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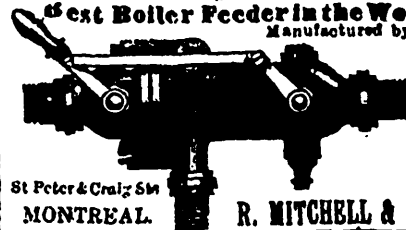
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Published by James E. Steen—Every Tuesday—Subscription, \$2 per annum.

VOL. 5.

WINNIPEG, DECEMBER 14TH, 1886.

No. 12.

The Commercial

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WINNIPEG, DECEMBER 14, 1886.

F. FIELD, livery, Calgary, has sold out to R. A. G. Bell.

J. D. GEDDES has opened a commission agency at Calgary.

JOHN O'FLYNN has assumed the business of the Pacific hotel, Regina.

GEO. L. FRASER, fruits and confectionery dealer, Calgary, has sold out to W. E. Bowen.

C. GABRIEL & Co. will open an establishment in Winnipeg for the sale of Japanese goods exclusively.

W. T. HARRIS, jeweller, Winnipeg, is in financial difficulties and has been closed by his creditors.

W. D. BLACHFORD & BRO., boot and shoe dealers, Winnipeg, who have been selling out for some time, have closed out the balance of their stock and given up business.

REGULAR traffic on the M. & N. W. Ry. extension and the Rapid City branch will be commenced at once.

REID & CLARKE exported their first car load of Lake Winnipeg fish for this season last week. It was billed for Kansas City.

ONE grain buyer at Moosomin has paid out about \$20,000 so far this season for wheat, most of which has graded No. 1 hard.

It is reported that the Moose Mountain Trading Co. propose erecting a woolen mill in their territory, south of Moosomin.

BUTTER and eggs are rather scarce at Portage la Prairie, the former bringing from 18 to 20 cts. per pound, the latter 25 cents per dozen.

DAWSON, ROLE & Co., wholesale druggists, Regina, have bought out Dr. Lauder, of Calgary, and will open a branch at the latter place.

ROLLER mills are now under construction at Moosomin, Wolfeley, Stonewall, Balmoral and Shoal Lake, all the mills will be assisted by municipal bonuses.

THE book and stationery business of A. B. Wood, at Birtle, will hereafter be carried on under the style of A. B. & H. Wood, H. Wood having been taken into partnership.

THE two westernmost roller mills in the Northwest will have to bring wheat from eastern districts of the country for grinding, owing to the drought in the western portion of the territories.

A MUNICIPAL by-law has been passed to grant \$6,000 to aid H. J. F. Rose in erecting a roller flour mill of seventy-five barrels capacity at High Bluff, Man. The by-law will require the assent of the electors by popular vote, before becoming law.

THE *Emigrant* for December has been published, and as usual is filled with excellent original matter, descriptive of Northwestern life, history, industry, geography, zoology, etc. The December issue excels all previous numbers in literary worth, and forms at once a model of beauty and ability. The *Emigrant* will undoubtedly exert a most beneficial influence in the interest of Northwestern settlement and development.

The Prince Albert *Times* has won the suit for libel, brought against that paper by W. V. MacIise, the latter paying the costs.

A DECISION has been rendered by the supreme court in favor of the C. P. Ry. Co., in the suit to restrain the company from extending their line from Port Moody to Vancouver. It is now likely that the road will be continued to Vancouver at once.

At Brandon Geo. Craig, general storekeeper, advertises a clearing sale, as he intends to move to Winnipeg in about a month. Atkinson & Nation, general storekeepers, also advertise a clearing sale with a view to a dissolution of partnership.

NOTICE is given in the *Canadian Gazette* that Duncan McArthur, W. R. Allan, F. A. Fairchild, R. D. Bathgate, A. Urquhart, and C. W. Betts, all of Winnipeg, will apply for letters patent incorporating applicants under the title of "The Rocky Mountain Mining and Timber Co. (Limited)."

THE Brandon grain market is reported quiet. About 53c is the ruling price for No. 1 hard wheat. Oats are in active demand for local use, supplies being limited. Prices vary from 35 to 37c. Butter is worth 18c to 20c per pound and eggs 18c to 20c per dozen, at which prices they are taken by the merchants.

The Calgary board of trade will communicate with the C. P. R. authorities, requesting the granting of return tickets from western points at reduced fares, similar to those granted in the east. At present parties in the east can visit the west and return at reduced fares, whilst western people have to pay the full fare each way. The board think this an injustice to westerners.

Quite a town is springing up at the new coal mine in the mountains, near Banff. The town will be known by the name of anthracite. About seventy men are employed at the mine, and the seam being worked is over seven feet in thickness. As soon as the spur line to connect with the C.P.R. is completed, the coal will be put upon the market. Several business institutions have already been located at the mine.

COMPLAINTS have been heard from several quarters of late, in regard to the mode of giving tenders for supplies for the Northwest Mounted Police and Indians. Grain and provision dealers who have been in the habit of tendering, think that the particulars of the accepted tender should be made public, as a proof that no favoritism has been shown. In one instance it is stated that the successful tenderer on a contract to supply oats, has purchased his grain at a higher figure than the price stipulated in some of the rejected tenders, and this gives rise to the assumption that the tender had not been awarded fairly. Rejected tenders are usually returned with the remark that the price is too high, and dealers think that the price at which the award has been made should also be given.

THE railways in Minnesota and Dakota are still experiencing great inconvenience from too much snow. Scarcity of water is also proving a great drawback. A report from Minneapolis says that all along the railways large numbers of cars of wheat are "hung up," owing to the inability of the engines to haul more than a few cars and that by the time the trains arrive at Duluth or Minneapolis, there is not much left but the caboose, as cars have to be dropped along the road. At some points in Dakota no water can be obtained within a distance of fifty miles. By our report of the local wheat market it will be seen that the great disadvantage to a more active grain trade in Manitoba, is owing to an absence of sleighing. If some of the surplus snow of Minnesota and Dakota could be transferred to this province, it would greatly facilitate the delivery of grain.

THE railway commission, appointed at the last session of the Dominion Parliament, for the purpose of investigating railway matters and hearing evidence or charges against the companies, with a view to future additional railway legislation, will probably meet in Winnipeg early in the new year. The commission have already met in several eastern cities, and a large amount of valuable information has been gleaned on the important subject of greater legislative control of the railways. Numerous complaints have been made before the commission in regard to the various forms of discrimination indulged in by the railway companies. No doubt a good deal of evidence will be taken here, and those who have any charges to make against the railway companies should prepare them for presentation. It is said that the evidence so far heard before the commission is favorable to the establishment of the proposed court of railway commissioners for Canada.

THE *Montreal Trade Bulletin* a short time ago referred to a case of over-rating by a mercantile agency, whereby serious loss had been entailed to parties furnishing credit to the over-rated firm, on account of the standing as represented by the mercantile agency. Now the same paper relates a case where a trader has suffered injustice and loss by being under-rated. Mercantile agencies are not by any means infallible, and though as a general rule they furnish a great deal of valuable information to the mercantile community, yet in the very nature of things they must frequently be astray.

There are doubtless many instances in which their advices would not be reliable, as in the cases referred to. Under-rating is perhaps of more frequent occurrence than over-rating, as it is the safer side to err upon, but it would seem but fair that where injury results to a trader from the former cause, he should be able to recover from the agency for any loss sustained through such misrepresentation.

THE United States government is at a loss to know what to do with its surplus revenue. It has been argued, and not without a show of good reason, that the internal revenue tax should be entirely done away with. It does seem strange that a nation complaining of too much revenue, should place a tax upon certain home industries. If the tax be levied on the ground that such industries require a certain amount of government control, why not turn them over to the States or municipal corporations where these industries are located. Regarding this internal revenue, there is good ground for the contention that taxes so collected properly belong to and should be applied for local purposes. Whilst the federal government wants a reduction in the revenue, the states and municipalities require more, the revenue derived from the manufacture of spirits, tobacco, etc., turned over to the municipalities where these commodities are consumed, would be placed where it would do the most good, and where it would seem to properly belong, at the same time considerably lessening the pressure upon the federal treasury.

