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M. T. FERON, W. B. SHAW.

1st Jan., 1884.

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Dried Apples, Peaches, Blac herries now in stock at our warehouse.

35 Bannatyne St. E. st, Winnineg.

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

VOL. II.

WINNIPEG, JANUARY 8, 1884.

NO. 15.

The Commercial

the transactions of the Monetary, Mercantile and Manufacturing interests of Manitoba and the Canadian North-West.

ISSUED EVERY TUESDAY

THE COMMERCIAL WIll be mailed to any address in Canada, United States or Great Britain at \$2.00 a year in ad: ance.

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I month, weekly insertion.				80 30	per line.
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This Commercial will be circulated extensively amongst wholeran and retail Merchants, Jobbers, Bankers, Prokers, Monufacturers, Hotel Keepers, Insurance and Toan Agencies throughout the entire Caradian North-

Book Newspaper, Railroad, Commercial and Job

12 Office, 16 James St. Bast.

JAMES E. STEEN,

Publisher

WINNIPEG, JANUARY 8, 1884.

T. W. BRONDGEEST intends starting a newspaper to be called The Canadian at Neepawa.

DAVID EVANS, merchant tailors, Emerson, has assigned in trust.

THE Board of Trade Hotel, Winnipeg, has been closed up by the landlord.

WM. McKinnon & Bito., general store, Rat Portage, have assigned in trust.

THE Morris Herald has suspended publication owing to lack of patronage.

ARCHIBALD & ALEXANDER, general store, Broadview, have assigned in trust.

Jamieson & Kirchoffer, livery, Souris, have admitted H. Jamieson into partnership.

In Chicago, during 1883, there were erected 2,864 buildings with a frontage of 77,797 feet, costing \$17,465,700.

THE general stord stock belonging to the m solvent estate of W. McAlister, Wolseley, is to he sold by the assignce on Thursday, 10th inst.

WINNIPEG, we understand, is in future to be the headquarters of the Northwest Land Company, and the chief commissioner is to reside in this city. This move is a good one, and had it been adopted long ago the Company's stock might have been less of a basis for gambling speculators.

Foreign exchanges are discussing a projected ship canal to connect the Baltic with the Black sea. The cost is estimated at \$24,000,000; but in case it is made available for war vessels it will cost about \$30,600,000. The plan contemplates three lifths of the expense to be borne by Russia, the remainder to fall equally on Hanover and Oldenburg and the cities of Bremen and Hamburg.

THE revenue of the Winnipeg post office for year ending December 31, 1883, shows an increase of 8 per cent. over the previous year. The revenue was as follows: January, \$6,857 .-08; February, \$5,948.78; March, 6,323.81; April, \$5,587.41; May, \$5,604.69; June, \$5,-171.85; July, \$5,830.58; August, \$5,420.70; September, \$4,882.50; October, \$5,001.24; November, \$5,178.24; December, \$6,035.20. The number of registered letters handled in the office during the month of December was 18,607. The amount of money orders paid during the month was \$23,772.29, and the amount received, \$30,790.55

THE highest speed attained on railways in England is 653 miles an hour; in France, Germany and America it reaches 624 miles. The average speed is 481 miles an hour with English express trains, and 45 with French, England and France charge more for third class passen gers than any other country except Turkey. The average fare in Turkey is 8.75 centimes per kilometer (§ mile); in France 6,75, and in England 6.74. Norway is by far the cheapest country for rollway travelling, the third-class fares there averaging 1.4 centimes, and next come Russia and Belgium, where the average fare is 3.75 centimes per kilometer.

THE next issue of the Nor'west Farmer and Manitoba Miller will appear under the joint management of Mr. Lud K. Cameron, the founder of the paper, and Mr. Wm. Clark. This journal has in the past done good service in ably advocating the interests to which it specially caters. With the strong team that

now controls its destiny we have no doubt, but that it will soon become not only the best agricultural paper in the Dominion, but will be a strong rival to anything of its class published on the continent. The right men are in the right place, and we wish Messrs. Cameron & Clarke a long career of prosperity in their enterprise.

The Northwestern Miller, published in Minneapolis, is one of the best trade journals in America, and ably represents the milling intereste of the Flour City. The energetic proprietor has just issued an extra holiday edition which is perhaps the finest issue of a trade journal that has ever come under our notice. The contents are not confined to milling litera ture alone, but contain interesting contributions of a humorous character from the pens of such writers as Burdette, Stanley Huntley, Bill Nyc, Gus Thomas and others. These are profusely itlustrated. The advertising columns are unique and very attractive. One of the most interesting features is a fine double page engraving of St. Anthony Falls in 1859, the site of the Minncapolis of to-day. We congratulate our contemporary on the enterprise displayed, and trust that success may long attend the Northwestern Miller.

A NEW law has come into effect requiring that candidates for the position of master or mate of a Canadian vessel must pass a thorough examination. No vessel over 100 tons burden will be permitted to clear without carrying a certified master; and if over 200 tons, and carrying 40 passengers, must have a certified mate also. This law does not affect those who were in command or acted as mate prior to January 1, 1883, as in their case a certificate from their employer will be sufficient, provided they can pass the color test. A mate must be nineteen years of age and have served two years at sea. He will have to pass a very rigid examination as to seamanship. A master must be twenty-one years of age and must have been three years at sea, one of which he must have been mate. In addition to the qualification for a mate he must know the principal lights upon the great inland waters; he will be required to explain how he would lay out an anchor in case of atranding, and be able to rig a temporary rudder should the steering apparatus become disabled.

Business East.

ONTARIO.

John Graves, blacksmith, Mount Brydges, has sold out.

W. J. Parry, saddler, Ottawa, is offering to compromise.

H. D. Murray, grocer, Mitchell, has sold out to O. Hodges.

J. Fairbairn & Co., grocers, etc., Simcoe, have assigned in trust.

Mitchell & Ryan, saloon, Toronto, are in the hands of the bailiff.

J. Wallace, dry goods, Lindsay, has sold out to W. J. Hopewood.

Laidlaw, Bowes & Co., foundry, Hamilton, are about dissolving.

T. Shalcross, jeweler, Streetsville, is selling off his stock by auction.

Wm. Buck, stoves, Brantford, has had his premises damaged by fire.

D. & H. McCutcheon, grocers, etc., Tecswater, have sold out to W. Coots.

Boulton & McCarron, general store, Wallaceburg, have assigned in trust

Geo. Bisset, general store, Kincardine, has sold out to P. O. Dwyer & Co.

Forbes, Roberts & Co, wholesale gents' furnishings, Toronto, have dissolved.

Carder, Benton & Co., wholesale hardware, St. Thomas, have assigned in trust.

The general store stock of B. Allen & Sons, Owen Sound, is advertised for sale by auction.

Wintermute & Ferguson, general store, Cayuga, have changed the firm style to Wintermute, Ferguson & Co.

John H. McVean, hardware, Dresden, has taken his brother Jas. H into partnership under the style of McVean & McVean.

Thus McDonald & Co., Dominion Tins Works, Toronto, have admitted P. J. McNally into partnership. The firm style is McDonald, McNally & Co.

QUEBEC.

St. Cyr Bros., furniture, Montreal, have dissolved.

Evanste Duval, lumber, Nicolet, has assigned in trust.

Lonis Livernois, fruits, Montreal, has assigned in trust.

N. Guilmette, general store, St. Gregoire, has assigned in trust.

Thos. Fitzg rald, general store, River Desert, has assigned in trust.

Desroches, Mitchell & Co., lumber, Drummondville, have dissolved.

A. W. Craig & Co., gents' furnishings, Montreal, have assigned in trust.

The Beaver Lumber Company, carrying on business as Yamachiche, has failed.

W. Strachan & Co., soap manufacturers, Montreal, have been partially burned out.

Chevalier & Lamontague, dry goods, Montreal, have dissolved. The business is continued by G. A. Lamontague.

Frank Bond & Co., stock brokers, Montreal, have dissolved. A new firm formed with Frank Bond & Jean Salem Paquet, under the same style.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Robt. Lindsay, general store, Lunenburg, is dead.

Jos. Gannon, general store, North Sidney, has assigned.

Onesime Dompierre, grocer and liquor dealer, Halifax, is dead.

V. J. Gibson, gents' furnishings, Halifax, has been burned out-insured.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

C. F. Bennett, brower, etc., St. John's, is dead.

NEW BRUNSWICK

O. V. Troop & Co., vinegar manufacturers, St. John, have assigned.

A. & O. Steeves, millers, Salisbury, have dissolved.

General Notes.

The stocks of coffee held in European trade centres on November 17th was 36,000 tons larger than last year.

At Bremen, which, after Havre, has now become the most important cotton market on the Continent, there were sold during the first ten months of the year 459,677 bales on the spot, against 305,083 during the corresponding period of 1882.

According to Japanese official retuans, the foreign trade of Japan for the month of July, 1883, was as follows. Commodities exported, 2,664,480 yen; commodities imported. 2,773, 281 yen; the imports being in excess of the exports 108,801 yen. Specie and bullion exported during the month, 117,073 yen; import thereof, 925,620 yen.

