to bring but a small portion of his farm under cultivation, be taxed to protect the large wheat grower? Why should the struggling farmer, who has started with very limited means, and who has been able to accumulate sufficient plant to work only twenty-five or fifty acres, be taxed to protect the well-to-do farmer who can cultivate 200 or 300 acres. The whole thing is wrong in principle, and it would certainly appear to be the duty of the government to oppose the proposed measures.

If the government decides to take up the question of hail insurance, *The Commercial* will not oppose any measure founded on ordinary business principles. Hail insurance, as we have said before, is only one form of insurance, not differing in its essential business principle from life insurance or fire insurance. Only those who receive the pro-

section should pay the premiums, and the premiums should be in proportion to the amount of insurance in each individual case. This should be the fundamental basis of any hail insurance law. It would simply be outrageous to provide for a general tax on the basis proposed in the bills introduced in the legislature. Under these proposed acts, the farmers who had the smallest amount of property to protect, and who were the least able to pay, would be taxed out of all proportion, to protect their well-to-do neighbors who were cultivating large areas of land.

If a compulsory system of hail insurance is considered necessary, the tax should be made only on the area actually cultivated, and not upon the entire land area. This would be as near to a fair distribution of the tax as could be arrived at, in proportion to the amount of property each individual would have at risk. This would avoid the charge of sectionalism, which on the other hand could be made, to the effect that the farmers of the live stock and dairy districts of the north were taxed to provide hail insurance for the large grain farmers of the south-west. It would also give room to avoid the charge of discrimination against the small farmers and in favor of those who cropped large areas.

### CORN AND WHEAT FLOUR.

The Minneapolis Northwestern Miller has started a crusade against the growing custom of mixing corn flour with wheat flour. The higher range of wheat prices this year, and the low price of corn, has been a great temptation to millers in the United States to mix corn in with their wheat. A great deal of mixing of this nature is said to have been done lately, and large quantities of corn have found their way to market as wheat flour. The Miller explains that it is not the mixing of corn flour with wheat flour that is objectionable. What the Miller is after is the custom of marketing such mixtures as all wheat flour. In this connection our Minneapolis contemporary says:

"It is hardly necessary for the Northwestern Miller to state that it is not fighting against corn flour in itself, nor does it find fault with the practice of mixing corn flour with wheat flour. So far as we know, there is nothing deleterious in the blended product. It is not poisonous; it may be even nutritious, and an improvement over plain wheat flour. Many people may prefer it, and many mills, by force of circumstances, find the mixing desirable, if not absolutely necessary. This is all right, and perfectly legitimate."

Evidently it will require legislation to stop the custom of selling such mixtures as wheat flour, as it has become far more widespread than many people imagine. The mixing cannot of course be prevented by law, but the law can provide that mixed corn and wheat flours should be sold only for what they really are.

It may be news to some in Manitoba that corn has been used largely of late for mixing with wheat flour, though The Commercial has mentioned the fact once or twice of late. This is another argument against the continuance of high prices for wheat. If wheat were to advance to say about \$1 per bushel

at Chicago, with corn at present low value, it is probable that the consumption of corn for mixing would be so great as to materially reduce the consumption of wheat. It is said that where corn flour has been used as an admixture with wheat flour, it is preferred by many people to the pure article.

### SAVING UP MONEY.

If the savings of the people may be taken as indicating the condition of the country, last year cannot be considered as a very bad one in Canada. We have heard a good deal about hard times during the past year, but notwithstanding this, the Canadian people managed to increase their cash surplus on hand by about \$10,000,000. This certainly does not look like a very bad year.

The total deposits, including those in savings and loan companies, at the end of last year were \$288,000,000, this being an increase of about \$10,000,000, as stated.

This vast sum represents the surplus cash savings of our people, and it is certainly a very respectable sum, in proportion to population, for the people of this country.

### DEPARTMENTAL STORES.

In some of the states of the republic, various measures have been proposed for the curtailment of the operations of departmental stores. One plan proposed is to establish a system of progressive taxation, providing for a tax upon each separate branch of trade, gradually increasing the tax in proportion to the number of departments carried. In New York state a bill has been introduced making it unlawful for any person to advertise for sale, or to sell any article at less than its cost price, or at a price so low as to injure the business of another merchant.

While departmental stores may not be considered the best thing for a community, they cannot be checked by any legislation which would not be extremely arbitrary and unreasonable.

### MANITOBA FISH EXPORTS.

Last summer about 2,000,000 pounds of Lake Winnipeg fresh fish were shipped east and south. In former years all the fish were frozen and held for winter shipment, but two years ago the experiment of summer fishing was tried and it assumed considerable proportions last summer. It is very satisfactory that these shipments were made last summer, as the winter market has been the most unfavorable one in the history of the trade. Owing to the mild weather East, fishing has been going on in the lakes there most of the winter, consequently the eastern markets were kept supplied with their own fresh caught fish, and the demand was proportionately reduced for Manitoba frozen fish. A good many pounds of Manitoba fish were consequently sold at a loss.

On account of the shipments last summer, the quantity held in the Manitoba freezers for winter shipment was not so large as usual, stocks at Selkirk having been about 660,000 pounds less last fall than the previous year.

The Commercial recently copied a letter from an eastern paper, in which a complaint

was made of the government restriction of the fishing industry in the Manitoba lakes. At present, however, it would appear that as many fish are caught as can be profitably marketed, and it would not be an advantage to extend the trade in excess of the quantity which can be profitably sold.

### PREFERENTIAL CLAIMS.

A bill has been introduced in the Manitoba legislature, which proposes to give farm servants a lien upon the grain produced on a farm, said lien to continue in force until the grain is marketed. The two most important clauses of the bill read as follows:

2. Every farm servant shall have a lien upon the grain harvested on the farm where his labor is performed, for his wages, for a period not exceeding three months.

3. The said lien shall have priority over an execution or other process, rent, liens, charges, encumbrances, conveyances and claims whatsoever except the holder's liens and chattel mortgage securing the payment of seed grain.

It will soon be time to call a halt to this disposition to establish preferred claims. Since the exemption laws were introduced, a number of preferred claims have been established by various acts of the legislature. At this rate it will soon be in order to get up an agitation in favor of the abolition of law establishing liens and preferences. The principle of establishing a preference in favor of the wage-earner is not objectionable in itself, but there has been too much of this class of legislation of late years.

Under clause two of this bill, there must be room for the introduction of fraudulent claims, on the part of relatives or other persons.

### INSULTING WITNESSES.

The Winnipeg Free Press had a very timely article the other day upon the subject of the treatment of witnesses by opposing counsel. This is a matter which certainly deserves attention. The latitude allowed counsel appears to be altogether too great. It is a custom with some lawyers to make nasty insinuations against the character of witnesses, in order to weaken their evidence, or perhaps confuse the witness. A witness who goes into court should receive full protection from slander of this nature, and a counsel should not be allowed to say or do anything which would reflect upon the character of a witness, which it would not be appropriate to say under other circumstances. Under the present conditions, a witness or principal, even in a trivial civil case, is liable to have to put up with nasty insinuations or even direct charges against his character, from opposing counsel, though there may not be a shadow of proof to substantiate any of these charges or insinuations. This is very unpleasant for those who are obliged to submit to it, and it should not be permitted in our courts.

The sixty thousand dollar building projected for the Manitoba University has been approved by the university council. The provincial government will extend financial assistance and take a lien on the land grant.

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 WHOLESALE  
**DRUGS AND MEDICINES**  
 Every requisite for the Drug Trade  
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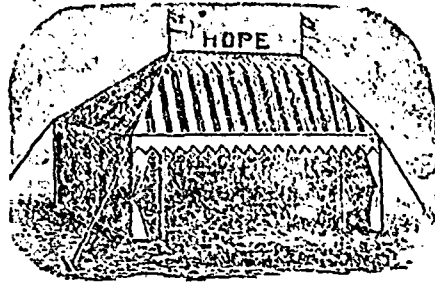
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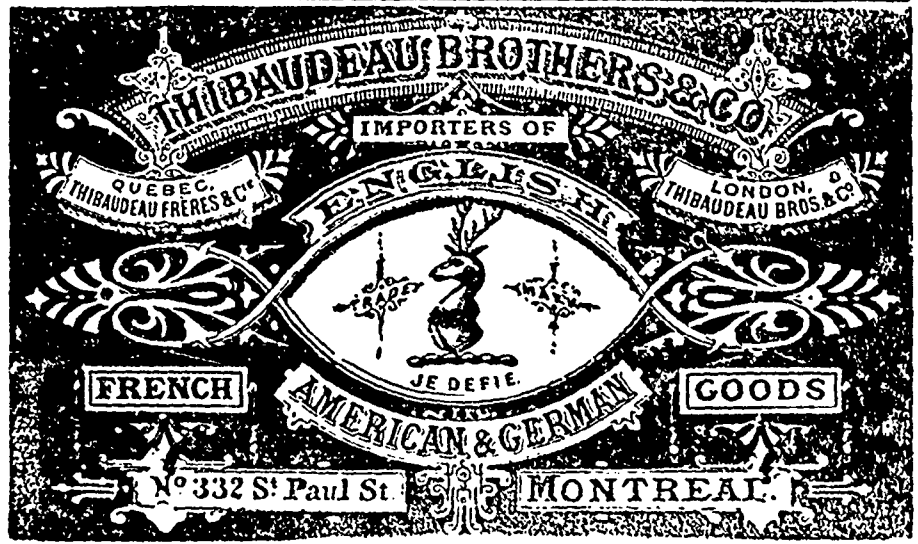
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PURE VINEGARS.

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**Mixed Pickles, Jams, Jellies**  
 AND PRESERVES,

Prepared by  
**MICHEL LEFEBVRE & CO.,**  
 MONTREAL.

Established 1840. Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals.  
 20 1st Prizes.

**40 DAYS**  
**LENT NOW ON**

We have in stock full lines of Fish.  
**FRESH--White Pike, Pickled, Haddock, Codfish, Smelts, Trout, Herring.**  
**PICKLED--Herring, half bbls., Herring, kegs Lock Fyne Mackerel, pails**  
**DRY--Codfish, Boneless, 5 and 20 lb. boxes**  
**SMOKED--Haddies, Bloaters, Med. Scaled Herring**  
**OYSTERS--Shell and Bulk**

**THE MANITOBA PRODUCE & COMMISSION CO.**  
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## GRANULAR OGILVIE'S HUNGARIAN CREAMY 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 "OGILVIE'S FLOUR."

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 gentle men 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. Sawn with our Special Twine, Red White and Blue.  
**OGILVIE'S HUNGARIAN,**  
Unequaled for fine Cakes and Pastry. Starch is added for Bread Making. Make the sponge thin. Let the dough soft. Do not make it stiff. For per use lit's less flour than usual.

## RELIANCE CIGAR FACTORY

OUR BRANDS STAND THE TEST.  
Others Come and Go Again.

The Leaders in the Market are

The Rosebud.  
Flor de Bahama.  
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## PURE HIGHLAND SCOTCH WHISKIES

The Famous Lagavulin Distillery  
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The Lagavulin Whisky is famous for its fine quality, being made of pure SCOTCH MALT ONLY, and has long been the favorite beverage for Spruce. It contains no grain spirit, or other Whiskies one knows nothing of, and the eminent Physicians of the day prescribe it where a stimulant is required.

ASK FOR THE LAGAVULIN.

Mackie's Rare Old Highland 10 YEARS OLD  
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. Galt.  
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**British Columbia Business Review.**

Vancouver, March 8.

There are but few changes to note in the market this week. Money is scarce and collections slow. Business continues about up to the average. There is a scarcity of fresh meat in the market which caused prices to advance. This week the Australian steamer Miowera arrived with a large cargo of frozen meat, but this did not appear to affect prices in the local market. The Miowera this time brought over frozen beef as well as frozen mutton. Flour breadstuffs, hay and feed are expected to advance in price shortly. Several large shipments of hay and feed have been made to the interior. Purchases for seed purposes are also large.

Ontario apples are still advancing and are becoming scarce owing to unloading for purchases for the lumber and mining camps.

Sugar has declined during the week. A large consignment of low fruit has arrived from Australia but at this writing was not out of bond. Shipping is active, there being sixteen vessels loading this week, against fourteen last week. Lumbering is increasing steadily to great proportions. An order recently came to the Japanese consul here to arrange for the exportation to Japan of 5,000,000 feet of lumber from Vancouver, the Japanese preferring the B. C. lumber to the lumber they have been obtaining from the Sound.