THE *Louisville Courier Journal* adopts a most unique line of argument in favor of reducing the duty on pig iron. It starts out with the astonishing assertion that what is wanted to develop the iron interests of the South is low prices for iron. From what school of commercial economy could reasoning be brought to uphold such a statement? But circumstances alter cases; and the arguments produced in this instance at least have an air of plausibility about them which is strangely at variance with the generally accepted laws which are supposed to govern commercial development. The style of argument used is, that iron can be produced more cheaply in the South than in the old furnace districts of Ohio and Pennsylvania, but so long as prices are kept sufficiently high to yield a profit, manufacturers will continue to work their old furnaces. When depression comes and prices go down to below a profitable basis of manufacture in the North, these furnaces will have to be closed, and capitalists will invest in the South, where they will still be able to manufacture at a profit. The *Courier Journal* says every advance in the price of iron, one dollar per ton, reopens a furnace in the North, to the disadvantage of investment in the South. The tariff, the *Journal* argues, therefore retards the development of the iron industry in the South, by keeping up prices. Now that prices for iron are advancing, Southern manufacturers are selling low to try and keep down values, lest prices should reach a point that it would make it profitable to reopen the high-priced furnaces of Pennsylvania and Ohio, and thus lessen the value of the iron and coal fields of Alabama, Kentucky, Tennes-

see, North Carolina and Virginia. This is certainly a remarkable line of reasoning, and we give it for what it is worth.

THE *Montreal Star* has discovered as a reason why the C.P.R. should not oppose the construction of the Hudson's Bay railway, that anything which tends to hasten the settlement of the Northwest must increase the traffic of the former railway. The *Star* thinks the Hudson's Bay railway would prove a valuable feeder to the C.P.R., whether the sea route should turn out successful or otherwise. This is an argument which has been frequently used here in regard to the Hudson's Bay railway, and perhaps the C.P.R. authorities have adopted the same view of the case, as a reason for the friendship which they have manifested toward the former scheme of late. However, if the principle enunciated by the *Star* were entirely correct, it would also be in the interest of the C.P.R. to encourage the extension of railways from the south of the boundary, into the Northwest, as such railways would certainly hasten the settlement and development of the country. That the C.P.R. authorities will accept the argument presented by the *Star* it is not at all probable, and so long as they can retard the development of the Northwest by the enforcement of the monopoly provisions, we may expect the disallowance policy to be strictly adhered to.

THE proposed Imperial Institute scheme, which was to succeed the Colonial Exhibition, as a sort of permanent museum for the exhibition of the products of the British colonies, has been abandoned for the present. The Colonial Exhibition has no doubt been of great benefit to the colonies, and particularly to Canada. Our country has not suffered by the comparison of our products and manufactures along side those of the other colonies, but the effect produced has been rather the opposite and has tended to show the great natural resources of this country, and the commercial development which it is capable of reaching. The colonial exhibition, in so far as it has set forth the advantages to be derived from more extended trade relationship between the colonies and the United Kingdom, has been in a measure successful, and from this the desire for a permanent exhibition has been manifested. The project for the establishment of a permanent exhibition at one time gave evidence of a successful accomplishment of the desired end, but it seems that it has since been stifled by the odor of flunkeyism which surrounded the Colonial Exhibition, under the presidency of the Prince of Wales. The commercial element desired a greater share in the management of the proposed permanent institute, and the display of less red tape and a corresponding decrease in official control, as compared with the Colonial Exhibition. This the official element were not willing to allow, and after several disagreements the scheme was dropped. The expense incurred in carrying on the late Colonial Exhibition, under the management of the Royal Commissioners is said to have been enormous, and charges of extravagance, if not of mistrust are hinted at. It is not unlikely that the project of establishing a permanent museum for the exhibition of the products of the colonies, may be revived at some future date, more directly under the control of the commercial interests.

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The Commercial

WINNIPEG, DECEMBER 14, 1886.

UNITED STATES REVENUE.

The United States occupies a somewhat peculiar position among the civilized nations of the world at the present time in the matter of revenue. Whilst almost every other Government on the globe is striving by hook or crook to increase its revenue, the United States Government is at a loss to know what to do with the money which is pouring into its treasury. Other Governments have had to face annual deficits, and have been inventing one scheme of taxation after another, to draw funds from their people to meet expenditures. In the United States, however, the customs revenue has gone on increasing rapidly, and the annual surpluses over expenditures have grown to amazing figures. These surpluses have been applied in reducing the enormous war debt of the nation, contracted at the time of the civil war in the South, but this huge indebtedness has now shrunk to a very insignificant sum, and still the revenue keeps piling up.

A reduction in the customs duties has been proposed as a means of reducing the revenue, but the strong protectionist theories of the nation have been aroused in opposition to such a course. What to do with the money is therefore one of the important questions which the Government of the United States has to face. What a cause of jealousy this must be to the Governments of Europe, who have to face an annual deficit, and who have to give an additional turn to the screw to wrench a little extra money from their poverty-stricken populations, in order to keep up huge standing armies.

One thing, however, must not be overlooked in connection with the enviable position of the United States, and that is, that whilst the Federal Government is revelling in wealth, many of the State Governments are deeply in debt. The local taxation is very heavy in many States, and often amounts to a serious drain upon the people. Local taxes are levied with a minuteness that is unknown in this country, and very little in the way of personal as well as real property escapes the tithe gatherer. These taxes sometimes amount to over two cents in the dollar, and when the closeness with which the assessment is made is consider-

ed, the amount would represent a considerably higher figure in this country, where a great deal of personal property is exempt which in the United States would be levied upon for local purposes.

In spite then of the overflowing condition of the national exchequer, it may be seen that many individual States are not in a prosperous condition financially. Indeed, the shameful practices which some States as well as municipal corporations have resorted to, in regard to their indebtedness, are to well known to require explanation. The single word "repudiation" will tell the tale of disgraceful dishonesty which has characterized the action of some of these municipal corporations and State commonwealths.

If a portion of the surplus wealth of the Federal Government could be applied in redeeming the dishonor which has been cast upon the nation by such repudiation of honest obligations, it would be a credit to the country. But for the Federal Government to attempt such a scheme, would be to pay the debts of a portion of the people with the customs taxes abstracted from another portion who were in no ways liable for such indebtedness. To do so would therefore be to do an injustice to those States which have always met their obligations, and it would further be placing dishonesty at a premium, and encouraging other corporations to repudiate their indebtedness.

The president, in his message at the opening of the present Congress, very forcibly alludes to what he terms the evils of a constantly increasing surplus. This would almost seem like sarcasm to the financial ministers of many nations, but it only requires a superficial glance over the question to show that in many phases real evils are presented from a constant recurrence of surpluses in the finances of a nation. As President Cleveland has shown, the surplus drawn from the earnings of the people, would have to be taken from the circulation of the country and hoarded in the treasury, or it could be squandered in unnecessary and wasteful public expenditure, thus leading to corruption and national demoralization. But undoubtedly the most objectionable feature in connection with the question is shown by the president in the following language:

"When more of the people's substance is exacted through a form of taxation than is necessary to meet the just obligations of Government and the expense of its administration, such ac-

tion becomes ruthless extortion and a violation of the fundamental principle of free Government."

The president follows this declaration by a recommendation that the revenue laws be so amended that the necessities of life shall be cheapened, and that free entrance be given to materials for the purposes of manufacturing in the United States. What the result will be of the consideration by Congress of this part of the message, it is hard to foretell, but with the present strong protectionist complexion of that body, it is not likely that any very radical changes will be made in the customs regulations. The deliberations upon the question, however, will be watched with the keenest interest by people on both sides of the boundary line.

THE SOUTH SHORE ROUTE.

The Minneapolis, Sault Ste. Marie & Atlantic railway, which is being built in the interest of the millers of Minneapolis, to provide them with a short route to the seaboard instead of around by Chicago as at present, has been extended ninety-five miles during the past season. This undertaking was commenced two years ago, and during the first season some forty-six miles were constructed, as far as Bruce, Wisconsin. The following year little was done, but the past season the work has been pushed more actively. Next year it is intended to build 130 miles eastward from the present terminus at Rhinelander, which will bring the road to a point on Lake Michigan, six miles from Escanaba. The following year an additional 130 miles will be completed, which will bring the road to Sault Ste. Marie. The total length of the railway from Minneapolis to the Sault will be about 475 miles. At the latter place a connection will be made with the Algoma branch of the C.P.R., by the construction of an international railway bridge, giving Minneapolis a short through line to Montreal and the east. The country through which the road will pass is heavily wooded for nearly its entire length, with hardwood and pine timber.