Liemssor & Co., Hong Kong, October 15, report, with reference to the tea business, that while black teas at Shanghai were moderately active, there was a great demand for green at an advance of 2 taels. At Foochow there was a steady trade with an improvement of \(\frac{1}{2}\) to 1 tael in Congous and Oolongs, while at Amoy there was continued liveliness in the different species of Oolongs. At Canton, Congous were not in demand, but scented and wanted at Macao.

Official figures of the French Government for the first five months of the present year show a very considerable decrease in the exports of silk goods and waste silk, viz., of over \$3,000,000. The exports of these goods to all countries in 1682 (i. e., from January) to May 31) amounted in round figures to \$26,454,000; for the same period this year to \$23,454,000; decrease, \$3,000,000. Fully one-third of this decline in the export of French silks must be attributed to the United States.

Fels & Co., Patras, November 7, make the season's total current export to date 108,197,028 pounds from Greece; 9,853,853 pounds from Cephalonia; and 9,017,805 from Zante. Week's receipts at Patras, 2,200 tens, making 47,000 tons for the season. Medium and low qualities were weak, but good dry fruit was firm, Casalina Patras currants selling at 22s. to 24s. free on board in barrels, other sorts within the range of 17s. to 21s. At Zante sales took place at 18s. 6d. to 19s.; at Cephaloma at 16s. to 18s. In Vostizza not over 1,000 tons were left.

The English papers complain that so far their shipping for the year 1883 has been anything but satisfactory, and in no department of it has

the declension been more apparent than in the exports of iron and steel. The decline in these has been steady, and there seems little prospect of much improvement during the quarter just entered upon. Looking over the export tables of the British Board of Trade returns for September, there is a decline in the total exports of iron and steel during the month of 6,008 tons, and during the past nine months of 247,859 tons.

The National Railroad Company, of Japan, incorporated with a capital of \$20,000,000, under the auspices of the Japanese Government two years ago, has adopted the American system of building railroads, and is now constructing the main line, which extends from Tokio to to Anderson, the northern scaport of Japan, a distance of 450 miles. A part of the main line, about 150 miles in length, has already been finished, and will be open to the public this month or next. The terminus of the line is the commercial centre of a province where silk culture is the principal occupation of the people.

The Journal des Fabricauts de Sucre, of Paris, November 15, publishes the official account of the government, showing that the production of beet-root sugar was 124,000 tons, against 106,000 tons last year; the export, 14,000, against 14, 000; consumption, 52,000, against 53,500; and the stock on November 1, 85,500 tons, against 70.000. The market at Paris was still tending downward. Advices per cable reached Paris from Havana on that date (November 15), that the Cuban sugar crop estimates had been raised from 400,000 to 550,000 tons in consequence of a fine rainfall, and at the same time news was received from beet-root producing countries on the Continent valuing the ISS3 European crop at as large a figure as that of 1882; there was even a possibility of some excess over it.

El Conercio, of Manila, October 9, contains some particulars of interest to the tobacco and cigar trade abroad, respecting the new "Compania General de Tabacos de Filipinas," which has gone into existence there since the abolishment of the government monopoly. This eigar manufacturing company has now 18,000 eigar makers employed in its five factories, and possesses tobacco lands under culture of an area of 9,250 mestares. These plantations are situate on the islands Isabel and Cagayan, producing the most renowned Philippine tobacco. As early as 1881, before the "Estanco" was abolished, they turned out as much as 613,000 bales of 30 kilogs, each. The tobacco, if properly cultivated, is pronounced to be the next best after Havana tobacco, and now that the energy of planters in the Philippines is specially bestowed on improving the cultivation of tho plant, it is hoped that this branch of agriculture and industry will attain a degree of superiority and magnitude not hitherto dreamed of.

Milling in Great Britain.

Mr. H. Kains Jackson, the eminent authority on grain statistics, estimates the consumption of flour in the United Kingdom for the present cereal year, which commenced on the 1st September, as 36,000,000 sacks. Taking the average price per sack at 32s., this gives a total value of £59,400,000. Out of the above quantity of flour, not less than 5,000,000 or more than

6,000,000 sacks will be imported in the manufactured form. Though this shows that the greater proportion of flour is still manufactured there, he states that great and rapid inroads are being made by foreigners, e. g., in 1870-71 the flour imports were 1,921,564 sacks—in 1881 82, 5,600,000 sacks. This rise in the decade is much larger, pro rata, than in wheat; the proportions, put roughly, being flour 250 per cent increase, wheat 75 per cent increase. This is a strong argument for the more general use of better machinery in England. It is well known and acknowledged that until comparatively recent years. French millers were far in advance of those of England and those of other countries, and that therefore when they in turn were superseded by the Hungarians and Americans, they not being so far behind as the British, suffered less. Mr. Jackson illustrates this very clearly. He says: "The United Kingdom imports about 15,000,000 qrs. of wheat. France imports 5,000,000, therefore France should also import one-third as much flour as the United Kingdom, but she does not, taking less than one tenth." Mr. J. H. Chatterton, secretary of the National Association of Britishand Irish Millers, who is entrusted by millers in all parts of the Kingdom with the insurance of their mills, and who, therefore, has special means of arriving at the cost of the machinery at present in use. estimates it at \$37,000,000, there being, he says, 10,000 mills in the United Kingdom.

A New Source of Gold Supply.

Attention is being drawn to the United States of Columba as another possible source of gold supply. The Panama Star and Herald remarks that the rapidity with which coin is disappearing from enculation in that Republic is resulting in a general attempt to induce the Government to take measures for facilitating mining enterprise in the Atrato Valley, where some of the richest gold fields in the world are known to exist, and were numberless other natural products are lying about, because there is no body to collect them.

The river which gives the valley its name receives numerous gold and platina-bearing to butaries, yet less metal is obtained from it now than in the time of the Spanish dominion, in spite of the improvements in the methods of extraction. Many "prospecting" and working parties from the United States and Europe have, from time to time, visited the region, but all such efforts have hithertofailed to lead to any practical result, partly in consequence of the ignorance of the promoters and leaders respecting the topography of the country, and partly because the visitors have been burdened too frequently with cumbersome machinery which could not be transported to the auriferous streams, the navigation of which is difficult and perilous. Hence many thousands of dollars have been expended uselessly, and the explorers have abandoned the enterprise without even reaching the districts which promise the richest returns.

Another drawback has been the fact that all goods to be landed require first to pass the Custem House at Carthagena, which is 250 miles away-an obstacle which is known to have caused the breaking up of at least one expedition. It is urged that the Government should without delay remedy this defect, and open a port at the mouth of the Atrato. Meanwhile, a company is being formed in the United States to work a concession of about 625,000 acres of land in the mountains lying between the State of Antioquia and the Atrato River, throughout the whole of which region alluvial and quartz deposits are said to exist, as well as supplies of nearly every other valuable mineral. The company, we believe, provide to people the conceded lands with immigrants. The opening up of the Atrato Valley by means of a more convement port than Carthagena would have other advantages, as there are small villages on the Atrato and its tributaries which could send food and other supplies to the Isthmus, where there is a demand, in consequence of the considerable influx of population in connection with the canal works.

Customs, Inland Revenue, and Dominion Savings Banks Returns.

During the month of December goods were imported and entered for consumption at the port of Winnipeg, as follows:

Value of dutiable goods entered for consumption	3 92,309.00
Value of foreign free goods entered	•
for consumption	13,893 00
Duty collected	29,680.16
Value of goods imported	85,903.00
Value of goods exported	18,764.00
Value of Canadian free goods in tran-	·
sit through U States .	287,256 00

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT.

	1882.	1883.
Customs imports.	\$1,585,454.96	\$1,024,142.70
Scizure and fines	2,258 74	4,346 44
Warehouse fees	366.20	513.62
Petroleum inspec	. 320.40	
Steamboat inspec	244 00	318.44
Coasting licenses	7.00	6.23
Copyrights	7.25	6.23
Sale of blank form	8 24.90	27.23

Totals \$1,588,676 45 \$1,029,881.56

INLAND REVENUE RECEIPTS.

The following are the receipts for the month of December, 1883:

Spirits		. 738.00

Total\$14,356.89

The total receipts from Inland Revenue collections for the last year amount to something like \$170,000, or about \$15,000 less than the 1882.

DOMINION SAVINGS BANK.

The following is a statement of the business of the Dominion Savings Bank for December, and fc. the last six months of the year :

Deposits for December	\$33,595.00
Withdrawals "	59,208,07
Doposits since 1st July	\$340,007.00

Withdrawals since 1st July 311,042.59 Gain ... \$28,964,42

Balance due depositors, month ending Dec. 31\$615,265.79

Canadian Savings Banks.