**British Columbia Mining News.**

The feverish haste to register companies before the more stringent mining laws come into force still continues. In the past three weeks 120 companies have been registered with a capitalization of \$100,000,000, bringing up the total capitalization of companies to the present time to about \$600,000,000. The government in the meantime are making a nice rake-off in the way of mining fees, amounting to from \$6,000 to \$9,000 a week.

The rush for smelter bonuses is about over, the council after mature consideration having decided to adopt the recommendation of their specially appointed committee to accept the offer of the English syndicate represented by one of the Rothschilds, to build a smelter in Vancouver to cost 150,000 pounds and capable of treating 500 tons a day, for exemption from taxation and free water. The free water will represent an expenditure of \$50,000 for a new main. The site has been chosen and it is thought that the smelter will be running within eight months, as the people will be sure to carry the by-law with a large majority.

**British Columbia Business Notes.**

- D. B. Stevens, baker, Kamloops, is advertising to sell out.
- McDonald Bros., grocers, New Westminster, are giving up this line and going into the cannery business.
- E. H. S. McLearn, drugs, Revelstake, has sold out to F. T. Abey.
- The Ferguson Co., general store, Rossland, has assigned.
- British Columbia Automatic Lighting & Oil Co., Vancouver, is succeeded by the Vancouver Coal Oil Co.
- The Hispano American Trading Co., Vancouver, has been incorporated.
- C. B. Lockhart & Co., undertakers, Vancouver, are out of business.
- C. C. H. Wetzel, boots and shoes, Vancouver, chattel mortgagee in possession.
- R. B. Esnouf, second hand dealer, Victoria, is selling out and moving to Kootenay.
- Humphreys & Pottinger provisions, Victoria, have dissolved. D. B. Pottinger continues.

**British Columbia Market.**

[All quotations, unless otherwise specified, are wholesale for such quantities as are usually taken by retail dealers, and are subject to the usual reduction on large quantities and to cash discounts.]

(BY WIRE TO THE COMMERCIAL.)

Vancouver, March 10, 1897.

Manitoba butter and eggs are about out of the market, and these articles are now coming from the Pacific coast states. Potatoes have advanced \$1 per ton. Manitoba flour has declined 20c. Oregon flour unchanged.

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, 11½c.

Cured Meats.—Hams 12½ cents; breakfast bacon 12½; backs 9½c; long, clear, 7½ to 8c; shortrolls 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, 35c to \$1; geese, 75c to \$1.25; Venison, 4c; sand snipe, 85c.

Fish.—Prices are: Flounders 8c; smelt 5c; sea bass 4c; black cod 5c; rock cod 4c; red cod 4c; tommy cod 5c; herring 4c; spring salmon 8c; steelhead, 7c; whiting 5c; 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 9½c; cabbage, 2c lb; carrots, turnips and beets, \$7.50 a ton.

Eggs.—Oregon eggs, 19c.

Fruits.—Fruit is sold by box unless other wise 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 230 to 360 lemons, from 125 to 300 seedling oranges, or from 125 to 150 navel oranges. California lemons, \$2.50; California oranges, seedling, \$1.85 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, 5c to 7½c; loose Muscatel raisins, 6c; London layer raisins \$1.90 box; Italian prunes, 6 to 8½c lb.

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

Meal.—National mills rolled oats, 90 lb sacks, \$3.00; 45 pound sacks, \$3.10; 2½ pound sacks, \$3.20; 10.7 sacks, \$2.60. Oatmeal, 10-10's, \$3.25; 2-50's, \$3.00. Off grades, 90 lbs. \$2.70.

Flour.—Delivered B.C. points.—Manitoba patent, per barrel, \$5.40; strong bakers, \$5.10; Oregon, \$5.80.

Grain.—Local wheat, \$30 to \$35. Oats, \$25 per ton.

Ground Feed.—National mills chop, \$23 to \$21 per ton; ground barley, \$22 ton; shorts, \$20.00 ton; bran \$18.00; oil cake meal, \$35 ton; F. O. B. Vancouver, including duty paid on import stuff.

Hay.—\$15.00 per ton.

Dressed Meats.—Beef, 7½ to 8½c; mutton, 10c; pork, 6½ to 7½c; veal, 8 to 9c lb.

Live Stock.—Steers, \$5.00 per 100 lbs.; sheep, \$4.50 to \$5.00 per 100 lbs; hogs, \$5.50 per 100 lbs.

Poultry.—Chickens, 10c lb, turkeys, 12c lb., ducks, 12c lb. geese, 11½c lb.

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

Syrups.—30 gallon barrels, 1½c per pound, 10 gallon kegs, 2½c; 7-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.

**Toronto Grain and Produce Market.**

Wheat.—Cars of red wheat are quoted west at 78 to 79c, and white at 75c. Cars of No. 1 hard sold Midland to-day at 80c; No. 2 hard is quoted there at 87c.

Flour.—Cars of straight roller are quoted west at \$3.70 to \$3.75.

Millfeed.—Shorts are quoted west at \$3.50 to \$9, and bran at \$3.50 west.

Barley.—Is dull at 92c for No. 1 extra, 80c for No. 1, 27c for No. 2, 21c for No. 3 extra and 21½ to 22c for feed

Oats.—Are steady at 19c for No. 1 white east and 17½c for No. 2 white west.

Peas.—Are in fair demand and steady at 38½c north and west.

Butter.—Jobbing prices are: Large rolls, choice, 12½ to 13½c; dairy tubs, 9 to 12c; dairy rolls, 13 to 14c; creamery tubs, 18 to 19c.

Eggs.—Supply of new laid large and prices of all kinds easy; new laid, 12 to 13c; limed, 8 to 10c; held, 5c.

Potatoes.—Car lots here, 20 to 22c; out of store, 32c.

Baled Hay—No. 1, \$10.25 to \$10.50; other grades, \$8.50 upwards.

Dressed Hogs.—Choice weights sell up to \$6.25 on the street and to about \$6 on the track. Heavy are worth about \$1 less per 100 lbs.—Globe, March 10.

**The Labor Market.**

Farmers are beginning to engage men for the spring work, but the demand is not very brisk yet. There is, as usual, a scarcity of domestic servants, and agents say they could place a large number at once, if they could get hold of them.

Among the immigrants at the immigration hall in Winnipeg last week, were some Mennonites who left Manitoba a few years ago for the States, but who are now glad to get back again. They will again take up land here.

**Returned From Europe.**

Mr. Rogers, manager of the Parsons Produce Co., Winnipeg, has returned from a lengthy trip to Europe, whither he went on business and pleasure. Mr. Rogers spent some time at Liverpool, looking into the produce trade there. The firms there, he says, do business on a gigantic scale, and talk about cargoes as we would talk about car lots. The chief difficulty he found with Canadian creamery butter, is that it is held too long, and is consequently often not in really fine condition. In Great Britain they discriminate very closely and anything not fine is always reduced in price. If our butter will not come up to the quality of the fine Danish and other brands, it cannot bring the top price. They want strictly fresh goods. There is very little demand for dairy butter, except at very low prices.

Mr. Rogers spent some time in London, and visited France, Holland and Belgium.

E. A. Pifer, saddler, Oak Lake, is out of business and succeeded by A. Grasso.

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**To Advertisers.**

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

**Chattel Mortgage Suit**

On Wednesday, at the court house, Winnipeg, Justice Raju, heard an application in Bert and vs. Canadian Rubber Co. On Jan. 5, Jas. James Lamonte, who carried on a boot and shoe store at 481 Main street, gave a chattel mortgage to the Canadian Rubber Co. on the whole of his stock to a value of \$8,184. On Feb. 20, the company entered into possession and advertised a sale of the stock for March 4. On Feb. 20 Lamonte made an assignment to Bertrand. On Feb. 28 the sheriff seized the stock under execution in a suit of Clark vs. Lamonte.

Bertrand contends that when the Rubber Co. took the chattel mortgage they knew Lamonte was insolvent and it amounted to a fraudulent preference. The statement of claims was then filed asking the court for an injunction to restrain the Canadian Rubber Co from selling or liquidating the stock comprised in their mortgage. An interim injunction was granted by Judge Kellam on March 6.

On the matter coming on for argument an adjournment was made for a week to allow an affidavit to be made by Lamonte to be filed, and for his cross-examination on the same, but if the parties are ready to proceed before that, it will be brought on for argument.

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THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, March 18.

Business has improved a little in wholesale trade, some increase in the demand being apparent in hardware, paints, etc. March is the heavy shipping month in most lines, and wholesalers have been busy sending out spring stocks. In some branches the bulk of the spring stocks have been cleared out. It is too early yet to look for much new business. Receipts of produce continue very light, owing to cold weather and the block up condition of the country, on account of the unusual amount of snow on the ground. The weather has been decidedly cold for the time of year, and this has been favorable to the fuel trade. Collections in mercantile circles are unusually close. This has been the case since the beginning of the new year, and is attributed mainly to bad country roads, which prevent farmers from marketing produce. This has been about the worst winter on record here for snow and storms. Railway traffic has suffered severely, and country roads have been almost impassable. As an offset to the close collections since the beginning of the year, it may be recalled that payments were very good during the closing months of 1895. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week were about 15 per cent less than for the corresponding week last year.

The failures for the past week have been 256 in the United States against 300 last year, and 61 in Canada against 60 last year.

Bradstreet's reports an expanding business in the United States this week. Prices have been fairly steady, noteworthy increases being those for tea, sugar, coffee, lard and wheat. Quotations are practically unchanged for wheat flour, pork, petroleum and print cloths, while cotton, Indian corn, shoes, leather, tobacco and rosin are higher.

At New York yesterday call money was quoted at 1 1/2 to 1 3/4 per cent, prime mercantile paper, 3 to 4 per cent, bar silver, was 1/2 lower than a week ago at 63 3/4c, Mexican dollars, 49 3/4c.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, March 18.

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

**CORWOOD**—Prices have not undergone any material change. Pine is held about \$1.50 for cars on track here, Cinarad, \$1.25 per cord on track, and poplar at \$2.50 to \$2.75. Prices delivered to consumers about 10c advance on these quotations.

**COAL**—The weather which has been cold for this time of year, is favorable to the fuel trade. Prices are the same. Prices here are as follows: Pennsylvania anthracite \$10.00; western anthracite, \$9.50 per ton. Souris coal \$1.50 per ton; Lethbridge, \$3.50. These prices are delivered to consumers in Winnipeg. Car lots on track of Souris coal are held at \$3.85 to 3.90 per ton here, or \$1.50 per ton on cars at the mines.

**DROS**—A sharp decline is reported in prices here, by cable from abroad. Canada maintains the strong hold that this article has developed of late. Prices for parcel lots are as follows, with liberal reductions for large orders:

Alum per pound, 8 3/8 to 4 1/2; alcohol, \$5.25 gallon; bleaching powder per pound; 5 to 8c; bluestone, barrel lots 4 1/2c, less than barrels, 5 to 6c; borax 11 to 18 cents; bromide potash, 65 to 75c; camphor, 80 to 95c; camphir, bunches 90 to 1.00; carbolic acid, 40 to 65c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chlorate potash, 25 to 30c; citric acid, 55 to 65c; coppers 3 1/2 to 4c; cocaine, per oz \$5.00 to \$5.50; cream tartar, per pound, 30 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 85c; 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, \$1.50 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, per mint, \$1.00 to \$1.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.00 to \$4 per gallon as to brand; oxalic acid, 13 to 16c; potash iodide, \$1.25 to 4.50, paris green, 18 to 20c lb; saltpetre, 10 to 12c; sal rochello, 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:—Johnston's Fluid Beef—No. 1, 2-oz. tins, per dozen, \$2.70; No. 2 4oz., \$4.50; No. 3, 8oz., \$7.88; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.83; No. 5, 2 lb., \$21.30. Staminol—2oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do, 4oz, \$5.10.

**FISH**—Manitoba fresh fish are still offering at very low prices, and a good many will likely be carried over in refrigerators. Winter fishing stopped some time ago, as the fishermen were not able to dispose of their fish, on account of the poor shipping demand. In the Winnipeg jobbing market, hardies have advanced 1c to 8c per lb. Jobbing prices are as follows:—Finnish haddies, 8c 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, \$1.83 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, \$6 per barrel; salt herrings \$3.50 per half barrel; boneless fish, 5c lb.