The millers of Minneapolis are very enthusiastic in regard to the benefits which they are to derive from the opening of this railroad, though they seem to be going about the building of it very leisurely, for a matter which they consider of such vast importance to them. There is little doubt, however, but that the road

will prove of great benefit to both Minneapolis and St. Paul, in giving them a shorter and more direct route to the east, in competition with the lines around by Chicago. The Minneapolis & Sault Ste. Marie railway will also form a valuable feeder to the C.P.R., and will doubtless provide a large and lucrative traffic for the Algoma branch and the eastern portion of the main line. By this route the C.P.R. would have the greater portion of the haul, the distance from the Sault being about 500 miles. This would make the total distance from Minneapolis to Montreal something over 1,000 miles, or 350 miles less than from Winnipeg to the latter place.

It is not at all unlikely that within a few years Winnipeg may have connection with the east via the south shore of Lake Superior and Sault Ste. Marie. A scheme is now on foot to connect Duluth with the Sault, which could be done by utilizing portions of railways now built. The Duluth and Winnipeg railway has been a favorite scheme for years, and though the undertaking has not yet assumed a very practical form, yet there is every probability that the road will ultimately be built. Railway connection between Sault Ste. Marie and Winnipeg would of course be of little benefit to this place, excepting the season of lake navigation, so long as the C.P.R. controlled the connecting link between the Sault and the east. There is every probability, however, that the C.P.R. would not long form the exclusive link between the Sault and the east. More than one scheme has already been projected to build railways running westward through Ontario to the Sault Ste. Marie river, and before Winnipeg has direct railway connection with Duluth, it is not unlikely that the C.P.R. might have active competition for the south shore traffic, from a line running eastward from the Sault. These are considerations which at the present time may seem somewhat distant, but it cannot be said that the prospect of through connection between Winnipeg and the east, via the south of Lake Superior, is at all visionary. On the other hand there is every probability of the opening of such a route in the not very distant future. In the meantime the C.P.R. will derive great benefit from the traffic which it will receive from the northern portions of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Dakota; whilst Montreal will also profit in being made the seaport for the grain and flour trade of this region.

Since writing the above a dispatch has been received from Montreal, to the effect that the Midland branch of the Grand Trunk railway will be extended to Sault Ste. Marie at an early date, the funds necessary for the prosecution of the work having been guaranteed by New York capitalists. The dispatch further states that the Grand Trunk authorities have secured permission from the United States Government for the construction of a bridge across the Ste. Marie river. Connection with the east via the south shore of Lake Superior and by an independent line of railway, may after all not be a great many years in the future.

THE PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS.


The electoral contest is over, and the result has been a narrowing of the Norquay Government majority to a very considerable extent. Whereas in the last Legislature the respective strength of the two parties stood as eight to twenty-two in a House of thirty members, in the new House the relative figures will stand as nineteen ministerialists, fourteen for the opposition and two independents, in a House of thirty-five members. Allowing the two independents to the Government, they would still fall short of the number of their following in the last House, though the new House will have five additional members. But the Government are by no means sure of the independents, though popular opinion would seem to give one to each party, which would leave the relative strength of the House unchanged. However, the majority of five is quite large enough to enable Mr. Norquay to carry on his Government, should his present following, with the large infusion of new blood, prove as compact and subservient in voting as in the last House. On the other hand, should dissent or a disposition to independent action arise, it would require but a change of three votes in the full House to place the Government in jeopardy. But we may expect Mr. Norquay to be as subservient to outside influences as ever, and if there is any such a thing as shaping his policy so as to maintain a majority, that majority will be maintained, regardless of the number of shifts or changes which may be deemed necessary.

Aside from the party aspect of the case and in comparison with the last Provincial Legislature, the people of Manitoba have reason so feel satisfied with the composition of the new House. Even those most bitterly opposed to Mr. Norquay and his Government, will find many causes for congratulation, when they

quietly survey the situation and compare the result with that of past elections. It is almost unnecessary to state, so apparent is the fact, that the newly elected Legislature of Manitoba is far in advance of any of its predecessors, in point of ability and solidity. Our last House, composed of many impecunious irresponsibles, some of whose cerebral organs were about as empty as their pockets, was the laughing-stock of the Dominion. This stigma upon the intelligence of the Province has been removed, and the new Legislature will now compare favorably with any other similar body in Canada. The impecunious members have been largely left out, together with a number of the most objectionable candidates, and the speculative element which so largely obtained in the last House, has been eliminated in favor of commercial and agricultural representatives. The commercial class, especially have reason to feel satisfied, and with the composition of the present House we may safely hope for less legislation in the interests of dishonest bankrupts, speculators, and irresponsibles generally, such as disgraced the last session of our Provincial Parliament. In one or two instances men of superior ability have been passed over, in favor of vastly inferior candidates; but in a party contest this feature can hardly be entirely avoided. However, in other instances a good deal of independent action has been shown on the part of the electors, and this was especially marked in the city of Winnipeg, where both candidates owe their election to the independent men, who refused to make tools of themselves at the bidding of party. In South Winnipeg, the most wealthy and intelligent constituency in the Province, and where the Conservatives undoubtedly have a good majority of the electorate, including upwards of 200 civil service employes, a pronounced liberal was elected by a good majority, in spite of the most strenuous efforts of his opponents. Here the contest was fought squarely on the issue of Provincial rights, the ministerialist candidate owing his defeat to his espousal of the cause of Dominion Conservatism, including railway monopoly and disallowance, together with his personal unfitness to represent a commercial constituency. The latter objection would probably have been overlooked; but disallowance the electors would not have crammed down their throats. In North Winnipeg the election of a Conservative in a Liberal constituency was due to the firm stand taken in favor of Provincial rights and his declaration of independence when Provincial interests were at stake, together with his fitness for the position as a representative from the commercial metropolis of the Northwest. Remarkable to relate, the Liberal candidate in North Winnipeg is the only one in the party who has shown any sympathy with monopoly, whilst personally he was objectionable to the commercial interests largely comprising the constituency.

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Fine Stock Ales a Specialty
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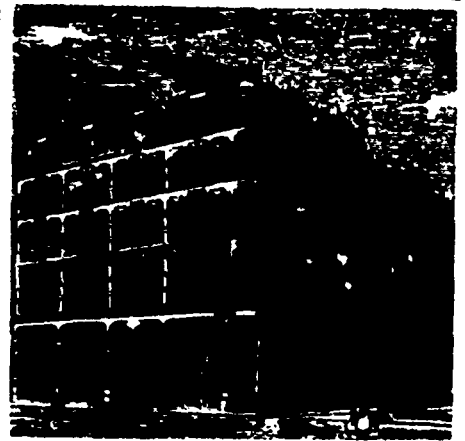
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 Sacks for Wool supplied.
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Special value in Ramie Cloths for coverings, Raw Silk
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JULY TO HAND, Ex. S.S. SARDINIAN
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FEATHER TRIMMINGS in all the leading
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Warerooms: Cor. Rachel St. and Point Douglas Avenue.
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J. W. DRISCOLL, Manager **WINNIPEG**

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET

The monetary situation was neglected to a great extent last week, owing to the local election contest which culminated on Thursday. Remittances from the country did not come to hand as freely as during the previous week, but this was not considered surprising under the circumstances. The diminished movement in grain circles, owing to the same cause, together with the condition of the roads, has also had a quieting effect in the call upon the banks, in which quarter the demand for funds has been rather lighter. The mortgage loan business has remained much as indicated in our last report.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE

The excitement over the provincial elections reached the boiling point last week, and business was almost out of the question. Added to this was a break in the winter weather, which during the week was warm and balmy. In fact, it seemed as if spring had set in prematurely. Purchases of winter goods were checked suddenly and scarcely anything in such commodities was doing during the week. Now that the political excitement has culminated, we may expect trade matters to assume a more regular aspect, though the movement will depend to a considerable extent upon the weather, and a return to something more like winter will be welcomed by the commercial community.

BOOTS AND SHOES

The movement in this branch continued fairly good during the week, though in less proportion than the previous week.