Canada has always been favored with excellent Savings banks for the masses. In Upper Canada the people first made use of building so cicties, one for each district, such as the Gore, Home, Huron, etc., which allowed varying rates of interest for savings. Prior to confederation Lower Canada savings were mainly deposited in two institutions managed by trustees; one in Montreal, called the City and District Savings Bank, and the other in Quebcc, called La Caisso d'Economic de Notre Damo de Ouchec. Besides these two, which were mainly supported by the Irish and French Canadians, there were the Montreal and Molsons' bank, which received savings at usually four per cent. interest. I do not know if there were any Savings banks in the maritime provinces before 1867. Then the Dominion Government instituted a Savings-bank branch of the Post Office Department of the Federal Government. Each post office in the larger towns opened a Savings bank, which, having the guarantee of the Dominion Government, became largely patronized in the maritime provinces, where there were no competing institutions. Upper and Lower Canada have remained faithful to their own local building societies and banks, though in Ontario the building societies have become changed into loan and mortgage companies. Nova Scotia is the principal creditor of the Government, having more money deposited in the Government Savings bank than any other province in the Dominion, and New Brunswick comes next, with \$3,500,000. The Pacific province is next to New Brunswick, and the Island province follows. The entire interest paid by the Dominion Government during the fiscal year to the depositors in the Savings banks reached over half a million dollars, but of course the greater part of this sum remained with the Government, being added to the principal .- Correspondence of N. Y. Commercial Bulletin.

Sorghum Sugar.

The practicability of the production of soighum sugar in the United States, says the Boston Commercial Bulletin, as a commercial success is already demonstrated, and in three different localities, widely spread in latitude and longitude, the industry is already established. Rio Grande, N. J., made 350,000 pounds of sugar last year, and will this year double the product. At Champaign, Ill., there was a product of 160,000 pounds last year, which will this year be doubled. At Hutchinson and Sterling, Kansas, there are factories which have already demonstrated the practicability of the industry as well, and there is nothing to prevent the establishment of one thousand sugar plants during the next ten years, and the production of \$25,000,000 worth of sugar. This is no visionary matter; the product may quite likely be \$50,000,000 in that time, and the value of the machinery and capital employed fully \$150,-000,000, even if in that time we are not producing the entire \$100,000,000 worth of sugar now imported. Further experiments are making at Washington to further elucidate the results of former experiments, and new machinery and new processes are being tested.

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, JANUARY 8, 1884.

INSOLVENCIES OF 1883.

It requires no small amount of courage to enable an interested person to look calmly over the record of trade misfortune in the Northwest during the year now closed, but it is always best to look such dark matters squarely in the face, and if possible draw some useful and practical lessons therefrom. It is with this aim that we take a retrospective view of our year of commercial trouble, and we feel satisfied that our so using will not be without profit to our readers.

The figures we give in connection with last year's trade we take from the reports of the commercial agency of Dun, Wimar & Co., believing that it is better to trust to these, as coming from a disinterested source. From these reports we find that the insolvencies in the Northwest during the past year number 232, while their aggregate liabilities foot up to \$2,869,000, and their estimated assets to \$1,998,000, leaving a discrepancy of \$871,000. The figures in connection with the first, second and third quarters of the year, which were published in THE COMMERCIAL as each term drew to a close, were as follows: First quarter failures 47, liabilities \$400,-000, estimated assets \$450,000; second quarter - failures 45, liabilities \$596,000, and estimated assets \$500,000; third quarter failures 87, liabilities \$1,458,000, and assets \$794,600. We now add to these the figures of the closing quarter, which show 53 failures, with liabilities of \$415,000, and estimated assets of \$254,-000. The first quarter showed a surplus of estimated assets over liabilities of \$50,-000; while the second quarter a discrepancy of \$96,000, the third quarter of \$661,000, and the last quarter of \$161,-000. The lessons to be drawn from a comparison of the figures of the different quarters are very plain. The 47 insolvents of the first quarter as a rule made a clean showing of all their resources, and the record is consequently one of misfortune, but not of rottenness nor rascality. The 45 insolvents of the second quarter were not so scrupulous, and a discrepancy between assets and liabilities of \$96,000 was the result. The scare which seemed to take hold of banks, eastern creditors, and even a few local ones, and the crushing way in which the assets of insolvents had been sacrificed in consequence, had begun to produce natural results before the close of the second quarter, and some insolvents on a false theory of self-protection had taken the precaution of withholding assets, or creating imaginary liabilities, to assist them in procuring a favorable settlement by composition. The practice grew, and the third quarter produced the enormous discrepancy of \$664,000, or over 40 per cent of the claims of creditors. Before this third quarter closed the scare had greatly subsided, and the record of the last quarter shows merely a weeding out of the remnants of unsafety. The number of failures was 24 less than the preceding quarter, while the aggregate liabilities were \$1,043,000 less, and the proportion of estimated assets to liabilities some seven per cent higher. It has been evident for three months that the great commercial danger is over, although trade still holds in a cramped and confined condition. This, however, is more due to the great caution of traders in this country, and it will take many months yet before trade affairs thoroughly recover from the fever through which they have passed during the past year.

In commercial as in other scares the danger is, as a rule, greatly magnified, and even when it is safely over, there is a little of the Daron Munchausen inclination to magnify the storm weathered, left with those who remain solid through it all. When we take into consideration that with the opening of 1883, we had about 2,600 traders in the Northwest, and at its close nearly 2,800, the 232 failures that have taken place look a very small proportion of the whole, only a trifle over eight per cent. True, the number of traders who have gone out of business in the Northwest, during the past two years, reaches nearly 1,100, and three-fourths at least of these went during 1883. But the bulk of these were persons with no responsibility, and a previous record in older places which prevented their lasting long here. The excitement of boom days attracted such people, but with the first breath of depression they withered without even getting so far into debt as to be included among the 232 insolvents of the year. Their places have been filled by better and solider men, and to-day we have in the Northwest over 170 more

traders than we had one year ago. Traders therefore are increasing in number in this country, notwithstanding all the black pictures the enemies of the North west may paint. Speculative loafers and real estate gamblers are the only classes who show a decrease for the year, and thank God the decrease has been a heavy one. Those who remain here, lingering around the ruins of the imaginary fortunes they built up two years ago, seem to have no better employment that prophesying ruin to the country in which they have met such dissappointment, and particularly to those who still have faith in the Northwest, and hope by patient industry to rise to wealth here.

The fact that legitimate traders are on the increase, while wild and loating speculatorr are rapidly decreasing, is a complete refutation of the statement of some enemies of the Northwest to the effect, that the country is only a bubble, and our late trade troubles are signs of coming decay. Inside of a dozen years the trade of this country has grown from nothing to its present proportions; yet it has only advanced from infancy to boyhood, and great strides have vet to be made before manhood is reached. ailments of the past year are just like measles, whooping cough, chicken pox and such like temporary diseases as a healthy rugged youth is liable to, and from which puny delicate youth is usually exempt. As our attack has been a severe one we may conclude that we have had all our ailments at once, and that now recovery is silently and steadily going forward. Even the record of trade misfortune for the past year goes to prove this theory, and gives us the hope that strength will soon return, and the trade of the Northwest go onward with a purged system, and that vigor which the unbounded resources of our great country guarantce to it.

THE BANKRUPTCY ACT.

A synopsis of the general features of the draft insolvent bill, prepared by the Boards of Trade in Toronto, Montreal and Hamilton, and which it is proposed to submit to Parliament at its next sestion, is given in the Montreal Gazette. The bill provides simply for the equitable distribution of the assets of insolvent debtors, leaving the debtor in exactly the

position in which he stands at the present time, in which it differs from all recent laws relating to this subject. The bill is drafted generally on the lines of the old insolvent law as regards the features relating to the classes of persons who shall be deemed traders, as to what constitutes bankruptcy, and as to other features of the administration of estates which are common to all insolvency laws. The principal and important difference is in that portion of the draft bill which refers to the persons who may be charged with the duty of winding-up the estate. Official assignees find no occupation. Except in counties and districts containing cities with a population, according to the last census, of more than 20,000 people, the sheriff of such county or district is made the guardian under the Act; and in counties and districts containing cities of over 20,000 people one person is to be appointed by the Board of Trade of such city to be the guardian. These guardian. occupy substantially the position which the interim assignee occupied under the old law. Any creditor who by affidavit establishes the fact to the satisfaction of a judge, or protonotary, that a trader is indebted to him for the sum of two hundred dollars, and that such trader has become insolvent, is entitled to a writ of attachment addressed to the guardian, who, in virtue of such writ, becomes possessed, in trust, of the estate which he is required forthwith to seize. Provision is made for opposition on the part of the debtor, which are to be disposed of summarily, "and immediately the date within which writ of attachment may be contested, or immediately after the contestation has been rejected, or with the consent of the debtor in writing immediately after the writ has been issued, the guardian shall call a meeting of the creditors of the debtor, to be held within fifteen days thereafter." Provision is made for the manner in which this notice is to be given; and with the calling of that meeting the duty of the guardian ceases.