**GREEN FRUITS**—Choice apples are somewhat scarce but there is considerable common stock, which sells at \$2 to \$2.50 per barrel. Good stock brings full prices. The frequent delays on the railways makes it very difficult to handle perishable stock, such as bananas to any advantage. Fruit has been a week on the road between here and St. Paul. Malaga grapes are very scarce here 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. California navel, \$1.50 to \$1.75 per box; California seedling oranges, \$3.75 to \$1.00 per box; Messina lemons, \$1.50 per box; California lemons, \$1.50 to \$3 box; Cape Cod cranberries, frozen, \$5 to \$5.50 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**—Tarragon almonds, 16c; Sicily filberts, large, 15c. filberts ordinary, 12c. peanuts, roasted, 12c; peanuts, green, 9c. Ontario butternuts, 9c; Ontario Walnuts, 6c; 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 size, 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., \$2.35 to 3.00, Swedish iron, per 100 lbs.; \$5.25 to 6; sloop 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 Blaine, \$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, discount, 40 per cent.; rim fire cartridges, Dominion, 50 and 5; rim fire military, American, not list; central fire pistol and rifle, American, 12 per cent.; central fire cartridge, Dominion, 30 per cent.; shot shells, 12 gauge, \$6 to 7.50; shot, Canadian, soft, 5 1/2c; 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 at 1 larger, 15c lb.

**AXES**.—Per box, \$6.00 to 9.00.

**NAILS**.—Cut, per keg, base price, \$2.68 for 60 d. with usual extras; common steel wire nails, 3 to 6 inch, \$3.20 per keg, 2 1/2 inch, \$3.93, with usual extras for smaller sizes.

**HORSE NAILS**.—Pointed and finished, oval heads. Last 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, \$1 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**.—Glue, S.S., in sheets, per lb., 12 1/2 to 15c; glue, white, for kalsomining, 15 to 18c. Stove gasoline, per case, \$1.00; 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 2½c 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, 83 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; neatsfoot oil, \$1.20; steam refined seal oil, 85c; pure winter bleached sperm oil, \$2 per gallon.

REFINED PETROLEUM.—Prices here are as follows: Silver star, 19½c; crescent, 22½c; oleophone, 4½c in barrels. Car lots 1c per gallon less. United States oils in barrels are quoted at 23c for coccone 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
" cubs	.....	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 5 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 general tendency of wheat has been downward this week. There has been nothing new to influence the situation, except the United States government report giving estimate of reserve stocks of grain held by farmers. Statistics of reserves held by farmers, however, cannot be considered as anything more than mere guesses, which may or may not be approximately correct. The enormous exports of corn from the United States keeps up, and no doubt considerable of this corn is being used as food in place of wheat. Besides this, large quantities of corn are being used for mixing with wheat, for grinding, by United States millers. The enormous quantity of cheap corn still held in the United States, is one of the principal bearish features in the situa-

tion, as regards wheat. Bradstreets has the following to say regarding the United States government report of wheat in farmers' hands: "Government report of wheat stocks in farmers' hands, on March 1st, backed by its wheat crop reports for 1896 and accepted estimates for reserves July 1st., 1896, indicate that less than 80,000,000 bushels of wheat remain in the country, visible and invisible, available for export prior to July 1st, 1897, and for reserves on that date.

Exports of wheat from both coasts of the United States this week, flour included as wheat, amounted to only 1,599,482 bushels, against 2,075,000 bushels last week, 2,401,000 bushels in the week a year ago, 2,791,000 bushels in the week two years ago, 2,358,000 bushels three years ago, as compared with 2,896,000 bushels in the like period of 1893, and forms the smallest week's total since the last week of April, 1896.

WHEAT—LOCAL SITUATION.—There has been no change so far as the situation in the country is concerned, country roads, being still in a bad shape, and receipts at country points are trifling. Roads will not improve, and with the break-up which may come any time now, they will be even worse for a while. Receipts of wheat at Fort William last week aggregated 96,039 bushels, and the shipments were 2,001 bushels, leaving in store 2,834,665 bushels, compared with 3,693,000 bushels a year ago, 3,10,836 bushels two years ago and 2,115,023 bushels three years ago. Stocks of Manitoba wheat at Lake ports and interior points, a year ago, were estimated at 7,000,000 bushels, compared with 3,250,000 bushels two years ago. At present, stocks at lake ports and interior points are estimated at 5,650,000 bushels. Wheat receipts at Fort William the corresponding week last year were 168,603 bushels, and shipments were 106,981 bushels. Prices have been easier. In the country prices to farmers are now quoted at 55c to 56c per bushel of 60 pounds, at low freight rate points, for best samples of hard wheat. In the Winnipeg market there has been very little doing. Prices were lower, in sympathy with the decline in the United States, and it is reported that a sale of No. 1 hard was made at as low as 71½c, afloat at Fort William. Later in the week the feeling was firmer, and yesterday 73c was paid for No. 1 hard, and we quote 72 to 73c to-day. No. 2 hard 3c to 3½c 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—Flour is unchanged at the decline noted last week. 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 98 lbs.

MILLSTUFFS.—Bran is rather firmer, but there is no change in prices. We quote here \$5 for bran and \$3 for shorts, per ton, delivered to the local trade, in a jobbing way.

BARLEY—Car lots of feed barley have sold at 20 to 24c. City brewers are paying 23 to 25c for malting samples to farmers here, and 27 to 28c on track here for car lots.

OATS—From 15 to 20c per bushel of 31 pounds is paid to farmers in this market as to quality, per bushel of 31 lbs., for loads. Car lots range from 18c for light up to 20c for No. 2 and for fancy seed or milling oats as high as 2½c has been quoted for car lots on track here. Most sales of feed oats are about 19 to 20c.

OATMEAL.—Prices are easy. Following are prices here in large lots, with small lots to retail dealers held about 15c more. Rolled oatmeal in 80 lbs sacks \$1.55 per sack; standard, \$1.85 \$1.90 and 1 granulated \$1.85 to \$1.90 in 98 lb sack. Rolled wheat, 80 lbs, \$1.70 in round lots. Pot barley, \$1.70 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 still 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 quite closely sold out of really good stock. The demand has not been heavy, but a little has been going out all the time, and as receipts have been practically nil for some time, stocks have been gradually cleaned out. Receipts have been less than usual this winter, and still scarcely anything is coming in. Dealers are getting 14 to 16c as to quality for dairy tubs, and rolls, if really good, would bring the same, but such as are offering are usually quoted 1c lower. Low grade stuff, 5 to 8c; medium grades, 10 to 12c.

CHEESE.—The local jobbing price is about 9½ to 10c in small lots.

EGGS.—Scarcely any Manitoba eggs coming in. Market mainly supplied with Minnesota stock, which are fairly good quality. Prices sold off this week to 20c, in a jobbing way, but 21 to 22c was quoted again yesterday, owing to temporary scarcity. The general tendency is lower, and it is only the cold weather and railway blockades which keep prices so high just now.

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.—Prices are: Pure \$1.50 for 20 lb pails, and \$3.50 for 50 lb. pails; pure leaf lard in 8, 5 and 10 pound tins, quoted at \$5.75 per case of 60 pounds, tierces 6½ to 7c.

CURED MEATS.—Smoked meats are quoted: Hams, assorted sizes, 10 to 11c; breakfast bacon, bellies, 10 to 10½c; do., backs, 9 to 9½c; short spiced rolls, 7 to 7½c; shoulders, 6 to 6½c smoked long clear, 7 to 7½c; Fancy clear, 7½ to 8c; Dry salt meats are quoted: Long clear bacon, 6 to 6½c per lb; shoulders, 5½c; backs, 7 to 7½c; barrel pork, clear mess, \$12.00; short cut, \$15.00; rolled shoulders, \$13.50; per barrel. Pork sundries; fresh sausage, 7½c; bologna sausage, 6c; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 10c per package; pickled hocks, 8c; pickled tongues, 3c; sausage casings, 25 to 30c lb.

DRESSED MEATS.—Dressed meats are generally firmer. Beef is quite firm, and good beef has brought 5½c this week, and choice is held at 6c, we quote city dressed beef 5½ to 6c. Country frozen beef is offering only to a very limited extent, and worth 3½ to 4½c as to quality. Mutton is a little firmer, and stocks of frozen have been reduced. Fresh mutton has been offered yet, but is likely to be in the market next week. We quote frozen mutton at 5 to 6c, fresh will be considerably higher than this price. Hogs are firmer. Packers are paying 4½ to 5c and in some cases 5 to 10c per 100 lbs meat has been paid. A few fancy city hogs have sold as high as 5c. Prices of hogs keep up high.

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**HIDES**—Scarcely any offering. About 6½c is the general price here for frozen hides, but in their anxiety to get the few going 6½ and even 7c has been paid for a few hides. These prices are beyond actual value. Dealers are trying to get 10 per cent tare, but often only 5 lbs tare is taken, though this will not cover the actual tare, as often ten or more pounds of manure is adhering to a hide. We quote 6½c for frozen hides, calf, 8 t, 15c lb., seals, 6½ to 8c per lb.; dokius 10 to 20c each; kips, 6 to 6½c; 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.

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

**HAY**—Held at about \$5 per ton for baled prairie on track here.

**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 80c Onions, 2c to 3c lb.; carrots, 40c bushel; beets, 30c bushel; turnips, 20c; parsnips; 60 to 75c bushel; celery, 50c dozen; cabbage, 60 to 75c dozen. These are prices dealers buy at from market gardeners.

**LIVE STOCK.**

**CATTLE**—There is quite a firmer feeling in cattle, whether or not it is warranted by the situation. Some claim there will not be many still fed cattle this spring fit for market. While others say the supply is abundant. Some buying for shipment east is going on in the country, and Gordon & Ironside expect to make a shipment next week. Fair to good cows 2½ to 3c, butchers' will bring 8 to 8½c here, off cars.

**SHEEP**—Stocks of frozen mutton are now well reduced, and next week it is expected the market will open for sheep again. The first lot is expected here next week. We quote sheep at 3½ to 4c off cars here.

**HOGS**—Prices have continued firm and a further slight advance has been made. 3½c having been reached for choice bacon hogs. We quote: Good bacon stock, weighing 150 to 300 pounds, 3½ to 3¾c. Sows and heavy hogs 2¾ to 3½c, according to quality. Stags 1¾ to 2½c, off cars here.

**The Live Stock Trade.**

A cable report stated that the steamship Lake Winnipeg had arrived in England after a stormy passage, with all the deckload of cattle lost, including 70 head shipped by Mullins & Dean and 40 head by Lavaek, Toronto. They were insured; but the shippers stand to lose one-third the value.

At London on March 8, supplies of cattle were short and prices advanced ¾c, choice States being quoted at 12c and Argentines at 11c. The feeling in the market for sheep was also strong, and an advance of ¾c to 1c is noted, choice selling at 13½c.

A cable received from Liverpool reported the market for cattle firm, and prices unchanged at 11½c for choice Americans, and at 11c for Canadians.

The Montreal Gazette of March 8, says: The feature of the live stock trade continues to be the active demand in the West for stockers for the Buffalo market, owing to the fact that buyers are in daily expectation that the United States quarantine regulations will be reimposed. The distillery-fed stock has commenced to go forward, the first

shipment being made last week by way of Portland, and other shipments will follow this week by way of St. John, N. B., and Portland.

At the East End Abattoir market, Montreal, on March 8, the demand from local buyers was active. The scarcity of really choice stock continues. Butchers state that they would readily pay for such as high as 4½c to 4¾c per lb, but even these prices do not seem to be any inducement to drovers to fetch choice stock forward. Good cattle sold at 3½c to 3¾c, fair at 3c to 3¼c, and lower grades at 2c to 2½c per lb, live weight. Sheep and lambs were very scarce, there being none on the market.

At the Point St. Charles market, Montreal, on March 8, the supply of hogs was fair, and the demand good. Prices were firmly held, all the offerings being taken at \$1.75 to \$5 per 100 lbs. live weight.

At Toronto on March 9, export cattle sold at 3½c to 3¾c, and choice stock at 4c to 4½c. Butchers' cattle ranged from 2½c to 2¾c for common to fair and good at 3 to 3½c, bulls 2½c to 3½c, the latter for export bulls. Stockers, for Buffalo, sold at 2½c to 3c, and feeders at 3½ to 3¾c. Sheep, export, 3c, bucks 2½c, lambs, firm at 4½c to 5c. Hogs were firm at about 4½c to 5c for choice; bacon, heavy fat 4c to 4½c, light fat 4½c, sows 2½ to 3c, stags 2½c to 2¾c.