DRY GOODS

In this branch a fair number of orders were received considering the spring-like weather and the political excitement, but for an ordinary week of this season of the year, business was rather dull. Clothing was decidedly quiet.

FISH AND GAME

Fish quotations are: Lake Winnipeg white, 6c; Lake Superior trout, 9c; pickerel, 3c; salmon, 18c; cod, 10c; Haddock, 10c; Halibut, 17c; Flounders, 15c. Oysters, standards, 40c per can; selects, 55c per can; bulk oysters, \$2.35 to \$2.65 per gal. Cured fish are quoted; Labrador herrings, \$1.30 per pail; mackerel, \$1.30 kit; finnan haddies, 12½c per pound; codfish, 6c per pound; bloaters, \$3.00 per box; salt white, 10c per pound.

FRUITS

Apples are firmer at quotations. Mexican oranges and pineapples are the newest things in the market. Prices are: Florida oranges, \$7.50 to \$8.50; Jamaica oranges, in barrels of 300 to 360 count, \$14, or \$5.00 per 100; fancy Mexican oranges, \$8 to \$8.50. Winter apples, \$4.00 to \$4.50 per bbl, for good stock. Malaga lemons, \$8.00 to \$8.50 per box; cases, \$16.50 to \$17; Messina lemons, \$8.00 to \$8.50; California pears, \$5.00 to \$5.50 per box; Oregon pears, \$4.75 to \$5.00; Malaga grapes, \$8 to \$8.50 per keg; Cranberries, bell and bugle, \$10.50 to \$11 per bbl; Citrons, \$1.50 to \$2 per dozen; Pineapples, \$6.50 per doz.; Figs, in 50 lb. sacks, 12½c; New Elms figs, in layers, 18c to 20c per pound, in one lb. to ten lb. boxes; Golden dates, 12c; peanuts, roasted, 18c; peanuts,

raw, 15c; walnuts, 15 to 20c; almonds 20c; filberts 13 to 15c; Texas pecans, 18c. Dried fruits quoted: Valencia raisins \$3.15 to \$3.25; London layers \$3.75 to \$3.90; black crown \$5 to \$5.25; black baskets, ½ boxes, \$1.30. Apple cider is worth \$10 a barrel, or \$7 per half-barrel. Sweet potatoes, \$9.50 per bbl; Spanish onions, cases 150 lbs., \$7.25; cases 50 lbs., \$2.50.

FUEL

Quotations are as follows: Best tamarac wood, \$1.75, with some poor selling at \$4.25; sound poplar, \$3.50; poor, \$3.25. Prices for car lots on track. Coal on track sells at \$9.75 for anthracite, \$10.75 for smithy, and \$7.25 for American soft. Lethbridge coal is quoted at \$6.50 on track, or \$7.25 delivered in the city. Saskatchewan coal, \$6.25 on track.

FURS

A good movement has now commenced in raw furs, several consignments having been received. A good demand exists for prime skins in beaver, badger, bear, skunk, etc. Lynx, mink and muskrat are not as active. Quotations are now as follows: Beaver, per lb, \$2.50 to \$4.00; bear, per skin, \$5.00 to \$20.00; bear, cub, per skin, \$1.00 to \$7.00; otter, per skin, \$5.00 to \$10.00; mink, per skin, 30 to 90c; martin, per skin, 60c to \$2.50; fisher, per skin, \$1.00 to \$6.50; lynx, per skin, \$1.00 to \$2.50; racoon, per skin, 40 to 60c; skunk, per skin, 40-60-80; muskrat, per skin, 1 to 7c. Fox, red, 25c to \$1.40; fox, cross, \$1 to \$10; wolf, timber, 25c to \$2.25; wolf, prairie, 25c to \$1.25.

GROCERIES

Trade seems to have quieted down considerably. The movement has been mainly in dried fruits, for the holiday trade. New season fruits are firmer; also evaporated apples. Quotations are: Canned tomatoes, at \$3.50; corn \$3.25 to \$3.50; peas, \$3.75; yellow sugar 6½ to 7c; granulated 7½ to 8c; lump sugar, 9 to 9½c; Coffees, Rio, 13 to 13½c; Government Java, 28c, other Javas, 22c; Mochas, 31 to 34c. New season's teas are now quoted as follows: Japan season 1886-7, 25 to 45c; Congous, 1886-7, 20 to 60c; Indian teas, 35 to 50c. Old range, Moyunc gunpowder 25 to 70c; panfired Japan 23 to 45c, basket-fired, 25 to 40c; Ping Suey young hyson, 25 to 35c; Moyunc young hyson, 25 to 50c; Season's congous, 1885-6, 20 to 55c. Syrups, corn \$2.00 to \$2.35; sugar, cane, \$1.85 to \$2.00; T. and B. tobacco, \$10.

HIDES

Prices are unchanged and are as follows: Steers, Winnipeg inspection, No. 1 7c; No. 2, 6c; cows, No. 1, 7c; No. 2, 6c; bulls, 5c; calf, fine haired real veal, 7 to 13 pound skins, No. 1, 10c; No. 2, 8c. Sheep pelts, 30 to 65c. Tal-low 3½c per lb.

HARDWARE AND METALS

Canada plates, tin plates, zinc, etc., and heavy goods generally firmer, owing to winter freight rates. Prices are as follows: Cut nails, 10d and larger \$3.35 to \$3.75; I. C. tin plates, \$5.50 to \$5.75; I. C. tin plates, double, \$11 to \$11.50; Canada plates, \$3.50 to \$3.75; sheet iron, \$3 to \$4.50, according to grade; iron pipe, 45 to 50 per cent. off list prices; ingot tin, 26 to 30 per lb., according to quality; bar iron

\$2.50 to \$3 per 100 lb; shot, 6½ to 7c a lb; tarred felt, \$2.60 to \$2.85 per 100 lb; barbed wire 7 to 7½c.

LEATHER AND FINDINGS

Prices are unchanged and are as follows: Spanish sole, 28 to 32c; slaughtered sole, 33 to 35c; French calf, first choice, \$1.35 to \$1.50; Canada Calf 90 to \$1.00; French kip \$1 to \$1.10; B Z kip, 85 to 90c; slaughter kip, 55 to 75c; No 1, wax upper, 45 to 50c; grain upper, 55c; harness leather, 33 to 35c for plump stock. American oak sole, 45 to 60c; buffe, 17 to 22c a foot; cordovan, 25 to 27c; pebble, 21 to 23c; colored linings 12c.

PAINTS, OILS AND COLORS

The only thing now moving seems to be in coal and lubricating oils. Other lines have quieted down for the season. Quotations are keeping steady as follows: Turpentine 75c; harness oil, \$1.10; Neatsfoot oil, \$1.50; linseed oil, raw 68c per gal., boiled 71c; seal oil steam refined, \$1.10; castor, 14c per lb; lard No. 1, \$1.25 per gal; olive, \$1.00 to \$2.00, according to quality; machine oils, black 25 to 40c; oleine, 40c; fine qualities, 50 to 75c. Coal oils, silver star, 26c; headlight, 28c; water white, 30c. American oils, Eocene, 36c; water white, 33c; sunlight, 30c; Eldorado, machine, 56c. Calcined plaster, \$3.75 per bbl; Portland cement, \$4.75; white lead, genuine, \$7.00; No. 1 \$6.50; No. 2 \$6.00; window glass, first break, \$2.25.

WINES AND SPIRITS

A moderate business continues to be done, with prices steady as follows: Gooderham & Wort's five year old, \$2.40; 7 year old, \$3; old rye, \$1.75; Jules Ro's brandy, \$4.50; Bisquet Debouche & Co., \$4.75; Martell, \$6.50; Henney, \$6.50; DeKuyper gin, \$3.50; Port wine, \$2.50 and upwards; Sherry \$2.50 and upwards; Jamaica rum, \$4.00 to \$4.50; DeKuyper red gin, \$11 per case; DeKuyper green gin, \$6.50 per case; Tom Gin, \$9.00 to \$10.00; Martel and Henney's brandy, \$13.50 per case of 12 bottles.

WOOL

There is now only an odd lot occasionally coming in. Prices have not been altered and are as follows: Leicester and Cotswold, washed, 14c to 16c; cotted and broken, washed, 12c; unwashed 8c to 11c; unwashed and tags off, 10 to 12c; Montana sheep, unwashed, 11 to 12c.