At the first meeting of creditors it is their duty to appoint a trustee; but is is provided that "no guardian, his partner, associate, agent, employee, or clerk, shall be elected or appointed a trustee to any estate under this Act, nor shall any guardian, his partner, associate, agent or clerk, as aforesaid be employed by the trustee in any manner, in the winding-up of the estate; nor shall any secured creditor, his partner or employee be appointed trustee." Provision is also made for the giving of security by the trustee and for his proper management of the estate; for the transference of the estate from the guardian to the trustee; for the appointment by the creditors of one or three inspectors who shall superintend and direct the proceedings of the trustee in the management and winding up of the estate; for the making of returns each year to the Secretary of State by the trustees; for the sale of debts; the dealing with leases, the sale of real estate, the payment of dividends, and the prevention of frauds and fraudulent preference. All questions discussed at meetings of creditors are to be decided by a majority of votes, the votes being calculated as follows: For any claim over \$100, and not exceeding \$200, one vote; over \$200, and not exceeding \$500, two votes; over \$500, and not exceeding \$1,000, three votes, and un additional vote for every \$1,000 or fraction thereof. This is only a brief outline of the leading provisions of the proposed law. So far as can be seen it seems to provide tolerably efficient machinery for the distribution of insolvent estates, but in the discussion which will take place upon it in Parliament some modifications and improvements may be suggested and introduced. It is a subject which will require the best consideration of our best men, and it is to be hoped that they will succeed in passing an Act which will give general satisfaction, for the want of such a law is very much felt at present.

ILLEGITIMATE TRADERS.

The people of Canada have adopted a national policy for the protection of business men in the Dominion against the competition of the outside world. If the principle is a wise one, why not carry it out to its full extent, and let men in business in any particular city be afforded full protection from that class of traders who, by ruinous competition, demoralize and undermine legitimate trade? We refer to the class known as transient traders. There have been city ordinances passed which impose a heavy license for the privilege of carrying on such a line of business. But so far it has only been

circumstances who, by the sale of Brummagem ware, crockery or crystal, is, in the absence of better means, trying to earn an honest living. These men have been made the subject of special attention by the inspector whose duty it is to look after such matters, while other, and great er offenders, are allowed to go scot free. These greater offenders, and who interfere more with legitimate trade, are those who make a practice of bringing in goods such as provisions, fruit and other articles of everyday consumption, in car lots from the eastern provinces and from the United States. These men have no place of business in the city. Instead of consigning their shipments to some reliable house doing business on commission for disposal, they accompany their goods in person. When they arrive here, their mode of doing business is to peddle out their stock in small lots all over the city, much to the detriment of legitimate trade. This is factor is a relie of the boom days, a time when the legitimate traders of the city were less numerous than now, and when there was room enough for all to operate and still hardly be able to supply the demand that existed. Things have changed since then, and there is no longer room for this class of parasites which has fastened itself upon the body commercial. This is the class of transient traders upon which the law should be brought to bear, and that to the utmost limit too. They do a great injury to those who have invested their capital and are spending their energies in trying to lay the foundations broad and sure of a solid, permanent business. And we may here add that we entertain but a very small degree of respect for that class of retailer who encourage the class of traders we have mentioned, instead of dealing with the established wholesale establishments in their own city. It is to be hoped that the proper authority will pay more attention to these business vultures in future, and see that they are made to pay all that the law allows for the privilege of carrying on their illegitimate business. They can easily befound, and due diligence in that direction will act as an excellent purgative, and bring additional health to the commercial put in force against some man in humble | interests of the city and country at large,

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

The money market has not developed any new features during the week, and the situation remains very much as it has been for the past two or three weeks. The influences of the holiday season served to produce, if anything, a quieter condition of things. Notes maturing on the 4th of the month were met as well as had been anticipated. Quite a number of renewals in part and not a few in whole had to be made. This was expected by the wholesale houses and by the banks, and they were prepared for it. The banks have plenty of money at their disposal, and those who can offer satisfactory security have no difficulty in obtaining what accommodation they require. Banks are, however, as a rule, very cautious in their dealings. They do not care to take on much new business, preferring rather to look closely after what they have already undertaken. Gilt-edged commercial paper is discounted usually at from 8 to 10 per cent; ordinary, 10 to 12 per cent. The loan companies still report business quiet, not that there are few enquiries, but a scarcity of desirable securities. Money on good real estate mortgage can be had at from S to 10 per cent. Money for speculation is just as it has been for the past few months, hard to get and only obtainable from private sources.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

The p riod immediately following the holiday season is usually a dull one in wholesale circles, and the past week has fully kept up its reputation in that respect so far as the trade of Winnipeg is concerned. There has been literally nothing doing to speak of, and a very quiet time is expected for the next few weeks. Trade during the month of December footed up to a very respectable amount, considering the difficalties that had to be contended with in the way of disturbed railway communication and extremely severe weather. Now nearly all are busy fixing up the business of the pa , year, and no effort is being made at present to push sales of goods, nor will there be any general movement in that direction until towards spring. Until that time what trade is done will be confined to sorting-up orders to supply the immediate pressing wants of dealers. It is thought that there is a good look out for trade in the spring, as retail merchants are no more than fairly supplied with stocks. Prices of all kinds of goods have held steady and while no general advance is anticipated, no decline is looked for Remittances from the country dis tricts have been slower than was expected, and a good many renewals in full have been asked for during the week. Beyond what we have mentioned there are no special features, speaking of trade generally, worthy of note.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

There is no movement at present, and the warerooms present a scene of inactivity, except in the offices, where the receipt of the mails is expected to bring with it a host of remittances from country customers. The response to requests for payment of notes maturing has not yet been so prompt as desirable, and there is no disguising the fact that a large amount of overdue paper is accumulating in the

hands of the leading houses. The cold weather has hindered the farmers in marketing their grain and this has no doubt a great deal to do in bringing about the present condition of things.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

The leading houses are not doing anything at present beyond sending out an occasional porting-up order; the principal items in which are as a rule moccasins and overshoes; and there will not likely be much beyond this for some little time to come. Collections are reported as rather slow, and more renewals being asked for than had been anticipated.

CLOTHING.

Business in this line like most others is at a standstill, and attention is being more directed to the settling-up of old business than the solicitation of new. Collections are slow, but at the same time there is a fair prospect of prompter payment before long.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

There is very little doing at present, but this is only what was expected at this season of the year. Collections are fair. Business in this line was done by the leading houses to a con siderable extent on a cash basis, and when credit was given the reliability of the customer was well assured.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

The past has been the quietest week for some time past, and it is expected that there will be a lull for a week or two until the stocks which were laid in before the holidays begin to run low. Collections are fairly good.

DRY GOODS.

This, like all other branches of business is feeling the general inactivity that prevails. Orders by mail have been very light and city trade continues dull. No movement is expected until spring goods are placed on the market. The prospect is that a more satisfactory trade will be done during the coming spring season than for some time past. The old stock of surplus goods laid in a year ago will be well cleared out by that time, and retailers shelves will be prepared for fresh receipts. There is no particular improvement to note in collections but at the same time it cannot be said that the situation is any worse than it was.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALL WARES.

The holiday season being past there is scarcely any thing doing in the fancy goods line. Collections are reported as fairly good and not entirely unsatisfactory.

FISH AND POULTRY.

There is only a middling demand for fish, poultry having largely supplemented its use during the holiday season. White fish are quoted at 7c; Lake Superior trout Sc; Oysters are steady at 70c for counts, 60c for selects, and 50c for standards. Game has been in good supply. The clare season for prairie chickens is on, and this favorite game is of course out of the market. Ducks are quoted at 40c to 50c per pair; rabbits 25c. There is still conconsiderable poultry in the market. Turkeys, geese and ducks range from 17c to 20c per lb. in price

FRUIT.

Business in the fruit line continues steady. Heav consignments that have been received have sold out readily, and others are on the way. Lemons remain firm at \$9 to \$9.50; Florida oranges \$7.50 to \$9.50; Messinas \$7.50 to \$8. California pears are still quoted at \$3 to \$6.50 per case. Apples are firm with a decided upward tendency at \$6 to \$6.50 per barrel. Malega grapes are firm at \$9 to \$9.50 per barrel. Figs in 14lb boxes are worth 12c per Ib. : Eleme lavers 19c. Nuts are steady at old quotations, viz : peanuts 20c per lb; almonds 20e to 22e; brazil- 22e; cocoa nuts \$9.50 per hundred. There is an actived demand for dried fruit. Loose muscatel raisins a: ready at \$3.25; black baskets \$4.40; dates at worth 10c per lb.

FUEL.

The severe cold weather of the past two or three weeks has caused an exceedingly active demand for fuel. Considerable quantities of wood are offered on the market and receipts of coal by rail form a sufficient supply There is no change in prices. Saskatchewan coal is worth \$9 per ton in the yard or \$10 delivered; Anthracite ranges from \$13.50 to \$14. Tamarac wood is worth from \$6 to \$7 per cord; poplar \$5 to \$6; eak \$7 to \$8.

FURNITURE.

Business in the furniture line is quiet, in fact dull. Country trade is especially light. Collections are only fair.

UROCERIES.