At Chicago on March 12, hogs ranged from \$9.50 to \$9.90, as to quality.

**Montreal Grain and Produce Market.**

**Oats**—Oats were offered at 22½c; peas at 46½c and buckwheat at 32c.

**Flour**—There was no marked improvement in the demand for flour, the call being principally for small lots to fill actual wants. We quote: Winter wheat patents at \$1.40 to \$1.65; straight rollers at \$1.00 to \$1.20, and in bags, at \$1.95 to \$2.00. Manitoba spring wheat patents at \$1.70 to \$5.05; and strong bakers' at \$1.25 to \$1.65.

**Feed**—The market is firm at \$12 for Manitoba bran, and at \$13 for shorts per ton, including bags.

**Oatmeal**—Business in oatmeal continues exceedingly quiet and prices rule easy at \$2.80 to \$2.90 per barrel, and at \$1.40 to \$1.45 per bag for rolled oats.

**Butter**—Business in butter is confined to the merest jobbing trade. Creamery moved out quietly to-day in small lots at 15½ to 19c, and roll dairy 11 to 13c. The offerings of the latter are decreasing, and the occurrence is welcome to all holders of butter.

**Eggs**—Prices steady at the recent decline. New laid, 18 to 15c, limed and held fresh at 8 to 11c per dozen.

**Potatoes**—The market for potatoes continues quiet at 35 to 40c per bag in car lots, and at 45 to 50c in a small way.

**Dressed Hogs**—The receipts of dressed hogs were small, for which the demand is good, and prices for choice light rule firm at \$5.75 to \$5 per 100 lbs. in car lots, and at \$6.50 to \$7 in a small way.—Gazette March 10.

**Winnipeg Clearing House**

Clearings for the week ending March 11 were 879,793; balances, 153,835. For the previous week clearings were 914,595. For the corresponding week of last year clearings were 1,011,661 and for the week two years ago, were 762,026. Clearings for the month of Feb.

were \$3,851,018, compared with \$1,052,581 for Feb. 1896, and \$2,721,028 for Feb. 1895.

Clearances for all Canadian cities for the week ending March 4 were as follows:

Montreal.....	\$1,157,291
Toronto.....	839,575
Halifax.....	1,261,590
Winnipeg.....	914,893
Hamilton.....	611,501
St. John.....	423,214

Bank clearings at Winnipeg, Toronto, Montreal, Hamilton and Halifax aggregated \$16,814,000 this week, compared with \$17,299,000 last week and \$17,621,000 on this week one year ago.

**Montreal Grocery Market.**

The weakness noted in the sugar market for the raw article in our last continued during the early part of this week, but private cables received yesterday was firmer in tone and noted a slight advance, while those today from London reported the market for beef fully maintained. In New York there has also been a weaker feeling in refined and prices for granulated have declined ¼c to \$3.98 per 100 lbs. net. Values for raws are more or less nominal with buyers bidding 3½c for crystals and holders asking 3¼c. Locally the market is without any new feature, except that in spite of the above news, prices so far have been sustained. The demand shows a slight improvement, but business on the whole is quiet at 4c to 4½c for granulated and at 3½c to 3¾c for yellows, as to quality at the factory.

Business in syrups continues quiet, the demand being only for small lots and prices are unchanged at 1½c to 1¾c per lb. as to quality at the factory.

The anticipated improvement in the demand for molasses as soon as the winter season set in has not materialized yet and the market during the past week has been quiet. Cables received from the island reported prices steady and quoted the first cost of Barbadoes at 9c, while on spot local lots are offering at 27c to 28c.

There is no change in the situation of the rice market, business being still quiet and prices steady. We quote: Crystal Java, \$5.00 to \$5.25; standard B, \$3.50; Patna, \$1.50 to \$5.25; Carolina, \$ .75 to \$ 7.75; choice Bermuda, \$1, and Java kinds, \$1.25.

The tone of the market for spices is firm and with a fair trade closing prices are fairly sustained. We quote: Black pepper, 8c to 10c; white, 11c to 14c, Jamaica ginger, 20c to 25c; cloves, 7½c to 10c, and nutmeg, 60c to 90c.

Business in coffee continues principally a jobbing character, and the market shows no change. We quote: Maracaibo, 17½c to 18c; Santos, 14½ to 16c; Rio, 15c to 16c; and Mocha, 24c to 26c.

The demand for tea during the past week has been limited and the volume of business in consequence has been small with no note of importance to note. The tone is firm, although the market is very quiet. Buyers show no disposition to show prices in order to force sales.—Gazette, March 5.

Chicago Board of Trade Prices.

The prices below are board of trade quotations for No. 2 wheat, No. 2 oats and No. 2 corn, per bushel. Pork is quoted per barrel and lard and short ribs per 100 pounds.

On Monday wheat was weak, closing 1 to 1/2c under Saturday, influenced by the bearish estimate of farm reserves, made by the Washington department. Closing prices were:

	Mar.	May	July	Sept.
Wheat	74	75 1/2	72 1/2	70
Corn	23 1/2	24 1/2	—	—
Oats	16	17 1/2	—	—
Less Pork	—	8 30	8 45	—
Lard	—	4 15	4 25	—
Short Ribs	—	4 85	4 45	—

On Tuesday wheat was dull and easy most of the day, but recovered near the close, on more warlike reports from Europe. Closing prices were:

	Mar.	May	July	Sept.
Wheat	74 1/2	75 1/2	72 1/2	70 1/2
Corn	23 1/2	24 1/2	—	—
Oats	16	17 1/2	—	—
Less Pork	—	8 32 1/2	8 45	—
Lard	—	4 15	4 25	—
Short Ribs	—	4 45	4 47 1/2	—

On Wednesday wheat continued weak, influenced by favorable winter wheat crop reports and easy cables. Closing prices were:

	Mar.	May	July	Sept.
Wheat	73 1/2	74 1/2	71 1/2	69 1/2
Corn	23 1/2	24 1/2	—	—
Oats	15 1/2	17 1/2	—	—
Less Pork	—	8 30	8 42 1/2	—
Lard	—	4 10	4 20	—
Short Ribs	—	4 40	4 50	—

On Thursday wheat was weak, influenced by unfavorable foreign advices, and large estimates of reserve stocks held by farmers. Closing prices were:

	Mar.	May	July	Sept.
Wheat	71 1/2	72 1/2	69 1/2	67 1/2
Corn	23 1/2	24 1/2	—	—
Oats	15 1/2	17	—	—
Less Pork	—	8 35	8 47 1/2	—
Lard	—	4 15	4 25	—
Short Ribs	—	4 45	4 52 1/2	—

On Friday wheat was weak most of the day, influenced by lower cables and speculative selling. Later near the close, there was sharp advance on large exports and more warlike reports from Europe. Closing prices were:

	Mar.	May	July	Sept.
Wheat	72	72 1/2-73	70 1/2	68 1/2
Corn	23 1/2	24 1/2	—	—
Oats	16 1/2	17 1/2	—	—
Less Pork	—	8 50	8 65	—
Lard	—	4 22 1/2	4 30	—
Short Ribs	—	4 57 1/2	4 62 1/2	—

On Saturday May wheat opened at 72 1/2 and ranged upward to 73 1/2c. Closing prices were:

	March	May	July	Sept
Wheat	72 1/2	73 1/2	71 1/2	69 1/2
Corn	23 1/2	24 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
Oats	16 1/2	17 1/2	18 1/2	—
Less Pork	—	8 60	8 70	—
Lard	—	4 25	—	—
Short Ribs	—	4 60	—	—
Seed	8 1/2	78	79 1/2	81

On Monday May wheat closed at 76 1/2c. A year ago May wheat closed at 63 1/2c and a year ago at 56 1/2c.

Minneapolis Wheat.

On Saturday, March 18, No. 1 Northern wheat closed at 71 1/2c for May option, 72 1/2c for July, and 67 1/2c for September. A week ago May wheat closed at 73 1/2c.

Minneapolis Markets

Flour—The Market Record of March 10 reports the market steady but buyers more active. 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, \$3.40 to \$3.50; second clear, 2.30 to \$2.50; Red Dog, per ton, 140 to 150 lbs. jute, \$9.00.

Millstuffs—Bran in bulk, \$6.25 to \$7.75; 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 \$9.00 middlings, fine, \$7 to \$7.25. These prices are the same as a week ago.

Oats—Range mostly at 16 to 16 1/2c for No. 3. Barley—Quoted at 18 to 23c per bushel as to quality.

Flax—Quoted at 75 1/2c per bushel. Hay—Prairie, \$3.00 to \$7.00 per ton, as to quality.—Market Record, March 10.

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 6	Feb 13	Feb 20	Feb 27	Mar 6
Extra Man Hd	0	0	0	0	0
No. 1 hard	54	74	52	49	19
No. 2 hard	6	22	8	7	8
No. 3 hard	4	11	7	7	7
No. 1 North'n	0	0	0	0	1
No. 2 Nor. F'n.	0	0	0	0	0
No. 3 North'n	0	0	0	0	0
No. 1 white type	0	0	0	1	0
No. 2 white type	0	0	0	0	0
No. 1 Spring	0	0	0	1	0
No. 2 Spring	0	0	0	0	0
No. 1 frosted	0	1	4	2	6
No. 2 frosted	7	2	2	5	2
No. 3 frosted	1	0	0	0	1
No. 1 Rejected	6	19	1	1	0
No. 2 Rejected	0	2	0	0	0
No Grade	0	0	1	0	1
Feed	0	0	0	0	0
Total for week	78	121	75	73	45
Same week last year	30	227	281	323	351

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

Duluth Wheat Market.

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

Monday—May, 75
Tuesday—May 75 1/2
Wednesday—May, 74 1/2
Thursday—May 75c
Friday—May, 73 1/2
Saturday—76 1/2c

On Saturday, March 18, cash No. 1 hard closed at 74 1/2c, and cash No. 1 Northern at 72 1/2c.

Last week May delivery closed at 76 1/2c. A year ago May closed at 61 1/2c. Two years ago at 52 1/2c, and three years ago at 60 1/2c.

New York Wheat.

On Saturday, March 18, May option closed at 79 1/2c and July at 77 1/2c. A week ago May option closed at 82 1/2c and two weeks ago at 79 1/2c.

Mineral Production.

The development last year of gold and silver mining in Canada is shown by the recent official returns. There are some notable increases shown by this bulletin over the output in 1895, the greatest being in silver, which shows an increase in value in the one year of \$933,957, or almost a million dollars. Gold shows an increase of \$999,806, coal \$278,859 and copper \$71,919. The greatest falling off was in nickel, the decrease being \$205,904. Lead also shows a decrease in value to the extent of \$23,852, although this is occasioned altogether by a reduction of 8 per cent in price, there having been an increase in production of more than a million pounds. The coal increase is due altogether to Nova Scotia where the output was 296,153 tons more than in 1895, whereas, in British Columbia the coal output was 104,629 less than in the previous year. Large increases of gold are credited to Nova Scotia and Ontario, but British Columbia heads the list with an increase of \$197,675. Ontario's nickel production is reduced during the year by over 400,000 pounds. British Columbia's output of silver amounted to 3,185,317 ounces, valued at \$2,100,689, nearly a million dollars more than in the preceding year. The principal values of minerals for the year were as follows:

Gold	\$2,810,206
Silver	2,147,589
Nickel	1,155,000
Copper	1,021,148
Lead	721,334
Iron	184,313
Coal	8,006,305
Petroleum	1,155,616
Asbestos	429,856
Gypsum	174,403
Mica	60,000

Statistics are given of the production of a number of building materials, other than those mentioned the grand total of production being \$23,627,305, so far as ascertained. This is 1 1/2 millions more than in 1895.

Grain and Milling.