Maxims for Merchants.

The weakest spot in every merchant is where he thinks himself to be the wisest.

It is part of every dealer's business to keep his capital actively at work earning interest. He fails to do this when it is idle half the time.

There is no advantage to a retailer clinging on to one place, like an oyster to a rock which the waters have permanently receded from and left bare.

A very essential lesson to learn is for the dealer not to invest in anything which is likely to take up his time and divert his attention from his regular business.

When the stock of goods is once all paid for, the ordinary monthly receipts pay all the monthly purchases and expenses. Any amount of money left over may be regarded as surplus profits.

THE MARKETS

WINNIPEG

WHEAT

Deliveries of wheat at provincial points were rather light last week. What is mostly required now is snow to improve deliveries. There has not yet this season been anything like enough snow for sleighing, whilst the wheeling has been made by what snow there was on the ground. The spring-like weather of last week would improve the roads for wheeling, but snow and colder weather would be more preferable. The market here has followed the course of outside wheat centres very closely, and prices have accordingly been somewhat irregular. Prices here were advanced 2c and held at the advance during the week, with an easier tendency towards the close. At the mills in the city 61c was the ruling price for No. 1 hard, and 58c for No. 2 hard and No. 1 Northern. At outside points about the same advance occurred, car lots on track being quoted at 56c to 57c.

FLOUR

In flour local prices remained unchanged, owing to the unsettled nature of the advance in wheat. If prices for the latter hold firm, flour will advance. Quotations for broken lots are: Patents, \$2.35; Strong bakers', \$1.80; XXXX, \$1.20 to \$1.30; super-fine, 90c to \$1.00.

BRAN AND SHORTS

Steady at \$12 for bran and \$14 for shorts.

BARLEY

There is nothing moving in this grain except for local use, with prices ranging from 40 to 45c.

OATMEAL

Unchanged at \$2.60 for standard, and \$2.75 for granulated.

OATS

One car sold on track at 45c in sacks, or equal to about 42c in bulk, which appears to be about the regular quotation.

POTATOES

Small lots are selling to the local trade at 70 to 75c from stocks in store. Car lots could probably be had at about 50c.

EGGS

Some dealers were quoting fresh at 29c, but others held at 25c for fresh, and 23c for pickled.

BUTTER

The butter market holds very steady and without a shadow of a change. Receipts continue fair and stocks ample. About 20c seems to be the ruling figure for choice qualities, other grades running from 12c upwards.

BACON

For the home product the regular quotation is 14 1/2c.

LARD

Has sold in 20 lb pails at \$2.15 to \$2.25; 3 lb pails have sold at 45c each, and 5 lb pails at 65c each.

BACON

Prices have held steady for all grades. Prices are: Long lean, 8 1/2 to 9c; breakfast bacon, 12c; spiced roll, 11c.

DRESSED POULTRY

A car of turkeys and geese was brought in early last week, and a second car was to arrive later. Prices, however, seemed to hold about the same, at 15c for turkeys and 12 1/2c for geese, in lots to the trade. Chickens were in large local supply and prices easier, at 7 to 8c. Poultry for this market sells more readily when

drawn and local supplies generally come to hand in that way, though imported are always undrawn, in which shape they command a more ready sale in eastern markets.

DRESSED MEATS

Dressed pork holds steady at about 5c, at which price all good packing qualities will be taken at the packing houses. The mild weather of last week seemed to have an effect in reducing receipts. From the same cause receipts of country dressed beef were also much lighter. Prices for the latter remain at 4 to 5c, with butchers' held at 5 to 5 1/2c.

LIVE STOCK

Butchers' cattle held steady at about 3c for all receipts, though just now choice cattle for Christmas beef are in demand, and 4 to 4 1/2c would be paid for such.

MINNEAPOLIS

The little boom in wheat seems to have spent its force, the market sagging downward, the past three days, though still about four cents above the quotations a fortnight ago. The rapid fluctuations occurring during the boom made dealing by the ordinary run of speculators result very unsatisfactorily, as a rule, only the large operators who engineered the rise coming out ahead. These men seized upon a fortunate combination of circumstances to put prices up, and then, by the see-saw milking process, squeezed golden blood out of the lambs who rushed in to get rich in a hurry. A great many people seem to think that because the visible supply has been nearly stationary for two weeks, the movement from farmers' hands has ended, and that we shall for some time operate on an approximately stationary visible, but we cannot believe this. The majority of the trade here seem to think that no confidence can be placed in the weekly statistics of stocks.

Full granaries and overflowing elevators throughout the Northwest make it only a question of time when receipts will again be immense, although the past week they were light. Shipments, however, have again been heavy, and promise to continue so.

The highest and lowest wheat prices by grade on change during the week ending Dec. 9, closing prices, and the prices one year ago were:

WHEAT—	Highest.	Lowest.	Clos. ng.	Dec. 9 1885.
No. 1 hard	76 1/2	74 1/2	75 1/2	90 1/2
" 1 northern	74 1/2	73 1/2	74	85
" 2	72 1/2	71 1/2	72	80

Futures showed about the same range, January 1 hard closing at 76 1/2c and May at 83c; January 1 Northern at 74 1/2c and May 81c; January 2 Northern at 73 1/2c and May at 70c. Coarse grains were firmer in sympathy with wheat, corn closing at 37 1/2@39 1/2c, oats at 26 1/2@28 1/2c, barley at 37@48c and rye at 48@50c, all by sample.

Flour.—The firm tone noted last week has weakened somewhat, owing to the decline in wheat, and buyers are not taking hold as freely as then. There is more nervousness in the market and a renewed disposition to buy only to meet current wants. Export demand is slow and the general market dull, though prices show little change.

Quotations at the mills for car or round lots are: Patents, \$4.40@4.60; straights, \$4.20@4.40; first bakers', \$3.60@3.80; second bakers',

\$2.90@3.10; best low grades, \$1.70@1.90, in bags, red dog, \$1.30@1.40, in bags.

These quotations are on flour in barrels, except as stated. The rule is to discount 25c per bbl for 290 and 140 lb jute bags, 20c for 98 lb cotton sacks, 15c for 40 lb cotton sacks, 10c for 2 1/2 lb cotton sacks. In half barrels the extra charge is 30c per bbl

—Northwest Miller.

The Visible Supply.

The amount of wheat in store at the principal points of accumulation in Canada and the United States (east of the Rocky Mountains), on the dates named, with corresponding week last year, was as follows:

	Bush. 1886.	Bush. 1885.
November 27th	59,572,340	55,539,993
December 4th	59,539,331	56,783,440

By this statement it will be seen that the visible supply decreased 33,009 bushels for the week ended Dec. 4th, as compared with the previous week.

Available supply of wheat Nov. 27, 1886, and corresponding date last year:

	Bush. 1886.	Bush. 1885.
Visible supply in the U.S. and Canada, east of Rocky Mountains..	59,572,340	55,539,993
On passage—		
Wheat & flour for Cont.	6,400,000	1,440,000
" for U. K.	16,400,000	12,800,000
Total	82,372,340	69,779,993
November 20th	83,482,453	70,307,869

General Notes

MINNEAPOLIS saw-mills cut 51,000,000 feet less of lumber, 20,000,000 less of shingles, and 25,000,000 less of lath this year than last.

THE Montreal evaporated apple market is still firm with sales at 9c per pound in 50 lb. boxes. There is not much enquiry for dried apples, and prices have a wide range according to quantity and quality, at 3c to 5c per lb.

MR. FERLAND, of Calgary, says there is this peculiarity about the boot and shoe trade there that very little except the best quality can be handled. Cheap boots and shoes do not take. There is nothing the people, even of the poorer classes, object to more than going slipshod.

It is remarkable to what extent the high heels of ladies' shoes have been displaced by low ones. Brass heel plates were necessary to keep the heels from wearing one-sided, they were so narrow and unsteady. Now low heels are the rule. Fashionable ladies took up sensible styles in footwear, and the whole of womankind has followed suit.

Mose Schaumberg was in a bad humor yesterday. When he came down to his place of business his head clerk, Ike Silverstone, said:

"Have you heard already dot Parker & Fizzle in San Antonio has failed?"

