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WINNIPEG, DECEMBER 7, 1896.

Manitoba.

N. S. Moule, general merchant, Killarney, advertises his stock for sale by auction.

R. Cochrane & Co., carriage dealers, Winnipeg, have assigned in trust to John Atchison Sanderson of Brantford. The stock is offered for sale by tender.

The firm of Kastner & Cowston, dress-makers and milliners Winnipeg, have assigned in trust to S. A. D. Bertrand,

Wing, Chong Wo. & Co., importers and dealers in Chinese and Japanese goods, have opened business at 217 Portage avenue, Winnipeg. They will handle teas, fancy goods, silks, chinaware, etc.

The annual meeting of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition association was held on Thursday last. The election of directors on the board resulted as follows: L. A. Hamilton, A. J. Andrews, J. M. Ross, G. Maulson, H. Bull, D. Smith, D. E. Sprague, F. Fairchild, W. Brydon, F. W. Thompson, H. S. Grotty, G. F. Galt, R. E. Agur, J. T. Gordon, T. A. Anderson, J. A. Richard and Jas. Edmond.

Dr. Riddell, of Crystal City, contemplates moving to Morden.

Hoover & Co., general store, Franklin, have signed.

McKay & Co., agricultural implements, Morden have sold out to Adamson & Parker.

H. Duff, Stonewall, baker, has sold out to A. Shavo.

James Flegg, of the Crawford House, Winnipeg, is succeeded by R. H. Dunbar.

W. J. McKinley, Whitemouth, general store, is succeeded by Wm. Wilson.

Dry Goods Trade Notes.

Bradstreets says of the trade in the United States. "Cotton goods are firm, with a moderate call for supplies. Raw cotton is steady, and manufacturers are not disposed to force sales of goods at the expense of price. While buyers are not inclined to stock ahead any extent under present conditions. American shirtings and indigo blues and terramar shirtings advanced 3c. December. The market for dress woollens is steady, with the tone of values firm. Moderate orders for spring are being taken, but some mills are quite well sold ahead. Manufac-

turers are preparing fall samples, and in some instances have taken moderate orders for overcoatings. Within the next two weeks samples for fall will be freely shown, if clothiers are ready."

Financial and Insurance Notes.

All the banks in Toronto have issued circulars to those who have savings deposits with them, informing them that henceforth the interest of 8 1/2 per cent. on such deposits will be reduced to 3 per cent.

Grocery Trade Notes.

Willett & Gray, of New York, in their last sugar circular says: "Now that the Spanish Government have prohibited all grinding of cane until the month of February, which they set for overcoming the rebellion, it is quite certain that no sugars will be made before. In our first estimate of crops of the world, given herewith for 1896-97, we place the Cuba crop at 100,000 tons. This is subject to such corrections as may be necessary. If the war does not terminate, so that grinding can begin before April, it is not likely that our estimate will be exceeded; We estimate the cane crops for 1896-97 at 181,959 tons less than last season's, which taken in connection with Mr. Licht's estimate of beet crops, will give 451,142 tons more total production of sugar in the world than last season."

The Sugar Planters' Journal says of the Louisiana crop: "We have heard much less than usual about the sugar yield. Every report which has reached us shows that while the cane tonnage is light in places where the drouth prevailed and is good in all other sections, the sugar yield per ton of cane is everywhere larger than usual. As to injury by the cold snap of two weeks ago, it seems that it was more severe than we thought, but only in isolated localities, for much of the cane is yet perfectly green. The injury, however, is mostly confined to the more northern parishes."

Assiniboia.

A. Grunert, blacksmith, Yorkton, has sold out to Carl Hart.

McPhillips, blacksmith, Indian Head, is burned out.

Trade with the United Kingdom.

The year is closing well for the Anglo-Canadian trade. The imports from Canada into Great Britain have increased eighteen per cent. for the eleven months ending with November, totalling £12,154,369. The increases include:—Wheat, £500,000; bacon, £190,000; hams, £150,000; butter, £170,000; cheese, £280,000; eggs, £16,000; fish, £50,000; hewn wood, £185,000; sawn wood, £780,000. The exports from England to Canada increased one per cent. during the same period.

Alberta.

The Calgary Herald Co. and the Gibson Printing Co., of Calgary, have amalgamated. F. M. Robertson, grocer, Edmonton, has sold out to A. MacDonald.

The Innisfail Ranchers Supply Store, Innisfail, will hereafter be known as Powell & Co.

D. E. Adams, who handles the Hazzard mine Souris coal, says that the output from the mine this year is about four times the quantity of any previous year. The coal is coming into use all over the country.

Hardware and Paint Trade.

The Montreal Gazette says "The most prominent feature of the iron and metal market at present is the strength in tin, Canada, and other plates. It is unusual for dealers here to do any heavy importing after the close of navigation, but several of them have been compelled to place some pretty heavy contracts for delivery around the first of the year. Some of the heaviest consumers of tin plate ordered heavily recently, which is unusual at this time, and as dealers, for various reasons, bought sparingly this fall a comparative scarcity was developed. Indeed even with the supplies ordered for future delivery there is good reason to be doubtful whether there will be enough to go round between now and the spring. This condition has resulted in a very firm feeling in tin plate, and it is doubtful if good IC. coke can be had under \$3.00 while wasters range from \$2.70 to \$2.80. Canada plates are equaly strong at an advance of 15c to 25c per box over a fortnight ago. In fact, all lines of iron are strong also. Another influence contributing to strengthen values are the high freight rates this winter. Importers who were unlucky enough to have some of their shipments miss the last steamer for this port, will readily endorse this. One had a lot of bar steel that he expected to lay down for 7s 6d per ton, which will now cost 27s 6d, a difference of 20s. Another had a shipment of chain, which he was figuring on at freight rate of 10s 6d to 12s 6d, which will cost him 38s 6d. These examples are sufficient to show what the increased cost of laying down goods from now on is."

The Toronto Globe says: "There is a good demand for wools for export and as the bulk of the clip has been sold for export the offerings from the country are very small. Prices offered for fleeces wools here are firmer. The offerings are small and local dealers are offering more and quote 21c to 22c for selected country lots of washed."

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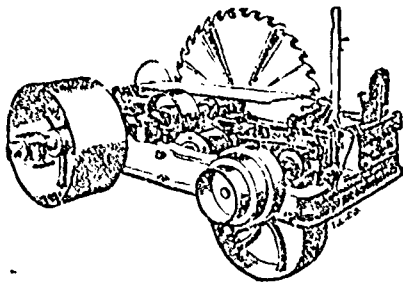
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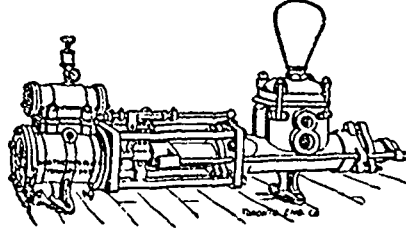


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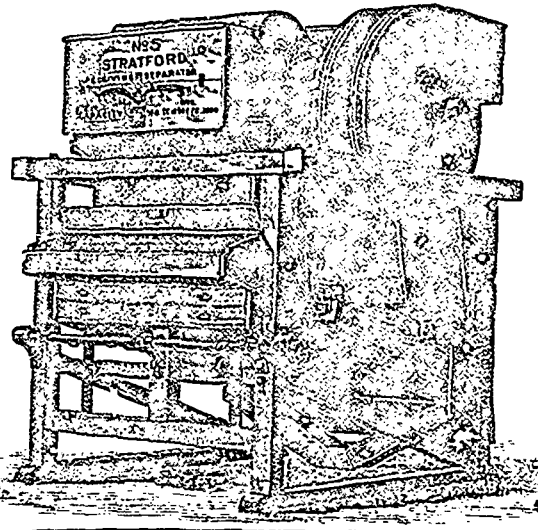
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Fancy Goods, Etc.

330 Main St., Winnipeg

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, DECEMBER 14, 1896.

EDITORIAL NOTES

THE regular monthly statistical report of wheat stocks is a very bullish one for November this year. In recent previous years there has been a large increase in stocks in the United States and Canada during November, but in November this year there was an actual decrease, though small, in American wheat stocks. In world's stocks the increase in November this year was the same as in November last, namely about 11,000,000 bushels, but the increase was in Europe, while last year the increase was mostly in America. This change in the situation, as compared with last year, is owing to the heavy importations into European importing countries last month. World's stocks of wheat on December 1 this year were 148,000,000 bushels, compared with 164,000,000 bushels a year ago. So called world's stocks include visible supplies at principal points in Europe and America and afloat for Europe. See statistical article in another column.

THE Winnipeg board of trade has decided to call the proposed business men's convention on Thursday, February 4 and following day. Invitations will be sent to business men throughout Manitoba and the Territories, and a gathering fully representative of the West, is expected to meet on the date named. A very large number of questions have been suggested by representative men all over the West, for discussion at the convention. Some of these were mentioned in a previous number of The Commercial. A great many letters have been since received, suggesting additional subjects for discussion. One matter mentioned is the improvement of our waterways, particularly the Saskatchewan river with a view to shipping coal to Manitoba points. The improvement of our waterways is a question which might well be discussed at the convention. It is a matter, the vast importance of which is not recognized as it should be by our business men. We have a grand system of inland navigation in this country, which could be opened up at a very moderate expense, thereby giving transportation facilities for heavy commodities at rates with which the railways could not begin to compete.

THE low price of bran in Manitoba would suggest the idea of some plan of condensing the product into small space to permit of the exportation of the product at a profit. There is a good sale for bran in the United Kingdom but it costs too much to get it there. Owing to its bulky nature, the freight comes high on this commodity. Might it not be possible to press the bran into blocks so that it could be handled more economically for shipment?

THE government which will try to please everybody in regard to the tariff system, will indeed have its hands full. In this tariff question what is one person's food is another person's poison. The aim of the manu-

facturer is to secure protection for his manufactures while getting his raw material free. It is no benefit to the manufacturer to have protection for his wares, if he is compelled to pay a tax on his raw material equal to the protection on his manufactures. Here the difficulty comes in. What is raw material for one industry is the manufactured product of another. Iron, for instance, is a leading commodity of raw material in a large number of factories, and those who use iron want it free; but the iron is the manufactured product of our mines and furnaces. So on all the way through the list. It is a most intricate and perplexing matter, this tariff question, when the question of protection is connected therewith. Tariff for revenue only is a very simple matter; but where a policy of protection has prevailed, as in this country, to change back or reduce the duties is a task which is puzzling in the extreme. There are also strong sectional interests working against each other, which have to be faced. For instance, the Maritime provinces want protection for their coal and iron industries, while Ontario manufacturers want these commodities free, and they claim they will be obliged to close up shop if the duties are reduced on their wares, unless there is a corresponding reduction in the tariff on their raw materials. Again, Manitoba wants free fruit, free coal oil, free implements, etc., while Ontario interests are asking for more protection on some of these lines. Then we in Manitoba want the protection continued on dairy products, flour, meats, etc., while British Columbia consumers want these things free. Verily a tariff reform is anything but a pleasant task for those who undertake it.