City trade has been moderately good during the past week, but country orders have come in very slowly. There is no change in quotations which are as follows: Sagars-Yellow 91 to 10c; granulated 109 to 114c; Paris lumps 12e : Coffees 15 to 1Se for Rios; 22 to 27c for Javas; teas - Japan 20 to 45c, Moyane ganpowders 30 to 75c; Young Hyson 25 to 70c; new season Congous 24 to 55c; last season's do 1Sc to 35c. Tobaccos have advanced-Prince of Wales is quoted at 39e to 40c per lb.; Myrtle Navy \$10 per caddie. Syrups are quoted at \$3.50 per keg; half barrels 90c per gallon. Boneless fish is worth Se per lb for 40 lb boxes; 10c for 5 lb boxes. Common salt \$3.25 per barrel; 5 lb bags \$5 40; 3 lb bags \$6.00.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

The total of business for the past week, especially in the heavy lines of hardware, amounted to very little. In the lighter classes of goods there was a slight movement, but not of much account. Quotations have not changed and are: Tin plate 14x20, \$7.50 to 7.75; 20x28, \$14.25 to 14.75; bar iron \$3.50 to 4.00; sheet iron \$3.50 to \$7.00; iron piping, 25 per cent. off price list; ingot tin, 32c to 35c; pig lead, 61c to 7c; galvanized iron, No. 28, Sc to 9c according to quality; cut nails, tenpenny a...1 upwards,\$4.25 per 1001b keg; casing nails,\$5.00; finishing nails \$1.50. Bar iron is quoted at \$3.50 per 100 lb to the trade and \$4 to blacksmiths.

LEATHER AND FINDINGS.

There has been rather a slow movement during the week. The large amount of felt foot-wear now used makes the winter demand for leather

lighter than it would otherwise be. Quotations remain as they were, viz.:—Spanish sole 33c to 35c; slaughter sole 35c French calf, first choice, \$1.40 to 1.50; domestic \$5c; B Z calf \$1.00 to 1.10; French kip \$1.00 to 1.25; B Z kip \$5c to 90c; slaughter kip 65c to 75c; No. 1 wax upper 55c; grain upper 55c, harness leather 34c to 36c for plump stock; English oak sole 65c.

LUMBER.

There has been no movement worthy of note. Quotations are as follows: Pine lumber, 1st. commonboards, dressed \$26.50; 2nd, dressed \$25.50; 1st dressed rough, \$26.50; 2nd do. \$25.50; sheathing, rough, \$25; timber 16 feet and under, \$24; do. over 16 feet, for each additional 2 feet, \$1; dimension and joists 16 feet and under. \$24; do. over 16 feet for each, \$1; fencing, \$25; 2 and 3 inch battens, \$30; A. stock boards, all widths, \$50; B do., \$45; C do., \$40; D do., \$35; 1st clear, 1, 11, 11, and 2 inch, \$60; 2nd do., \$56; window and door casings, \$50; Lase boards, dressed, \$50; 1st pine flooring, siding and ceiling, \$40; 2nd do. \$35; 3rd do. \$30; ½ inch split siding, dressed, \$30. Spruce lumber-timber 16 feet and under, \$22; do. over 16 feet for each additional 2 feet, \$1; dimensions and joists, 16 feet and under, \$23; do., over 16 feet, for each additional 2 feet. \$1; boards, \$22; 1st flooring, siding and ceiling, \$2S; XX shingles, \$5.25; Star A shingles, \$5.25; X shingles, \$5.00; A do, \$4.50; lath, \$4.50

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

A very satisfactory holiday trade was done, and now things have relapsed into a state of quietude. Collections are not to be complained of.

STOVES, TINWARE, &c.

This line is also somewhat quiet, the great bulk of the season's trade being already done. There has, so far, been very little difficulty about collections.

SADDLERY AND HARNESS,

In this line there is not much doing, unless it be a little in the finer lines of carriage harness.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

The holiday season caused quite a demand for liquor. That being past, trade is quieter, and no particular weakness is expected in the immediate future. Quotations to jobbers and purchasers of quantities are: Hennesy's one star, \$13 to \$14; in wood, \$4.50 to 5.00 per gallon; Imperial, cases, viutage of 1878, \$5.50; Martel, in case, one star, \$13 to \$14; Renault, 1-star, \$12, \$16 and \$20; Boleyn, in wood, \$4 to \$5.50; Rouet, in cases, quarts, \$8.50; flasks, \$10, half flasks, \$11; Pinette, inwood, \$4 per Imp. gal.; Louis Freres, in cases, qts, \$10; flasks, two dozen in a case, \$11; half flasks, four dozen in a case, \$12; M. Dubois, in wood, \$3.50 per gallon; cases, quarts, \$S; flasks, \$9; half flasks, \$10. Gin, Holland, in wood, \$3 per gallon; 1ed cases, \$10.50 to 11.50; green cases, \$6 to \$7; Old Tom gin, Bernard's, in wood, \$3.25 per gallon; Booth's, in wood, \$3.25; Ford's Acadia gin \$2.25 to 2.75; Booths, in cases, quarts, \$8.50; Scotch whisky, Ramsay's in wood, \$1.00; Caol-Ha Islay, in wood, \$3.50; Stewart's, i.. cases, quarts, \$8.50; flashs, \$9.50. Irish whisky, John Jameson & Sons, in wood, \$4.50;

Bernard's, in cases, quarts, \$8; flasks, \$9.50 Jamaica rum, \$3.50 to \$1.00 per gallon. Cham pagne -Pomeroy, quarts. \$34; pints \$35 per case; Bollinger, quarts, \$33; pints \$34; Moet & Chandon, quarts, \$27; pints \$28; G. H. Mumm, quarts, \$28; pints \$30; Piper Heidseick, quarts, \$27; pints \$29; Carte Blanche, quarts, \$20; pints \$21. Sherry from \$2.50 to \$.00 per gallon, according to quality and brand; ports \$2.59 to 7.00, according to quality and brand; claret in cases \$5.00 to 7.00; D.cwry's ale \$13 per brl; Bass's ale in quarts \$4 per doz; pints \$2 50; Guines's porter in quarts \$1.00; pints \$2.50. Domestio whiskies, Gooderham & Wort's, in wood, \$1.65 to 2.25 per gallon ; 65 o. p. rectified, in wood, \$3.50; W.F. L. five-year old, \$2.50 per gallon; cases quarts, \$7.50; flasks \$8.50.

THE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

There have been considerable receipts of grain by rail during the week, but offerings on the street have been light. Prices have been fairly well maintained. Provisions are firm and in the line of hog products there is a strong tendency.

WHEAT.

Receipts by rail have been rather liberal, the railway having moved a large amount of the grain which accumulated during the temporary cessation of traffic owing to the strike. On the street very little has been offered. There is no change in prices from what was quoted last week. No. 1 hard is worth 80c in Winnipeg, and the price paid for wheat injured by frost ranges from 45c to 60c per bushel according to quality.

OATS.

There is a very light demand. Offerings have not been heavy, but sufficient to supply all that was wanted. They are quoted at from 15c to 20: per lushel, but these figures are almost purely nominal.

BARLEY.

A few loads have been offered on the street which have sold at from 30c to 35c per bushel. There is very little demand at present, and the greater part of what is brought in is sold for feed

FLOUR.

The mills have been running full time all week. The home demand is not heavy and shipments east are being made daily. Quotations remain as they were, viz.: Patents \$2.90; strong baker's \$2.60; supertine \$2.

BRAN.

The mills have a big stock on hand, and the enquiry for it is light. It is worth 38 per ton on track.

SHORTS

are in very much the same position as bran, and are quoted at \$10 per ton on track.

CHOPPED FEED

is considerably enquired for, and holds steady at \$22 per ton on track.

POTATOES.

The supply, owing to the cold weather is limited, but at the same time sufficient to supply the demand. They are worth 50c to 60c per bushel.

CHEESE

is steady at 16. per pound. There is a very fair demand.

EUTTER.

The demand for choice keeps up very well, but inferior quality is very little enquired for. Choice dairy is quoted at 25c to 28c, and fine creamery at 30c per pound.

HAMS

hold steady at 18c, and a firm feeling provails.

BACON.

The demand for bacon is very good. Long clear dry salt is quoted at 11½c to 12c; smoked 12½c; breakfast 16c to 17c; speed rolls 16c.

EGGS

hold steady at 32e per doz. The market is not over supplied.

MESS PORK

is firm, but not in great demand, at the old quotation of \$22.

MESS BEEF.

There is very little enquiry at present, but the price remains as it was, viz., \$18.

LARD

in twenty pound pails is still held at \$2.75 case lard \$5 to \$5.50.

DRIED APPLES

are worth 12c per pound, and there is a fair demand.

CRANBERRIES.

Considerable consignments are on the wag and there is likely to be a tumble in prices. First quality fruit is still quoted at \$14 per barrel.

WHITE BEARS

are held at \$3 to \$3.25 per bushel.

CANNED MEATS

The demand is not heavy at present, especially for meats, there being plenty of fresh in the market. Quotations are: Corned beef \$4.25; brawn \$4.25; lunch tongue \$4.25 for 1 lb cans \$7.75; salmon \$2.15; lobsters \$2.00; California fruits, \$9.75; tomatoes \$4.50; 3 lb apples \$4.25.

MINNEAPOLIS.

