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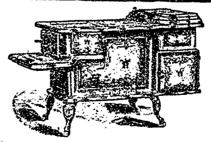
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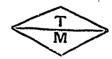
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We Have Received Our Direct Importatios of

Herrings in brls and & brls. Figs in boxes, I boxes and mats. Boneless fish 40 lb. boxes. Boneless fish 5 lb. boxes.

WHITE BEANS, DRIED APPLES Evaporated Apples in 50lb. Boxes in Stock and Arriving.

Turner, MacKeand & Co. BANNATYNE STREET.

VOL. 1.

WINNIPEG MARGH 13, 1883.

NO 24

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

ISSUED EVERY TUESDAY

THE COMMERCIAL will be mailed to any address in Canada, United States or Great Britain at \$2.00 a year in

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Book, Newspaper, Balland, Canadian Sorth-

Book, Newspaper, Railroad, Commercial and Job Printing specialties

4370ffice, 16 James St. East.

ET EEN & BOYCE,

Publishers

WINNIPEG, MARCH 13, 1883.

ODANAH and Minnedosa are seeking incorporation as one town.

C. W. MARLATT is retiring from business in Oak River.

HOGAN & GIBBONS, who opened the St. Johns Hotel about a year ago, have sold out to Keith & Winlaw.

CLARSON & TOLHURST, merchant tailors, Winnipeg, are opening a branch in Regina.

McRostie & Collins, grocers, Cartwright, have sold out to T. S. Menary.

Watsu & Co., Indian Head, have assigned in trust to Thibandeau & Co.

NELSON & MCKENZIE have opened a general store and lumber yard at Dowsford.

MINNEDOSA has been accommodated with a post office money order office.

Two special through freight trains will be dispatched weekly from Montreal to Winnipeg.

Walsh & Co., of Indian Head, have assigned in trust to Thibaudeau Bros. & Co.

THE bailiff is in possession of the hotel conducted by Boyce & Stracham, Winnipeg, on a landlord's warrant.

Dong & Sopen, dealers in picture frames, etc., Winnipeg, have dissolved. The business will be continued by Soper & LeCappellain.

THE Dominion Government is moving for a reciprocity treaty with Brazil.

OGILVIE & Co. have erected a grain warehouse at Cheval Creek with a capacity of 5,000 bushels.

CLARK, GNEADINGER & Co., general store, Darlingford, have been succeeded in business by Clark & Jopp.

THE sheriff is in possession of the milmery business of Mrs. Clarkson, on Portage avenue, Winnipeg.

BANNING & JOHNSON have sold their gristmill at Birds Hill to Arthur A. Crowell, of Dominion City, for \$4,600.

- W. J. HOLMES, late with Fowler & Pollock, jewellers, Winnipeg, has gone to establish business on his own responsibility at Regina.
- C. J. WHELLAMS' estate at Rapid City is in the hands of the sheriff, and will be sold on the

THE Grand Union Hotel is to be reopened shortly by Capt. Douglas, formerly of the Douglas House.

MERCHANTS in Crystal City, Clearwater and Pilot Mound have entered into an agreement to conduct business on a strictly cash basis.

J. J. MULDOON has regained possession of the St. James Hotel, and will conduct it in future on the European plan. He opened yesterday.

AMBREY's patent cabinet letter file is one of the neatest and best things we have seen. The agent in this city is Mr. John A. Tees.

WOODWARD & TILLDY have vacated the Cottage Hotel, and have established themselves in the old Farmer's Home premises. The name hus been changed to The White Elephant.

D. E. McLean, druggist, Pilot Mound, has taken C. L. McCracken into partnership. The style of the firm will be McCracken & Mc-Lean.

THE creditors of Thomas Hanson, general merchant, Souris City, meet in Winnipeg on the James A. Smart, of Brandon, is 21st inst. trustee of the estate.

THE municipality of Emerson have let the contract for a \$2,000 Pratt truss bridge over the Roseau River 24 miles east of Domnion City.

MACHINEEY for a foundry in Rapid City, brought in by C. J. Whellams, has been sold to Mr. Ratcliffe, who intends starting a foundry as soon as the railway coming to that point is assured.

An idea may be formed of the immense trade done in the North-west in agricultural implements, from the fact that one firm alone gave as their opening order 3,900 plows, 1,000 wagons, 400 McCormick reapers, 320 sceders, 320 hay rakes and 400 mowers.

For the month of February there was received and entered at Emerson 286 car-loads of coal, containing 3,921 tons. The duty on the same amounted to \$2,352.60.

Mr. C. B. DEACON, late of Winnipeg, has purchased the hardware business of Messrs. W. H. Cooper & Co. of Emerson. Mr. Deacon is spoken very highly of as a first-class business man, and capable in every respect to make his venture a success.

THE stock of the Winnipeg Stock Exchange has been taken up. The Exchange has a capital of \$10,000 divided into forty shares of \$250 each.

C. R. Turrer has his Stock Produce and Mining Exchange in The Queen's Hotel, in full blast. He received information regularly by telegraph from all important points, and operaters can post themselves at once by consulting the bulletin board.

THE British American Gold Mining Company has been organized with the following gentlemen in the directorate. Harold Goodwin, Swansca Eng; Alex Young, Glasgow, Scotland; Hirnm Montague, John T. Nagle and J. S. Coolican, Winnipeg. J. S. Crolican is President; Alex Young, Vice-President; Thos. Coolican, Secretary and Treasurer; John T. Nagle, Managing Director. The stock of the company is \$500,000 at \$10 per share.

Forestry in the North-west.

No question gathers around it much greater interest to the people of Manitoba and the North-west than that of forestry. The preservation from unnecessary destruction of what timber we have, and the reproduction of sufficient to take the place of what is cut every winter is a subject for earnest consideration by all. At a recent meeting of the American Forestry Congress, Prof. Sargent, of Harvard, read a paper in which he touched upon the matter. Referring to it, he pointed out that the question of tree planting must arise in the Northwest, and the sooner it is grappled with the better for the welfare of the future millions who are expecting to people the vast prairies west of Winnipeg. In the matter of fuel alone, its importance may be estimated from the fact that there are extensive tracts of western territory where the farmers journey from ten to twenty miles by wagon or sleigh in order to obtain fuel, or where they have to rely solely on the wood train which at intervals supply them; and such farmers are often exposed to positive suffering when extensive snow blockade take place. The prairie farmer indeed soon knows the value of a belt of trees upon his farm, not merely as a source of fuel and fencing, but even more as a windbrake warding off the fierce blizzards in winter, and in summer sheltering his growing crops, fruit trees and stock from the strong prairie winds which, developing into storms, cause almost every season vast injury.

It is not at all improbable that the planting of forests on the prairies in Manitobo, Dakota and Iowa, will be the solution of that most embarrassing problem-the grasshoppers-by affording obstruction to the high winds which bring these insects from their habitats farther west, and by furnishing suitable homes for myriads of birds which would keep the increase of the grasshoppers in check.

The planting of forests will also probably solve the question of the successful growth of fruits in Manitoba and the North-west. Fruit treeds need protection alike from storms and from parching winds, and especially in our western prairle country is this necessary. It has been laid down as almost an axiom in the western States, that the forest trees must precede the fruit trees in order to afford such protection.

In Minnesota an earnest effort has been made to encourage the planting of trees. A State Forestry Association has been organized, and annually offers premiums for the largest number of trees planted on a day in May denominated Arbor Day. It is estimated that in the spring of 1877 there were 5,290,000 trees planted in Minnesota, and of these over half a million were put out on Arbor Day. During the entire planting season of that year it is believed that about ten millions of trees were planted, and of these, that about 70 per cent have lived.

The question of tree planting is one which should be actively taken up at once in our North-west. The Government of Manitoba could not grapple with a more pressing subject for legislation, unless it be drainage. The greatest drawbacks against which the North-

west has to contend, from an agricultural point of view, are wet lands, scarcity of timber and liability to high winds, and, in some localities, to summer frosts. Dakota and Minnesota have equally these drawbacks? The Manitoba Legislature has taken up the question of drainage, and active efforts are now being made in some parts of the country to reclaim the wet lands. To cope with storms and frosts seems hopeless, and yet experience has found the great value of belts of trees around each farm as affording effective shields against these. What the gov ernment there should do is to promote Forestry Associations, and to in every way encourage tree planting by exemption from taxation or by direct premiums or bonuses. Any such encouragement successfully followed up will be returned one hundred fold in the larger and more certain crops, the store of wood for lumber and fuel created by the growing timber, the relief from the monotony of the prairie landscape through the belts of trees dotting the scene on every side, and not least, in a more contented and prosperous community of farmers.