ONE of the wants of Manitoba and the territories is cheap fruit. The fruit consumed here is largely imported, and the duty adds materially to the cost of the goods and down here. We cannot hope to produce our own fruits in this part of the Dominion, outside of a limited class of small fruits, and the duty on fruit is therefore a great hardship to the people of these western prairies. The fruit growers of Ontario have asked for increased taxation on fruits. It is in the interest of the West that requests of this nature should not receive serious consideration. Free fruit is one of the things which the West should press for.

THE most gratifying feature of the export flour trade to Australia, which Manitoba millers have succeeded in working up, is the good prices received for the product. Heretofore the export flour trade has not been a very profitable feature of the milling industry, and this perhaps still applies to exports across the Atlantic. The export flour trade has largely been of an unprofitable nature. In the United States the millers have a large home demand for their high grades, and these grades they have usually been able to sell at home to good advantage. Their surplus grades they have got into the habit of consigning to commission dealers in England and elsewhere, and these consignments are very often sold at an actual loss to the shipper. On this account the export flour trade has for

years been an unprofitable business. The Manitoba flour trade with Australia, we are informed, is a cash business, done on direct sales, and the flour is not going forward merely as consignments. Moreover, the prices received are profitable to the millers. This is perhaps to some extent owing to the fact that it is high grade flour which is going to Australia principally. Owing to the light stocks of wheat in the Pacific coast states, flour is held at comparatively high prices in the markets of those states. This enables Manitoba millers to handle the British Columbia flour trade to better advantage than usual, besides being able to export freely to Australia.

IN MINNESOTA they have a scheme for connecting the Lake of the Woods with the Red river, by a canal. It is claimed that the scheme is perfectly feasible, and moreover, comparatively inexpensive. It is claimed by engineers that a canal could be constructed in Manitoba, to connect the Lake of the Woods with the Red river, at a very moderate cost. If such a canal could be built through the state of Minnesota, it could be built at a very much less cost on this side of the boundary. If the Rosseau river could be used for this purpose, it would leave very little solid excavating to be done. A canal connecting the Red river with the Lake of the Woods would be an immense thing for Manitoba, as it would bring the great lumbering industry to our doors and greatly cheaper the cost of building material in this province. A vast area of low lands in southeastern Manitoba could also be drained and reclaimed by means of a canal. We have it on the authority of a competent engineer, that it is possible to open a continuous waterway from Winnipeg to within forty miles of Lake Superior, for a much less amount than would be required to build a railway through the same territory. If this is true, a canal to the Lake of the Woods would be a link in a much more important system of inland navigation.

IT IS NOT always a wise thing to exclude press reporters from business or other meetings. Incorrect reports are more likely to be published through the exclusion of reporters than by their admission to meetings. A great hubbub has been worked up recently at Toronto over remarks said to have been made by a clergyman in a lecture before the Toronto Ministerial Association. The subject under discussion was "The Pope in Politics," and in the published reports a very offensive remark was attributed to the speaker. It now transpires that the objectionable statement was not made at all, but was added by the secretary of the association in his report to the press. Ministerial associations have a perfect right to exclude reporters if they deem it good policy to do so. Many business organizations follow the same custom. Under some circumstances this is quite proper, but very often it would be good policy to admit reporters. The exclusion of the representatives of the press is taken by the public as sometimes meaning that the association is not working for the general public good, but rather to further the schemes of its members, hence the reason for the privacy enforced.

Fashions in Furs.

Fashions in furs follow the tendency of the other modes, which are decidedly frivolous and whimsical. Furs this season are put to many novel uses. They are even made into ruchés, rosettes and choux, and, in spite of their value, are treated very much like velvet and silk. Luxury reigns in the matter of furs, whole sable skins of priceless value being used to decorate fancy capes and ermine, that heraldic fur, supposed to belong primarily to royalty and high dignitaries, is turned by Dame Fashion into theatre jackets, hat crowns and even buttons. Furs are a great comfort, whether from the æsthetic point of view or from the practical. Even a muskrat boa is better than none at all in this climate, and some of the imitations are very effective. Imitation jewels are not to be thought of by the refined woman, who would scorn to wear a cheap ring or brooch, but imitation furs, while not exclusive, still possess the advantage of keeping one warm.

Sable novelties include boas made up of two or more whole skins, the heads lapping over and forming a continuous neck band. Half cape boas are fashionable as well as boas that have no suggestion of a cape. A straight choker of sable with flaring wings about the ears and a big bow under the chin with long ends is a freak in furs. This same is less expensive made of half velvet. All styles of fur are used for neck wear, but the boa par excellence has the entire skin stuffed, the voracious little head being set with fierce eyes and made to rest as if on guard beneath a saucy chin.

Mink is one of the desirable furs, especially for trimmings to street suits. Lynx, though really beautiful in coloring, and comparatively inexpensive, is still not much seen. A distinguished looking collar with short stole fronts is declared to be of natural lynx. Beaver is not as popular as some seasons, though as for that it is not easy to tell what furs are not in fashion, as all are in vogue to some degree. Other jackets made with perfect stripes, in light and dark bands, are great novelties for young women.

Moufflon is the soft, becoming grayish black fur that is seen everywhere. Black Persian lamb and moufflon is one of the season's combinations. An electric seal cape has a wide moufflon border. A word about cape styles. The long capes range from eighteen inches for young women to thirty inches for elderly ones. They are very full, having a sweep of 125 to 150 inches. The thirty-inch cape provides an excellent opportunity for showing off the beauty of both sable and other furs. The shorter capes are in reality only collarettes. Their edges are broken in full ripples, which are provokingly becoming and jaunty, but their warmth, except as a neck boa, is purely imaginary. A fluffy shower of tails decorates the neck of many of these short capes. Still another barbaric fancy is to use great bunches of claws, causing the reflective individual to wonder how long it will be before the little fur-bearing animals are as scarce as the birds are becoming in some places. Heads, tails and claws are used as prodigally as metal buttons to decorate feminine toggery.

Storm collars are a study. They have been growing higher and higher all the fall and now seen as they are lined with fluffy furs they are a special feature of 1896 fashions. They are awfully smart and most becoming. They hide wrinkles and poorly shaped heads. They make elaborate coiffures a secondary consideration. Even the girl of twelve looks at you from out a refuge of fur and velvet, her glossy, curly locks peeping here and there each side of her ears. If they continue to grow in height, hats may be well disposed of, the storm collar serving as a sort of hood. Luckily wraps are removed at the

theatre, or else the storm collar would be a little less exasperating than the big hat.

Stone marten is too beautiful a fur to be neglected. It is soft and light, both in texture and coloring, which is a pale, grayish tone with a dark brown flecking. It seems to be an ideal fur for facing of the storm collar.

Chinchilla must not be forgotten as a winter fur. It is especially prominent for those fancy little simulated boleros, Etons and figaros, with which cloth and wool suits are made. As an exclusive afternoon dress, a gray light weight cloth may be mentioned, the gray being the exact tone of the lightest shade in the chinchilla, the corsage fastened with a chinchilla zouave. A similar model in light gray has the jacket fronts of the cloth edged with chinchilla and dark gray silks, with a touch of bronze and silver sequins.

Evening dresses of white brocade are made still further expensive by trimmings of real lace and fur bands.—Brooklyn Eagle.

The Fur Trade News.

The Leipzig correspondent of the New York Fur Trade Review, writing on November 11, says "Owing to the fact that the weather has been rather warm, business has been only moderately fair. Black colored Persian lamb has been a pretty good article, with a good demand from France, England and Roumania. Most buyers, however, wanted inferior or low-priced grades; large curl and medium curl were preferred for fashionable consumption; broadtails are still in good demand for France, but not to as large an extent as heretofore; flat moire, Astrakhan is offered in better supply than before, and sells fairly well; the demand for Astrakhan of rough description remains poor. There is some demand for flat crosses; the gray krimmer lambskins have been exported raw to some extent to Canada, and several parcels have been purchased for dressing, the article being used for fashionable garmets, probably instead of chinchilla. Ermine has been taken for France and other countries and still maintains the high spring prices. White Fox has had a slower sale than during last month. White hares have of late been purchased largely for France and England, the larger part being used for the new chinchilla color which is popular for the moment. Prices are firmer and higher than in the spring. White moufflons have also been purchased for chinchilla color, natural blue moufflons have been in demand for several countries; black colored Thibets meet with a good demand, and prices are still firm; Russian marmot, black dyed, is in continual demand, and prices remain high. There has been very little progress in the business in American furs during the past month; the situation for musquash is unchanged; linings do fairly well, but skins for seal imitation and similar fancy articles have had a slower sale this autumn. American marten has for some time maintained a firm position in the finer grades; mink has met with a medium demand, but most furriers have stocks of this article and desire to sell before purchasing more. As usual at this time of the year, cheap mink linings are in good demand; racoon shows no change, and exports of raw skins to Russia have been limited; sea otter imitations made of racoon are quiet, but beaver imitation sells better, and has become somewhat of a standard article since nutria became so scarce and dear. There is only a limited use for American opossum; the demand for skunk has been slightly better, some articles having been taken for France and England; beaver sells slowly; nutria is still dear, but slightly lower than in the spring. Superior grades of American otter are in good request, and some superior grades of blue fox have been

taken for France; blue dyed gray fox, made with dark sides and for much better finish than before, sells well to Russia, but prices at the London spring sales should not be higher, as the present business is due entirely to the moderate price of this article; it should also be remembered that only the best prime skins can be used for this purpose. Lynx are low in price, with only very limited demand. Japanese fox, blue dyed, has been in good request for several countries; real and bastard chinchilla have found a quick sale in spite of the high values, there is a good demand for Australian opossum, principally blue skins, for Galicia and Russia.

The London correspondent of the New York Review, written on November 11, says: "Since October 15, the date of my previous letter, trade has been steady and very satisfactory for home consumption, notwithstanding the fact that we have only very recently had favorable weather. Fur sales have done extremely well here, and were your market conditions similar, owners' prospects would be hopeful; under the conditions it is not expected that the usual offerings will be made this year. The Hudson's Bay Company have fixed the date of their sale of forty thousand Northwest coast skins for January 18, 1897. Persian lamb in all qualities continue in demand, and stocks in Moscow are said to be almost exhausted; Tibet lamb skins remain staple here and in nearly all the European capitals and it is expected that this article in the better grades will bring higher prices in January; choice crosses are scarce and the stocks of coats is small; the tendency of fashion is toward black furs, noticeably black fox, Astrakhan and Mongolian; bastard chinchilla has sold well here and the demand continues; marten and Russian sable neckwear with many tails remain in vogue and prices are firm, children's costumes are trimmed with fancy Thibet, grobe and ermine."

Winnipeg Prices a Year Ago.