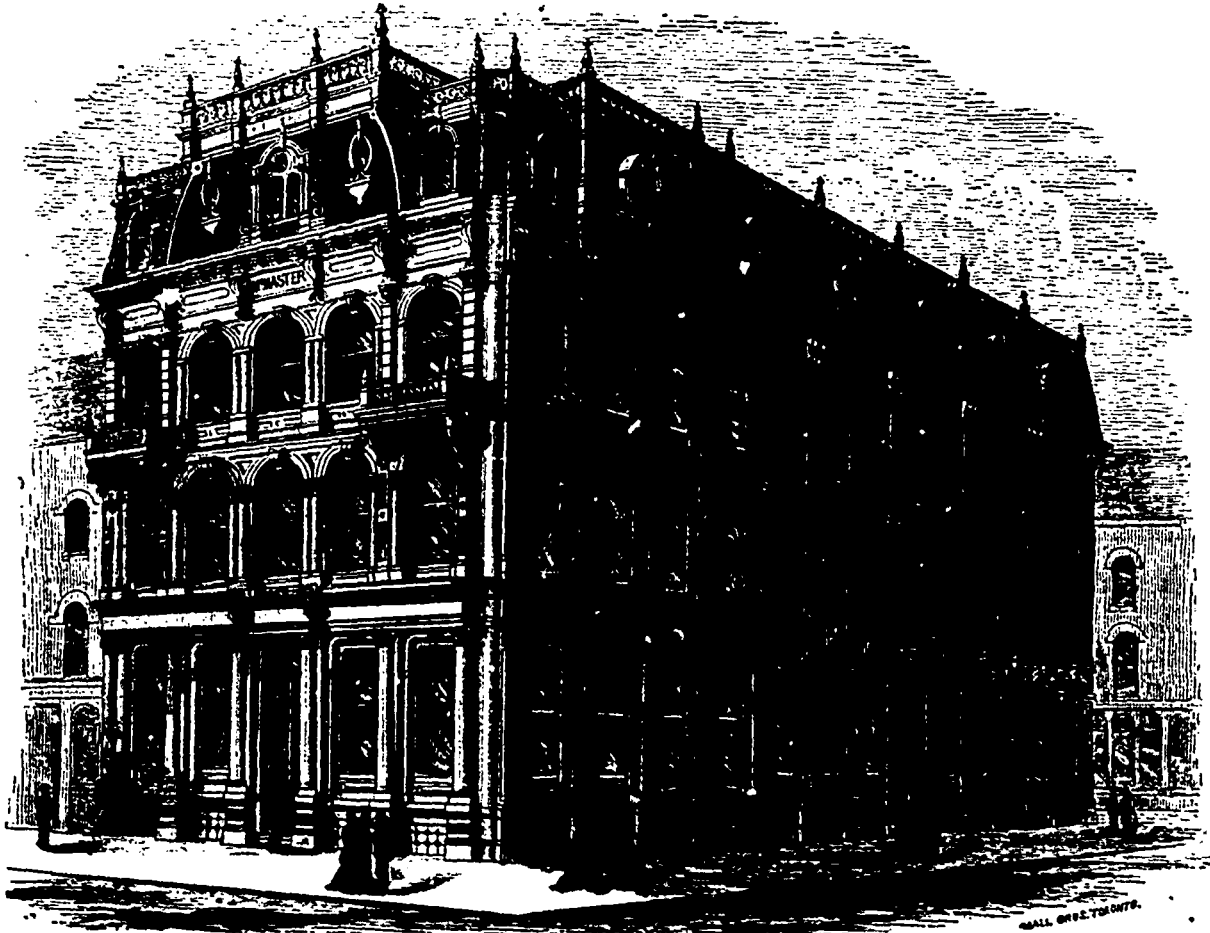
"Ish dot so! Vell, vell, dey owes me six hundred tollars for goots vot I sold 'em. How much on a tollar doe dey bay?"

"Terventy cents."

"Terventy cents! I vos glad to hear dot. Ven I sold 'em doe goots I figured on a fifteen cent on a tollar failure. Ven dey bay terventy cents den I makes a profit of fifty per cent. on dot bill of goots."

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EASTERN MARKETS.

CHICAGO

Wheat was somewhat nervous on Monday, but there were frequent strong seasons with active buying, which generally came in at the critical moment in time to stop a threatened decline. The market opened at 79c for January, or $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ c lower than Saturday, and sold down $\frac{1}{4}$ c from the start. The short interest appeared to be well eliminated, and this caused some fears of a reaction, but many were firm in the belief that the markets would continue strong. Heavy country buying is an important factor in maintaining prices. The decrease in the visible supply has also been a great element of strength, but this has been brought about by unreasonable weather. Corn was active and firm. Oats quiet and steady. Provisions were active and pork slightly higher for a time, but 10c lower in the afternoon. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.
Wheat	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats	27	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork	10.95	11.17 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lard	6.25	6.25

On Tuesday the wheat market opened lower and easier, with cables rather discouraging. Under heavy pressure to sell, the market declined spasmodically $\frac{1}{4}$ c lower than Saturday's top price. In the afternoon prices continued tending downward, May selling at 84 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, but closing $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ c better. May corn sold down to 43 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Pork and lard were lower. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.
Wheat	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork	10.80	11.00
Lard	6.15	6.17 $\frac{1}{2}$

There was a better feeling at the start on Wednesday, and the decline of yesterday was largely looked upon as an engineered scheme on the part of some heavy operators. Prices opened a shade firmer, but declined later, May going down to 84 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Then prices went up to 85 $\frac{1}{2}$, under good buying, but heavy offerings again broke prices, to 84 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, closing at 84 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Packers report a good shipping demand for provisions. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.
Wheat	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn	37	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork	10.65	10.90
Lard	6.00	6.07 $\frac{1}{2}$

Wheat opened firmer on Thursday, on better cables. May opened at 84 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, and after considerable trading at this figure, declined to 84 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. The price then went up to 85 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, on receipt of New York buying orders, but again declined $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ c. From this out the tendency was to firmer prices, May closing at 85 $\frac{1}{2}$ c at one o'clock, and 85 $\frac{1}{2}$ c at three o'clock. Exports of wheat and flour have so far this week been greatly under last week. Pork started 15c higher, advanced 5c, sold down 10c, and closed about the opening price. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.
Wheat	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn	37	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork	10.80 $\frac{1}{2}$	11.12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lard	6.05	6.12 $\frac{1}{2}$

On Friday wheat opened $\frac{1}{4}$ c higher, at 78 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for January and 86c for May. Prices were easier from the start for a brief spell. From that forward prices were strong, January going up to 79 $\frac{1}{2}$ c and May to 86 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, but just before the close heavy unloading put prices back to 85 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for May and 78 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for January. In the afternoon prices advanced steadily, closing at the top. Outside business was heavy. The advance in provisions has checked the shipping demand to some extent. Prices to-day were firm. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.
Wheat	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	79
Corn	37	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork	11.00	11.27 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lard	6.10	6.15

On Saturday wheat opened at 77c, the highest point of the day being $\frac{1}{4}$ c above the start, and the lowest point 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, for December delivery. May opened at 86 $\frac{1}{2}$ c and closed at 86 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Provisions were fairly steady, prices fluctuating not more than 15c for pork. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.
Wheat	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn	37	37
Oats	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork	11.00	11.15
Lard	6.10	6.15

TORONTO.

STOCKS

The following comparison of quotations for the dates named, will serve as an index to the course of values.

	Dec. 1.		Dec. 8.	
	ASKED.	MID.	ASKED.	MID.
Montreal	237 $\frac{1}{2}$	236	240 $\frac{1}{2}$	239 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ontario	115 $\frac{1}{2}$	114	115 $\frac{1}{2}$	115
Toronto	—	200	214	212
Merchants	128	126 $\frac{1}{2}$	130 $\frac{1}{2}$	129 $\frac{1}{2}$
Commerce	130	129 $\frac{1}{2}$	130 $\frac{1}{2}$	130
Imperial	137	135 $\frac{1}{2}$	137	136
Federal	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	109 $\frac{1}{2}$	109
Dominion	220 $\frac{1}{2}$	220	222	221
Standard	128 $\frac{1}{2}$	127	129	128 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hamilton	136 $\frac{1}{2}$	133	—	134 $\frac{1}{2}$
Northwest Land	64	63	64	62 $\frac{1}{2}$
C.P.R. Bonds	106	105	106	105

WHEAT

The market has been rather unsettled during the week, influenced by the course of outside prices. No. 2 fall sold on Monday at 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 78c. Red winter brought 78 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 79c. No. 1 spring sold at 82c, and No. 2 at 79 to 80c. On Wednesday prices were about 1c lower all around.