The Era of Big Mills.

Certainly one of the most remarkable facts concerning the milling industry in this cauntry during the last five or six years is the number of large flour mills thut have been constructed and put in operation. It is not so very long ago that a run of burrs was expected to make from fifty to a hundred barrels of alleged flour per day, and yet in those days we never heard of mills of mammoth capacity. It seems that the more complicated our milling and machinery becomes, and the smaller the capacity of the mill, compared with its area of floor space, the larger the mills become. A list of the mills of a thousand barrels daily capacity and upwards, that have been erected in the United States during the last five years, or refitted with increased capacity, would include more names than the uninitiated would suppose. In fact, the present time may well be called the Era of Big Mills. As a sample, we may take the proposed new mill of Kehor Bros. at East St. Louis, which, when completed, will have a capacity of over 5,000 barrels daily, rivaling in size the great Pilsbury "A" at Minneapolis. But the greatest mill building enterprise that has yet been chronicled comes to us from California, where Starr & Co. at South Vallejo are building a mill with a contemplated capacity of 6,000 barrels per day. This caps the climax of big mills in the United States. We cannot help reflecting that the building of so many mammoth mills in this country plainly points to an era of exportation of flour such as has never been witnessed. In fact, the vast improvement in milling processes and machinery, and the amount of capital which has been invested in flour mills, have changed the phase of our milling interest, and made it a national instead of a local fadustry .- American Miller.

English Law Partnership.

From a lecture recently delivered on the subject of partnership in Halifax, England, by a by a gentleman well versed on the question, we

law, partnership was a contract between two or more persons, by which they agree to employ their capital, labor and skill in trade or business with a view to a community of profit and loss between them, and participation in profit, though not in all cases conclusive of the existence of partnership, might be taken as the chief test by which such a contract was recognized. Participation in loss was not the criterion, for one partner might agree with others to be free from loss, and such stipulation would hold good as between himself and others; but it would not affect his liability to strangers. Profit was the excess of gross returns over out. lay, and partnership, therefore, was not the same as joint ownership, nor was it parthership where there was a sharing of gross roturns. At common law there was no limit as to the number of parties, but the Companies Act, 1862, provided that, with the exception of companies and partnerships formed under Act of Parliament or letters patent, or engaged in working mines within the jurisdiction of the Stannaries, every banking company consisting of more than ten persons, and every other company or partnership consisting of more than twenty persons, established since November 1, 1882, must be registered under it. When persons had entered into partnership and had completed the contract they were collectively called a firm, and must trade under whatever firm name they adopted. The only restriction on the choice of a name was that it must not be one, or closely like one. already appropriated by some firm or company carrying on a like business. Every act done by a partner in the course of the business of the firm, in the name and on behalf of the firm, was binding on all the partners. This resulted from the relation of the parties, each part. ner being not only a principal, but also an agent, and his co-partners in carrying on the trade. It was possible for a man, without entering into any contract, to impose on himself the liabilities of a partner with regard to third persons by lending his name and credit to the firm, and, as the phrase went, "holding himself out" to the world as a partner therein. In this way, one who had retired from a firm might be liable for debts of the firm contracted after his retirement, if he had omitted to give sufficient notice to the creditors of his retirement. To constitute this "holding out," however, there must be a real leading of the person's credit to the firm, and the destrine of "holding out" did not extend to bind the estate of a deceased partner, where after his death the business was carried on in the old name. An ordinary partner did not by his retirement cease to be liable for debts contracted whilst he was a member, The only way in which a retiring partner could be discharged from liability from previous debt was an agreement to that effect between the creditors and and the members of the new firm, and an incoming partner was not liable for debts contracted before he joined the firm, unless he entered into such an agreement. Each partner had authority to do all acts that fell within the ordinary scope of the business of the firm, and any act so done would bind his copartners in the same manner as if he had been their agent appointed for the purpose. What quote the following: He said that at common acts were necessary to the transaction of the

business of the firm was no question depending on the nature of the business and the practice of persons concerned in it, but there was a certain number of trading transactions extending by usage to all trading partnerships. A partner could not bind a firm by deed without express authority, neither could be bind the firm by giving a guarantee unless there had been an agreement or usage to that effect in the firm or other firms in a like business. Nor could be bind the firm by submission to arbitration. If a partner in the course of business transactions for the firm did a wrongful act by which a third person suffered, the firm was liable to the same extent as the partner committing the act, and if one party misappropriated the money or property of a third person received by him within his authority, each member of the firm was liable. As regards the rights of partners amongst themselves, in the absence of any agreement to the contrary, they were taken as equally interested in the partnership stock and effects, but the actual share of any partner would depend upon the state of accounts, for he might, for example, have borrowed and he indebted to the firm and entitled to no valuable interest at all. And a person to whom the partner was individually indebted would be entitled to companions. Partners must observe most scrupulous fidelity to each other; one was not allowed to stipulate for any private advantage at the expense of the rest. A violent breach of faith justified dissolution, but the law resorted to that remedy reluctantly. All the arrangements provided for in the contract of partnership must be followed, or varied by general consent; but where any of them had been regularly and to the knowledge of all disregarded, the court would consider them dispensed with. As to dissolution, if no time was fixed upon and there were no circumstances from which a fixed period could be inferred that the partnership might be terminated at the will of the parties to it. Partnership was also dissolved by the bankruptcy or attainder or death of a partner. When the above circumstances happened the entire firm was dissolved, no matter how many members belonged to it, unless the contrary had been expressly provided for by the articles of partnership.

Disposal of Sewerage.

A new and ingenious system of disposing of sewerage water is now under consideration by the Municipal Council of Berlin, Germany, The need for something of the kind has long been felt by the municipality, as the present method of using up the contents of the Berlin drains by irrigation in the immedia to neighborhood of the Capital has been found defective from a sanitary point of view. The main featwe of the system now proposed for adoption are that, by a very simple and inexpensive chemical and filtration process, the more solid elements in drainage water can be detached and used as a rich manuro, and that the water remaining cannot only be purified to a degree which would enable it to be discharged into rivers without the danger of polluting them, but also drunk by human beings without poisoning them. Whether the latter process has

been fully tested does not appear, but the system is at least worth the attention of all who are interested in sanitary reform.

Store Management.

A man starting in business should begin with certain principles, which should be followed all through his business career. Of course as he goes along he will see where many improvements can be made which would benefit him. When his store is just opened overything is new and neat and calculated to draw custom.

And now, after getting this custom, his study should be how to keep it. In the first place, his business should be on a sound basis; he should not try to carry a heavier stock of goods than his capital will allow him to do safely. He should be contented to increase as his business grew, and when it would be safe and of a benefit to him. There is where many of our young men make a failure. They are just starting in business for themselves. Everything looks bright to them, and thus at the beginning they endeavor to get rich all at once; the consequence is that should dull times come upon them suddenly, or it is hard to collect their bills, they are compelled to add another name to the already long list of failures. Long credits are the great drawback to country retail stores; they bring many bad accounts on the books and losses follow, which the merchant is ill able to bear. All customers that are in the habit of having credit should be expected to pay once a month; and in trusting a man the merchant should be careful and secure a sure way of getting his pay, or not let any goods He should be careful in buying to select the best of everything, and when he has got a good article, and a good trade on it, he should endeavor to get it every time, as a share of the people after getting used to the same quality want it every time, and it is hard to start them on some other kind. He should be careful and know that a thing is just as he warrants it to be, as a merchant will very soon be found out if he says that it is so and so when it is not, and gradually he will lose trade by it.

A merchant should try and use everybody alike, whether rich or poor, as nothing will offend a customer quicker than to have the clerk or employer, while waiting on them, should he see a richer person come, start off and leave them to go and wait on the other. He should be obliging and willing to accommodate as far as possible. He should always take advantage of any goods off a few cents, and thus be able to sell them cheaper and give his customers better bargains. All of this helps to draw trade and increase his business.

If possible the dealer should discount all of his bills, and thus make a fair profit from the discounts. He should be guarded and do nothing rashly; as the old saying is, "haste makes waste." He should move along steadily, and not be of that kind that is always going to do great things and never in reality accomplishes anything. His store should always be kept in a neat and orderly manner, as people do not like to trade in a dirty looking store. His goods should also look nice. He should have the tact of changing them and replacing, so as

to alter the appearance and draw trade.