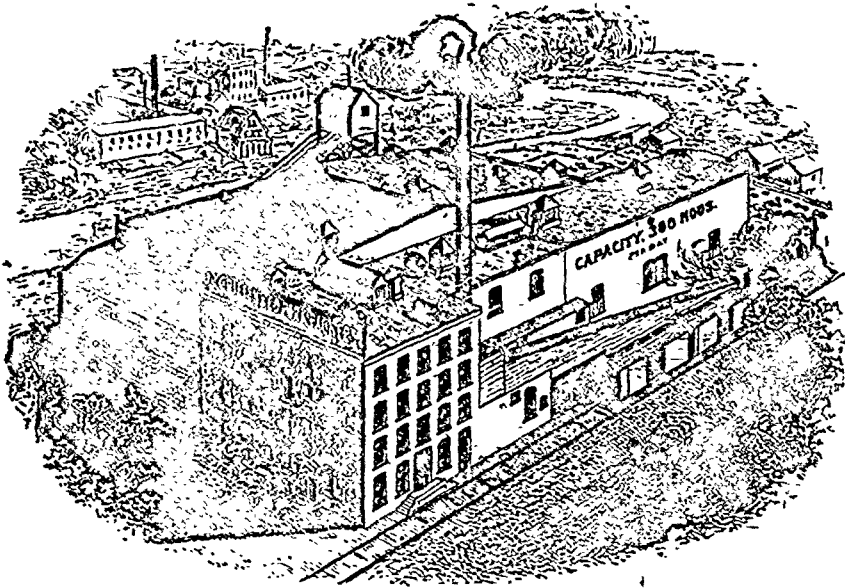
The Canadian Pacific railway has issued a circular in respect to milling wheat in transit. Wheat in carloads from Manitoba, via Owen Sound, for mills at Canadian Pacific Ontario division stations, for the purpose of being milled, and the manufactured products reshipped in carloads to points east of and including Perth, will be given the benefits of through rates from Owen Sound, with the addition of 2 1/2 per cent per 100 lbs. "stop-off" charge. Under this arrangement the company is to receive, within three months after the arrival of the wheat at the milling station, one car of flour or feed for each car of Manitoba wheat brought in from Owen Sound. Millers will not be required to furnish the company with any affidavits or declarations.

The case against Beach & O'Brien, grain brokers, Winnipeg, has again been enlarged. N. Bawlf, grain merchant, Winnipeg, has returned from a trip to the Pacific coast.

Dr. A. B. Stewart has located at Plumas, where he is opening a drug store.



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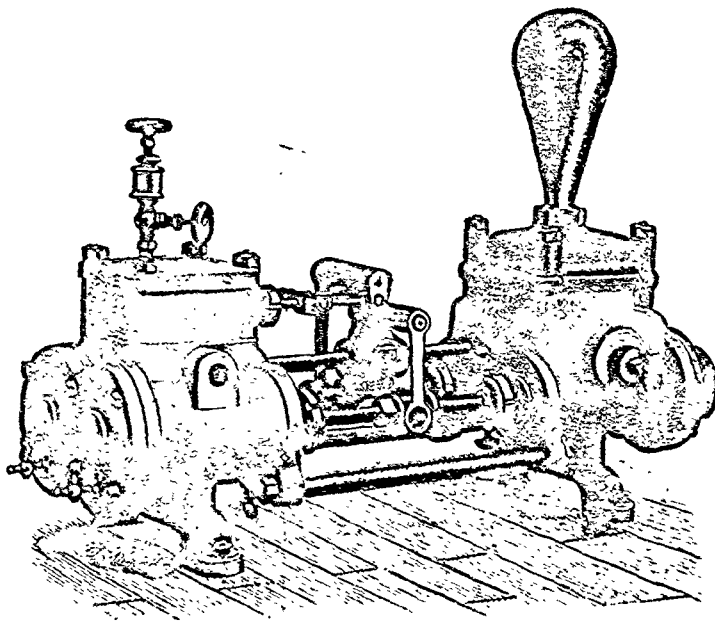
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**United States National Board of Trade Meeting.**

The twenty-seventh annual meeting of the National Board of Trade, which convened at Washington recently, brought together a large representation of business men from all over the country. It got through a notable amount of work. It was significant of the attitude taken by business men generally regarding the treaty of arbitration now before the Senate that the first action taken by the board after arranging the programme of the session was the adoption of a resolution declaring the treaty unsurpassed in importance by any international negotiation in the history of civilization and urging the Senate to ratify the treaty. The board adopted the report of the committee appointed to consider the needs of the consular service. This report recommended a general overhauling of the service, an insistence upon a proper equipment on the point of appointees thereto, and the securing an assured tenure of office to them. The board also adopted the report of the committee appointed to consider the subject of uniform legislation among the various states, which report was in favor of uniformity as far as practicable.

As was expected, the board adopted the resolution presented by the Baltimore Chamber of Commerce regarding the relation of the banks to the currency. The board thus put itself on record as maintaining that the banking business of the nation should not be a function of the government—notably, that the issue of paper money by the government, whether it be based on the credit of the government redeemable in coin, or whether it be issued on the strength of bullion deposits in its custody or held as its own, is a pernicious system; that the value of money in circulation should adapt itself to the ever-fluctuating needs of commerce and daily life, and that the private means of independent agents, such as banks, should be devoted to the special business of providing adequate resources for the varying wants of the community by a fair and unrestricted resort to the markets of the world, drawing capital from the cheapest market and dispersing an oversupply when necessary; that the use of the credit of the government by selling bonds in order to relieve the money market when private enterprise could easily procure the necessary remedy is not only a very expensive, but also a very dangerous method, as it cannot be done without dragging a simple business transaction into the arena of politics, and opens the door for the introduction of a multitude of plans likely to originate from motives of selfish interest and apt to be devised by untrained minds, and that private responsibility should take the place of public irresponsibility in handling money matters.

The specific suggestions made by the board with reference to monetary reform recommended that gold coin shall remain the standard money; that steps should be taken to retire all United States notes in such a way as not to disturb business relations; that national banks should be allowed to issue currency based on assets under such national supervision and restriction as will make it safe, elastic and redeemable in gold at the bank of issue and at the city of New York, and that such banks of issue, with a capital of \$20,000 or more, be authorized to be established in towns and villages of less than 2,000 population.

The board further suggested that provision be made for the establishment of a national clearing house for banks, and urged that after July 1, 1893, notes issued by national banks shall not be for less amounts than \$5. The passage was urged of the House resolution authorizing preliminary proceedings looking to the adoption of an international coin or coins to be a common unit in all

gold-standard countries. The former declaration of the board in favor of an expert monetary commission was reiterated.

A declaration was adopted advocating discriminating commercial relations with foreign countries. Attention was called to the gratifying increase in the country's export trade during the past year, especially in manufactured products, and it was suggested that the same methods of publicity and personal representation pursued in the introduction of goods in this country will prove effective when applied abroad; that through associated effort much can be accomplished, that hence all such efforts should be commended, and that the government should not only closely follow other countries in the policy of developing foreign markets, but whenever possible take the lead in this commendable work. In particular the attention of the government was invited to the importance of enacting such legislation as would re-establish and secure to the United States the trade of the southern republics and colonies, and Congress was urged to so legislate as to re-establish the reciprocity lately enjoyed with Germany, Spain, the South American nations and other countries.

Several of the resolutions dealt with questions of interstate commerce. The board reaffirms its position in relation to the subject of pooling by railroads, and, in regard to the regulations of interstate freight rates, urged that the Interstate Commerce act be so amended as to provide a remedy that will make the law effective. At the same time it adopted a resolution declaring itself opposed to any amendments to the law "until it be so amended as a whole that under the light of the recent decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States the rights and interests of the people in general are properly safeguarded under it, the duties and responsibilities of the carriers are carefully fixed and defined in it, and the power and duties of the Interstate Commission are properly established by it."

The board urges upon Congress the establishment of a department of commerce and manufacturers, declaring that the work coming naturally under its direction would greatly relieve the Treasury and State departments and admit of a wider sphere of service in the interest of domestic trade and industry, and promote extension of commerce with foreign countries.

A declaration in favor of the enactment of uniform state insolvency laws was adopted, and the board reiterated its well-known recommendations in favor of a national bankruptcy law, and particularly in favor of the Torrey bankruptcy bill, which is at present, as it has long been, waiting for enactment. This is a measure which it should not be necessary for the business men of the country to have to urge upon Congress for a decade, as they have had to do.

**Assessment Society Insurance.**

The inspector of insurance and registrar of friendly societies in Ontario, recently issued a report dealing with the assessment insurance orders in that province. Of friendly societies of the various classes registered in the province of Ontario for the transaction of insurance therein there were 93 on the 15th of Nov. 1895.

An important matter dealt with by Inspector Hunter in his report is the case of the Order of Canadian Home Circles. The inspector has found it necessary, after an examination into the premium rates charged by this association, to pronounce them inadequate for the requirements of such an organization. Mr. Hunter's finding in the case may be given in the words: "The strength and efforts of the Society should be concentrated upon the life insurance branch, so that if possible this branch may be saved.

The suffering caused by the failure of a life insurance society is very great, and it falls upon the most helpless classes of the community. There are now in the society a large number of persons who from age or ailments, have become uninsurable elsewhere. There is, at present, no insurance fund apart from the above small endowment fund and as is apparent from the appended table, the present level premium asked by the society at each age is less than half the net level premium which the experience of insurers of lives shows will sooner or later be absolutely necessary if the society is to meet its liabilities. To strengthen the life insurance branch, the endowment branch should be at once abolished, the endowment fund should be at once transferred to the life insurance branch and increased as rapidly as possible. Ages should be graded and assessment increased. Ages should be graded by single years, not by groups of years. The monthly assessment should be increased along the whole line, and at least 12 assessments collected each year. The members cannot possibly expect the present illusory system to continue, which is an attempt to get something for nothing. The members have hitherto been getting their insurance at a rate far below cost, and are, from an actuarial point of view, largely in debt to the society. If this debt is forgiven, and these members are asked to contribute the increased rate only as to their future assessments, they should be well satisfied, particularly as they will be amply repaid for the increase in rates by the greatly increased security of their policies.

**Literary Notes**

Every succeeding number of Current History emphasizes the value of this estimable work of reference. A glance at the current number will impress the conviction that no library, whether in public institution or private home, should be without it. The information here condensed into a few hundred pages is not only most judiciously selected and impartially presented, but also most admirably arranged for reference; so that the four quarterly numbers for the year, bound with the complete analytical index, make an ideal annual. No more reliable and comprehensive hand-book of the world's progress has ever been put on the market. It is not an almanac, but an all-embracing history of the world from the view-point of an intelligent observer who is able to grasp essentials, to present them concisely and systematically, and to illuminate them with much philosophical insight into their significance. The latest number opens with a critical study of the life and work of George du Maurier. Then follows the customary historical review embracing every country in the world, and every conceivable subject of general interest. We can mention here only a few of the most important topics: The November Elections, with full tabulated statement of results, Revolt in Cuba; Venezuela Treaty; International Arbitration; Armenian and Cretan questions, General Political situation in Europe; Currency problem in United States; Manitoba School Settlement; British Politics; Hamburg Dock Strike; Duelling and Military Reform in Germany; Indian Famine; Phillipine Revolt; Progress of Science; New Inventions; Important legal decisions; Bicycle industry; Events in the Worlds of Art, Education, Music, Religion, Literature, etc.; and biographical sketches of the prominent dead. There are forty-six portraits in the number. Buffalo, N. Y.; Garretson, Cox & Co., publishers; A. S. Johnson, Ph. D., editor; \$1.50 a year; single number 40 cents; sample 10 cents.

Wheat Stocks.