Following were Winnipeg prices this week last year:

Wheat.—About 88c to 40c for No. 1 hard, country points, to farmers, and 5¢ afloat Fort William.

Flour.—Local price, per sack, Patents, \$1.70 to \$1.75; Bakers, \$1.50 to \$1.55.

Bran.—Per ton, \$9.

Shorts.—Per ton, \$11.

Oats.—Per bushel, Winnipeg street price, 15 to 16c. No car lots being taken here.

Barley.—A few loads sold at 18c to 22c.

Flax Seed.—60 to farmers at country points.

Butter.—Dairy round lots 12c to 14c

Cheese.—Jobbing price 8½ to 9c.

Eggs.—Fresh, 21c for round lots.

Beef.—City dressed, 4 to 5c, country dressed, 3 to 4c

Mutton.—Fresh, 5½ to 6c; lamb, 5½ to 6c.

Hogs.—Dressed, 4½ to 5c.

Cattle.—Butchers' 2 to 3c. Fancy, Christmas, 4 to 5c.

Hogs.—Live, off cars, 3½c.

Sheep.—Sheep and lambs 2½ to 3c off cars.

Seneca Root.—Dry 18 to 20c lb.

Poultry.—Chickens, 6½ to 8c lb; turkeys,

10c; ducks and geese, 8 to 9c.

Hides.—Green frozen, 4 to 4½c.

Wool.—Unwashed fleece, 10 to 12c.

Potatoes.—20c per bushel.

Hay.—\$5.50 per ton, car lots.

The Parsons' Produce company have brought in four cars of eastern turkeys and geese for the local and western trade. In chickens the local supply is about sufficient to meet requirements.

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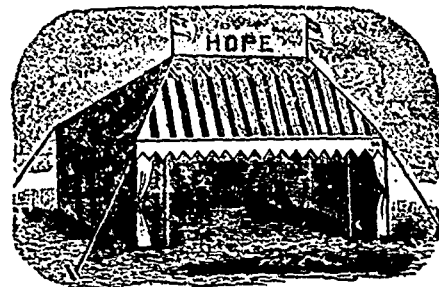
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WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

Chicago Board of Trade '088.

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

Wheat was weak on Monday, influenced by lower cables, rain in India, heavy spring wheat receipts, etc. Closing prices were about 1½c under Saturday. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.	May	July.
Wheat.....	77½	—	80½	74½
Corn.....	24	—	—	26½
Oats.....	18½	—	21½	—
Mess Pork..	6 80	7 57½	7 90	—
Lard.....	3 70	3 85	4 07½	—
Short Ribs.	3 85	3 85	4 00	—

On Tuesday wheat was irregular, at first declining sharply, owing to lower cables and local selling, but later advanced on reported large decrease in Bradstreet's report of stocks. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.	May	July.
Wheat....	77½	—	80½-7	75½
Corn.....	22½	—	26½	—
Oats.....	18½	—	21½	—
Mess Pork..	6 81	7 62½	7 95	—
Lard.....	3 72½	3 87½	4 10	—
Short Ribs.	3 87½	3 87½	4 02½	—

On Wednesday wheat was weak all the day, influenced by weak cables, local selling, decreased cash demand and large receipts of spring wheat in the northwest states. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.	May.	July.
Wheat....	75½	—	79½-4	73½
Corn.....	22½	—	26	—
Oats.....	17½	—	20½	—
Mess Pork..	6 95	7 60	7 92½	—
Lard.....	3 72½	3 87½	4 10	—
Short Ribs..	3 92½	3 87½	4 02½	—

Wheat was irregular on Thursday. Weak firm on reported crop damage from Argentine, declined under speculative selling, advanced on better cables but again declined. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.	May.	July
Wheat....	74½	—	78½	72½-8
Corn.....	22½	—	25½	—
Oats.....	17½	—	20½	—
Mess Pork..	6 95	7 70	8 00	—
Lard.....	3 77½	3 97½	4 15	—
Short Ribs..	3 97½	3 92½	4 07½	—

On Friday wheat was firmer, prices advancing on higher cables. There was some reaction, but the market was generally firm. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.	May.	July
Wheat....	76	—	79½	73½
Corn.....	22½	—	25½	—
Oats.....	17½	—	20½	—
Mess Pork..	6 80	7 57½	7 85	—
Lard.....	3 70	3 82½-5	4 02½-5	—
Short Ribs.	3 87½	3 85	3 97½	—

On Saturday, Dec. 12, May wheat opened at 80½c to 80¾c and ranged upward to 80¾c. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.	May	July
Wheat....	79	—	80½	74½
Corn.....	22½	—	25½	26½
Oats.....	17	—	20½	—
Mess Pork..	—	7 62½	7 92½	—
Lard.....	—	3 87½	—	—
Short Ribs.	—	3 87½	—	—
Flax Seed..	74	—	79½	—

A week ago May wheat closed at 82½ to ¾c. A year ago December closed at 59½c and May at 60c and two years ago December closed at 54½c at three years ago at —.

Minneapolis Markets.

The Market Record of Dec. 10, says that the market is unsatisfactory and prices below the cost of manufacturing. Prices are as follows, in bbls. f. o. b.: First patents, 4 15 to \$1.85; second patents, 4.00 to \$1.20; first clears, 3.55 to \$3.65; second clear, 1.50 to \$2.70; Red Dog, per ton, 140 for lbs. jute, 11 to \$11.50. These prices are 10 to 25c lower than a week ago.

Millstuffs—Bran in bulk, 4.50 to \$1.75; bran in sacks, 200 lbs. 5.50 to \$5.75; bran in sacks, 100 lbs. 6 to \$6.25; shorts in bulk, 4.50 to \$1.75; shorts in sacks, 100 lbs. 6 to \$3.25; millings, fine, 7.50 to \$8. These prices are 50 to 75c lower than a week ago. Middlings 50 to 75c higher.

Oats—Rango at 16c for light up to 17½c. Barley—Quoted at 20 to 25c per bushel as to grade.

Flax—Quoted at 72c per bushel, being 1c lower than a week ago.

Hay—Prairie, 8.50 to \$6 per ton, as to quality.—Market Record, December 10.

Winnipeg Clearing House.

Clearings for the week ending Dec. 10 were 1,925,008; balances, 318,811. For the previous week clearings were 2,151,299. For the corresponding week of last year clearings were 1,756,624 and for the week two years ago, were 1,349,685. Clearings for the month of Nov were \$8,995,175, compared with \$8,503,272 for Nov. 1895, and \$6,607,493 for Nov. 1894. Clearances for all Canadian cities the week ended December 3 were as follows:

Montreal.....	\$12,328,650
Toronto.....	8,496,640
Halifax.....	1,852,017
Winnipeg.....	1,925,008
Hamilton.....	780,051
St. John.....	652,592

Bank clearings at Winnipeg, Hamilton, Toronto, Montreal, and Halifax aggregate \$21,832,000 this week, a decrease of about 6 per cent., compared with last week, and almost exactly the same amount as in the corresponding week of 1895.

Hides, Wool, Etc.

A Toronto report says: Hides are ¾c lower here, and a further decline is expected next week or sooner. It is reported that the tanners are not buying hides and they are being exported to the United States. The very low prices for leather compared with the prices that have been asked for hides has led to the tanners deciding to keep out of the market. No. 1 green are quoted at 7c here and cars of cured are quoted at 8c. Sheepskins are worth 40 to 75c. Tallow easy at 24 to 24½.

The Chicago market is reported by Hides and Leather as follows. No. 1 buffs, free of brands and grubs, 40 to 60 lbs., have dropped fully ¾c in price, and probably ¾c during the week. About eight cars were sold at 8½c; 2's, 8c. A further weakening brought out offerings at 8½c and bids of 8c, with probabilities that the latter may be accepted very shortly. One or two small parcels changed hands on an 8½c basis, but the sales were not of sufficient importance to change the situation, as above described. Notwithstanding the weakness noted, stocks are not large.

Bradstreet's says of the United States wool markets: Territory wools are quoted at about 32 to 34c for good lines of fine medium and fine scoured, with choice staple up to 35c. Medium territories range from 28 to 30c, secured, for good lines. Fleeces wools are quiet, but held firm at 19 to 20c for

washed XX and above, while No. 1 Ohio washed range from 20 to 22c, the former for clothing. Quarter and three-eighths blood unwashed fleeces are quotable at 16 to 17c for combing and 15 to 16c for clothing, with a moderate sale.

British Columbia Items

Patterson & McIntosh, saw mill, Chilcotin, have moved to Cottonwood.

McDonald & McLean, fruit, Kamloops, have dissolved; M. D. McDonald continues.

Fred. H. Nelson, hotel, Kamloops, is advertising his business for sale.

Buchanan & Robinson, grocers, Nelson, have dissolved.

Booth & Charbo, hotel, Nelson, have dissolved; Pidro Charbo continues.

J. Crowe, confectionery, Rossland, is out of business.

Mary S. Nash, millinery, Union, is giving up business.

Partridge & Rennison, grocers, Union and Comox, have dissolved; Rennison continues at Union. Comox business sold to H. Ham-burger.

The dry goods stock of Henry Collins, Vancouver, has been sold to Simon Leiser.

Victor Jensen, saloon, Victoria, is dead.

Marion Davis, hotel, Waneta, is succeeded by Wm. K. Brown.

Heavy Freight Engagements.

The Lake of the Woods Milling Co. has engaged all the available space on the Australian steamers for the five months from December to April, and besides these shipments on the direct line from Vancouver to Australia, they are making some shipments on the Canadian Pacific railway steamship line via Hong Kong to Australia.

Portland Cement.

A series of comparative tests of Portland cement made by American, English, German, Belgian and Danish manufacturers, published by Engineering News, shows that no nation has a monopoly of the manufacture of good Portland cement; on the contrary, the reputable brands of cement appear to be of about the same quality in one country as another. This is, after all, what should be expected. Portland cement is made from certain well-known constituents, and if those are combined in proper proportions and the process of manufacture is correctly conducted, the product should be about the same, no matter where the manufacture is carried on. There has been and still is, a large amount of "superstition" concerning cement among engineers, and we even now hear it said that this or that or the other country is the only one that can produce "genuine" Portland cement. The diagrams published by our contemporary appear to show how little foundation there is for such statements, and "the fallacy of the still too common impression that American Portland cements are inferior to that of foreign countries."

Silver.

The market quotations for silver eased fractionally at the beginning of the week, and since then have remained almost stationary. The principal interest attached to the question whether the Indian government will buy silver in connection with the financial pressure in that country due to the famine. Silver prices on Dec. 4 were, London, 29½d., New York, 65½c.

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We can sell you Black Cattle Robes, lined and trimmed, perfectly moth-proof. Warranted never to get hard. They are the best and cheapest Robe in the market. Sizes about 60 x 70 inches. Prices, \$10.50 to \$12.00.

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To Advertisers.

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

Mercantile.