If a man will be content to follow these rules, with a firm determination to win, no matter what stands in the way, being at the same time always honest and upright in his dealings with his fellow-men, he cannot but be successful in the end.—Grocer.

Driving Piles With Dynamite.

A correspondent of the United States Miller, in Budapest, Austria-Hungary, in a recent letter, mentions an interesting experiment to piledriving by the use of dynamite. The piles experimented on had already been driven by an ordinary pile-driver, but it was desired to drive them down futher. An officer of the military engineer corps was detailed to superintend the experiment. The piles were squared and the top covered by a wrought-iron plate 15 inches square and 41 inches thick. A 171 onnce charge of dynamite in the form of a cake six inches in diameter, wrapped in paper and clay was placed on the centre of each plate and fired. The effect produced was estimated to be equal to five blows of a 1,500-pound hammer, falling from height of ten feet.

The Emigrant Drain.

The London Times, quoting from German authorities, says that the number of emigrants that have left Germany during the last 60 years is over 3,500,000, of whom the greater part have taken their departure within the last 30 years, the United States having absorbed in 1881 no less than 248,323. Dr. Friederich Kappe estimates the amount taken away by each emigrant at not less than 450 marks, or £22 10s., so that the capital transferred to the United States during last year (1881) amounted directly to £5,587,267. And this, it should be remembered, is not returnable to Germany in the ordinary ways of trade and commerce, as, in point of fact, the German emigrants to the United States become Americans, and conse quently competitors with Germany in agricultural and industrial pursuits. Dr. Engel considers that the cost of bringing up a young person of the lower or middle classes to the fif teenth year is about £200, and he estimates the loss to Germany during the emigration of the last 60 years, in cash and valuables taken by each emigrant at over nine milliards of marks-nearly twice the amount of the war in demity paid by France in 1831.

A contractor thoroughly versed in railroad building says: A common prairie track costs \$12,000 per mile to construct, \$3,150 for grading, \$3,922.50 for 56-pound steel rails, leaving less than \$5,000 for bridging, ties, track laying, etc. This does not include right of way. But a road equipped with depots, round-rouses, etc., should not cost over \$20,000 per mile, and on most roads between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains the cost per mile was less.

The Molsons' Bank has declared a dividend for the last half year of 4 per cent, or ½ per cent higher than that paid for the previous half year, an improvement of 1 per cent per annum.

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, MARCH 13, 1883

TAKE STOCK.

The majority of business men in Winnipeg and throughout the Province do. we believe, take careful reckoning of the amount of stock they have on hand at regular stated seasons of the year. By doing so and by carefully examining their accounts, they can find out exactly what their business has amounted to since the last time of stock taking, and whether it has beer a profitable one or not. The task is not a very pleasant one, and involves considerable labor of an irksome character. But this is no reason why it should - it be done with the utmost thoroughness, or why it should be slipped over as something to be avoided. He who takes stock and balances his books regularly works at a great advantage over a rival in trade who is content with doing the work half and trusting to guess-work This slip-shod manner for the balance. of conducting business is the cause of many failures that occur. The merchant does not become sufficiently intimate with his business in all its ramification to be able to tell exactly what classes of goods have been the most profitable for him to handle, or which are proving a drag by sticking too long on the shelves. This class of business men go on from year to year in this way. As long as they can meet their liabilities without much difficulty they are content, though they never know whether they are actually solvent or not. An evil day comes along, and the burden having become too great, they go to the wall. They are surprised at the unexpected turn in their affairs, and realize, when too late, that their easy-going, happy-go-lucky way of doing business has been the great barrier to success. Their books are in such a confused state that it is next to impossible to straighten them out. The accumulation of old stock which should have been got rid of long ago, even at a sacrifice, when sold only realizes a small percentage of the original cost, and then when the estate is would up, the merchant is left without a cent, and his creditors also sustain serious loss.

The importance of regular and systematic stock taking and straightening up

of accounts cannot be too strongly impressed upon all business men. It is necessary to insure that success which every one who follows mercantile pursuits desires.

THE HOP INDUSTRY.

That the soil of Manitoba is especially adapted to hop culture is abundantly proven by the profusion with which wild varieties of this useful plant grow in various parts of the Province. . The attention of some capitalists is already being turned in that direction, and inquiries have of late been freely made as to where the most suitable localities for developing the industry are to be found. The circumstances to be desired in locating a hopyard are rich soil, shelter from high winds and proximity to some district where labor is plentiful. Boys and women form the army of hop-pickers generally, as it is necessary on the ground of cheapness. Male labor would be altogether too costly in this country to be used with profit. Thereisplenty of the class of labor wanted in our towns, and in the Indian reserves, which could be made available. Proper soil can be had in many parts, and the shelter necessary from timber belts is also There are several lonot hard to find. cations throughout the Province than which none could be better in this respect, and where hands for the picking season can be easily got.

Hop culture has of late been an exccedingly profitable business. Many farmers in Washington Territory and Oregon have been devoting their attention to it. This year the crop in the districts mentioned was estimated at over 2,000,-000 pounds. The greater part was sold at 75 cents per pound, and those not disposed of that price are held for higher Marvellous stories are told in all the hop growing districts of fortunes made during the present hop boom. Hop yards in Minnesota and other Northern States have also yielded large profits to their owners.

The demand at home is increasing every year, and a considerable local supply could be easily disposed of We commend the consideration of the development of this industry to our capitalists. In this country there is scarcely any limit in the extent to which the resources of the fertile soil may be brought. We are told that in many districts lots of money might information as to wherehe should go and what to do when he gets there. Already large provision has been made in this direction, but the increase in the number to be attended to promises to be so great that there is always a danger of inadequacy in this respect. A helping hand on arrival, and the utmost vigilance in seeing that in many districts lots of money might

have been made last season in securing the wild crop so profuse was the growth.

IMMIGRATION.

From every part of the Old World come reports of a volume of immigration to Manitoba and the North-west far inexcess of any previous year in our history. The Government and the railway companies, backed up by the steamboat corporations, are sparing no effort to place before the inhabitants of the overcrowded contres of Great Britain and Europe the advantages this country offers to those in search of a new home. Their efforts have been crowned with most satisfactory results, and in the course of a month or two we will begin to witness the fruits of their labors. Old Canada will also contribute largely of the bone and sinew of her population to swell the ranks of those who, by direct honesty and industry and intelligent labor, are to make the vast extent of our fertile lands extending from the Red River a thousand miles away to where the shadows of the Rockies fall athwart the prairie, yield up its hidden stores of wealth. An advance guard two hundred strong has already arrived, and these will be followed closely by hundreds more. The tide of Old Country immigration will not set in for a month to come, but with its advent there will be witnessed an influx of honest' hearts and willing hands unparalleled in the annals of any country. Last year the immigration was very large, but this year it will be manifold greater.

The Government should make every preparation for the reception of these peo-Those from the Eastern Provinces have no difficulty in looking after themselves and their interests, but the stranger who hails from a foreign shore, and landing in a country and amongst a people so widely different in all habits of life and modes of business, is not so situated. The immigration department have done but half their duty when they have brought him to this country. Every facility should be afforded for giving all necessary information as to wherehe should go and what to do when he gets there. Already large provision has been made in this direction, but the increase in the number to be attended to promises to be so great that there is always a danger of inadequacy in this respect. A helping hand on arrival, and the utmost vigilance in seeing

wanted. After that every one will be able to look after himself.

BRANCH LINE CHARTERS.

During the present session of the Dominion Parliament a large number of applications have been made for charters for railways branching off from the main line into the settled districts of the Northwest. We have on several occasions pointed out how essential branch lines are to the future well being of the country, and are pleased to see that capitalists show themselves alive to 'the necessity that exists.

Charters should be granted freely to every company that can show an earnestness to go ahead once the privilege is secured, and financial ability to do so. There is a danger of speculative companies obtaining control of charters, without any other intention than that of holding the privilege they have secured until they find some other company willing to pay them a handsome sum for it. ing in railway charters should be carefully guarded against, as it cannot result beneficially to the country. The district it is proposed to supply is often left in a worse position than it was before, The ground is taken up, and others both able and willing to push the work ahead are kept out, unless they are willing to buy out the original promoters and pay a heavy sum into their pockets for a privilege which cost them nothing, and which they never intended to use for anything else than speculation.