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains, for the week ended March 6, 1897, shows a decrease of 1,029,000 bushels, against a decrease of 1,493,000 for the corresponding week last year, a decrease of 1,014,000 bushels the corresponding week two years ago, and a decrease of 1,062,000 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	87,898,000	79,953,000	81,788,000
" 11 ..	68,945,000	86,615,000	80,433,000	82,080,000
" 18 ..	67,988,000	85,286,000	80,882,000	82,227,000
" 25 ..	67,523,000	84,665,000	80,244,000	81,487,000
Feb. 1 ..	66,734,000	83,376,000	79,883,000	81,390,000
" 8 ..	66,119,000	82,322,000	79,560,000	80,973,000
" 15 ..	65,928,000	80,773,000	78,967,000	80,214,000
" 22 ..	65,011,000	79,478,000	77,257,000	79,419,000
March 1 ..	64,089,000	78,761,000	76,569,000	79,088,000
" 7 ..	62,596,000	77,717,000	74,607,000	78,103,000
" 14 ..	62,123,000	76,773,000	73,359,000	79,020,000
" 21 ..	61,315,000	75,773,000	72,163,000	78,308,000
" 28 ..	61,018,000	74,808,000	71,458,000	77,654,000
April 4 ..	60,322,000	72,703,000	70,762,000	77,293,000
" 11 ..	59,330,000	70,497,000	69,217,000	76,060,000
" 18 ..	58,453,000	68,626,000	68,423,000	74,969,000
" 25 ..	57,916,000	65,776,000	66,591,000	75,027,000
May 2 ..	55,519,000	62,190,000	61,150,000	73,069,000
" 9 ..	54,000,000	59,823,000	63,510,000	72,632,000
" 16 ..	53,146,000	58,484,000	62,014,000	71,528,000
" 23 ..	51,293,000	54,244,000	61,329,000	70,159,000
" 30 ..	50,340,000	52,220,000	59,534,000	70,387,000
June 6 ..	50,147,000	49,739,000	57,105,000	68,682,000
" 13 ..	49,430,000	47,777,000	55,165,000	66,376,000
" 20 ..	48,819,000	46,225,000	55,352,000	63,081,000
" 27 ..	47,860,000	44,661,000	54,657,000	62,316,000
July 4 ..	47,199,000	43,359,000	54,114,000	61,319,000
" 11 ..	47,230,000	41,237,000	53,154,000	59,323,000
" 18 ..	46,743,000	40,429,000	53,771,000	58,903,000
" 25 ..	47,142,000	39,229,000	57,144,000	59,319,000
Aug. 1 ..	46,734,000	38,517,000	60,401,000	59,421,000
" 8 ..	46,429,000	37,339,000	62,321,000	58,569,000
" 15 ..	45,876,000	36,392,000	63,951,000	57,812,000
" 22 ..	45,189,000	35,083,000	64,771,000	57,240,000
" 29 ..	45,574,000	35,433,000	66,949,000	56,881,000
Sept. 5 ..	46,495,000	36,754,000	69,163,000	56,140,000
" 12 ..	47,662,000	38,092,000	69,214,000	57,331,000
" 19 ..	49,655,000	39,385,000	70,189,000	58,623,000
" 26 ..	48,716,000	40,763,000	71,413,000	60,628,000
Oct. 3 ..	50,116,000	41,832,000	73,614,000	63,275,000
" 10 ..	51,434,000	44,481,000	75,074,000	65,239,000
" 17 ..	54,802,000	46,109,000	70,639,000	66,078,000
" 24 ..	57,285,000	50,480,000	78,190,000	69,327,000
" 31 ..	58,650,000	52,990,000	80,627,000	71,396,000
Nov. 7 ..	59,923,000	56,030,000	81,220,000	74,052,000
" 14 ..	61,008,000	60,326,000	82,282,000	76,763,000
" 21 ..	59,071,000	62,221,000	83,914,000	77,235,000
" 28 ..	58,914,000	63,903,000	85,159,000	78,091,000
Dec. 5 ..	50,312,000	63,788,000	85,978,000	73,783,000
" 12 ..	54,284,000	66,834,000	88,172,000	80,128,000
" 19 ..	55,163,000	69,393,000	89,071,000	80,624,000
" 26 ..	51,433,000	69,958,000	88,681,000	80,228,000

	1897	1896	1895	1894
Jan. 2 ..	54,651,000	69,812,000	87,888,000	79,953,000
" 9 ..	53,672,000	68,915,000	86,615,000	80,433,000
" 16 ..	52,459,000	67,933,000	85,536,000	80,332,000
" 23 ..	51,293,000	67,523,000	84,665,000	80,244,000
" 30 ..	49,691,000	66,734,000	83,376,000	79,883,000
Feb. 6 ..	47,833,000	66,119,000	82,322,000	79,560,000
" 13 ..	46,653,000	65,928,000	80,773,000	78,967,000
" 20 ..	45,215,000	65,011,000	79,478,000	77,257,000
" 27 ..	43,797,000	64,089,000	78,761,000	76,569,000
March 6 ..	42,763,000	62,596,000	77,717,000	74,507,000

Bradstreet's report of stocks of wheat in Canada on Feb. 27, is as follows:

	Bushels.
Montreal .....	456,000
Toronto .....	204,000
Kingston .....	15,000
Winnipeg .....	230,000
Manitoba; interior elevators	2,340,000
Fort William, Port Arthur & Keewatin .....	3,088,000

Total stocks in the United States and Canada as reported by Bradstreet's were as follows, on February 27, 1897:

	Bushels.
East of the Mountains .....	61,664,000
Pacific Coast .....	1,857,000
Total stocks a year ago were:	bushels.
East of the Mountains .....	94,588,000
Pacific Coast .....	4,296,000

Bradstreet's report for the week ended March 6, shows a decrease of 1,205,000 bushels in stocks of wheat east of the mountains, making the total 60,459,000 bushels on the latter date.

World's stocks of wheat on March 1, 1897, (United States, Canada, in Europe and afloat for Europe) were 119,121,000 bushels, as compared with 154,012,000 bushels on March 1, 1896; 170,653,000 on March 1, 1895; 181,116,000 on March 1, 1894; 178,181,000 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, and 109,724,000 on March 1, 1889.

Comparative Prices in Staples.

Prices at New York compared with a year ago.

	March 5, 1897.	March 6, 1896.
Flour, straight spring..	\$4.00 to \$4.20.	\$3 10 to \$3.60
Flour, straight winter..	\$4.25 to \$4.35.	\$3.30 to \$3.85
Wheat, No. 2 red.....	95 3-3	81 to 81 7-8
Corn, No. 2 mixed.....	29 1-2	30 to 40c
Oats, No. 2.....	21 3-4	26c
Rye, No. 2, Western.....	44	48 1/2
Barley, No. 2 Milwaukee	45c	47c
Cotton, mid. upld.....	7 3-16	7c
Print cloths, 6x64.....	2 9-16	2 11-16c
Wool, Ohio & Pa., X.....	18c	18
Wool, No. 1 combg.....	21 to 22c	22 to 23c
Pork, mess new.....	3 50 to 9 00	\$10.25 to 10.50
Lard, prime, cont'd.....	\$1.37 1/2	\$5.50c
Butter, ex. creamery ..	18 to 18c	21c
Cheese, ch. east fav. ...	12 1/2	10 1/2c
Sugar, centrif., 96.....	31 to 3 8-16c	4 1-8c
Sugar, granulated.....	4 1-4c	5c
Coffee, Rio, No. 7.....	9 3-4	14c
Petroleum, N. T. Co.....	9 1/2c	\$1.25
Petroleum, rfd. gal. ....	\$6.39	\$7.10
Iron, Bess. pg. ....	\$10.75	\$12.50
Steel billets, ton.....	\$15.75	\$17.00
Steel Rails.....	\$27.00	
Ocean Steam Freight.....		
Grain, Liverpool.....	2 1/2	1 1-2d
Cotton.....	5-64 to 11-123d	3-32d

\* Pittsburgh.

Winnipeg Prices a Year Ago.

Butter was 1/2 to 1c higher. Eggs declined 2c, on account of a large increase in receipts. Dressed hogs 1c lower. Dressed mutton 1 to 2c higher. Hides were lower.

Following were Winnipeg prices this week last year:

Wheat—About 48c to 50c for No. 1 hard, country points, to farmers; 66c. May, afloat Fort William.  
 Flour.—Local price, per sack, Patents, \$1.35 to \$1.90; Bakers, \$1.55 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 14c.  
 Barley—Selling at 17c for feed here.  
 Car lots at country points worth 14c to 15c.  
 Flax Seed.—60 to farmers at country points.  
 Butter.—Dairy, choice, 12c to 15c.  
 Cheese.—Jobbing price 9 1/2 to 11c.  
 Eggs.—Fresh, 15 to 16c net price, weak.  
 Beef.—City dressed, 5 to 6c, unfrozen; country frozen, 3 1/2 to 4c.  
 Mutton.—Mutton, 7 1/2 to 8c.  
 Hogs.—Dressed, 5 to 5 1/2c.  
 Cattle.—Nominal at 2 1/2 to 3 1/2c. for butchers' stock.  
 Hogs.—Live, off cars, 3 1/2c.  
 Sheep.—Sheep nominal at 3 1/2c 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 4 1/2c.

Manitoba Fisheries.

R. W. Brickman writes as follows to the press:

"The fishermen of Manitoba complain of the unreasonable limitation of gill nets fished by any one person or corporation to 20,000 yards. This is equal to say, 100 three-pound nets. They also complain of the strict enforcement of the weekly close season, which necessitates the taking ashore of all nets on Saturdays and resetting them on Mondays; in the event of a storm setting in, the resetting is often deferred two or three days, causing the loss of the greater part of the following week to the fisherman.

"It is unfair to limit the fishing companies to this exceedingly small equipment. The extent of this curtailment can be understood when we think that the gill nets fished in the 20,000 square miles of water here make only 20 per cent of the number fished in the 3,000 square miles of Georgian bay. A company that has invested \$50,000 or more in plant, etc., in Lake Winnipeg is allowed to fish only as much netting as a single Collingwood skiff in Georgian bay. And all the commercial fishing in Manitoba was done with a complements of nets that would be used by six or seven sail boats in the great lakes.

Of course there are certain obsolete regulations governing the quantity of netting to be used in Georgian bay, and also establishing a weekly close-season, but there these have been allowed to fall into disuse, and are openly violated on every hand with impunity, even though the government had a cruiser on service in the bay and a host of overseers. The fact is that the department does not think of enforcing the regulations, which are manifestly useless, anywhere but in Manitoba.

"The result of the harrassing policy of the department in regard to the fisheries of this province is that in the twelve or fourteen years since they have been established fewer fish have been caught than are taken in Lake Erie in a single year; and that today, when this industry under ordinary circumstances would have developed into immense proportions, it now employs less than 200 men in this country.

"I hope that the Liberal administration will encourage this industry, induce others to embark in it, and thus materially add to the population and wealth of this province."

The Wool Combine.

The New York Commercial Bulletin says: "Inquiry in the New York wool trade yesterday regarding the report from Boston of an alleged corner in wool, resulting from active purchases by bankers there of foreign wools in anticipation of a restoration in duties, failed to show any credence, or, of fact, much interest in the report. It was admitted that there has been considerable buying of wool by the mills in anticipation of an increase in the duties, but this buying it is argued, would in itself militate against the success of a corner.

Northwestern Ontario.

A convention of mining men, interested in western Ontario mining operations, is to be held at Rat Portage on April 5 and three following days, under the auspices of the Rat Portage mining exchange. An effort is to be made to induce the Canadian Pacific railway to grant low rates of transportation to and from the convention. The opportunity will be a fair one for those who have any grievances against the present mining laws of the province to ventilate their opinions, with some chance of their receiving expert consideration.

# FLOUR!

SOMEBODY Claims to make the best.

ANYBODY May do likewise.

EVERYBODY Cannot be convinced, but buyers who purchase goods on their merits write us before ordering elsewhere.

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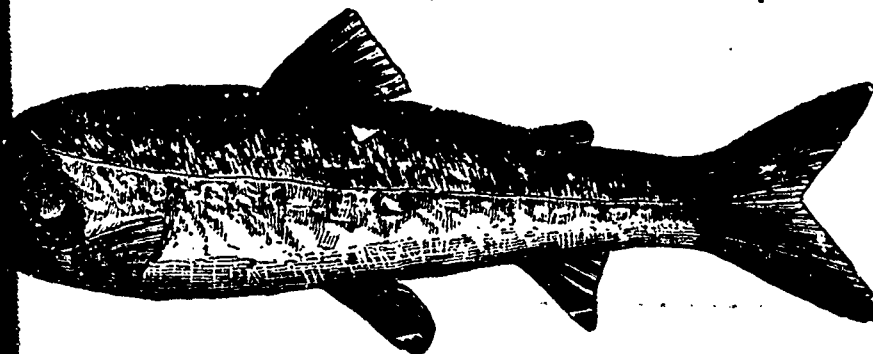
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WHEAT of the Various Grades.

FEED BARLEY;

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DEALERS IN

BUTTER, CHEESE, EGGS,

Choice California & Local Fruits

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Consignments of Produce from Manitoba and Northwest Territories.

PROMPT RETURNS MADE ON THE 15TH OF EACH MONTH.

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COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

—DEALERS IN—

FRUITS AND ALL KINDS OF PRODUCE.