FLOUR

The demand has been slack and bids below the views of holders. Last prices were \$3.45 for superior extra and \$3.35 for extra.

OATMEAL

Cars hold at \$3.60 to \$3.65, and broken lots at \$3.75 to \$4.25, the latter for granulated.

OATS

Mixed worth about 31 to 32c, and some white sold at the latter price.

BARLEY

Prices have steadily declined during the week, No. 2 sold at 50c, i.o.b. Extra No. 3 was offered at 47c, with but 45c bid. No. 1 was held at 57c, which was also about 2 to 3c above the views of buyers.

APPLES

Cars offered at \$2.25 per bbl.

POULTRY

Has continued to come forward very freely in box lots, but as some shipping demand has been heard sales have been made more easily at steady prices. Turkeys 8 to 9c, and geese 5 to 6c per lb; ducks 50 to 60c, and fowls 30 to 35c per pair, the latter continuing rather weak.

BUTTER

Fine qualities have been scarce, though large rolls have commenced to arrive more freely.

The latter have sold at 15 to 16c, with some extra at 17c. Selection from lots of dairy have sold at 18 to 19c, with mixed lots at 15 to 16c. Shipping lots have sold at 12c.

EGGS

Fresh firmer at 18 to 19c, in large lots, or 20 to 24c on the street. Pickled 18c.

CHEESE

Held firmly at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, with some common at 10 to 11c. Fine is held at the factories at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

PORK

Little or nothing doing and prices nominally unchanged at \$13.50.

BACON

Increasing firmness in hogs has rendered holders firm on meats, at about 8c for long clear and 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for Cumberland in cases; at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 9c for rolls; at 10 to 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for backs and bellies; and 10c for boneless racks.

HAMS

Very quiet at unchanged prices: the only movement has been in small lots of smoked at about 11c.

LARD

Selling slowly in small lots at 9 to 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for tinnets and 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 10c for pails.

DRESSED HOGS

Rail-lots have been in fair supply, and have found a ready sale. Prices have advanced from 15 to 25c, and closed at \$5.65 to \$5.75 for car lots of good quality. On street also prices have advanced and closed with the range from \$5.50 to \$6, but few good going below \$5.75.

DRIED APPLES.

Scarce, and wanted at firmer prices; trade-lots of new have been worth 4 to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, and dealers have been selling small lots for a half-cent more. Evaporated in trade-lots have brought 9c, and dealers prices have been 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Old about finished, and all sorts held firmly both in town and country.

LIVE STOCK.

Prices for cattle remain about the same, but with the average lower than a week ago; the best sale reported was equal to about $\frac{3}{4}$ c per lb., being 22 head averaging 1,125 lbs. at \$42 per head; among the other sales were 3 head, averaging 1,100 lbs, at \$26; 16 do., 1,000, lbs, at \$27, less \$5. Hogs have been in good demand, especially for medium and light fat, at an advance of 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c per cwt; offerings consist chiefly of mixed lots, which have sold at \$4.12 $\frac{1}{2}$ to \$4.20 per cwt. Prices were: Heavy fat, \$4 to \$4.12 $\frac{1}{2}$; medium fat, \$4.25 to \$4.37 $\frac{1}{2}$; light fat, per cwt. off the car, \$4 to \$4.25.

HIDES AND WOOL

Following are quotations:—Hides, No. 1 inspected steers, \$9; No. 1 inspected cows, \$8.25; No. 2 inspected, \$7.25; No. 3 inspected, \$5; calfskins, green, 11 to 13c; calfskins, cured, 13 to 14c; calfskins, dry, 11 to 13c; sheepskins, green, 65 to 90c; wool, super, 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 23c; extra super, 27 to 28c; wool pickings, 9 to 10c; tallow, rough, 2c; rendered, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ c.

DULUTH WHEAT MARKET

The small increase in stocks in the Northwest acted as an offset to easier cables at the commencement of the week, and the feeling held fairly firm, notwithstanding fluctuations in prices. Friday was one of the most active days of the week, transactions reaching about 3,000,000 bushels. Receipts have been small, amounting to about 150 cars per day, but it is expected that receipts will commence to increase almost immediately, as the railways are getting in better shape to handle the grain. The course of prices will be shown by the following closing figures for No. 1 hard, on each day of the week:

	Cash	Dec.	May
Monday	76	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	80
Tuesday	77	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	81
Wednesday	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	80
Thursday	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	80
Friday	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	80
Saturday	—	—	80

Business East.**ONTARIO.**

B. Lester, saloonkeeper, Hamilton, is dead.
 Robt. Gurd, grocer, London, is out of business.
 John C. Hertel, tailor, Dutton, has assigned in trust.
 John Jennings, hotelkeeper, London, has sold out.
 Jos. Hayworth, fruit dealer, Bothwell, has sold out.
 Alex. Elliott, hotelkeeper, Blenheim, has sold out.
 Isler & Chanel, shoddy, Merriton, were burned out.
 G. B. Losee, blacksmith, Belleville, was burned out.
 Estate of John Wilson, grist mill, Dundas, mill burned.
 Miss Dalton, milliner, Toronto, is offering to compromise.
 W. B. Cooper, tins, Wellington, has sold out to M. Pettit.
 N. Boswell, hotel and mill, Wyoming, has sold out hotel.
 Lewis Witt, shoe dealer, Millbank, has assigned in trust.
 Jesse Hakin, shoe dealer, Hensall, has assigned in trust.
 — Hull, grocer, Toronto, advertises selling out by auction.
 J. C. Wilson, hotelkeeper, Petrolia, is moving to Wyoming.
 J. G. Finch, general storekeeper, Mandamin, has sold out.
 Thos. Holmes, grocer, Hamilton, has sold out to John Lewis.
 I. Jenkins, hotelkeeper, Toronto, has sold out to Mrs. Tyler.
 Geo. Hamilton, horse dealer, Brampton, has moved to Toronto.
 Mrs. A. J. Marks, fancy goods, Toronto; sheriff in possession.
 David Witherspoon, shoe dealer, Dundas, has moved to Toronto.
 Thos. G. McCracken, grocer, Harriston, has sold out to Thos. Dunbar.
 Wm. Ballard, shoe dealer, Parkdale, has sold out and assigned in trust.
 John Merner, hotelkeeper, Stratford, has sold out to J. M. Wilson.
 E. L. Eedy, confectioner, Harriston, has sold out to D. S. Montgomery.
 Miss Britton, fancy goods, Listowel, is selling off and giving up business.
 Moore & Shannon, fanning mills, Chesley, have sold out to Blair Bros.
 A. H. Cart. & Bro., grocers, Parkdale, have sold out to P. C. Campbell.
 W. G. Stephens, general storekeeper, Beeton, has sold out to J. C. Richardson.
 W. H. Scott & Co., jewellers, Cobourg, have dissolved—W. H. Scott continues.
 Wm. Brown & Co., dry goods, Port Arthur, contemplate giving up business there.
 Adams & McLeod, general storekeepers, Sturgeon Falls, have sold out to J. A. Levis.
 Stratford Co-operative Cigar Manufacturing Co., Stratford, have sold out to Wood & Tozke.
 Mrs. E. S. Warne, fancy goods, Brampton; stock seized under chattel mortgage and advertised for sale.
 J. A. Chrysler, jeweler, Brockville; Francis

E. Purvis admitted as partner under style Chrysler & Co.

Howarth & McMichael, wholesale paper bags, Toronto, have dissolved, and new firm formed as Howarth & Smith.

Livingstone, Johnston & Co., wholesale clothing, Toronto, have admitted H. Langlois as partner under same style.

Reid & Bayne, wholesale milliners, Toronto, have admitted Robt. Taylor as partner, under style Reid, Taylor & Bayne.

QUEBEC.