Too much care cannot be exercised by the powers that be in satisfying themselves in this direction.

We want the railways as soon as possible, and in order to secure this object only bona fide companies should be intrusted with charters, and those which may prove to be only obstructionists left severely in the cold.

THE PAILURE LIST.

Bradstreet's report shows 260 failures in the United States during the week ending March 3, being 56 more than the corresponding week of 1882 and 126 more than the same week of 1881. In the same week 39 failures were reported from Canada, an increase of 10 over the previous week.

This is certainly a formidable list, and one which must cause business men to pause and consider. The Canadian rec-

ord is not such as to give any cause for alarm, although a much better state of affairs is desirable. But the report from across the line shows that the state of trade in that country is in a condition far from healthy. There is on all hands great occasion for caution and careful management in the conduct of business. The necessity for exerting wise prudence and for restricting trade to safe limits never was more pressing. Allied as we are so closely, commercially, with the United States, Canada must necessarily be to some extent affected by the condition of trade and finance there. COMMERCIAL has no desire to appear in the role of an alarmist, but only takes the opportunity to again warn its readers that, judging from appearances, there is the possibility of commercial disorder, but-remote enough it trusts as yet to enable many to prepare for whatever may happen. There should be a careful contraction of credits on all hands. Cheap credit there has already been enough of. Let there be an end to it-for the present at least. Every one will profit in the long run by following this course, whether it be seller or buyer. Business will be all the more healthy for it, and a great deal of anxiety saved thereby,

THE LUMBER TRADE.

The vast quantities of logs and timber that are being taken out during the present season in the Lake of the Woods and Lake Winnipeg districts, and which will be manufactured into lumber in the spring points to a supply of the home product far in excess of what has yet been known. Enterprising capitalists, many of them at the same time practical men, have gone into the business of supplying !umber from our own forests in earnest. There seems to be little danger this year of the dearth of building material in this line which occurred last season. may perhaps be somewhat of a scarcity for a while early in the season, but so soon as the mills get fairly running the supply will be equal to all demands. Besides the local product there will also in all probability be a considerable supply from

This must, according to the usual course of events, result in a more reasonable rate being charged for lumber. The city has already made a contract for a million and a half feet at a price considerably below that of last year. Private

parties cannot but reap a corresponding benefit. Even at a figure below that of last year the manfacturers will have good margin of profit left. Of course the demand from the rising towns outside and from the farmers in the country will be largely in excess of any previous year, but the supply in sight is correspondingly increased.

The whole country will reap a benefit by the large supply. Last year the great draw back to building operations in many cases was the inadequate supply, but it does not seem as if this would occur again. In the United States there has also been a slight drop in prices. At a recent meeting of the lumbermen's Exchange in St. Paul, reductions were made in all descriptions of timber and lumber, so that if it does happen that we have to fall back upon the yards across the line for some of our supplies that could be provided at a figure under that of last year. So that on the whole the prospect of cheaper lumber this year is good all around.

THOSE LUMBER TENDERS.

The method adopted by the city in making contracts is rather peculiar. Some time ago they advertised for tenders for 1,500,000 feet of lumber for city pur poses. The tenders were opened in due time and the council at the first meeting thereafter, awarded the contract to the lowest at \$24.66. The winningtenderers are new comers to the city. Local pressure was brought to bear upon the council and the august body met again, reseined their former resolution and awarded the contract to the next highest. Such a mode of dealing with tenders is certainly not according to the ordinary rules of doing business. The whole object professedly arrived at in inviting tenders was to obtain the lumber at the lowest figures. The tenderers presented their offers in perfect good faith believing that whoever was the lowest would be sure to get it no matter who he might be. The lowest tender was accepted in the first place, then after all the figures are made public one firm thinks fit to amend his tender so as to bring it below the one which had been successful. The council allows this to be done, and the party who should have got it, and did get in the first place, is left out in the cold. Further comment is unnecessary.

BRING DOWN THE RENTS.

We have always been in the habit of saying exactly what we think on all questions concerning the interest of the business men of Winnipeg. The matter we are about to refer to, and which is sufficiently indicated by the caption to the article, may perhaps grate a little upon the feelings of some who happen to be landlords but it cannot be helped. There is no use in trying to deny the fact that rents in this city are beyond all reason. They are more than double what is paid in Eastern cities with three times the population. In a country like this where the cost of building is heavy, it is only to be expected that rents should be somewhat higher than in the Eastern Provinces, where labor and material are plentiful and can be had at a moderate cost. But at the same time the exaction (if we cannot call it extortion) of such exorbitant rents as have been paid and are now being paid in Winnipeg cannot be excused on this ground. Business men in every branch of trade to-day know it and feel that they are exhausting their best energies not so much to benefit themselves and their families. as to put money into the hands of a landlord.

Such a state of things cannot long exist. In the natural course of events it must come to a close, and the sooner the better. A few landlords who live by the means derived from rents may feel the change a little, but if they have the interests of the city which has done well for them and placed them in their present comfortable circumstances at heart, they will submit to a more reasonable state of things.

ITEMS OF INTEREST.

The prospectus of the new Atlantic Cable Company has been received from England and application for an act to incorporate the new company will be made at the approaching session of Parliament. The proposed cable will be laid between some point on the west coast of Ireland to some point on the lower coast of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. It is stated that there will be a clause introduced into the new company's prospectus which will give perfect security to the public against amalgamation with the monopolists. The company will contract with the public for ten years under heavy penalties not to exceed a charge of twenty-five cents a word.

Philip Lang of New York recently baked a barrel of "Pi'.sbury's Best" (spring wheat flour) and a harrel of "White Light" (winter wheat), and found only a difference of 4½ pounds of bread in favor of spring wheat flour.

A baking test by another party produced 287½ pounds of bread from a barrel of winter wheat to 302 2·3 pounds from a barrel of spring wheat flour. Another test was made with flour from Fultz and Mediterranean wheat; the Fultz yielded 208 pounds and the Mediterranean 287 pounds. A barrel of flour in another test made from Fultz and Mediterrean wheat mixed yielded 204 pounds of bread.

M. Dumas recommends water saturated with alum for extinguishing fires, its value being supposed to be due to the coating it gives to objects wet with it, which prevents contact with the oxygen of the air, and thus diminishes the rapidity of the combustion. The Minister of the Interior has recommended that the firemen of the French towns he supplied with facilities to use such solutions of alum.

Abundant rain has fallen in California, about the same amount as in 1880, and the Journal of Commerce, San Francisco, predicts a crop of 70,000,000 bushels of wheat this year in California.

The produce of the Dominion fisheries for the last year is valued at \$16,058,672. The value of the fish exported from Canada for the fiscal year is \$6,898,884. The eggs and fish laid down in hatcheries were: Salmon, 6,612,000; salmon trout, 8,350,000; speckled trout, 200,000; white fish, 43,063,000—a total of 58,162,000. The total expense of fish capture service was \$31,223.

The wheat crop of the United States for 1881 was 390,380,090 bushels, and for 1882 it was 502,789,600 bushels, being an increase of 122,509,510 bushels, or 32.2 per cent. The corn crop for 1881 was 1,194,916,000, and for 1882 it was 1,624,917,800 bushels, showing an increase over the previous year of 430,001,800, or 36 per cent. The products of agriculture constituted about 80 per cent of the total exports of the United States during the year 1882.

The Postmaster General's report shows that in no former year has there been a more general increase of business in all branches of the servize. Reference is made to the increase in expenses necessitated by the growth of Manitoba and the North-west. Note is also made of the valuable assistance of the C. P. R. in maintaining and extending mail communications. During the past fiscal year 56,200,000 letters and 11,300,000 postal cards were sent by post in the Dominion, of which 2,000,000 letters and 170,-000 post cards were posted in Manitoba, Keewatin and the North-west. The total revenue was over \$2,000,000, and the expenditure \$440,090 more. The revenue in Manitoba and the North-west was \$75,300, and the expenditure \$93,400. The total postal revenue shows an increase of 15½ per cent over the previous year. In Manitoba the postage nearly doubled within the year.

The aggregate traffic of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada for seven weeks in 1883 was \$2,149,204, against \$1,948,719 in the corresponding period last year, showing an increase of \$206,45. Receipts for week ended the 17th ult. were \$295,249 against \$184,715 in the like week of 1882.

Winnipeg Wholesale Markets.