Stocks of merchandise of all kinds sold on commission. Merchants who are retiring from business and wishing to dispose of their stocks en bloc will find it to their advantage by placing them with us for sale. Business concerns of all kinds disposed of. Correspondence strictly confidential. Write for circular.

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No advance in price of the FAMOUS GALT COAL

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A. M. NANTON, 381 Main Street.

TELEPHONE 260.

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, Dec. 12.

Business in wholesale circles has been quiet this week, and the business doing has been principally in small parcels of such odds and ends as are wanted for the holiday trade. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week show a large increase over the corresponding week of the two previous years. The grain trade has been very dull. Very mild weather has been a cause of some anxiety to holders and shippers of meats and poultry. There is a good demand for men to work in the woods getting out cord wood, railway ties, etc., and the supply is scarce. There are men idle about the city, but they do not care to go to the woods.

There were 42 business failures in Canada this week, five more than last week, three more than in the week a year ago, eight more than two years ago, and four less than in the same week of 1893.

At New York yesterday money on call was easy at 1 1/2 per cent. Prime mercantile paper, 4 to 5 per cent. Bar silver, 65 3/4, silver certificates, 65 3/4; Mexican dollars, 51.

In the United States this week, according to Bradstreet's the tendency of prices was downward for bessemer pig iron, steel billets, rails, hides, leather, flour wheat, corn, oats lard, cotton and petroleum. Steady for wool, print cloths, lumber, pork and sugar. Coffee was higher. The demand for leather has fallen off and a number of factories have been closed. Dry goods are depressed by the large stocks of print cloths in the hands of manufacturers and although some New England woollen mills are well supplied with orders, there is no revival in woollen manufacturing.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Dec. 12.

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

COAL.—The mild weather this week has been a comfort to the public, but fuel dealers say it has decreased their sales one-third to one-half. However, they have no reason to grumble, as they have had a rattling good season so far, the month of November having been about the coldest on record here, and sales of coal have been in proportion to the weather. The large demand for the native soft coals keeps up the output at the Souris and Lethbridge mines being much greater than in past seasons. The output of the Souris mines is about four times greater than last year. The consumption of native coals in preference to the imported coals is gratifying as it is building up a home industry. There is no change in prices. Prices here are as follows: Pennsylvania anthracite \$10.00; western anthracite, \$9.50 per ton. Souris coal \$1.50 ton; Lethbridge \$3.50. These prices are delivered to consumers in Winnipeg. Car lots on track of Souris coal are held at \$3.85 to 3.90 per ton here, or \$1.50 per ton on cars at the mines.

CORD WOOD.—Wood fuel is still rather scarce. While there has been no actual shortage in the supply, it is held in fewer hands and is not offering at all freely. This is owing to the fact that the winter roads are in bad shape for hauling loads out of the woods to the railways. The snow fall has been heavy and it came in the mud, and

though the weather has been cold, the frost has not penetrated the snow sufficiently to freeze the swamps, consequently the roads are in bad shape in the wet swamps through which the wood must be hauled by teams to reach the railways. The roads will have to be broken up to let in the frost. Pine is held about \$1 for cars on track here, per cord; tamarac \$1.50 for last winter's cut, and poplar at \$2.50. Dead cut poplar, \$2.25.

DRUGS.—Prices here for parcel lots are as follows, with liberal reductions for large orders: Alum per pound, 3 3/4 to 4 1/4; alcohol, \$5.25 gallon; bleaching powder per pound; 6 to 8c; bluestone, 5 to 7c; borax 11 to 13 cents; bromide potash, 65 to 75c; camphor, 85 to 95c; camphor, ounces 90 to 1.00; carbolic acid, 40 to 65c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chlorate potash, 28 to 35c; citric acid, 55 to 65c. copperas 3 1/4 to 4c; cocaine, per oz., \$6.50 to \$7.00; cream tartar, per pound, 30 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; opson salts, 3 1/4 to 4c; extract logwood, bulk, 1 1/2 to 18c; do., boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 40 to 50c; glycerine, per pound, 30 to 35c; ginger, Jamaica, 30 to 35c; do., African, 20 to 25c; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 45 to 55c; iodine, \$5.50 to 6.00, insect powder, 35 to 40c; morphia sul., \$1.90 to \$2.25. Opium, \$1.50 to \$5.00; oil, olive, \$1.25 to \$1.40; oil, U. S. salad, \$1.25 to \$1.40; oil, lemon, super \$2.75 to 3.25; oil, peppermint, \$4.00 to \$4.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.50 to \$4 per gallon as to brand; oxalate acid, 18 to 16c; potass iodide, \$1.25 to 4.50; paris green, 18 to 20c lb; saltpetre; 10 to 12c; sal rochelle, 30 to 35c; shellac, 45 to 50c; sulphur flowers, 3 3/4 to 5c; sulphur roll, per keg, 3 3/4 to 5c; soda bicarb, per keg of 112 pounds, \$3.75 to \$1.25; sal soda, \$2 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55c; strychnine, pure crystals 80c to \$1.00 per oz.

FLUID BEEF, ETC.—Following are prices of the goods put up by the Johnston Fluid Beef Company of Montreal:—Johnstons Fluid Beef—No. 1, 2-oz. tins, per dozen, \$2.70; No. 2 4oz., \$1.50, 3, 8oz., \$1.88; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.88; No. 5, 2 lb., \$21.30. Staminial—2oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do, 4oz, \$5.10.

FISH.—Prices are as follows: Finnan Haddies, 7 to 8c per lb., the lower quotation only in large lots; Whitefish, 6c; Lake Superior trout, 9c; Pickerel, 4c; salmon, 12c halibut, 12 1/2c; Cod, 10c; Haddock, 10c per lb; smelts 10c; Oysters, \$1.80 per gallon for standards and \$2.00 for selects; shell oysters, \$8 to 8.50 barrel; smoked salmon, 15c lb.; bloaters, \$1.50 box; red herrings, 20c box; pickled trout, \$7.50 per barrel of 100 lbs; pickled whitefish, \$6 per barrel; salt herrings \$1.50 per barrel.

GREEN FRUITS.—Mexican oranges are about cleared up, and the market will hereafter have to depend on California. California navels are now in. Lemons to ship later on are offering lower, but they will not be here in time for the holiday trade. Malaga grapes are very firm, stocks being light, and an advance is looked for on this line. Prices are as follows: Apples \$2 to \$2.50 per barrel as to quality. California lemons \$6 per box; Mexican oranges \$5.50 California navels, \$6 per box; Cape Cod cranberries \$7 per barrel; Washington pears \$2.50 box; Malaga grapes, \$3.50 per keg. Sweet potatoes \$1.50 to \$5 per barrel.

HARDWARE.—Business is quiet, as usual at this season. Prices are as follows: Tin, lamb and 56 and 28 lb. ingots, per lb. 19 to 20c.

TIN PLATES.—Charcoal plates, I. C., 10 by 14, 12 by 12 and 14 by 20, per box, \$1.50 to \$1.75; I. X., same sizes, per box, \$5.75 to \$6; I. C., charcoal, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$8.50 to 9.00; I. X., per box, 20 by 28, 112 sheets per box, \$10.50 to 11.00,

TERNE PLATES.—I. C., 20 by 28, \$8.00 to 8.50.

IRON AND STEEL.—Bar iron, per 100 lbs. base price, \$2.35 to \$2.50; band iron, per 100 lbs., \$2.85 to 3.00; Swedish iron, per 100 lbs.; \$5.25 to 6; sleigh shoe steel, \$3.00 to 3 25; best cast tool steel, per lb, 11 to 12c; Russian sheet, per lb, 12 to 13c.

SHEET IRON.—10 to 20 gauge, \$3.00; 22 to 24 and 26 gauge, \$3.25; 28 gauge, \$3.50.

CANADA PLATES.—Garth and Blaina, \$3.10

GALVANIZED IRON.—Queen's Head, 22 to 24 gauge, per lb., 4 1/4c; 26 gauge, per lb., 4 3/4c; 28 gauge, per lb., 5c.

IRON PIPE.—50 to per 60 cent. off list.

LEAD.—Pig, per lb., 4 1/4c.

SHEET ZINC.—In casks, 5.75 lb., broken lots, 6.00.

SOLDER.—Half and half (guar) per lb, 14 to 16c.

AMMUNITION.—Cartridges—Rim fire pistol, American, discount, 40 per cent.; rim fire cartridges, Dominion, 50 and 5; rim fire military, American, net list; central fire pistol and rifle, American, 12 per cent.; central fire cartridge, Dominion, 30 per cent.; shot shells, 12 gauge, \$6 to 7.50; shot, Canadian, soft, 5 1/2c; shot, Canadian, chilled, 6c.

WIRE.—Galvanized barb wire, plain twist-ed wire and staples, \$3.25 per 100 lbs.

ROPE.—Sisal, per lb., 7 1/2 to 8c base; manilla, per lb., 9 1/2 to 10 1/2c base; cotton, 1/2 to 3/4 inch ar 1 larger, 15c lb.

AXES.—Per box, \$6.00 to 9.00.

NAILS.—Cut, per keg, base price, \$3.16 for 60 d. with usual extras; common steel wire nails, 5 to 6 inch, \$3.60 per keg; 3 to 4 inch \$3.91 keg; 2 1/2 inch, \$1.22 keg.

HORSE NAILS.—Pointed and finished, oval heads. List prices as follows: No. 5, \$7.50 box; No. 6, \$6.75 box; No 7, \$6 box; No. 8, \$5.75 box; No. 9, 10 and 11, \$5.50 box. Discount off above list prices, 45 per cent.

PAINTS, OILS, ETC.—There is very little doing in this branch. Prices are steady as follows:

PREPARED PAINTS.—Pure liquid colors, per gallon, \$1.15 to \$1.25.

DRY COLORS.—White lead, per lb., 7c; red lead, kegs 5 1/2c; yellow ochre in barrel lots, 2 1/2c; less than barrels, 3c; golden ochre, barrels, 3 1/2c; less than barrels 4c; Venetian, red, barrels, 3c; less than barrels, 3 1/2c; American vermilion, 15c; English vermilion, \$1 per lb., Paris green, 18 to 19c; Canadian metallic oxides, barrel lots 2 1/2c; less than barrel lots, 3c; English purple oxides, 100 lb. kegs, 4c; less, than kegs, 4 1/2c lb.

VARNISHES.—No. 1 furniture, per gal., \$1; extra furniture, \$1.35; pale oak, \$1.50; elastic oak, \$1.50 to \$1.75; No. 1 carriage, \$1.50 to \$1.75; hard oil finish, 1.50 to \$2; brown Japan, \$1; goldsize Japan, \$1.50; No. 1, orange shellac, \$2; pure orange shellac, \$2.50.