F. Larin, restaurant, Montreal, has assigned.
 C. Podevin & Co., restaurant, Montreal, have dissolved.

Gedeon Moreney, currier, Quebec; curator appointed.

S. Dupuis, general storekeeper, St. Amicet, is compromising.

Ray & Lescarhault, hotelkeepers, Montreal, have dissolved.

Thos. Lavoie, general storekeeper, Fraser-ville, hat assigned.

Lefebvre & Vian, dry goods, Montreal; P. Z. Vian of this firm dead.

Theodule Neveux, general storekeeper, St. Augustin, has assigned.

John McLean, general storekeeper, Murray Bay; curator appointed.

Traquair & Co., manufacturers of frilling, Montreal, have dissolved.

C. Hodgson, hat bleacher, Montreal; stock damaged by fire and water.

Nathaniel Michaud, trader, St. Eloie, has called a meeting of creditors.

Jos. T. Tetrault, general storekeeper, St. Anne de Stukely, has assigned in trust.

Chas. Houston & Co., wholesale clothing, Montreal; Chas. Houston of this firm dead.

Butchart Bros. & Co., general storekeepers, Rimouski, have called a meeting of creditors.

Chas. Chapdelaine, general storekeeper, St. Francis du Lac; demand of assignment made on him.

John G. Grant, stock broker, Montreal, has admitted Chas. G. Clouston, under style Grant & Clouston.

NOVA SCOTIA.

James McInnes, general storekeeper, Cape George, is dead.

Samuel Balcolm, general storekeeper, Salmon River, has assigned.

Alex. and Jacob Marshall, jewelers, Wolf-ville, have assigned.

R. H. McMillan, general storekeeper, Isaac's Harbor, was burned out.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

E. Hickey, general storekeeper, Sackville, has assigned.

S. H. Sherwood & Co., agricultural imple-ments, St. John, have assigned.

Grain and Milling News

There were four bids for the damaged wheat in the burned elevators at Duluth. The highest was \$25,000 for that in elevator A and \$75,000 for that in elevator Q.

A statistician of the United States agricultural bureau says on the subject of wheat raising that South America will one day be North America's greatest competitor.

The latest estimate of the deficit in French wheat supplies is 64,000,000 bus. of this year's crops, of which 14,000,000 bus. have already been received, leaving about 50,000,000 bus. still to be reported.

The damage suit of a California mill against a Liverpool firm for packing inferior flour in the second-hand sacks of the mill has been quietly compromised, the dishonest flour dealers paying a round sum in cash to effect this.

United States Consul Mason at Marseilles, France, states that the principal cereal of that district is wheat, that the cost of raising it is about 70 cents per bushel, and that the price, owing to the import duty of 27 cents, is \$1.50 per bushel.

A Chicago dealer gives the following reasons why wheat is a good property: 1—Because the stocks in the United Kingdom are 14,000,000 bushels less than one year ago. 2—Because the official estimates place the shipments from Russia, from January 1 to August 1, this year, at 21,400,000 bushels, against 51,400,000 for the corresponding period last year. 3—Because the shipments from Australia have decreased 8,000,000 bushels. 4—Because there has been an increased demand in Europe and a decreased production. 5—Because the exports from America for the first quarter have exceeded 52,000,000 bushels, and to date have been about 58,000,000 bushels.

The acreage devoted to wheat growing in England and Wales decreased more than seven per cent. last year, and the total yield was diminished by 2,173,451 bus. Within the past 15 years the wheat acreage of Great Britain has been reduced from 4,000,000 to less than 2,500,000 acres, and the prospect is that the diminution will continue. The enormous increase of production in the United States, Australia, India and other countries has so lowered the price of the cereal as to deprive the English agriculturist of the profit he formerly enjoyed. In the opinion of Prof. Thorold Rogers, "it is idle to anticipate any notable rise in this article. The wheat growing area of British India is reported to be nearly 28,000,000 of acres. That of Australia is capable of almost indefinite extension. Now, according to American returns, the United States area in 1884 was 39,500,000.—*Northwestern Miller.*

British Columbia.

H. Dickie, fruits and commission, Victoria, is reported away.

Mr. Simpson, of South Saanich, has shipped 50 boxes of pears for Winnipeg.

Ogle, Campbell & Co. will open a clothing and boot and shoe store at Vancouver.

James Fraser, watchmaker, Yale, and Guy Tuttle, saloonkeeper, of the same place, were burned out.

The coal discovered on Queen Charlotte Island, is believed to be of unlimited quantity. The seam is 18 feet thick.

The British bark Cyprus, is loading 700,000 feet of lumber at the Hastings wharf, Burrard Inlet, for Callao, South America.

The British Columbia Milling and Mining Co. have commenced work on their mining property near Baskerville, in the Carboe district,

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Thompson & Ferguson, general storekeepers, Granite Creek, have dissolved partnership, A. B. Ferguson retiring from the business.

Reports come from Leon Bar on Fraser river, that Chinamen are making good wages mining, taking out from \$8 to \$10 to the hand per day.

A huge sturgeon hanging in front of the Vancouver market attracted the attention of passers by recently. In length it measured nine feet five inches, was four feet in the thickest girth and weighed 450 pounds.

Of the three thousand miners who rushed into the Granite Creek mines last spring, about 100 white men and 150 Chinamen are remaining to winter there. One miner is reported to have taken out 50 pounds weight of gold this season.

A scheme is being considered at Calgary for the supplying of that place with a water and sewerage system.

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The *Trade Bulletin* recently referred to the anomalies existing in the C. P. R. freight on grain shipped from Manitoba, and in doing so stated that grain would be carried from Gretna to Port Arthur at five cents per bushel less than from Bagot to Port Arthur, the two points being about the same distance from the latter place. The *Bulletin* drew the inference that if the competition of a railway like the St. Paul and Manitoba compelled the C.P.R. to make such a difference in freight rates, what would be the effect upon rates were the C. P. R. to have competition for the traffic of Manitoba from a railway entirely independent of the latter road? Mr. Olds, general traffic manager of the C.P.R., answered the *Bulletin* to the effect that the difference in favor of Gretna as compared with Bagot, was but 2c per 100 pounds on wheat to Port Arthur, instead of 5c per bushel as stated. Mr. Olds gave figures stating that the rate on wheat from Gretna to Port Arthur was 28 cents per 100 pounds, whilst the rate from Bagot to the same place was 30c. per 100 pounds. The fact is that whilst the freight tariff published last fall gives the rates as stated by Mr. Olds, a very material reduction has since been made in the rates from certain Manitoba points. Can it be that Mr. Olds is in ignorance of this change in the rates, which has been in force for some time? The reduction in rates has only been at points in proximity to the St. Paul and Manitoba road as follows: Emerson, reduced from 28c per 100 pounds to 23c per 100 pounds. A similar reduction has been made at Gretna, where the rates were the same as at Emerson. Arnaud, Rosenfeldt and Dominion City have also been given a reduction in rates, the former two places to the extent of 1c and the latter 4c. Thus the real difference in favor of Emerson and Gretna, in comparison with Bagot, is 7c per 100 pounds. This anomalous condition of the wheat tariff will be made clearer when it is stated that the C.P.R. Co. will carry wheat from Gretna or Emerson to Port Arthur at 5c less per 100 pounds than from Winnipeg though the haul from the former points is about 70 miles farther.

Agriculture in Japan.

Japan has an area about equal to that of California. The natives have reduced agriculture to such scientific principles that 12,000,000 feed and clothe 38,000,000 people, besides yielding 40,000,000 pounds of tea, 25,000 bales of silk, and large quantities of rice, tobacco and hemp for export. Of the whole population 20,000,000 belong to the agricultural class. The soil is black vegetable mould, wonderfully fertile. There are few domestic animals, but the Japanese supply the place of barnyard manure with bran, seaweed, non-edible fish and lime. Rice is the great summer crop, and wheat is grown on the same land in winter. The latter is boiled like rice, or into cake, but bread is unknown. Grains are ground with small hand-mills, precisely like those used by the ancient Egyptians. Every sort of vegetable is grown and at least 100 food plants, unknown to us except as weeds, have been domesticated in Japan. Male and female laborers can be hired by the year for \$15 or \$20, but the purchasing power of money is far greater than here and the habits of the people are simple.

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