A decidedly better feeling pervades all lines of business this week. The fourth of March, a day to be dreaded by many, has passed, and the result has been much more satisfactory than was anticipated. A general feeling of security prevails, and from now out merchants' affairs will move along easily. Every branch a trade shows a decided improvement, and prospects for them all promise well.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The blockade on the railway has put a temporary stop to business in this line. There is a large amount of goods in transit and the leading houses are expecting large receipts every day. Reports from the country districts are very encouraging, and no doubt a big business will be done during the coming season. Collections have been very fair, but there is still considerable to be desired in this respect.

BOOTS AND SH

Business in this line has not changed much from last week. Sorting orders and making preparations for spring make up the principal part of the volume of trade. Spring orders are coming in, and these are being attended to. Collections are very fair, and better than they have been for some time past.

CLOTHING.

The quietness which has been reported for the past week or two cannot be said to have disappeared. Spring orders from outlying districts are coming in very well, and hands are busy in filling them. With the opening of spring and the influx of immigration a good trade is expected. Collections have not improved much, but still there is nothing particular to complain of in this respect.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

There is very little doing at present in this line, and the houses are not pushing business, preferring to keep the goods in the warehouse rather than risk them outside. A good trade is expected with the opening of spring.

DRY GOODS.

In this as in nearly every other line of trade there is a brighter state of affairs than we have had to report for some time. Travelers on the road are doing very fairly for this time of the year, and report an excellent prospect for spring trade. Collections have improved. Fourth of March notes were better attended to than was anticipated. The stocks held throughout the country are heavy, and on this account trade is not being pushed by the wholesale houses with as much vigor as they would were the retailers' shelves more clear.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

The past week has been very quiet, more so than has been the casefor some time. Collections are very fair, but cannot yet be said to be good. Travelers report a good prospect for trade in the spring.

PANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

During the week there has been little movement of goods beyond the every day sorting up orders that keep coming in. There is, however a generally better feeling. Collections are reported a little better than they have been for some time past.

FRUIT.

A very fair trade has been done. The city demand is good and considerable or lers are being received from outside. Prices are well maintained. A large consignment of oranges and lemons has arrived, and the supply on hand is large. The new fruit is of very fine quality and superior to anything that has been offered this week. Quotations, are: Apples, good fruit, \$7 to \$8 per barrel; oranges, \$11 to \$13, according to quality; lemons, boxes, \$7.50 to \$8; cases, \$10 to \$10.50; Almeria grapes, \$10 to \$11 perbarrel; figs in mats, 10c; large boxes, 14c; small boxes, 20c; raisins, loose Muscatels, \$3.50; black crown \$5.25; triple crown, \$8.50; four crown, \$9.75.

FURS AND SKINS.

Very little doing. A few hides are coming in which bring \$5 per cwt.

GROCERIES.

There has been quite a revival in the grocery trade. Orders are coming in more freely, country merchants preparing for spring trade, and also providing against the possibility of a blockade on the railways, which is most likely to happen this month. Collections are improving, and some houses report them as better than they had expected. Quotations are about as they were. Sugars are quoted at: Raw, 9 to 94c; yellow, 10 to 104c; granulated, 114c; Paris lumps, 124c. Coffees, Rio, 16 to 22c; Java, 22 to 31c.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

The past week has been the best of the winter. Considerable orders are being received, and inquiries are being freely made. A large number of buildings are being tendered for and contractors are furnishing their estimates, which of course inspires new life into this line of trade. There is no change in prices, which are: Tin plate, 14x20, \$7.75 to \$8.00; 20x28, \$15 to \$15.25; bar iron, \$3.75 to \$4.00; sheet iron, \$\frac{5}{2}\$ to 7c; iron piping, 35 per cent off price list; ingot tin, 32 to 35c; pig lead, 6\frac{1}{2}\$ to 7c; galvanized iron, No. 28, \$\frac{1}{2}\$ to 9c, according to brand.

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

Small sorting orders are being received. The prospects for spring are reported excellent. Collections have been very fair.

FUEL.

The supply of fuel in the city is good and sufficient to meet all demand. Quotations are: Coal, egg, stove and nut, by car-load on track, \$14; Blossburg car-lots, \$13.25; soft coal, are lots, \$10.80 to \$12, according to quality. Wood, poplar, \$5 to \$6 per cord; ash, oak and tamarac, \$7 to \$8.

LUMBER.

As the building season approaches there is freer inquiry: Prices are: Sheeting, \$28; common dimensions, \$30 to \$32; fencing, \$28 to \$34; stock, \$33 to \$40; flooring, \$35 to \$45; graded clear, \$50 to \$70; shingles, \$4 50 to \$6; laths, \$5.

FISH AND OYSTERS.

There is a fair supply of fish in the city, and the demand is good and will continue so until

the Lenten season is passed. White fish are worth 8e per pound; smoked white fish, 13e; finnan haddies, 12fe. Oysters, selects, 55e; standards, 45e per can.

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

is very gratifying to be able This week to report an easier feeling in the money market. The change is not very great as yet, but still it is well defined and augurs well for a very comfortable state of affairs in the near fu-As we stated last week, the fourth of ture. this month turned out much more satisfactorily than even the most ardent had anticipated. Well on to 75 per cent of the paper maturing on that day was met, which is ... tainly a very treditable percentage. Renewed confidence has cherefore been inspired in financial circles, and the bonds which fettered many business men a week or two ago have become comparatively loose, if they have not altogether dropped off. The money procured by the city on the recent issue of debentures has been placed in the banks, and this has had considerable effect in bringing about this easier state of feeling. The immigration which will shortly begin to pour into the country will bring with it a large amount of ready money, which will be spent in our midst, and this will tend to still further remove the trammels that have borne hard on business men throughout the country. There has, however, not as yet been any change in the rate of discount. First-class commercial paper has still to be discounted at from 9 to 10 per cent, and the latter figure is more frequently asked than the former. Good ordinary has to be negotiated at from 10 to 12 per cent, more genererally at the latter figure. The usual rate in the loan companies is 10 per cent on first-class security. The rate of exchange to eastern Provinces ranges from ‡ to j per cent; exchange on New York, # to # per cent.

The same difficulty in obtaing money for real estate purposes which we have noticed for some time past still exists, but in a slightly abated degree. Private funds are the only means available for this purpose, and pretty stiff rates have to be paid.

The stringency that exists in the eastern Provinces has its effect upor the money market here, but with the opening of navigation and the advent of spring things generally will be much more relieved than they are at present.

THE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

WRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

The receipts of grain this week have been rather on the light side. Prices have not changed materially, and in most cases are firm at last week's quotations. Provisions are in good supply, and prices are well maintained.

WHEAT,

There has been little wheat coming in during the past week. The mills, however, have good supplies on hand, sufficient to keep them running full time. The ruling figure continues to be 78c. For very choice lots as high as 80c is paid.

BARLEY.

The supply is very light, and quotations may \$5.50 to \$6.50; clears, \$5.25 to \$5.55.

be said to be only nominal. From 40 to 50c per bushel is paid.

PLOUR.

Of late the mills have been running steadily, and there is considerable being shipped to castern markets. The local demand keeps about the same. Quotations are: Patents, \$3 to \$3.20; xxxx or strong baker's, \$2.50 to \$2.60; baker's, \$2 to \$2.10; trader's or xx, \$1.50.

OATS.

Receipts have been very fair, and prices hold firm, with a slight advance on last week's quotations. There is still a big supply in the country, sufficient to fill the demand which, with the opening of construction on the C. P. R., will be keen. The ruling figure are from 40 to 43c.

BRAN.

There is a plentiful supply, which sells at \$10 per ton on track, or \$11 delivered.

SHORTS.

There is a slight drop in price, and a good supply on hand. Quotations are \$12 per ton on track, or \$13 delivered.

CHOPPED FEED.

Good supply and fair demand, Quotations are \$28 per ton, and firm at this figure.

EGGS

Are now plentiful, large consignments having been received, principally from the neighborhood of St. Louis. There is not likely to be a scarcity again this season. Quotations are from 35 to 38c. Limed are completely out of the market.

POTATOES.

A fair supply keeps coming in from the country, and prices are firmer than last week. From \$1 to \$1.25 per bushel has been paid as a rule. With the continuance of mild weather and good roads a good supply is expected right along.

BUTTER.

There is a very good demand, and the supply is quite equal to it. Choice dairy is worth 25 to 20c; inferior grades, 19 to 22c; Ontario creamery is scarce. A choice article would bring 31 to 32c.