SUNDRIES.—Glue, S.S., in sheets, per lb., 12 1/2 to 15c; glue, white, for kalsomining, 15 to 18c. Stovo gasoline, per case, \$1.00; benzine, per case, \$1.00; benzine and gasoline, per gallon, 50c. Axle grease, Imperial per case, \$2.50; Fraser's axle grease, per case, \$3.75; diamond, do, \$2.25 per case. Coal tar, per barrel, \$8; Portland cement, per barrel, \$1.00; plaster, per barrel, \$3.10; plasterer's hair, P.P. 90c per bale; putty, in bladders, barrel lots 2 1/2c per lb., for less than barrel per lb., 2 1/2c.

WINDOW GLASS.—1st break is quoted at \$1.75 per box of 50 feet and \$2 for second break.

LINSEED OIL.—Raw, per gal., 55c; boiled, per gal., 58c in barrels; less than barrels 5c per gallon extra, with additional charges for cans.

TURPENTINE.—Pure spirits, in barrels, per gallon, 58c; less than barrels, per gallon, 58c. An additional charge for packages for small quantities.

OILS.—Range about as follows: Black oils, 25 to 30c per gallon; clear machine oils, 33 to 40c; cylinder oil, 50 to 75c, as to quality; castor oil, 10c per lb.; lard oil, 70c per gal.; tanner's or harness oil, 65c; neatsfoot oil, \$1.20; steam refined seal oil, 85c, pure winter bleached sperm oil, \$2 per gallon.

NUTS.—New nuts are now mostly in stock. Walnuts arrived this week. Tarragona almonds, 16c; Sicily filberts, large, 15c. Filberts ordinary, 12c, peanuts, roasted, 12c, peanuts, green, 9c, Ontario Chestnuts 12c, Ontario butternuts 9c. Grenoble walnuts, 15c; French walnuts, 12c lb.

REFINED PETROLEUM.—Coal oil has experienced another sharp decline in the Winnipeg market. A few weeks ago the price of refined petroleum was reduced here 3c per gallon and now another cut of 2c has been made this week. This is a big decline for a staple commodity in such a short time. On the best grade of imported oil the decline this week is 3c and 2c on other grades of Canadian and imported oils. The decline is attributed to local competition. The discount on car lots has been reduced to 1c per gallon, instead of 2c as formerly, owing to the low prices now quoted. Prices here are as follows: Silver star, 19c; crescent, 22c; oleophene, 24c in barrels. United States oils in barrels are quoted at 28c for coccone and 25c for sunlight.

WHEAT—GENERAL SITUATION.—The general tendency of wheat has been lower this week in leading markets, and yesterday prices closed about 5c under the top price of last week. Cables were lower on several days and receipts were larger at northwestern states' points on some days than had been expected. The improved crop outlook in India owing to rains there was also a factor. Then there is the usual dullness in the trade as the holiday season approaches. American stocks continue to decline, the statement of stocks east of the mountains showing a decline of 2,600,000 bushels this week, and stocks according to this statement are now down to 56,912,000 bushels, compared with 63,786,000 bushels a year ago. So called world's stocks of wheat are placed at 148,484,000 bushels, compared with 161,348,000 bushels a year ago. Exports of wheat, flour included as wheat, from both coasts of the United States this week show a marked increase as compared with preceding years: amounting to 4,222,714 bushels, contrasted with 3,653,000 bushels last week; 2,458,000 bushels in the corresponding week last year; 2,586,000 bushels in the week two years ago; 3,217,000 bushels three years ago, and as compared with 3,277,000 bushels in corresponding week of 1893.

WHEAT—LOCAL SITUATION.—Prices are lower in Manitoba country markets, but prices are so irregular that it is difficult to give any regular quotations. The nominal price for No. 1 hard wheat to farmers, at 18c freight rate points to Fort William is 63c, which is 9c lower than a week ago, but prices vary very widely, ranging all the way from 59c at western points to 66c at other points. The markets are governed by local conditions at different points. There is very little doing in country markets in Manitoba, but at some points from Mocsomin to Moosejaw, in Assiniboia, there is considerable wheat coming in, and quite a lot of wheat is held yet at some of these

western points, by farmers. Receipts of wheat at Fort William for the week ended December 5 were 171,412 bushels; shipments, 793,752 bushels; in store, 1,517,081 bushels. In the Winnipeg market this has been the duldest week of the season. There has been scarcely enough business doing on which to base quotations. Early in the week the idea was about 78c for No. 1 hard, Fort William, but yesterday No. 1 hard sold at 70c, basis of delivery at Fort William. Today the feeling is a little better, and we quote 76 to 77c for No. 1 hard. No. 2 hard 2½c under No. 1. This is above a parity with May wheat at Duluth, adding 6 to 7c carrying charges to May.

FLOUR.—Quotations are the same as noted last week. The extreme range of quotations in the local market is from \$2.30 net for patents up to \$2.45, and \$2.10 net for bakers to \$2.25. XXXX \$1.50, second bakers \$1.75. These are prices delivered to retail dealers in the city.

MILLSTUFFS.—There is no change in bran and shorts. City mills are selling at \$7 per ton for bran and \$9 for shorts, delivered in the city, in small lots. These prices do not include sacks. Larger orders are filled at \$6 and \$8 per ton.

BARLEY.—For feed barley 20 to 24c per bushel of 48 pounds has been paid to farmers, but very little is offering. City brewers are paying 25c for malting samples to farmers here, and 27 to 28c on track here for car lots. There has been no shipping business this season in barley.

OATS.—Prices about the same as quoted last week. Car lots on track here have been quoted from 24c per bushel of 34 pounds for feed quality up to 27c for choico. A few cars have sold for the woods. The street price in Winnipeg ranges from 20 to 23c as to quality to farmers. In Eastern Canada markets prices are easy and rather lower this week.

OATMEAL.—Prices are higher, owing to the high price of oats suitable for milling. Following are prices in large lots, with small lots to retail dealers held about 15c more. Rolled oatmeal in 80 lb sacks \$1.65 per sack; standard, \$1.90 and granulated \$1.90 in 98 lb sacks. Rolled wheat, 80 lbs, \$1.60 in round lots. Pot barley, \$1.70 in round lots. In Eastern Canada markets oatmeal is lower, and at summer freight rates oatmeal could now be brought in here. Here, however, prices are very firm and millers have refused to book orders for January shipment at these prices.

GROUND FEED.—Prices range from \$10 to \$15 per ton, as to quality, the top price for rolled oat feed. Ordinary mixed mill feed is held at \$12 to \$13 per ton. Anything under \$12 would be damaged wheat and mixed grains.

FLAX SEED.—The prices paid to farmers at Manitoba points is still 40 to 50c per bushel for good milling seed.

OIL CAKE.—Oil cake holds at \$16 per ton, including bags, for nutted or ground meal.

BEANS.—Round lots to jobbers held at about \$1.10 per bushel.

BUTTER.—The market is decidedly easier for butter. The western trade is stocked up for the winter, and there is very little demand for dairy goods. The local city trade is largely supplied by farmers. While western buyers were stocking up, there was a good demand here, and some rather extreme prices were paid. As intimated in The Commercial at the time, the market has been very dull since this trade was supplied, consequently prices have declined fully 2c from the extreme figures paid a few weeks ago. One of the peculiarities of the situation is, that both dairy and cream-

ery butter shipped from Manitoba to Montreal, has been shipped back west again for the trade. A lot of Manitoba dairy was purchased a short time ago in Montreal at 12c and shipped west, and a car of Manitoba creamery was also shipped to the coast from Montreal. Even if there were a good western demand, fancy prices could not be had here, in the face of the easy market at Montreal, as western buyers could buy in the latter market. We quote good dairy at 11c culls thrown out, in round lots. Creamery is held in a jobbing way at 22 to 23c.

CHEESE.—Quiet. We quote the jobbing price at 8½c to 9½c as to quality.

EGGS.—Dealers are still paying 20c per dozen here for receipts of fresh, and selling limited at 17c. Some eastern eggs have been offered.

POULTRY.—Ontario turkeys and geese are offering. The supply of Manitoba poultry is moderate, and the quality is not choice, of much of it. There is a good demand. Prices are as follows: chickens, 6 to 7c per lb; turkeys, 11 to 12c per lb; ducks and geese 8 to 9c per lb. Jobbing prices are about 1c higher than these quotations.

LARD.—Prices are lower and there has been some sharp cutting on round lots. Prices are: Pure \$1.50 for 20 lb. pails, and \$3.75 for 50 lb. pails; pure leaf lard in 3, 5 and 10 pound tins, quoted at \$5.75 per case of 60 pounds, tierces 7½c pound; cases of 30, one lb. tins, \$3.00.

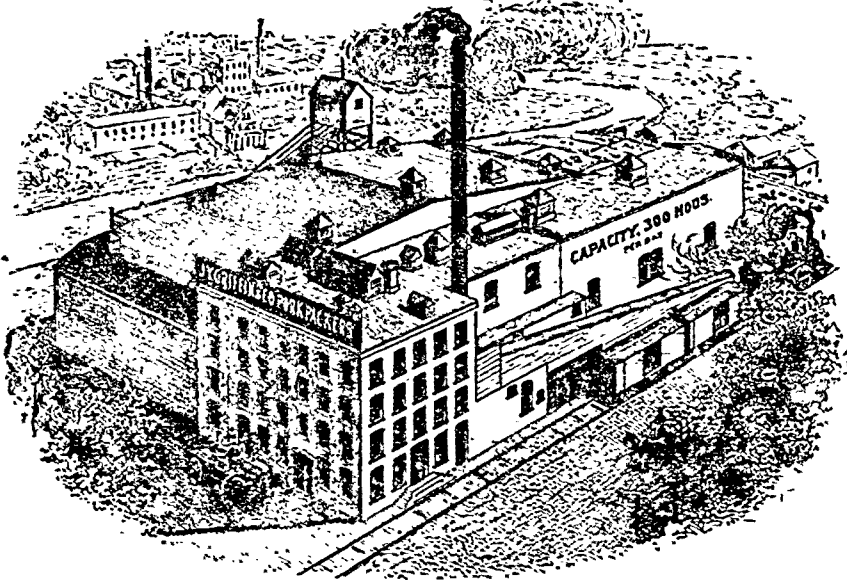
CURED MEATS.—Smoked meats are quoted: Hams, assorted sizes, 11½c; breakfast bacon, bellies, 11c; do., backs, 10c; short spiced rolls, 7½c shoulders, 7c smoked long clear, 8 cents; fancy clear, 8½ cents; Dry salt meats are quoted: Long clear bacon, 6½c per lb; shoulders, 6½c; backs, 8c; barrel pork, clear mess \$13.00; short cut, \$15.00; rolled shoulders, \$14 per barrel. Pork sundries, fresh sausage, 8c; bologna sausage, 6c; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 10c per package; pickled hocks, 8c; pickled tongues, 5c; sausage casings, 25 to 30c lb.