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

Yates Street, VICTORIA, B.C.  
P.O. BOX 536.

AGENTS—D. Richards, Laundry Soap, Woodstock, Ontario  
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Consignments Received in all Lines. Correspondence Solicited.

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BUTTER, EGGS, FRUITS AND PRODUCE

A PERFECT SYSTEM OF

COLD STORAGE.

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

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"Anchor Brand"  
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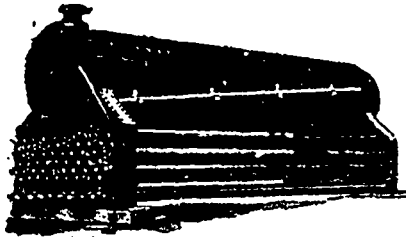
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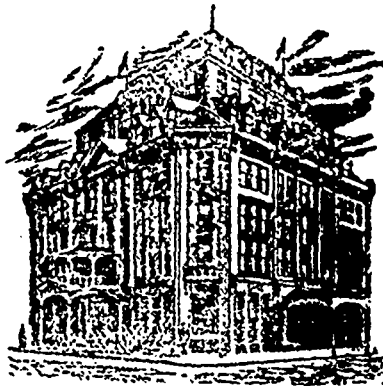
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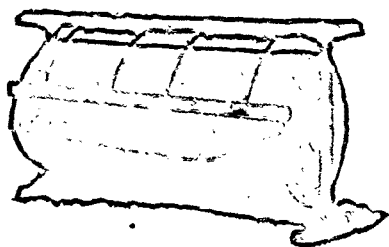
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41 PRINCESS STREET, WINNIPEG, MAN

## Agriculture in British Columbia.

Agriculture and horticulture are in British Columbia still in a transition stage, so much the land requiring either clearing of dense forest, draining of superfluous moisture, dyking from river floods or as in the case of much of the upper country, irrigation, any of which requires demands as a rule not a little labor also very considerable expenditure. Except before on the stock ranges and in more recently cleared and sufficiently timbered sections, agricultural progress in British Columbia where the farmer is totally unacquainted with the means of successful agriculture is somewhat scanty.

There is, however, each year some progress to chronicle although years elapse ere the province as a whole produces sufficient agriculturally and pastorally to meet home food requirements in general. In some centres, nearly adjacent to productive farm regions in the States, will probably continue thence to import considerable quantities of agricultural products. Other parts of the province will probably also import permanently a considerable amount of produce from the territories or Manitoba, this being especially the case in regard to dairy, poultry, hog products, as also to the present import of farm products generally suitable for raising within the province will amount to nearly \$3,000,000 a year, a very large part of this coming from the States. There is on the other hand a small export of agricultural products from the province, especially in the large and small. British Columbia is able, very largely to expand a trade which has begun in these products with Manitoba and the Territories. As, however, the export of British Columbia food products from the farm will certainly not exceed that of the corresponding imports the British Columbia farmer, stock raiser and grower have each very much to be done to keep up. Indeed it is unlikely that for some time to come, the advance of British Columbia and farm production will do more than keep pace with the growing demands of an increasing mining and commercial population. It may accordingly be taken as a fact that they will long continue to be dependent on the States for many of the commodities in British Columbia.

The prices of British Columbia farm products in general were during most of 1896 very low, yielding little profit to the raiser. There began in mid autumn a raise in the price of wheat and other grain, hay, and potatoes, which afforded much

needed encouragement to many a British Columbian agriculturist. Large numbers had, however, been compelled from lack of cash to sell their produce at an earlier period to middle men at the former low prices. This, notwithstanding the rise of values above mentioned is affording encouragement to many to persevere in the hope of more generally remunerative returns next season. The principal wheat growing districts of the province are in the Okanagan country. Here the acreage of 1896 considerably exceeded that of 1895 and though the yield was somewhat lighter prices on the whole improved as a result in part of local milling competition, and moderate profits are understood to have been generally available. On the lower mainland the principal cereals grown are oats and in the Fraser, Delta and Lulu Island exceptionally heavy crops were obtained. These are understood to have realized as a rule a modest profit for the producer in other districts of the Fraser valley. The recurrence of serious floods brought despair into the hearts of many struggling agriculturists and it is certain that unless a contemplated improvement of the Fraser river navigation should incidentally protect adjoining farm lands from inundation many low lying agricultural settlements along the lower river will shrink to sadly small proportions though here and there as in the case of the Pitt Meadows well organized and well capitalized methods of dyking may convert previously water logged land into most fertile pasture and tillage. The better organized farm communities of unflooded districts of the Fraser contrived, however, last year to find new markets and in several instances profitable ones for their fruit and vegetables in the Kootenay mining country as also in the Territories and Manitoba. Okanagan producers found similar markets for their wares in west and south Kootenay. As an incidental result of certain of these endeavors there was less competition from up river fruit and vegetable producers in Vancouver and the surrounding district. As, however, crops south of the international boundary were not up to the average the suburban fruit grower, vegetable raiser and dairy producer found in and about Vancouver a rather more profitable market than usual. This, however, did not bulk very large, as, unfortunately, the competition of Chinese and Japanese working for the scantiest of remuneration in the neighborhood of British Columbia towns tends greatly to retard the development of agriculture and horticulture in those districts. On Vancouver Island complaints were made that the prices obtained for small fruit were unremunerative, but there, as elsewhere in the province, really good creamery and dairy butter nicely put up, the exception rather than the rule, commanded good prices. Dairy production

is certainly at last improving in British Columbia, increased attention being paid to creameries, of which several have recently been successfully established, whilst the visit to the province of the Dominion travelling dairy with its instructor was of very considerable value to this branch of provincial farming. More attention to winter dairying is eminently desirable in British Columbia with its generally well adapted climate and the feeding of corn and ensilage to kine is deserving also of being more extensively practiced. There are now five creameries in British Columbia but there is scope for fifty.

The stock on the up country ranges furnish the coast and other markets with large herds of beef cattle, and the more careful stock raisers are believed to be doing well. As a rule, however, too little protection, often none, is given to cattle in the winter, hence when weather is severe and herbage scant large numbers fail to survive the winter. The root crops of the province were on the whole up to the average, but unexpectedly early frost caught many less careful farmers unprepared and large quantities of tubers were destroyed. Smaller crops of potatoes than usual were planted in many districts, and as a result the prices of tubers will probably rule high in spring. The province's fruit crops were light except in regard to small fruit, though in some parts of the upper country good apple crops were realized. It cannot, however be said that even now British Columbian fruit growing has advanced beyond its earliest stage and there is ample opportunity for at least a tenfold increase in the early future of this branch of British Columbian horticulture and orchard production.

Such institutions as the Dominion Experimental Farm at Agassiz the Flock Master's association of Vancouver Island, the large agricultural societies of the province, and others that might be mentioned are doing excellent work, but the field of their endeavors is more than sufficient to tax the utmost energy of their organizers and endeavorers.

In conclusion it may be stated that although in each of these some advance is notable immense opportunity is available in British Columbia for increase in sheep rearing, hog raising, and egg and poultry production.

A largely attended meeting of the farmers of Manitoba, and business men of Birtle was held at Birtle last week to protest against any further extension of charter or the granting of other privileges to the Great Northwest Central Railway company unless a pledge is given that twenty miles of line will be constructed this year.

## THE EARLY CLOSING OF STORES.

The question of the early closing of stores—a question which has frequently been discussed by The Commercial—has been prominently before the business men of Manitoba during the past few weeks. The Business Men's convention, recently held in Winnipeg, discussed the matter, and unanimously passed a resolution in favor of early closing. Meetings were also held in Winnipeg, at which the Winnipeg Ministerial association, the Winnipeg Retailers' association, and the Winnipeg Trades and Labor Council were officially represented.

It is worthy of special note that the labor organizations of the city have taken an active part in assisting the early closing movement here. The principal argument advanced in favor of long hours for stores is, that it is necessary to keep open late to accommodate the working men. The presence of representative working men at the meetings, to advocate early closing, is a sufficient repudiation of the argument that stores must be kept open late to accommodate the working men.

Following the meetings held in the city, a large delegation, composed of representatives of the three organizations mentioned above, interviewed the law amendments committee of the provincial legislature, with the object of securing the extension of the law regarding early closing. The defects in the present law were pointed out, and some advocated an extension of the principle to such an extent as to provide a general compulsory, early closing law, to apply to the whole province, in place of the present local option law.

Following this delegation, another delegation waited upon the legislators, in opposition to early closing. The delegation which was composed mainly of Winnipeg auctioneers, opposed the inclusion of the auctioneers in any early closing law. A meeting composed mainly of second-hand dealers and other small dealers, mostly of Israelitish extraction, was also held, to oppose early closing, on general principles.

With these conflicting interests, it will be difficult for the legislature to decide what to do in the matter. It is doubtful if the legislature will undertake the responsibility of passing a general provincial act, in the absence of any direct expression in favor of the same from provincial towns. The resolution passed at the business convention would show that merchants throughout the country are in favor of early closing, but that was a general resolution. The question of legislation was not discussed at the convention, and it is perhaps a matter for regret that this was not the case. If it is decided to have another business convention at some future date, the question of extending the scope of the law in the matter of early closing, might be discussed to advantage. At any rate, if the matter is to be followed up, some effort should be made to secure the opinion of provincial merchants upon this question.

The present local option, early closing law has not proved as satisfactory as could have been desired. Early closing has made considerable progress in Winnipeg and elsewhere in Manitoba since the act was passed, but

perhaps the moral influence of the act has been as much the cause of this as its direct practical usefulness in securing early closing. The fact that there was in existence a law favorable to early closing, has no doubt been a great encouragement to those favorable to early closing to persist in their efforts in that direction.

In Winnipeg many difficulties have been experienced in carrying the law into effect, and sufficient experience has now been gained to show what amendments are required to make the law fairly effective. If the legislature will not pass a provincial compulsory law, it is certainly expected that the present law will be very materially improved, during the present session of the legislature.

The application of the law to auctioneers is a difficult matter to handle. If retail merchants are compelled to close at a given hour, under this act, where it has been brought into force, it does seem unfair that auctioneers should be allowed to open stores after these hours, for the disposal by auction of goods similar to those sold in the stores. This would submit the stores, which were compelled to close, to unfair competition, and would render it very difficult to enforce the law. If exception is to be made in favor of the auctioneers, it will no doubt have the effect of securing the abolition of the early closing by-laws now in force in Winnipeg, thus destroying all the work that has been done in the interest of early closing in this city.

## A TALE OF TWO CRIMES.

In the Winnipeg police court the other day, a poor half-breed, who had imbibed a little too freely, was sentenced to one month's imprisonment for throwing his arms around a young lady, whom he met on the street. In this case there was no malice or evil intention, and no harm was done to any one. It was merely a careless act brought about by exuberance of spirits. It cost practically nothing to prosecute the case.

At the assize court at Winnipeg, a few days previous to this event, a Winnipeg merchant was sentenced to pay a trifling fine, or in default one month's imprisonment, for a swindling transaction amounting to several thousand dollars. In the latter case there was a deliberately planned swindle, and the public and private law expenses in connection with this man's swindling operations amounted to about \$2,000. Gaze on this picture, and on this.

## Winnipeg Board of Trade.

The council of the Winnipeg board of trade held a special meeting on Tuesday afternoon.

A committee consisting of D. W. Bole, J. H. Ashdown and F. H. Mathewson, reported that it had waited on the attorney-general, and urged on his attention the several resolutions passed at the business men's convention relating to cheaper collection of small debts, the auditing of municipal and school board books, and the assessment of stocks and merchandise, and that the attorney-general was considering the resolutions in connection with proposed changes in the law.

Answers were received acknowledging the receipt of resolutions forwarded from the

business men's convention from Hon. C. Sifton, the minister of agriculture, the postmaster-general, the secretary of state, the comptroller of inland revenue, Hon. Mr. Haultain, and Sir William Van Horne.

Letters were also read from Hon. Hugh J. Macdonald, J. A. Macdonnell, M. P., R. L. Richardson, M. P., Dr. Roche, M. P., and Hon. C. Sifton, assuring the board of their support in the matter of securing improvements to Red river navigation, and from the minister of public works, informing the board that it would soon be made acquainted with what had been done in connection with the proposed improvements of the rapids.

A letter was read from the minister of agriculture, assuring the board that he had the matter of their request for the establishment of an experimental farm in the Red river valley under his consideration.