DRIED APPLES

Are not very plentiful, but still sufficient to supply all demand. They hold firm at 12½c per pound. Evaporated are worth 19 to 22c.

Are still firm with a tendency to advance.
MEATS.

There is considerable activity in the market. Quotations are: Hams, per pound, 16c; spiced roll, 16 to 16½; barrel pork, \$25.50 to \$26; mess beef, \$18.50 to \$19.

MINNEAPOLIS.

The receipts for the week, especially of wheat, were liberal. It is generally supposed, however, that the home supply of this cereal is becoming limited, and will not be sufficient to keep the mills running full time without bringing it in from outside points. The price fluctuated considerably. On Tuesday wheat was firm, and corn had a tendency to advance. The business of the day is represented by the following quotations:

W HEAT, No. 1 hard, \$1.13\frac{1}{2} to \$1.15\frac{1}{2}; No. 1, \$\frac{1}{2}.06 to \$1.10; No. 2 hard \$1.07 to 1.11.

CORN, No. 251 to 52c; rejected, 48 to 481c, according to sample.

OATS, No. 2 white, $41\frac{\pi}{2}$ to $42\frac{\pi}{2}$ c; No. 2, 40 to $40\frac{\pi}{2}$ c.

FLOUR, patents, \$6.50 to \$7.00; straights, \$5.50 to \$6.50; clears, \$5.25 to \$5.55

On Wednesday the leading feature of the grain market was a general duliness, and the amount of business transacted was light. The business of the day is represented by the following quotations:

WHEAT, No. 1 hard, \$1.13 to \$1.15; No. 1, \$1.05 to \$1.09; No. 2 hard, \$1.06 to \$1.10.

CORN, No. 2, 51 to 513c.

Oats, No. 2 white, 41 to 42c; No. 2, 39½ to 40c; rejected by sample, 35 to 39c.

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

Thursday's market continued dull, in sympathy with eastern advices. Wheat was weak and inclined to drop. Corn was also weak. Oats remained firm. The following quotations represent the business of the day:

WHEAT, No. 1 hard, \$1.13 to \$1.143; No. 1, \$1.04 to 1.101; No. 2 hard, \$1.05 to \$1.101. CORN, No. 2 51c to 511c; no grade, 47 to 4Sc.

OATS, No. 2 white, 41 to 42c; No. 2 39 to 49c.

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

On Friday there was a slight drop in wheat. Coru was weak; oats steady. The business of the day is represented by the following quotations:

WHEAT, No. 1 hard, \$1.12 to \$1.131; No. 1, \$1.05 to \$1.10; No. 2 hard, \$1.06 to 1.10.

CORN, 51 to 514c.

OATS, No. 2 white, 49 to 41c; No. 2, 33 to 40c FLOUR, patents, \$6.50 to \$7; straights, \$5.50 to \$6.50; clears, \$5.25 to \$5.75.

CHICAGO.

The market for the week has been subject to considerable fluctuation. A considerable drop from the week before took place on Monday in nearly all kinds of produce. On Tuesday the market was slow and generally weak. Wheat was decidedly soft, and the same remark is applicable to the state of the provision market. Corn held firm, but oats suffered a decline. At the close quotations were:

Wheat,	March,	\$1.085	April,	\$1.093
Corn.	**	563	44	582
Oats.	**	40	**	403
Pork,	44	18.00	44	18.225
Lard,	44	11.20	44	11.35

On Wednesday the market continued weak. All kinds of grain dropped somewhat. Provisions were weak and suffered a decline. wards the close quotations were:

Wheat,	March.	\$1.08	April,	\$1.053
Corn.	** '	573	***	571
Oats.	46	421	44	431
Pork.	44	18.00		18.074
Lard.	44	11.15	**	11.30

On Thursday there was a generally stronger feeling. Considerable fluctuation occurred, but the close showed prices advanced over the previous day. At the close quotations were:

Wheat,	March,	\$1.053	April,	\$1.087
Corn,	44	58	* *	582
Oats,	**	424	44	425
Pork,	64	18.10	44	18.223
Lard,	46	11.20		11.35

On Friday, the market was very irregular and subject to fluctuation. Quotations towards the close were:

Wheat,	Marc	h, \$1.07a	April,	\$1.081
Corn,	• 4	58	- 44	588
Oats,	14	421	46	423
Pork,	"	18.10	**	18.223
Lard,	**	11.923	46	11.373

On Saturday the ma ket was slow but with a steady tone. Toward the close quotations

Wheat,	March,	81.078	April	\$1.08
Corn.	64	58 <u>1</u>	* 44	588
Onts.	44	42]	44	424
Pork,	44	18.15	**	$18.27\frac{1}{2}$
Lard.		11.50	* **	$11.42\frac{1}{2}$

TORONTO.

STOCKS.

During the week there was a better feeling on change, and stocks advanced slightly. Federal was especially active. There is still, however, a good deal of uncertainty as to what the future may be, and considerable caution is exercised by dealers. On Wednesday prices generally were well maintained. Closing quotations on Wednesday were: Montreal, 207½; Ontario, 113‡; Molsons, 130; Toronto, 186‡; Merchants, 126; Commerce, 134‡; Imperial, 141; Federal, 161‡; Dominion, 200, Standard, 115; Hamilton, 120-245ch. Standard, 115; Hamilton, 115; British America, 115; North-west Land Company 58.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

Another week of inactivity almost indicates the whole situation in the grain and produce trade. Offerings have been very light, and the demand not very active. The condition of the railroads has been the principal cause of light receipts, and the usettled state of the market outside has checked the demand. Prices have changed but little.

FLOUR.

Transactions have been very few, and prices, though showing little change, have a tendency downwards. Buyers and sellers are still considerably apart. An exceptionally fine lot of choice extra brought \$4.70, but \$4.60 to \$4.65 are the regular figures. Extra is worth \$4.50 to \$4.55.

WHEAT.

There has been a slight movement at prices generally unchanged. Quotations are: No 1 fall, \$1.06; No. 2 fall, \$1.03 to \$1.04; No 1 spring, \$1.10; No. 2, \$1.08; No. 3, \$1.02 to SL03.

OATS.

There is a good demand for all offering, and prices are fairly steady. Quotations are from 43 to 44: on track; on street, 46 to 47c.

BARLEY.

Very light offerings, with prices same as last week, but with an easier feeling. No. 1 is quoted nominal at 75 to 76c; No. 2, 72c; extra No. 3, 65 to 66c; No. 3, 53 to 46c.

Scarce and firm at from 76 to 77c for a No. 2 article. No. 1 cannot be had.

Quiet, with prices firm at \$7.25 to \$7.65 for clover, and \$2.10 to \$2.25 for timothy.

POTATOES.

There is an easier feeling in prices. Car lots have sold at from 60 to 65c per bag. Street prices, 70 to 75c per bag.

APPLES.

Scarce and in good demand at from \$2.50 to \$3.25 for good cooking qualities.

BUTTER.

The situation in the butter trade is unchanged. All that is offered is wanted for the local market. Choice is firm at 20 to 21c; medium, 16 to 18c; inferior, 14 to 16c; rolls, 18 to 20c.

Prices are declining, owing to increased receipts. Fresh are worth 22 to 24c, and a further fall is expected. Nothing doing in packed and limed.

DRIED APPLES.

Steady and unchanged at 19c for lots; small lots of barreled, 91 to 10c.

MEATS.

Market very inactive, but prices have not un-ergone any change. Quotations are: Mess dergone any change. pork, \$22; bacon, long clear in car-lots for Manitoba at 11c; small lots, 11\frac{1}{2} to 11\frac{1}{2}c; Cumberland, 10c in large lots; rolls, 11\frac{3}{4} to 12c; bellies, 13 to 13\frac{1}{2}c; pickled, 114 to 120.

Markets by Telegraph.

Special Despatch to the Commercial:

Toronto, March 12 .- Stocks were active but weak, all but Montreal. The market broke on Saturday and closing bids to-day show a heavy Saturday and closing bids to-day show a heavy fall on the week. Closing bids: Montreal, 204½; sales, 204½; Ontario, 112; sales, 112½; Toronto, 183½; sales, 182¾; Merchants, 123; £ales, 123¾; Commerce, 133½; Sales, 133¾; Imperial, 139; sales, 139¾; Federal, 155½; sales, 155¾; Dominion, 195¾; sales, 199; Standard, 114½; sales, 114½; Hamilton, 113; North-west Land, 56½; sales, 57½. The feeling this afternoon is slightly improved on the morning. improved on the morning.