DRESSED MEATS.—The soft weather this week has been very unfavorable for frozen meats. The quantity of country beef offering is not large. There is a good demand for beef for shipment to the lumber woods. The quality required for this trade will bring 3 to 3½c. Country frozen beef sells at 3 to 4c as to quality. There is a good demand. City dressed beef brings 4 to 4½c for fair to good and ½ to ¾c more for choice. There is a good demand for dressed hogs from packers, at 4½c for heavy hogs up to 4½c for fancy weights. Mutton is quoted at 5 to 6c, 5½c being the usual price. Dressed lambs, 5½ to 6c. N. Rickardie, of Montreal writes as follows: "In regard to Northwest beef, prices ruling at Montreal are too low to permit shipments here, as the freight on such is 1½c per lb, and at present values it will pay the ranchers better to ship their stock to the east and mining districts. Choice headquarters of beef are selling in Montreal at 5c per lb, and fronts at 3c per lb. Lambs at 6½ to 7c, mutton, 4½ to 5½c, and hogs at 5c per lb, in a jobbing way.

HIDES.—The market is off again another 3c and it is not thought the bottom has been reached yet, as advices from other markets are unfavorable, and the price of leather has been below a parity with hides. About 1½c is the general price for country frozen hides, or 5c for No. 1 and 4c for No. 2. We quote: Hides, green, 4½c; calf, 8 to 15c lb. skins, 4 to 6c per lb., dokans 10 to 20c each; kips, 4 to 5c; sheepskins range from 40 to 60c according to quality. Horse hides, 75c to \$1.25.

WOOL.—Nothing doing here and prices nominal at 7 to 9½c. The London wool sales

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P.O. DRAWER 1240

The Live Stock Markets.

At London on Dec. 7 sheep showed a stronger feeling and prices advanced 3c to 1c per lb. with a good trade at 10 1/2 to 11c for choice. The market for cattle was steady, and choice United States steers sold at 11 1/2c. There were no Canadians offered.

At the East End abattoir market, Montreal on Dec. 7 the supply of cattle was not so large, but still in excess of requirements. The quality averaged poor. Really choice steers and heifers were scarce and values for this class of stock were fully maintained, but inferior grades were easier. A few really extra choice steers and heifers sold at 3 1/2c, sales of good to choice stock were made at 3 to 3 1/2c, while the lower grades brought all the way from 1 to 2 1/2c per lb. live weight. The receipts of sheep and lambs were very small, for which there was a good enquiry. Sheep sold at 2 1/2c to 2 3/4c, and lambs at 3 1/2c to 4c per lb. live weight.

At Toronto, Ont. on December 8 hogs advanced to 4c lb. Export cattle were dull. A few bulls were taken at 3 1/2c lb. to make up shipment going to St. John. Butchers' cattle were very slow. Some of the cattle sold as low as 1 1/2c lb. Good cattle sold at 2 to 2 1/2c, and choice at 2 1/2c to 3c. Quite a few were left unsold at the close. Stockers and feeders were in demand at 2 1/2c lb., and 3c was bid for choice feeder. Choice lambs sold at 3 1/2c to 3 3/4c. Export sheep at 2 1/2c lb., and butchers' sheep, \$2.75 each. Hogs were in good demand and firmer at 4c for choice hams, thick fat \$3.50 per cwt., sows 3c lb., and stags 2c lb.

At Chicago on December 11, hogs were active at steady prices. Coarse, heavy packing hogs were about 2 1/2c per hundred pounds lower. Sales ranged at \$3.05 to \$3.45 for common to prime with trading largely at \$3.20 to \$3.35 for both hogs and pigs.

have been rather irregular, and the full advance has not been fully maintained.

TALLOW Dealers are paying 4c for No. 1 extra and 2½ to 3½c for undergrades. Rough tallow 2c.

SENEGA ROOT—Prices have declined 1 to 1½ in the leading markets. We quote 20c per lb for dry root.

HAY.—Held at about \$5 per ton for baled prairie on track here. Demand very slow. Loose offering very freely and selling at \$2 to \$3 per load.

VEGETABLES.—Prices have advanced on most lines lately. Prices are: Potatoes, 25c Onions, 1c to 1½ lb; carrots, 30c bushel beets, 30c bushel; turnips, 20c; parsnips; 60 to 75c bushel; celery, 25 to 30c dozen; cabbage, 30 to 40c dozen. These are prices dealers buy at from market gardeners.

LIVE STOCK.

The weather has been comparatively mild in the range country for over ten days, the weather having moderated on December 2, and on some days this week the thermometer was up to 50 above zero. The snow has been reduced considerably and it is hoped there will be a clean sweep. Cattle men are feeling easier in consequence.

CATTLE—The last export shipments of the season went out early this week and the business is wound up. A little business has been done in local butchers' cattle, at 2¼ to 2½c, and for the beef supply for the lumber camps, rough cattle have been taken at equal to about 1 to 1½c. Some range cattle for the Xmas market came in. We have heard of no fancy sales for the holiday trade yet.

SHEEP.—The lot of about 1,000 range sheep shipped here by the C. A. C. Co. for local dealers, which were refused, are still held here. A few hundred head were slaughtered on account of shippers, but we understand they have not been disposed of. Really choice sheep and lambs would bring 3c, but they are scarce, receipts being poor quality.

HOGS.—There is no change in prices. We quote: Good bacon stock weighing 150 to 300 pounds 3½c. Sows and heavy hogs 2½ to 3½c, according to quality. Stags 1½ to 2½c, off cars here.

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, Dec. 8, 1896.

In spite of the stoppage of trains, and navigation on the Fraser business is reported good by wholesalers. There are no changes in the markets except that prices are firmer at the advance with an upward tendency. Fresh meats will be higher next week, and among dairy products cheese will have advanced half a cent. Fresh eggs are not obtainable at any price from retailers. Good butter appears to be plentiful. Hay is likely to advance in price still more owing to floods seriously damaging crops to the south of British Columbia on the United States side of the line. The last Australian steamer did not bring any fruit so that the market is not well supplied.

The British Columbia Inland Revenue returns for Vancouver for the month of November were \$10,600. One thousand six hundred dollars more than the returns for the corresponding month last year.

There are fifteen vessels unloading in British Columbia, a similar number unloaded last week. Eleven vessels are now unloading in Vancouver and as there is no room at the lumber wharves some of them are obliged to load from spows in the stream.

The total customs collections in Vancouver for November amounted to \$25,155.70, an increase over November 1895 of \$5,769.66.

Exports of coal from Vancouver Island for November were 47,000 tons against 37,000 in October.

Among the mines moving to the front this week as good sellers is the Athabaska situated in the Nelson mining district. This mine is well proven and assays run from \$90 away up into the thousands. The stock is very largely held on the mainland of British Columbia.

The bondholders the Ten Mile Creek silver proposition has become more prominent than ever of late owing to a rich strike being reported on the principally developed claim of the company by the manager.

There are no less than three so-called extensions of the Golden Cache mine on the market, and interest in these claims are selling freely owing to the fact that they are said to be located on the same ledge as the Golden Eagle.

British Columbia Markets.

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

(BY WIRE TO THE COMMERCIAL.)

Vancouver, December 12, 1896.

Butter.—Manitoba Dairy butter, 18c; Manitoba creamery, 25c; eastern creamery, 25c; local creamery, 28c; Manitoba cheese, 11c; local cheese, 11c.

Cured Meats.—Hams 13½ cents; breakfast bacon 12½; backs 11c; long, clear 8c; short rolls 9½ to 10c; smoked sides 9½c. Lard is held at the following figures: Tins 9½c per pound; in pails and tubs 8½c.

Game—Mallard, 25c; wildau, 25c; teal, 20c; grouse, 85c to \$1; geese, 75c to \$1.25; Venison, 4c; sand sw 35c.

Fish.—Prices are: Flounders 9c; smelt 4c; sea bass 4c; black cod 6c; rock cod 4c; red cod 4c; tommy cod 4c; herring 4c; spring salmon 10c; whiting 6c; soles 6c; smoked halibut, 10c; kippered cod 9c; sturgeon 6c; salt oolachan, 25 and 50 lb. kits \$3.75 and \$3.50; smoked salmon 10c.

Vegetables—Potatoes, \$20.00 per ton; onions, silver skins, 1c per pound; California onions 1½c; cabbage, ¾ lb; carrots, turnips and beets, \$7.50 a ton.

Eggs.—Ranch 22 to 25c; Local, 40; Eastern eggs, 23c.

Fruits.—Fruit is sold by box unless otherwise quoted. Standard American boxes measure one foot ten and a half inches by eleven and a half inches with depth of eleven inches, inside measurement, and contain from 280 to 300 lemons, from 125 to 300 seedling oranges, or from 125 to 150 naval oranges. Japanese oranges 6 to 7 doz. in box, 60 cts. California lemons, \$3.75 to \$4; California oranges, \$4 to \$4.25; California apples, 50 lb. box, \$1.35; British Columbia apples, 50 lb. box, 75c to \$1; Eastern apples \$3.75 to \$4.00 barrel.

Evaporated Fruits.—Apricots 11c per lb; peaches 7½c; plums 9 to 10c; prunes, French, 4½ to 7c; loose Muscatel raisins, 6c; London layer raisins \$1.65 box; Italian prunes, 6 to 7½c.

Nuts.—Almonds, 13c; filberts, 12½c; peanuts, 10c; Brazil, 12½c; walnuts, 10 to 16c lb.

Meal.—National mills rolled oats, 90 lb sacks, \$3.10; 45 pound sacks, \$3.10; 22½ pound sacks, \$3.20; 10.7 sacks, \$2.00. Oatmeal, 10-10's, \$3.25, 2-50's, \$3.00. Off grades, 90 lbs, \$2.70.

Flour.—Delivered B.C. points.—Manitoba patent, per barrel, \$5.70; strong bakers, \$5.80; Oregon, \$5.40.

Grain.—Local wheat, \$35. Oats, \$20 per ton.

Ground Feed.—National mills chop, \$23 to \$24 per ton; ground barley, \$22 ton; shorts, \$20.00 ton; bran \$18.00; oil cake meal, \$30 ton; F. O. B. Vancouver, including duty paid on import stuff.

Hay.—\$14.00 per ton.

Dressed Meats.—Beef, 6 to 7c; mutton, 6 to 7c; pork, 6 to 6½c; veal, 7 to 8c.

Live Stock.—Steers, \$3.00 to \$3.50; per hundred lbs.; sheep, \$3.25 to \$3.50 per 100 lbs; hogs, \$1.50 to \$1.75 per 100 lbs; lamb \$2.75 to \$3 per head.

Poultry.—Chickens, \$1.50 to \$1.50; ducks, \$5 per dozen.

Sugars.—Powdered and icing, 6½c; Paris lump, 6c; granulated, 5c; extra C, 5½c; fancy yellows 4½c; yellow 1c per lb.

Syrups.—30 gallon barrels, 1½c per pound; 10 gallon kegs, 2½c; 5 gallon kegs, \$1.50 each; 1 gallon tins, \$1 per case of 10; ½ gallon tins, \$1.75 per case of 20.