A communication was received from the board of trade of Toronto asking co-operation in desired amendments to the Dominion bankruptcy laws.

A committee consisting of Messrs. D. W. Bole, S. A. D. Bertrand, William George, G. F. Galt and J. H. Ashdown, was appointed to review the old insolvency legislation bills presented to the house and senate and three years ago, together with recommendations for changes in the drafts determined on by the board at those dates, and to report to the council as soon as possible.

The secretary reported that amongst matters on which information was sought from the board since its last meeting were regarding Assiniboine water power, proposals for the establishment of a board of trade at Selkirk, cheaper collection of small debts, the sale in Manitoba of nitrate of soda, the working of cold storage companies in Winnipeg, and requests for samples of the grain standards from Virden, Man., Victoria, B. C., and Sydney, N. S. W.

The board has been placed in possession of a complete set of the N. W. T. ordinances and issues of the Official Gazette.

B. S. Jenkins, superintendent of Canadian Pacific telegraphs, states that important improvements are to be made to the company telegraphic system during the coming summer. It has been decided, owing to the increased business, to add additional wires to the company's lines on the western division. New wires will be strung from Winnipeg eastward to Fort William; from Winnipeg westward on the main line, and southwest to the Pembina branch.

A noted collection of names appears in the table of contents of the March "Canada Magazine." J. Macdonald Aley and Kathleen Sullivan contribute bright illustrated stories. Hon. J. W. Longley writes on the heading, "What Shall the Tariff Be?" and inveighs strongly against trade special privileges. David Christie Mann writes about George Meredith and Hall Gurney in a most interesting and chatty way. A story of moose-hunting in New Brunswick will delight the hearts of the sportsmen who have had or desire to have similar experiences. The frontispiece is a full-page picture of a stalwart Canadian moose, reproduced from a painting by J. E. Laughlin. From the literary point of view there are several articles of importance, including contributions by Professor Clark, of Trinity college, T. G. Marquis, Professor Huntington, and Rev. J. O. Miller. James Lawler writes about Manitoba university, and the article is accompanied by a number of photographs. A. H. U. Colquhoun tells of "Recent Trips to Washington;" William Hamer gives a brief history of "London's Tower;" while Mrs. J. D. Elger gives a page from the Early History of New Brunswick.

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Both fine tunnel propositions.

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The investor in shares of this company is confined to dividends obtained from one mine only but from a large number, which are developed and sold by the company, which gives him 100 chances to one over the investor in stocks of ordinary companies.

50,000 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 at the time to be subscribers thereto or to holders thereof.

The practical operations of the company are carried on under the supervision of the best mining engineering skill that can be secured, so that the stockholders will have a full guarantee for the practical as well as the financial management of the company's affairs.

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.

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Our travellers are now out for spring. Can't be every place at once. Wait and see our snaps. We are agents for the Harvey, Van Norman Co., Toronto.

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## Freight Rates at Fort William.

An eastern report says: It is understood that the Canadian Pacific Railway and the steamboat lines who were at variance last year, have settled their differences and that a mutual rate of freight is to be made between the lake and rail lines for the coming season of navigation. Last year the Canadian Pacific put up its rate on goods from Port Arthur to Winnipeg 19 cents per hundred pounds. This ten cents was not charged, however, where shippers, say from Montreal, sent their goods by certain propeller lines in which both the Canadian Pacific and the Grand Trunk railways were interested. As a result of this move some of the independent propeller lines plying from Montreal and Toronto to Port Arthur were compelled to reduce their charges just 10 cents in order to meet the competition of the Canadian Pacific. It was understood at the time that the reason the latter road made this discrimination was because one Montreal firm owning a couple of propellers, had cut rates all round. This firm will not be in business this year, and therefore the Canadian Pacific will withdraw its discriminating rate. In other words all the propeller lines will be on the same basis this year and have the same working arrangement in regard to rates with the Canadian Pacific. A meeting of the lake and rail agents has been called for the 16th of the present month. It will be held at Montreal and it is expected that a mutual tariff of rates will be agreed upon.

The Great Falls Lumber states that the Great Falls and Canada railway, running from Lethbridge to Great Falls, Montana, is now a bonded line, and that its gauge is to be changed to the standard width.

## Commercial Legislation.

Mr. Teichman, representing the Winnipeg Retailers' association, appeared before the law amendments committee of the Manitoba legislature recently and requested that two amendments be made to the garnishee act, that the cost of issue of garnishee and summons do not exceed \$1.00 in addition to the cost of service, and that the amount of exemption be reduced to \$25. In introducing the matter Mr. Teichman said the greatest difficulty was experienced in collecting small amounts.

A deputation from the labor organizations of Winnipeg interviewed the law amendments committee recently. Mr. Appleton was the first speaker and entered on an exhaustive explanation of the legislation desired, including a free labor and employ ment bureau amendments to the new law, a bake shop act, the abolishment of property qualification for municipal office, the payment of aldermen, and a fair wage clause in all government contracts. Ald. Andrews explained the features of the lien law prepared, and Mr. Mason detailed many instances demonstrating the necessity of some changes. Messrs. Byo and Boulton spoke particularly of the bake shop act, and gave some interesting information as to the hours of labor in local shops. Men were working from twelve to fourteen hours a day, frequently without any intermission for meals, simply a few minutes for lunch, and generally, all night. At times men worked the full twenty-four hours under the most trying circumstances. Mr. Small discussed the Mechanic's Lien act, and pointed out desired features to be incorporated.

Messrs. Hunter and McKerchar, representing the Winnipeg Caterers' union, waited on Hon. Mr. Cameron, provincial attorney, and requested an amendment to the garnishee act, along the lines asked by the Retailers' association, namely, to reduce the cost of collection and lessen amount of exemption.

The plan for the recovery of small debts, detailed and advocated by Wm. Trant of Regina, before the recent Business Men's convention, has been placed by a committee of the Winnipeg board of trade in the hands of the attorney-general of Manitoba with a view to legislation on the subject.

## The Fur Trade.

The following are the prices at the Hudson's Bay Company's London sale, held January 18: Beaver—Yorkfort, firsts, large, 31, small, 12.3 to 14, seconds, large, 21.6 to 23.6, small, 9.6 to 11; thirds, large, 15.9 small, 6.9; cub, 5.3 shillings. Mackenzie river, firsts, large, 24 to 26.6 small, 10.9 to 11.9; seconds, large, 20 to 21, small, 9.6 to 10; thirds, large, 12.9 to 15.6, small, 6 to 6.9; cub, 4.6 shillings. Moose river and East Maine, firsts, large, 32.6 to 38, small, 14.3 to 16.3, seconds, large, 27.6 to 29, small, 11.9 to 13.9; thirds, large, 18.6, small, 8.9 to 9; cubs 6 shillings. Bursamis, etc., firsts, large, 31.6 to 35 small 16.6, seconds large, 25.6 to 27, small, 12.9 to 14.3; thirds, large, 19.3 to 19.6, small, 9 to 9.3 shillings. Fort Garry, firsts, large, 41, small, 17.9; seconds, large, 32.6, small, 15.9, thirds, large, 19.3, small, 9.6; cubs 6.6 shillings. Canada, firsts, large, 25.6 to 32.6, small, 11.9 to 15; seconds, large, 20.6 to 22.3, small, 12 to 12.6; thirds large, 15.9 to 17.8, small, 7.3 to 9.3; cubs, 6 shillings. North west, firsts, large, 21.6 to 25 small 10.3 to 11; seconds, large, 20 to 21.9, small, 9 to 10, thirds, large, 15.3 to 17.9, small, 6.9 to 7.9; cubs, 5.9 shillings. Musquash, Yorkfort, firsts, 10.3, small firsts 7; seconds, 6.7; thirds, 4.3, fourths 2.4 pence. Mackenzie river, firsts, 7.3; seconds, 6; thirds, 3.7; fourths, 2.4 pence. Northwest, firsts, 7.3; seconds 7.3, thirds, 4.3; fourths, 2.4 pence. Moose river, firsts, 11; seconds, 7; thirds, 5.4 pence. East Maine, firsts, 13.3, small firsts, 10.3, seconds 8.7; thirds, 6 pence. Canada, etc., firsts, 12; small firsts, 8.7; seconds, 8; thirds, 6; fourths, 4 pence.

The New York Fur Trade Review says: The entire collection of raw furs throughout the country will undoubtedly be larger than is desirable, independent of what the comparison may be with former years. The stress of necessity has led many to trap and hunt animals of all kinds indiscriminately, and we think the aggregate catch will exceed the requirements of the markets at home and abroad. Such being the facts, prices must be moderate. We would like to see country shippers and collectors get the highest possible prices for their furs, but as there may be some buyers who depend upon handling furs as a means of money making we would warn out-of-town readers to regard with caution, if not suspicion, price lists quoting figures very much above reasonable value.

## Silver.

The London silver market experienced a rapid drop on the announcement that the Japanese government had taken steps to the adoption of a gold currency standard. The effect of this was seen in the decline of the market quotation at London to 29 3/4d. for bars, which is the lowest touched by the metal since February, 1895, when it sold at 27.5-16d. per ounce. The New York price kept pace with the decline in London, the market quotation for commercial bars falling from 6 1/2c. to 6 1/4c. per ounce. Silver prices on March 5 were, London, 29 3/4d.; New York, 6 1/4c.

## Monthly Wheat Statement

The total quantity of wheat available in the United States on March 1—63,521,000 bushels—points to a falling off of about 35,313,000 bushels as compared with the cor-

responding total on March 1, 1891—decrease of 47,025,000 bushels contrasted with the like date two years ago, and forms the smallest like total since March 1, 1892.

The total quantity of wheat available for immediate distribution in the United States and Canada, both coasts, plus quantity allowed for Europe from all exporting countries, on March 1, added to available stocks in Europe, as reported to Bradstreet's, is follows:

	(000 omitted).			
	East of Rockies.	Pacific coast.	Europe and Africa.	Grand total.
1897...	61,661	1,857	55,000	119,518
1896...	91,538	4,296	55,208	151,042
1895...	98,715	11,801	60,112	170,628
1894...	96,216	9,622	78,218	184,056
1893...	103,223	5,470	67,188	175,889
1892...	61,666	3,311	77,608	142,585
1891...	42,401	8,594	48,528	99,523
1890...	41,362	5,079	46,100	92,541
1889...	41,683	3,533	61,704	106,920

The falling off in stocks of available wheat in the United States and Canada east of the Rocky mountains, during the month of February amounted to 6,421,000 bushels more than twice as much as during February last year, three-fourths of the decrease in February, 1895, twice the falling off in the like month of 1891, and three times that of the corresponding month of 1893. When to these decreases is added the shrinkage in stocks of wheat on the Pacific coast, the total decline last month, United States and Canada, was found to be 7,572,000 bushels compared with 4,617,000 bushels in February, 1895, 9,489,000 bushels in February, 1894, 9,587,000 bushels in the like month of 1893, and 3,019,000 bushels in February, 1892. This points to a continuance of the relative excessive decrease in stocks of wheat in January 1, noted one month ago. The falling off in supplies in sight out of farm hands since January 1, in the United States and Canada, is 13,908,000 bushels more than twice the decline in the corresponding period in 1896, more than three-fourths the like increase in 1895, three times that in 1891, and four times that in 1893.

There has been a falling off of about 51,000,000 bushels in available supplies of wheat, United States and Canada, added and in Europe, between January 1 and July 1, 1895, and the analysis indicates a decrease during the past two months amounting about three-fourths the falling off in the corresponding period in 1895.

Should this ratio of decrease continue during the ensuing four months, the outlook for a grand total supply of available stocks of wheat in United States and Canada, added and in Europe, on July 1 next of about 100,000,000 bushels, the smallest total on a like date since 1891.

The recent unfavorable reports of the condition of the wheat crop in various portions of the world have been the strength and support of the wheat market of late. But it remains to be seen whether the trade generally will regard a probable decrease on July 1 next of only about 5,000,000 bushels, compared with July 1, 1896, reference being made to stocks in United States, in Canada, Africa, and in Europe, as being bullish when contrasted with the past two months' decrease in world's stocks compared with a year ago amounting to 35,000,000 bushels—Bradstreet's.

At Montreal on March 2 the feature in the egg market was the weaker feeling that prevailed in now laid stock, and prices declined per dozen. The demand for small was fair and sales were made at 15c per dozen. Limes were held at 11c.