Special Dispatch to The Commercial.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

Toronto, March 12.—Produce dull and inactive, with wheat and flour declining. Flour, not wanted, saperior, extra, offered freely at \$4.50 to \$4.55 without buyers. Wheat, inactive, No. 2 fall offered at \$1.02, with \$1 bid: best bids for spring, \$1.09 for No. 1, \$1.07 for No. 2. Oats, steady, sales at 44c. Barley, quiet, because scarce, prices steady at 76c for No. 1; 72c No. 2; 66c extra No. 3; 53 to 56c No. 3. Peas, firm, seles equal to 78c here. Rye steady at 67c bid, Seeds, inactive, prices unchanged. Butter, firm rehoice at 20 to 21c; offerings very small. Meats, quiet and steady at 71c for long clear; 10c for, Cumberland; in round lots; a lot of 1,000 pickled hams sold at 12c. Lard is tending upward, tenets, 14c: Lard is tending upward, tennets, 14c: pails, 144c.

MOOSE JAW and Emerson correspondence crowded out this week.

We understand that a new paper to be called the North-west Advocate is shortly to be started in Moose Jaw.

Messrs. Brad & O'Connell, hotel keepers at Dominion City, have dissolved partnership. The business will be carried on by Mr. Brad.

THE firm of R. J. Whitla & Co., have already received six hundred cases of new goods for the spring trade. This certainly indicates well what confidence wholesale men have in the country and its prospects.

Winter & O'Neail have been trying to fix things. Winter went out of the business, and P. K. O'Neail was to carry it on and assume all liabilities. There was some trouble, and O'Neail sold out to A. E. Gavin, whose reign was short, as the sheriff is now in charge looking to the interest of Winter & O'Neail's creditors .-Brandon Cor.

Two meetings have been held by the Councils of Emerson and the municipality relative to the unoccupied land lying east of this town. We understand that a movement will be made at once to attract the attention of the incoming immigration this spring. Large maps showing the location will be issued, with a sketch of the quality of the lands, etc., printed on the The matter is now undergoing opposite side. some consideration, but will be fully ventilated and advertised in a week or so.

REGINA.

J. W. Smith, hardware merchant of Brigden, Ont., is building a fine store on South Railway street.

The contract was let last Saturday for a block of four stores to be built on Broad street by Messrs. Mowall Bros. and John Dawson.

As an evidence of the activity in building we might mention that one of the seven lumber merchants sold \$13,000 worth of lumber during the forenoon of Monday last.

J. J. Campbell & Co.'s new store on read street is rapidly approaching completion. It will be one of the finest buildings in the territories when completed.

The Regina Leader has made its appearance. It is an excellent looking journal, and is a credit both to the town and its founder, Mr. Nicholas Flood Davin.

W. B. Scarth's agent has sold all the available lots on Broad and South Railway streets on building conditions, which means an engagement to erect over \$100,000 worth of buildings (mostly business places) during the coming spring. This, with the buildings under contract, independent of Scarth's building conditions, will make the value of the season's improvements over two hundred thousand dollars.

It is quite amusing to read the effusions of some of the paid maligners of this place, particularly in the matter of water. One paper tells us of the frantic efforts of the citizens during a snow storm, of the rottenness of Pile of Bones water, and many other things of a like nature. It is true that the citizens depend on snow for water, but it is not because there is no water in the ground. If the people have no well water it is because they have had no time to put down wells. The town was started after the frost set in last fall, and it could not be provided for a population of 2,000 people in so short a time. Besides people are in no hurry to put down wells when they have plenty of snow at their doors. The C. P. R. put down a well at the depot and got a flow of water at 90 feet. Gov. Dewdney got plenty of water at 40 feet, and a farmer close to the town reserve has procured enough water for fifty families at 32 feet; a fourth well, sunk 50 feet, in the center of the town, is about to be taken over and completed by the city commissioners, who intend to show to the world that it is not necessary to go 400 feet for water, as is the case a few miles west on the line of the C. P. R. There have been four wells tried; three are completed and three are successful, and what more is there wanted.

SELKIRK.

Mr. Barnes, hotel keeper, East Selkirk, got into trouble by selling liquor to Indians, and has taken leg bail for security, but is expected back as soon as his friends get matters smoothed over.

The demand for houses to rent has caused several of the largest property holders to bestir themselves, and preparations are being made for several new buildings as soon as material can be had.

Selkirk people are agitating to have their town made a port of entry, and purpose asking their representative at Ottawa to take the necessary steps towards securing that end.

The election for Mayor and Council for the newly incorporated town of East Selkirk took place on the 7th inst., which resulted in the election of R. J. Brown, Esq., as Mayor, and eight councillors, two for each ward.

Messrs. R. J. Short, J. G. McDonald, M. Smith, Howell & Hunter, W. Prudens and F. Fulcher are each getting out large quantities of wood in the neighborhood of Selkirk, employing altogether about 300 men, and will aggregate about 30,000 cords. These extensive operations in wood, together with other contracts for ties, piles, etc., have given quite an impetus to the trade of the town this winter.

Since the weather moderated wood, hay and grain have commenced to come in freely, and prices are in consequence on the decline. Merchants are in good spirits, and say that the trade of February exceeds that of the same month in last year.

The lumber manufactured on Lake Winnipeg this year is expected to amount to about 35,000,000 feet, centributed as follows; Brouse & Wood, 2,000,000; Dick & Banning, 5,000,000; Brown & Rutherford, 3,000,000; Drake & Rutherford, 4,000,000; Walkley & Burrows, 6,000,000; H. G. Stubbs & Co., 3,000,000; Jonasson & Frederickson, 2,600,000; Shore & Co., 2,000,000; Schneider & Co., 3,000,000; with two mills to hear from.

Mr. Bell, chief engineer for the North-west Navigation Company, has taken up his residerce in Selkirk, and is busily engaged in taking the machinery out of the side-wheel steamer "Glendevon," which is to be forwarded to Lake Manitoba and replaced by the machinery of the tug New Brunswick. The latter is to be used as a barge in future.

The North-west Navigation Company intend, as soon as the freshet subsides, to build dockage at Selkirk sufficient for unloading three barges at one time of a capacity of from 80,000 to 100, 000 feet each. They calculate with three such barges loading, three on the way and other three unloading, to do the lumber carrying trade to the satisfaction of the manufacturers. They also purpose erecting a large warehouse on the slough at Selkirk, suitable for the transferring of their through freight from river or flat-bottomed to lake-going boats.

Messrs. Brouse & Wood, who have a sawmill and timber limit at the mouth of Bad Throad River on Lake Winnipeg, are getting out tamarac piles from 20 to 52 feet long, some of which are for the docks at Selkirk, and the halance will be left here for sale. There are also getting out 20,000 ties for the Winnipeg Street Railway and 1,500 cords of wood for the North-west Navigation Company, together with 4,000,000 shingles, 500,000 laths and about 5,000,000 feet of lumber, which will be disposed of at Selkirk.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

Edward Morton, harness dealer, has removed to Carberry.

Business keeps steadily improving. Money is easier and merchants are hopeful.

Prices of grain have not changed from last week. Wheat is still quoted at 70 to 75c; oats, 45 to 50c; barley, 35 to 37c. Potatoes are worth 80 to 90c per bushel.

There is still considerable grain to be threshed in the Big Plains district.

E. E. G. G. Hay is enlarging his foundry. The moulding shop is being doubled in size and α large blacksmith shop is to be built.

The Council has offered the P. W. & N. W. Railway \$35,000 to assist in purchasing land, etc., for their workshop.

The Portage Milling Company have during the past three weeks shipped over 2,250 barrels of flour. Their wood account during the months of January and February amounted to \$5,000.

At the last meeting of the Council it was decided not to dig a drain from the slough to McIlvaine's paper mill in order to supply water for the factory, but to sink a well on Pacific avenue, instead, and allow Mr. McIlvaine the use of it.

BRANDON.

Deacon & Hopper, general store, have dissolved. Mr. Hopper continuing the business

All the tanks have been filled and the fire cagine is doing well. We therefore are moderately well protected against fire.

James McNichol, shoemaker, Brandon, has made an assignment to W. H. Cuthbertson, of this city, for the benefit of all his creditors. As his stock is well assorted and good, the creditors will not sustain a heavy loss.