Receipts of wheat have been light the past week, and shipments rather heavy, though mainly of low grades. Very little spot No. 1 hard has been dealt in trading being mainly in sample wheat. The steady decline at Chicago had the effect of creating weakness here. Now that the holidays are over, most dealers look for higher prices. There is the best authority for the "tatement that 70 per cent of the marketable surplus of wheat in Minnesota and Dako has gone out of the hands of producers and it is known that the Millers' association has secured all that it wanted. This corporation has pursued a more agressive policy than heretofore, going so far as to store wheat in Duluth, and it is said that at one time vessels which otherwise would have loaded up and gone east, were chartered by the association and held until cargoes of low grade wheat not wanted here were obtained, when they were sent out. The movement of the crop was more rapid than ever. but there was not the faintest sign of a hitch about money, showing that the association's resources are boundless.

The coarse grain ma ket has been quiet, but teady, throughout the week.

The following were the highest and lowest prices by grade on 'change during the week ending Friday, together with that day's closing prices:—

Whcat.	Highest.	Lowest.	Closing.
No. 1 hard			
"2"	. 941	923	. 923
" I northern.	. 911		
2	. So	S4	S4

MILLSTUFFS.—Has been in active demand and very firm. The mills are mainly sold ahead and will not make further contracts, though buyers are anxions. Bran has advanced 50e per ton the past week and closed strong at \$10 to \$10.25 for bulk, with sacked quotable at \$11.50 to \$11.75. Shorts are firm at \$10.50 to \$11.75 for fine to coarse.

FLOUR.—There has been no change in the market, but now that the holidays are over, the limited production and growing scarcity of Minnesota flour in other markets is expected to work an improvement before long. Quotations at the mills are as follows:

Patents, \$5.\$0 to 6.50; straights, \$5.40 to 5.60; first bakers', \$4.60 to 5.00; second bakers', \$4 to 4.40; best low grades, \$2.40 to 3.00; red dog. \$1.80 to 2.10.

The operations on the platform are very simi lar to a week ago, the production of flour ranging the lowest of any time on this crop. A new deal has been made among the mills about running, the proportion of capacity kept in operatin being reduced from two-thirds to one-half. Under this arrangement the power of those mills running is kept steadier, enabling more satisfactory work to be done. On last week's run, the water was quite low Thursday and Friday, improving somewhat on Saturday, making a rather poor average for the six days. The daily production amounted to 9,275 barrels against 9,450 barrels the preceding week. This week was started off with an excellent head on Monday, followed by nearly as good Tuesday, but a lower one on Wednesday and Thursday, and the prospects seem to be favorable to a heavier output of flour than for the last two weeks. Six mills, with a total capacity of 6,500 barrels, are doing no work at all, in most instances undergoing repairs. The flour market has undergone no change, remaining fairly strong, with an undercurrent sentiment prevailing that an improvement will soon take place.

Our receipts and shipments were as follows for the week ending Jan. 1:

	Received.	Shipped.
Wheat, bush	216,500	75,500
Flour, bris		64,375
LAST WEE	ĸ.	

The stock of wheat in store in the clevators (including the transfer) and mills of the city on Wednesday, was about 3,250,000 bush. At St. Paul there were 1,150,000 bush., the same as last week, and at Duluth 2,255,000 bush., against 2,345,000 bush. the previous week.—Northecestern Miller.

CHICAGO.

The market for the week has been rather quiet, not having yet fully recovered from the

holiday season. On Wednesday wheat was in good demand and lower. Corn and oats were unsettled. Provisions firm with a tendenc to advance Quotations towards the close were:

and Chomenon	13 10 11	mas cuc	CIUZU 1	
Wheat,	Jan.,	\$0.943	Feb.	\$0.954
Corn,	• •	57¥	44 1	573
Uats,	**	323	. "	33
l'ork,	**	14.15	` "	14,35
Lard	44	8.75	"	8.871

On Thursday wheat was active but easy. Corn and oats remained very much as they were. Quotations towards the close were:

Wheat,	Jan.,	\$0.94	Feb.,	
Corn,	41	574	"	57.1
Oats	66	324	• •	33
Pork,	**	14.20	"	14.40
Lard,	46	S.SO	"	8.90

On Friday wheat was more active and stronger. Corn was unsettled and oats quiet. Provisions were fairly active. Quotations towards the close were:

Wheat,	Jan.,	\$0.943	Feb.	\$0.951
Corn,	44	578	44	571
Oats,	"	324	66	33
Pork,	4.6	14.25	44	14.45
Lard,	4.6	8.83	"	\$.95

On Saturday wheat was quiet. Corn advanced a little and oats were steady. Provisons were in fair demand but not specially active. Quotations towards the close were:

Wheat,	Jan.,	\$0.947	Feb .	\$0.953
Corn,		573		57
Uats	•••	333		34
Pork,	"	14 57	44	14.60
Lard,	"	S.90	٠.	9.00

TORONTO.

STOCKS.

The stock man' et remains almost as it was, showing no special indications of either weakness or strength. On Wednesday closing bids, as compared with Dec. 19, were:

	Dec. 19	Jan. 2.
Montreal	177	175
Ontario	1025	98
Molsons		112
Toronto	167	165
Merchants		1081
Cammerce	119	1183
Imperial	132	. 130
Federal	123	. 1223
Dominion	1874	1873
Standard	109	1083
Hamilton		
Ontario & Qu'Appelle		. 95
North-west Land	67	. 65

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

The holiday season kept business quiet, but circumstances outside were not such as to have created any activity. Receipts were light and prices remain very much as they were.

WHEAT.

The deneadd has been light and offerings have not amounted to much. The quality of grain offering has as a rule been inferior. Values are insettled with a downward tendency. Quotations are: Fall wheat No. 2 \$1.05; No. 3, \$1.05; Spring do., No. 1, \$1.12; No. 2 \$1.10.

OATS.

There is very little enquiry and prizes tend to decline. Cars on track have sold at 33c and 34c. On the street from 35c to 36c is paid.

BARLEY.

Movement during the week has been very light, but prices have been fairly well maintained, and holders are not anxious to press sales. Quotations are: No. 1, 71c; No. 2, 66c; extra No. 3, 61c. There has been no No. 3 offered.

1. V. K.

is quiet, and the quotation both for ear lots and loads off the steet is 62c.

PEAS

There is a good steady demand, and all offered are readily taken. No. 2, in car lots, is quoted at 75c; No. 3 at 71c. Street prices range from 74c to 75c.

FLOUR.

Dullness and inactivity still characterizes the market. Holders are not inclined to press sales, or make concessions to induce buyers. Superior ortras is quoted at \$5.00 to \$5.10 per barrel; extra at \$4.50 to \$4.85.

POTATOES.

Offerings are liberal. Cars have been sold at 70c to 72c, the former figure prevailing at the close. On the street from 85c to 90c a bag, is paid.

DUTTER.

Receipts for the past week have been on the heavy side; but the demand still continues light. First-class quality has sold at from 18c to 19c; medium 15c; inferior 12c to 13c. Box lots are weak at 15c to 16c. On the street pound rolls sell at from 20c to 24c according to quality; large rolls 18c to 20c; tubs and crocks of dairy 19c to 20c.

EGCS.

The supply for the week has been sufficient to meet all demands and prices are easier, closing at 22c for limed and 24c for fresh in round lots. Really fresh bring 27c to 30c on the street.

CHEVER

is steady at 121c for fine and 111c to 12c for medium in small lots.

PORK

is inactive but firmer at \$16 for small lots.

BACON.

The market is quiet, but prices are firm with an upward tendency. Long clear in tons and cases is held at Sie to 9e; Cumberland 7ie to Se; rolls, 11e; bellies, 12c.

11.7319

There is very little movement to report in hams. Prices are firm at 121c to 13c.

LARD

is firmer. Offerings are light. Pails are quoted at He.

APPLES.

There is no change in the market. Car lots are held at \$3 to \$3.50 per harrel. On the street the prices range from \$2.75 for poor to \$3.50 to \$3.70 for choice.

POULTRY.

The market is easier owing to heavier supply. Box lots of turkeys are worth 10c to 11c per lb; geese 7c to Sc; fowl 45c to 55c per pair; ducks 60c to 70c.

SUNDRIES.

Dried apples 91c to 10c; catmeal per 136 lbs, \$4.00; commeal \$3.54 to \$3.2.

Commercial Travellers' Rendion.

On Friday, evening there happened at the Grand Union Hotel, one of the most pleasant reunions which it has ever been our pleasure to witness. The occasion was the annual dinner of the Northwest Commercial Travellers' Association. They're a jolly lot of good fellows always, and when they take anything special in hand you can always rest assured it will be done well. The Menu was in the best style the excellent hostelry could provide, and reflected great credit upon the ostablishment. Previous

to opening the doors of the dining hall a meeting of the members of the Association was held when officers for the ensuing year were elected. The result was as follows: President, Joseph Mullholland; Vice-Precident, Thos. Johnston; Treasurer, W. R. Langridge; Secretary, W. G. Georgeson; Directors, Messrs. Wilkinson, Redmond, A. McKeand, Chillcott and M. Me-Keand.

The dining room them became the scene of active operation. The genial president, Mr. Jos. Mullholland, occupied the post of honor, and did his duty well. Mr. M. has been a staunch friend of the Association ever since its inception and in reelecting himas Presidentform other term of office, they did not only honor to a gentleman who deserves it but credit to themselves as well.