Teas.—Congo: Fair, 11½c; good, 18c, choice 26c. Ceylons: Fair 25c; good 30c; choice 35c per lb.

Winnipeg Wheat Inspection.

The following shows the number of cars of wheat inspected at *Winnipeg for the weeks ended on the dates named, compared with the number of cars inspected for the corresponding weeks a year ago, as reported by Inspector Horn to the Board of Trade.

Grade.	O. t. 17	Oct. 24	Oct. 31	Nov. 7	Nov. 14
Extra Man. H'd	7	27	60	16	29
No. 1 hard	375	315	395	178	199
No. 2 hard	12	121	111	83	79
No. 3 hard	31	60	62	45	53
No. 1 North'n.	26	13	11	10	12
No. 2 North'n.	2	4	2	3	9
No. 3 North'n.	0	0	0	0	0
No. 1 white fyte	2	3	1	0	4
No. 2 white fyte	0	2	0	0	0
No. 1 Spring	2	1	2	2	1
No. 2 Spring	0	2	0	0	0
No. 1 frosted	11	12	18	34	17
No. 2 frosted	3	9	15	33	33
No. 3 frosted	7	1	4	3	7
No. 1 Rejected	11	9	11	6	7
No. 2 Rejected	3	7	10	4	9
No Grade	0	2	3	5	1
Condemned	0	3	1	1	0
Total	610	591	611	430	451
Same week last year	426	355	224	401	206

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

A new firm has started business at Prince Albert, Sask., under the name of McLeod Fish Co., with V. LeClair as manager. The object is to ship out fish.

Stone & Company, Calgary, are slaughtering 160 head of fat cattle in their cold storage abattoir, to be shipped as dressed beef to Kootenay points.

Jas. Elder will deliver an address on "The Grain Standards" before the Farmers Institute, in Virdon on December 19.

A by-law will be voted on at Brandon, on Decem er 15, to loan \$3,000 to parties who contemplate starting a factory for the manufacture of felt goods, boots and shoes, etc. The loan is to be at 5 per cent interest, for 10 years, secured by first mortgage on the plant and premises.

Poultry-Fish



To arrive this week from Ontario one carload poultry
Turkeys, Geese, Ducks, Chickens
Have also in stock Finnan Haddies, Pickled Herring,
Boneless Codfish, Medium Smoked Herring.
Correspondence and orders solicited.

THE MANITOBA PRODUCE & COMMISSION CO.,
175 McDermott Street, Winnipeg.

PROSPECTUS OF

THE WESTERN Gold Mining Co.,

OF RAT PORTAGE.
NON-PERSONAL LIABILITY.

CAPITAL, \$750,000.

In 750,000 Shares of One Dollar each.

Head Office, RAT PORTAGE, ONT.

PRESIDENT—R. W. JAMESON, ESQ., Mayor of the City of Winnipeg.

VICE-PRESIDENT—R. H. AGUR, Manager of Massey-Harris Co., Winnipeg.

DIRECTORS.

- H. H. BECK, Insurance Manager, Winnipeg.
- F. W. DREWRY, Brewer, Winnipeg.
- JOHN PLAXTON, Plumber, Winnipeg.
- H. G. WILSON, Solicitor, Winnipeg.

Sec. Treas.—H. S. CROTTY, Real Estate Agt., Winnipeg
Trustees—R. W. JAMESON and C. S. HOARE.

Bankers—IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA.

The above gentlemen have agreed to act as a directorate and the following are identified as promoters of the Company:—

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| R. W. JAMESON. | F. W. DREWRY. | H. G. WILSON. |
| R. H. AGUR. | G. H. CAMPBELL. | H. H. BECK. |
| J. PLAXTON. | E. R. WHITEHEAD. | H. S. CROTTY. |
| | D. WILSON. | |

CONSULTING ENGINEER for British Columbia—Jno. J. Mayuhan, of Mayuhan and Campbell, Rossland.

(Incorporated under the Ontario Joint Stock Company and Mining Acts.)

OBJECTS—

To acquire properties either by purchase or working interest, from prospectors unable to properly develop their claims, develop the same to a stage when they can be placed upon the market as paying mines.

PROPERTIES—

SNOWBIRD (gold), situated half way between Rossland and Trail, on surveyed line of C. P. R.

QUEEN BEE (gold), situated four miles from Harrison Lake Sanitarium.

Both fine tunnel propositions.

Eighty acres on steamboat channel, 25 miles from Rat Portage.

Ten options at Rat Portage and Seine River districts for working interest.

ADVANTAGES—

The investor in shares of this company is not confined to dividends obtained from one claim only, but from a large number, which will be developed and sold by the company, which gives him 100 chances to one over the investor in stocks of ordinary companies cated.

200,000 shares of stock are now offered for sale at 10 cents per share, par value one dollar. No liability beyond the amount actually paid upon stock in the company attaches to the subscribers thereto or to holders thereof.

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

Applications for allotment of shares should be made to the secretary of the company, H. S. Crotty, Main street, Winnipeg, when further information can be had.

The company is now securing powers to operate in the Province of British Columbia.

The company has made financial connections in the East and in Great Britain, and its directorate are in a position to float legitimate mining schemes of any magnitude in the financial centres of the world.

Payments on stock can be made to H. S. Crotty, sec.-treas., or to credit of trustees at any branch of Imperial Bank of Canada.

For Sale and Rent

A couple of unimproved farms in the Winnipeg district for sale. Might arrange to take suitable live stock in exchange or part payment. Also Farm to rent, with possession of buildings at once. Address:

D. W. Buchanan Commercial Office,
Winnipeg.

Toronto Grain and Produce Markets.

Wheat—The market is dull, the offerings more liberal and prices are lower. Five cars of red sold west at 81c and some 59-lb. winter wheat sold at 87c. No. 1 hard is quoted at 99c for No. 1 hard North Bay and 97c for No. 2 hard; No. 1 hard is quoted at 91c Toronto and west and at 96c east.

Flour—Is dull and easier. Cars of straight roller in barrels were offered middle freights west to day at \$4.

Millfeed—Is slow at \$8 for shorts and \$7 for bran.

Barley—Is dull and easier at 30c to 31c for No. 1 outside, 27c for No. 2 and 23c to 24c for No. 3 extra. Four cars of feed sold on the G.T.R. west to-day at 21c.

Oats—Are dull at 18c for mixed and 19c for white, country points, for car lots.

Butter—Large dairy rolls, 12c to 13c; dairy pound rolls, 15c; dairy tubs, 12c to 13c; creamery rolls, 19c to 20c; creamery tubs, 18c to 19c.

Eggs—Firm at 14c for limed, 15c to 16c for cold stored and fresh gathered, and 19c to 20c for strictly new laid.

Poultry—Chickens, 24c to 45c; ducks, 40c to 55c pair; geese, 5c, and turkeys, 6c to 7c, lb.

Baled Hay—No. 1, \$11.50; low grades, from \$8 up.

Dressed Hogs—The offerings lately have been free, especially in rail lots. Select weights sell well at \$1.75 and heavy range from \$1.25 to \$1.50.—Globe, Dec. 9.

Duluth Wheat Market.

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

- Monday—Dec. 73 c. May 81c.
- Tuesday—Dec. 73 c. May 81 c.
- Wednesday—Dec. 77 c. May 80 c.
- Thursday—Dec. 76 c. May 79 c.
- Friday—Dec. 77 1/2 May 80 c.
- Saturday—Dec. 7 3/4 c. May 81 c.

A week ago December delivery closed at 80 3/4 c. A year ago December delivery closed at 53 3/4 c. Two years ago Dec. closed at 58 3/4 c. and three years ago at 60 3/4 c.

To-day, December 12, cash No. 1 hard closed at 80c and cash No. 1 northern at 78 3/4 c.

Montreal Grain and Produce Market.

Grain—No. 2 oats, 25 3/4 to 26c; malting barley, 45 to 47c; barley, feed, 31c.

Flour—Prices rule about steady. Winter wheat, 4.75 to \$5 00; spring wheat, patent, 5.20 to \$5.30; straight roller, 4.25 to \$1.50; straight roller, bags, 2.10 to \$2.25, extra, bags, 1.75 to \$1.85; Manitoba strong bakers', 4.50 to \$5.00.

Oatmeal—Prices for rolled oats are about steady at the recent decline. Standard brls. \$ 65 to \$3.75; granulated, brls., \$3.70 to \$3.80; rolled oats, brls., 3.50 to \$3.60; rolled oats, per bag, 1.75 to \$1.80.

Mill-tuffs—Bran, 9.50 to \$10.50; shorts, 11 to \$12.

Cheese—Dull and quiet. 9 1/2 c. is bid for October and 8 1/2 c. for November make, to factories.

Butter—Buyers' ideas on finest creamery are 18 1/2 c. to 18 3/4 c. and it is offered freely in the country at 18 c. Prices grade down from that to 17 1/2 c. according to quality.

Eggs—New-laid sold at 20c to 22c, choice candled and Montreal limed at 14c to 14 1/2 c. Western limed at 13c to 14c, and Western held fresh at 12c to 12 1/2 c. per dozen.

Poultry—Turkeys, 7c; chickens, 6c to 6 1/2 c; ducks, 7c to 7 1/2 c, and geese, 5c to 5 1/2 c per lb.

Dressed Hogs—The market is quiet at \$1.65 to \$1.85 in car lots, and at \$1.75 to \$3 per 100 lbs. in a jibbing way.—Gazette, Dec. 9.

Minneapolis Wheat.

On Saturday, December 12, No. 1 Northern wheat closed as follows: December at 77 1/2 c, and May at 79 1/2 c. A week ago May wheat closed at 80 3/4 c.

New York Wheat.

On Saturday, December 12, December, delivery closed at 87 3/4 c; May option at 86 3/4 c, and July at 81 1/2 c. A week ago May option closed at 88c.

The Rat Portage Gold Mining Co., Limited.

NON-PERSONAL LIABILITY.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS.

President, D. C. Cameron, Pres. of the Rat Portage Lumber Co.	Secretary, John H. Chaloner.	Engineer, C. H. Park.
Vice-Pres., Angus Carmichael, Merchant.	C. W. Chadwick, Insurance Broker.	Solicitor, Henry Langford, Crown Attorney.
Treasurer, J. H. Neeve, Local Manager Bank of Ottawa.	Hugh Armstrong, Wholesale Fish Dealer.	Bankers, The Bank of Ottawa.
	Geo. Barnes, Mayor of Rat Portage.	Broker, C. H. Enderton, Winnipeg.

CAPITAL—1,000,000. Shares of the par value of \$1 each 600,000 of these shares are in the treasury, to be issued and sold only as required for expenditure on the property

The first issue, 100,000 shares are now offered to the public at **TEN CENTS** per share, fully paid and non-assessable. This is the only opportunity now offered the public for investment in a working mine in the Rat Portage District. The property is known as

THE MASTER JACK MINE

ENGINEER'S REPORT.