The Railway Committee had a meeting last week and sent a deputation to Winnipeg to consult with the officials of the C. P. R. regarding the Souris branch. The city and country are alive to the necessity of making this a railway centre, and will offer large bonuses to obtain more railway communication.

Mr. Friend, tobacconist of Winnipeg, has been unfortunate. He sent a traveler west who, has acted somewhat crooked, and that gentleman is now after him, fortunately before much loss has been made.

Mr. McQuarry has been elected alderman in the place of Mr. L. M. Fortier resigned. There is a rumor that he will not take his scat_on account of not being properly qualified.

A dining hall will be erected near the new passenger station, and when this has been done the office will be removed from the shanty now used as the passenger station. If it takes as long to build this dinning hall as it took to complete the station, the greater part of the year will have passed before the officials are properly housed. Business has greatly improved this week, in fact it has been the best week business men have had since Christmas. Grain has been coming in large quantities, more having come in during the week than in any previous three weeks.

RAT PORTAGE.

The raceway for the new paper mill is nearly completed.

Mr. John Short will lay a 75 foot keel for Frank Gardner's new tug in a few days.

Mr. A. H. Vaughan, D. L. S., is busy surveying Indian reserves at Wabigoon and Lac Seul.

Peter KcKellar is here forwarding machinery to the Jackfish Lake mine, cast of this place.

Mr. Bayne, D. L. S., arrived here lately from Lac Seul, where he has surveyed a large timber limit for eastern lumbermen.

There will be 400 men employed in connection with the two large saw-mills now approaching completion at this point.

The Ridcout House is still retaining its popularity, and accommodating the large number of strangers arriving.

A few experienced miners are wanted badly here. Good wages are offered for such by all the companies.

Rideout & Williams are negotiating with a company for the purpose of opening up the Pittsburg, Two Star and Whitefeather claims.

Hennessy & Moore are negotiating with New York capitalists for the development of the Sultana mine.

Prospecting and development work is being pushed rapidly out at the mining camps, and the prospects are brightening every day.

Nearly all the mines are running on the eighthour shift plan, thus utilizing all available time.

Real estate in the shape of building lots is in brisk demand. There are no houses to let in the town. Prices are advancing steadily.

The planking of Hugh Sutherland's tug will be finished this week. This tug has an eightyfive foot keel.

The new eleven-stall engine-house is completed. Lumber for 500 feet of coal sheds will be brought from Whitemouth on account of the scarcity of lumber here. Work at the machine shops will begin shortly.

Charles Moore, agent, is advertising for 60 carpenters to go to British Columbia. Wages offered, \$3.50 per diem. Carpenters are in good demand and command that figure here.

R. J. Short's mammoth saw-mill will be located near the paper mill and grist-mill. The boomage attached at that point is the safest on the lake.

Hotel and stable accommodation is very scarce. Tents will be required at an early date as there is not lumber enough on hand to supply the demand for building purposes before the mills get to work.

J. T. Nagle is exhibiting some very fine specimens taken from the Keewatin mine 36 feet from the surface and 40 feet above water level. Mr. Nagle has severed his connection with the Keewatin, and will probably take charge of auother of the mines which has been offered to him.

Snow & Codd are making a survey for Winnipeg parties of a mining location said to be very rich in the precious metals. Specimens from new finds are being brought in daily. Nearly all show gold in paying quantities.

Business is lively at present as several parties are arriving from different points making arangements to open different stores.

Capt. Brereton is to be appointed by the Manitoba authorities police commissioner at this point. The citizens feel as though this is a move in the right direction.

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We have given your Champion and Imperial Soaps a good test and do not heistate to prononce them "Parexcellence," especially "The Champion," which we can unhesitatingly say it is preferable to any soap we have been able to find, and the best adapted to laundry use. It preforms all that you claim for it and all that is reduired of a first-class soap, being at the same time cocomical. Enclosed please find a cheque for \$25, and deliver to us 20 boxes of Champion and 5 boxes of German for trial.

Very respectfully
HENRY & FRASER.
Proprietors,
We, the undersigned, having read the above certificate,
have much pleasure in corroborating the statements contained in the same.

SAM SING.
H. GEORGE SHUNG,
LEE SAM.
Proprietors of Chinesse Laundries, Winnipeg. March
1st. 1883.

ASSINIBOINE MLLIS AND ELEVATOR A

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

The Purest and Best Flour

That Modern Inventions can produce to be had in large and small quantities at said roller mills. Three grades. Also large quantities of SEED WHEAT, BARLEY, AND OATS. Chop, bran and shorts constattly on hand.

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A Full Stock of Patent Hungarian, Strong Bakers' and Spring Extra Flour; Oatmeal, Pot and Pearl Barley, Graham Flour Cracked Wheat, Bran, Shorts, Ground Feed, Oats, Bar-ley, etc., always on hand.

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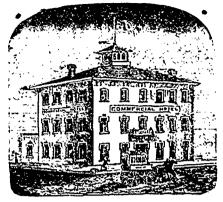
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Finest Prunes in Kegs, Valencia Raisins, London Layers, Muscatelles, Currants, Elmo Figs, Loghorn Lem-on Peel, Orange Peel, Citron Peel, etc., etc.

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(WESTERN DIVISION) TRAIN SERVICE.

CHANGE OF

On and tollows: er October 1st, 1832, Trains will move as Going west. Going Fast!

8.15 a.m. leave Winnipeg arrive 6.16 p.m.
10.35 , Portage la Prairie 3.55 ,
1.55 p.m. Brandon 12.5 ,
4.16 , Oak Lake 10.20 a.m
11.30 , Broadview 3.30 , 10.35 ,, Portago la Prairio 3.55 ,, 1.55 p.m. Brandon 12.5 , 4.16 ,, Oak Lake 10.20 a.m 11.30 , Broadview 3.30 ,, 5.55 a.m arrivo Regina leave 8.30 p.m.

9.40 a.m. leave Rat Portage arrive 4.03 p.m. 1.45 p.m. 8.45 ,, Whitemouth 12.20 ,, Selkirk 9.50 a.m. arrive Winnipeg leave 8.45 ,,

leave Winnipeg arrive 5.15 p.m arrive Stonewall leave 3.40 , 8.25 nm. Daily except Sundays.

ng South.
Leave Winnipeg Arrive.
7.35 a.m. *7.35 p.m. 7.05 p.m. \$6.50 a.m.
Otterburn.
9.00 a.m. 8.50 p.m. 5.50 p.m. 5.20 a.m.
Emerson Going South.

Otterburn.
9.00 a.m. 8.50 p.m. 5.50 p.m. 5.20 a.m.
Emerson.
10.25 a.m. 10.18 p.m. 4.40 p.m. 4.05 a.m.
Arrive. St. Vincent. Leave.
10.40 a.m. 10.23 p.m. 4.20 p.m. 3.45 a.m.
Pally except Mondays.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

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

Trains run on Winnipeg time.

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

WM. HARDER.

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SEALED Tenders, marked "Tenders for Swan River Barracks," and addressed to the Honorable the Minister of the Interior, Ottawa, will be received up to noon on TUESDAY, the 18th of MAY, 1833. for purchase of the N. W. Mounted Police Barracks at Livingstone, about ten miles north of Fort Pelly, N. W. Territories, and six hundred and forty acres of land in connection therewith, including the land on which the Barracks are creeted.

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

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

LINDSAY RUSSELL, Deputy Minister of the Interior.

FRED, WHITE, Comptroller, N. W. M. Police. Ottawa, February 19th, 1883.

Notice to Creditors.

JOHN

Of the Town of Emerson, Merchant.

Notice is hereby given that the above firm have this day made an assignment to the undesigned as trustee, for the benefit of their creditors generally, and that a meeting of the creditors will be held on MONDAY, the 19th day of Mauch. A. D. 1883, at the store of Messra John Angus & Co., Fairbanks' Block, Emoreon, at one o'clock p. m.,

H. G. EVANS. Trustee.

LEA ALBERT

The favorite route from the North to Cincago and the East. Chicago fast express leaves Minneapolis at 8.30 P. daily, arriving at Chicago 3 v. M. next day. This is a solid train, consisting of Pullman Cars, Coaches and Baggag Trains leaving Minneapolis at 3:30 P. M and 7:55 A. M., connect through to Cars, running through without change. Chicago via the C., R. I. & P. Ry.

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