The dinner over and the cloth removed the chairman proceeded to the toast list, but before doing so explained that he had received letters from several leading citizens expressing regret at their unavoidable absence. The loyal and patriotic toasts were then proposed and duly honored; the Artillery Band responding with appropriate music. "The Army, Navy and Volunteers" was responded to by Lieut. McKeand on behalf of the Army and Mr. James E. Steen for the Naval arm of the service. "The Senate, House of Commons and Provincial Legislature" was responded to by Hon. C. P. Brown. "The Mayor and Corporation" was next in order. In reply to the toast of "The Ladies" Messrs. Fred. Chilcott and Woods, distinguished themselves and astonished the crowd by their powerful eloquence. "The Commercial and Manufacturing Interests found good representatives in Messrs. F. B. Stobart, Riley and Fowler. "The Press" was responded to by representatives present after which the singing of the National Authem brought to a termination on of the most pleasant social gatherings that has ever been held in Winnipeg.

A Magnificent Business Establishment.

The magnificent store erected by Mr. Thomas Ryan, the well-known boot and shoe dealer, during the past season, deserves more than a passing notice. It is one of the handsomest buildings that adorns Main street, and is at the same time the pioneer solid stone structure in Winnipeg. Mr. Ryan is now in occupation of the building, and when we say that all the interior arrangements are fully in keeping with the magnificent exterior, we only say what is true. The building is 100 feet deep, with a frontage of 25 feet, and is four storeys in height. It is of solid stone, and the front is handsomely carved. The cost of the building alone was in the neighborhood of \$38,000. Mr. Ryan's success is a good example of what may be accomplished by practical effort and strict attention to the details of business. Establishing himself here in 1874, with a stock of not over \$50, his business has grown until now as many thousands would scarcely cover the amount of stock carried, and now carries it on in the finest store. that the city can boast. We congratulate Mr. Ryan on his success, and trust that prosperity may long attend him.

The Business Situation.

The period of reaction from the trade and industrial activity of 1879-80-81 became prononneed early in 1883. The depression has since been aggravated, first, by the looseness which has been permitted to obtain in the making and selling of commercial paper; second, by the deeper distrust of our railway management which has come about and which is justified by the developments of the last few months. But for these immediate causes it is very probable that the United States would have passed through a period of comparatively moderate depression, and this owing to the progress in business statistics which enabled the man of business to receive warning of overtrading before the conditions of a crash had formed. As things are now there is no adequate reason for concluding that the business of the country is to find a still lower level in 1884. But, on the other hand the enforced stopping of mills and a further reduction of wages in the concerns still in operation may bring about a more severe depression. The power of the wage-carning classes to buy and consume goods is a most important factor in sustaining the general merchandise movement, and it is well known that in a period of commercial reaction the jobbing trades are about the last to complain of dullness. The time of reaction is one of economy and real accumulation. As indicated, it is believed that a good deal of progress has been made regarding the means of determining in advance the conditions precedent to a commercial depression, but very much yet remains to be done. Business statistics have resulted for the most part from the organization of trade. Trade organization must be extended and perfected. To this end the merchant must needs give up more of his time to the public side of business. The traffic in commercial paper must be protected to a much greater extent than now from those who deliberately set out to profit by its abuse. The offence of illegitimate speculations on the part of a man or firm whose capital is entirely embarked in his regular business must come to be severely dealt with. Beyond this the direction of American railways must be so far reformed that the shares thereof will be more sought after as secure investments. There is room here also for the healthful intervention of

The commercial wreck list of the year is a foundable one. The following table gives the total number of failures reported to Bradstreet's during each of the last five years:

COMPARISON OF FAILURES IN THE UNITED STATES

1000 1000 1001 100	M 20	CO
FOR 1879, 1880, 1881, 188	21 UZA 26	53.
1879.	1SS0.	1881.
United States 6,652	4,350	5,929
Canada and Provinces .2,875	839	607
•	1882.	1883.
United States	7.574	10,187
Canada and Provinces		1.460

The table below gives the failures during each of the two last quarters of 1881, 1882 and 1883:

COMPARISON OF FAILURES IN THE UNITED STATES FOR LAST QUARTERS OF 1881, 1882 AND 1883.

The returns of to-day and Monday will increase somewnat the totals for the last quarter of 1883, and therefore of the year's total, but the figures above given will prove to be approximately correct. The number of failures, as the table shows, has gradually increased since 1880.

— Bradstreet's, Dec. 29th.

C.P.R. WHEAT rates to Port Arthur have been reduced and are now as follows: from Regina 40c per 100 lbs; from Virden 36c; from Winnipeg 28c; from Manitou 30c. There is also to be a reduction of the rates to the boundary line at Gretna and Emerson by the all rail routes.

THE number of failures in the United Kingdom reported to Kemp's Mercantile Gazette for the week ending December 12, was 264 against 239 and 282 in like weeks respectively of 1882 and 1881. Of these England and Wales had 227, against 223 and 256; Scotland 30, against 12 and 21; and Ireland 7, against 3 and 5.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

Wm. Stinson, hotel-keeper here, has assigned in trust.

George Slade has sold out his general store business.

The Portage Milling Company are offering their mill and elevator for sale.

The rollers have been placed in Pratt's mill, and operations have been commenced.

Our merchants did a good business during the holiday season, equal to what they did last year.

Passenger rates on the Manitoba and Northwestern Railway have been reduced to 4c per mile.

Coal has become scarce here, so much so that the biscuit factory had to close down a few ago owing to lack of fuel.

Wood is cheap here. Green poplar is quoted at \$2.25 per cord; dry poplar \$2.75; green oak \$3.00; dry oak \$3.75.

The money order business of the post office here amounted to \$7,258.02 in December. Stamp sales amounted to \$512.10.

BRANDON.

J. E. Smith has sold his sale stable on Princess avenue.

Grain has been coming in very unsteadily, the market being very small some days owing to the excessive cold.

Rumor has it that several hotels are on their last legs and will not hold out this winter. The Beaulier House is again closed, and some of the furniture sold for rent.

The land office has been having a boom owing to the Mile Belt being opened for homesteading and the squatters are receiving every consideration at the hands of the Government.

The Court house is approaching completion and is much admired by strangers and those who have time to visit it; the arrangement of offices, etc., is pronounced to be first-class.

Business during the week has been on the fair side but in no wise booming. The banks continue to keep a check on their customers but are more liberal than a couple of weeks ago.

Facts about Scotch Fife Wheat.

The Northwestern Miller, which has been making fight for Scotch life wheat as being the best in the world for making good flour, says: "It is a well established fact that the high reputation gained for Minnesota flour in former yours was attained by using hard wheat exclusively in its production. This gave it its great strength over all other brands in the markets. When the middlings parifier first came into general use here, the value of Minnesota flour took a long stride ahead of any other brands then produced, ranging in price in the Eastern markets from \$1,50 to \$2 per barrel above the best winter wheat flour. At that time Minnesota was raising a purely hard wheat (the old Scotch fife), and the extra value in the flour then was evidently the result of using this hard wheat exclusively in its production Fife is the wheat which first gave Minnesota its reputation for large yield. It is the hardest of all wheats, in respect to injuring from excess ive moisture. The Manitoba authorities admit Scotch life for seed free of duty, and the Canadian Pacific road transports it for seed free of charge, making full rates on soft wheat. There are a few sections in Minnesota where the farmers have stuck to fife ever since it was introduced, and their crop this year was as large and the quality as fine as the first season that they raised life. It is true that they have not grown wheat on the same ground every year. They have given the soil an occasional rest, sometimes for two or three years, first by pasturing it, and then by planting something else, so that it recovered what it had lost,

The figures from five counties taken from a group in which Scotch Fife has been raised almost exclusively, are given to show the resalts in 1882 :

	Total	Total	Average
	nervage.	yield.	peracre
Scott	40,17.5	718,186	17.87
Wright	.36,690	635,181	17.31
McLeod (1883)	41.721	667,520	16.00
Hennepin	40,941	653,884	15.97

The figures cannot be equalled by any simi lar group of the purely soft wheat counties, and even if they could, there would remain against the soft wheat the all important differeuce in price-10 to 20 cents per bushel less than No. 1 hard tife. One thing is certain, and that is the reputation of the hard wheat seetion and of the Northwestern flour is maintained, it can only be by the exclusive use of fife wheat for seed. All of the softer sorts, for which larger yield is claimed, must be discarded. Rotation of crops and better modes of securing the grain when ripe are newssary, The Northwestern farmer must learn this lesson well, and if he would avert all danger of smut, discard soft wheat for seed and stick to fife.

Pearl Fishing.

A pearl fishery of great promise has been opened up in the Gulf of Mexico. Among many smaller gems the fishermen have discovered several large and very valuable pearls. One taken from the shell of a pearl oyster in December last is believed to be the largest on record. It weights 75 carats and was purchased by a to the mechanic.

joweler for \$14,000, though that sum was very far below its real value. Another of 47 carats has also been found. It is perfect in form and finely tinted, and is valued at \$5,000. A third very beautiful pearl of 40 carats has been exhibited at La Paz, where a bid, of \$3,000 for it was declined. It is thought from these and other examples that there are extensive deposits of pearl-bearing oysters, and there is a great excitement on the shores of the Gulf.

Seal Skius.

The Philadelphia Times says that the best seal skins come from the Antarctic waters, principally from the Shetland Islands. Now York receives the bulk of American skins, which are shipped to various ports. London is the great centre of the fur trade of the world. In our own own country the sea bear of the north has the most valuable skin. Since 1862 over 500,000 have been killed on Behring island alone. In 1867 there were 27,500 sea bears killed: in 1871 there was a very large decrease, only 3,614 being killed. There were 26,960 killed in 1876, and in 1880 the number killed was 48,501, a large increase. Sen ofter fur is about as expensive as any, and some 48,000 skins are used yearly. Over 100,000 martin or Russian sable skins are annually used. Only about 2,000 silver foxes are caught every year, and about 6,500 blue foxes. Other fox akins are used more or less. About 600 tiger skins are used yearly, over 11,000 wild cat skins, and a very large trade is being carried on in house-cat skins; about 35,000 skunk and 42,000 monkey skins are utilized annually. The trade in crmine skins is falling-off, as is also the trade in chinchilla. About 3,000,000 South American untrins are killed every year, and a very large business is carried on in muskrat skins; about 15,000 each of American bear and buffalo skins were used last 'year. There are also used each year about 3,000,000 lamb, 5,000,000 rabbit, 6,000,000 squirrel, and 620,000 filch skins; also 195,000 European hamster, and nearly 5,000,000 European and Asiatic hares.

Illegitimate Trading.

In a recently published pamphlet on bankruptey legislation, Mr. D. C. Robbins, of the New York Chamber of Commerce, advocates the punishment of bankrupts whenever it appears that they have been engaged in illegitimate "outside" speculation. He says: -

A firm engaged in a legitimate commercial business, which goes out of it and speculates in other business and fails, ought to suffer a public penalty. Thus, if a hardware firm gambles in mines, a dry goods firm dabbles in real estate, a drug merchant embarks or speculates in produce or stocks, the money lost is not their own, but funds advanced by bankers and others on their notes, under the belief that they are doing a legitimate business. When they fail, the injury is not confined to the creditors; public confidence is shaken, support is withdrawn from other good firms, and workmen are thrown out of employment. Thus the ripple of one man's evil act extends till it reaches from the banker

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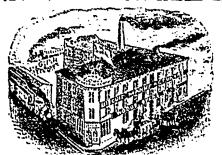
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1880 238,277-67 1880

249,638-22 1881 1881 1882 381,335 11 1882

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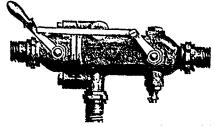
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y first class in every respect. Commercial Sample Strictly first class in every respect.
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The "Royal" Soap is strongly recommended for family use, being the best Soap sold in Manitoba.

TRY IT: TRY IT: TRY IT

Canadian Pacific Railway. (WESTERN DIVISION)

OHANGE OF TIME

On and after Dec. 2nd, 1833, Trains will move as follows: Gollar west. Gollar Bas :

On an after Dec. 2nd, 1855, 176 ns action of toling testing west.

\$7.30 a m leave Winnipeg arrive 0.30 p.m. 10.00 " Portago la Praleie 4.00 " 1.25 p.m. Brandon 1.45 " 1.5 " Broadyles \$7.15 a.m.\$7 t2.16 a.m. Regina 11.20 p.m. 0.30 " Moose Jaw 8.30 " 1.30 p.m. av Swift Current 1 1.30 p.m. 11.30 p.m. 11.40 a.m. av. Medleine Hat 1. "11.10. am.

Going East \$0,30 a.m. 1.66 p.m. 8.56 p.m. 11.40 a.m. Going West 8,30 p.m % 11,10 n.m. leave Winnipeg arrive 8.30 p.m.
Rat Portage 11.10 a.m.
Parclay 4.64 p.m.
arrive Pt. Arthur leave 1.30 p.m.

Winnipeg Arrive. m. 10.35 n.m. 17.00 n.m. Coing South,

Leave Winnipeg Arrive, 17.00 n.m. *7.36 p.m. 10.36 n.m. 17.00 n.m. Kinerson, 10.60 p.m. 10.10 p.m. 4.05 n.m. 4.10 n.m. Arrive, 8t. Vincent, Leave, 10.00 p.m. 10.30 p.m. 3.46 n.m. 4.00 n.m.

SOUTHWESTERN BRANCH.

Going South.

47.40 a.m. leave Winnipeg arrive 8.00 p.m.
10.03 a.m. Morris 6.30 p.m.
11.60 p.m. Gretna 3.46 p.m.
4.46 p.m. arrive Manitoucity leave 8.30 a.m.

\$0.20 a.m. leave Winniper arrive 3.00 p.m.¶ 10.30 a.m. Stony Mountain 2.00 p.m.¶ 10.65 arrive Stonewall leave 1.30 ,

Dally except Saturdays.
1 Dally except Mondays.
2 Dally except Sundays.

Sleeping Cars runs daily between Winnipeg and Moose Jaw. Sleeping car leaving Winnipeg Mondays runs through to Calgary without change. Returing arrives at Winnipeg Saturday overling.

Trains more on Standard time.

JOHN M. EGAN, Gen. Superintendent. W. C. VAN HORNE, Oen, Manager

WM. HARDER, Ass't Traille Manager.

Chicago and Grand Trunk Railway.

going rast.
Leave Chicago v.10 a.m., 3.30 p. m., 8.30 p.m.; arrive at Port Huron 10.30 p.m., 6.30 a.m., 10,35 a.m., 10.10 s.

at Port Huron 10.30 p.m., 6.30 a.m., 10.35 a.m., 10.10 a.m., 6.35 p.m.
Leave Port Huron 0.10 a.m., 7.65 p.m., 8.00 p.m., 4.15 p.m., 11.00 a.m., arrive at Chicago 0.60 p.m., 7.46 p.m., 8.00 a.m., 10.00 a.m.
Pullman palace sleeping coaches are run through with cut change, between Chicago, and Bay City, Detroit, Toronto, Montreat, Boston, Niagara Falls, Buffalo, and New York via Port Huron, as follows:
Oonso west.
Trains leaving New York 0.45 p.m., Buffalo 12.10 p.m., Suspension Bridge 1.00 p.m., and Port Huron 8.00 p.m., has through Pullman palace sleeping coach from New York, Buffalo, Suspension Bridge and Bay City to Chicago.

York, Bulfalo, Suspension Bridge and Bay City to Chleago.

Train leaving Boston 7.00 p.m., Montreal 0.30 a.m., Toronto 11.46 p.m., and Port Huron 7.46 a.m., has through Pullman palace sleeping coach from Boston to Chleago.

Train leaving Montreal 10.00 p.m., Toronto 12.16 p.m., Port Huron 8.00 p.m., has through Pullman palace sleeping coach from Montreal to Chleago.

Going Rast.

Train No. 3 leaving Chleago 3.30 p.m., has through Pullman palace sleeping coaches from Chleago to Niagara Italis, Buffalo, New York, and to Boston via Montreal.

Train No. 6 leaving Chleago 8.30 p.m., has through Pullman palace sleeping coach from Chleago to Montreal and Parlor car to Boston.

Train No. 1 leaving Chleago 0.10 a.m., has through Pullman palace exach from Port Huron to Toronto and Montreal.

The Royal Route. — Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha, and Chicago and Northwestern Railways.

dill NUITHWOSIGH RAHMAJS.

Passengers over the Royal Route has call the luxuries of Modern Railway travel, Palaco Dining Cars, Luxurious Smoking Room Sleepers and Elegant Day and Night Coaches for Passengers who do not ride in Sleeping Cars, with no change of cars for any class of passengers between Minneapolis, St. Paul and Chicago; also No Chango of Cars between St. Paul and Chicago; also No Chango of Cars between St. Paul and Chicago; also No Chango of Cars between St. Paul and Chicago; also No Chango of Cars between St. Paul and Chicago; also No Chango of Cars between St. Paul and Chicago; also No Chango of Cars between St. Paul and Chicago; also No Chango of Cars between St. Paul and Chicago; also have been considered to the Royal Route.

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COMINO WEST,

COMISO WEST.

Express trains leave Chicago at 11.30 a.m. (except Sunday) and 9.00 p.m., arriving at St. Paul at 6.16 a.m. and 12.45 p.m., and Minneapolle at 7.60 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.

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The Chicago 5 p.m., and Omaha trains leave St. Paul for Sionx City, Omaha, Kabsas City and San Francisco at 7.10 a.m. and 3.30 p.m.

St. Paul, Minneapolis & Mapitoba.

SOUTHEASTWARD.

Express leaves St. Vincent at 11.15 p.m. and 11.30 a, in. arriving at St. Paul at 6.20 p.m. and 8.10 a.m. the day following, making close connections with trains running in all directions.

NORTHEASTWARD.

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Trains fun botween St. Paul and Minneapolis almost

overy hour.

Sleeping cars on all night trains,
Trains run on St. Paul time.

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