SITE—The "Master Jack" mine comprises what is known as Mining Location 610 P., and contains 97 and a fraction acres. It is situated on the east arm of Blindfold Lake, about one mile from the Lake of the Woods, and lies in the heart of what has proved to be the richest gold belt so far discovered in the Lake of the Woods region. To the north and northwest of it lie the famous Saltana, the Pine Portage, the Scramble, the Treasure and many other rich properties. Immediately adjoining the Master Jack on the south and southeast lie the rich Gold Hill mines, the Jenny Leigh and a host of promising prospects.

FORMATION—The Master Jack vein is in a somewhat altered granite closely resembling the protogine in which lie the Foley, Ferguson and other mines in the Seine River. To the south of it one-half a mile the schists and traps of the Huronian system of rocks appear.

VEIN—The vein is a true fissure, strong and well defined and its surface croppings show its width to be from four to eight feet. This width is very uniform, much more so than the average vein. In no place where it has been uncovered is it less than four feet wide, and the gangue is remarkably free from the impurities of earthy matter. It is clean quartz only. This is an important factor, an absence of slaty and talcose matter in the ore means a low cost for crushing and a large percentage of its value saved. A shaft has been sunk upon it which has now reached a depth of 75 feet. Upon the surface the vein showed about four feet of clear quartz and as depth was attained a gradual widening of the vein took place. This widening seems to be permanent and it is reasonably safe to assume that the vein will average six feet of a fine quality of milling ore.

ASSAY—The assays taken from the surface was comparatively low, few of them going more than six or seven dollars a ton, but in sinking the improvement has not been in the size of the vein only. The improvement in value is as marked as is the widening of its vein, so much so that at 50 feet a general sample taken across the vein nearly seven feet wide gave \$22 a ton. Other assays gave \$10, \$17.50 and \$20, with the higher assay from the deepest portions of the shaft.

FACILITIES FOR MINING—The location of the mine is all that can be desired. Two hours' run on a steamboat from Rat Portage lands one there. The location is densely timbered with a very fine quality, and the shaft is distant from the shore of Blindfold Lake about 1000 feet only. The facilities for the rapid and economical mining and milling of its ores are exceptionally good. I should say that given a 20 stamp mill, four dollars a ton should cover cost of mining and milling. Thus it will be seen that in the case of such a large and clearly defined ore body as the Master Jack vein, ore running eight or ten dollars a ton, would pay large dividend.

There is every reason to believe that as the mine is developed large bodies of high grade ore will be encountered. The increase in value as depth is attained is a very promising feature.

In conclusion I should say that the chances for the success of the Master Jack Mine are very good.

(Signed) C. H. PARK."

IMPORTANT FEATURES

1. The large amount of development work (118 feet of shafting and drifting up to date) under which the vein had widened from 4 feet, assaying \$6.00 at surface to 7 feet assaying \$10, \$17.50, \$20 and \$22, increasing in richness as depth is attained. Work is being pushed night and day.
2. The Officers and Directors are all well known leading business men of Rat Portage, guaranteeing practical and economical management.
3. The proportion of Stock in Treasury for development purposes is unusually large and the balance of the stock will not be offered for sale in competition with the treasury stock.
4. The proceeds from the sale of stock are to be used for development purposes only.
5. The Company is incorporated under Section 18 of "An Act relating to Mines and Mining Lands" of the Ontario Laws, making shares sold at a discount free from assessment.
6. The Ontario Government Bureau of Mines periodically inspects working mines in this district and its official reports are open to the public.

Subscriptions for 100,000 SHARES of Stock or TEN CENTS on the dollar will be received at the office of the undersigned. Prospectus containing report and full information will be furnished on application.

C. H. ENDERTON,

Real Estate and Mining Broker, 446 Main St., Winnipeg.

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Can't be every place at once. Wait and see
our snaps. We are agents for the Harvey,
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Butter and Wools
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Large Storage Accommodation Free, and in Bond.

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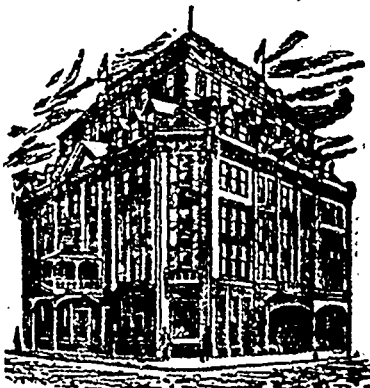
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7lb Jam Pails and Covers, Globe Wash
Boards in stock.

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TORONTO

Jno. E. Dingman, Agent, Winnipeg.

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The palace Family and Commercial
Hotel.

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Second to nothing in Canada.

W. D. DOUGLAS, - Mgr.
City Hall Square, WINNIPEG.

Carriage Dealers

Our stock of Gears, Wheels,
Shafts, Spokes, Tops, Trim-
mings, etc., is now complete.
Write us for prices.

R. Cochrane & Co.,

WINNIPEG

Live Stock Items.

An Ottawa telegram says: The Hon. A. S. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, will be in Washington on the 15th or 16th inst. He goes there to discuss with the United States authorities the question of abolishing the international quarantine. If the United States government will agree to abolish the quarantine against Canadian cattle, it is understood that Mr. Fisher will agree on behalf of Canada to do likewise.

The Macleod Gazette of Dec. 4 says: "We have now had three days of a warm chinook, and any danger that existed is over."

Wheat Stocks.

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains, for the week ended Dec. 5, 1896, shows a decrease of 2,602,000 bushels, against a decrease of 117,000 for the corresponding week last year, an increase of 819,000 bushels the corresponding week two years ago, and an increase of 692,000 bushels three years ago.

The following table shows the total visible supply of wheat at the end of the first trade week of each month for four years, as compiled by the Chicago board of trade and includes stocks at most important points of accumulation in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains. There are some important points not covered by this statement:

	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
Jan. 2...	88,531,000	80,228,000	81,239,000	45,907,000
Feb. 5...	85,376,000	79,863,000	81,281,000	43,741,000
Mar. 4...	78,765,000	75,569,000	79,088,000	41,556,000
April 1...	74,308,000	71,458,000	77,654,000	41,636,000
May 6...	62,196,000	65,168,000	75,089,000	36,180,000
June 3...	52,229,000	59,394,000	71,080,000	27,010,000
July 1...	41,661,000	54,857,000	62,316,000	23,285,000
Aug. 3...	38,517,000	60,001,000	59,424,000	26,079,000
Sept. 7...	36,754,000	60,138,000	58,140,000	33,700,000
Oct. 7...	41,832,000	73,614,000	63,275,000	51,250,000
Nov. 4...	62,990,000	80,047,000	71,396,000	61,717,000
Dec. 2...	63,903,000	85,179,000	78,091,000	72,580,000

The following shows the visible supply by weeks, for four years:

	1896.	1895.	1894.	1893.
Jan. 4...	69,842,000	87,838,000	79,933,000	81,786,000
" 11...	68,945,000	86,615,000	80,433,000	82,080,000
" 18...	67,963,000	85,288,000	80,332,000	82,227,000
" 25...	67,523,000	84,665,000	80,284,000	81,437,000
Feb. 1...	66,734,000	83,078,000	79,843,000	81,390,000
" 8...	66,110,000	82,232,000	79,660,000	80,973,000
" 15...	65,928,000	80,733,000	79,667,000	80,214,000
" 22...	65,011,000	79,476,000	77,237,000	79,418,000
March 1...	64,099,000	78,401,000	75,889,000	79,038,000
" 7...	62,696,000	77,717,000	74,607,000	79,108,000
" 14...	62,193,000	76,873,000	73,359,000	79,120,000
" 21...	61,348,000	76,773,000	72,183,000	78,204,000
" 28...	61,048,000	74,308,000	71,458,000	77,651,000
April 4...	60,822,000	72,705,000	70,762,000	77,293,000
" 11...	59,330,000	70,457,000	69,217,000	76,096,000
" 18...	58,483,000	68,626,000	68,425,000	74,869,000
" 25...	57,916,000	68,076,000	66,580,000	75,027,000
May 2...	55,006,000	69,100,000	65,150,000	73,089,000
" 9...	54,000,000	69,323,000	63,510,000	72,632,000
" 16...	54,146,000	68,484,000	62,440,000	71,526,000
" 23...	51,298,000	66,244,000	61,329,000	70,159,000
" 30...	50,340,000	64,229,000	60,394,000	70,367,000
June 6...	50,147,000	49,739,000	59,211,000	68,684,000
" 13...	49,456,000	47,717,000	57,105,000	66,370,000
" 20...	48,819,000	46,225,000	55,652,000	63,081,000
" 27...	47,860,000	44,661,000	54,657,000	62,316,000
July 4...	47,109,000	43,359,000	54,114,000	61,510,000
" 11...	47,220,000	41,237,000	53,154,000	59,328,000
" 18...	46,743,000	40,468,000	53,771,000	58,903,000
" 25...	47,142,000	39,229,000	57,144,000	59,319,000
Aug. 1...	46,784,000	38,517,000	60,001,000	59,421,000
" 8...	46,429,000	37,330,000	62,321,000	58,800,000
" 15...	45,876,000	36,802,000	63,901,000	57,812,000
" 22...	45,189,000	35,083,000	64,771,000	57,240,000
" 29...	45,674,000	34,438,000	60,949,000	56,881,000
Sept. 5...	46,495,000	36,754,000	69,168,000	56,140,000
" 12...	47,002,000	38,092,000	69,214,000	57,331,000
" 19...	49,665,000	39,383,000	70,139,000	58,695,000
" 26...	48,716,000	40,703,000	71,415,000	60,629,000
Oct. 3...	50,116,000	41,832,000	73,640,000	63,275,000
" 10...	52,444,000	44,481,000	75,771,000	65,239,000
" 17...	54,803,000	46,109,000	76,630,000	68,973,000
" 24...	57,236,000	50,486,000	78,100,000	69,327,000
" 31...	58,630,000	52,003,000	81,027,000	71,396,000
Nov. 7...	59,913,000	60,936,000	81,291,000	74,052,000
" 14...	61,003,000	63,326,000	82,232,000	76,753,000
" 21...	59,971,000	62,221,000	83,914,000	77,233,000
" 28...	58,914,000	63,903,000	85,159,000	78,091,000
Dec 5...	56,312,000	61,786,000	85,978,000	78,783,000

Bradstreet's report of stocks of wheat in Canada on November 28 is as follows:

Montreal.....	Bushels.	452,000
Toronto.....	136,000	
Kingston.....	7,000	
Winnipeg.....	216,000	
Manitoba interior elevators	2,275,000	
Fort William, Port Arthur & Keewatin.....	2,587,000	

Total stocks in the United States and Canada as reported by Bradstreet's were as follows, on November 28, 1896:

East of the Mountains.....	Bushels.	76,438,000
Pacific Coast.....	6,518,000	
Total stocks a year ago were:	bushels.	
East of the Mountains.....	87,688,000	
Pacific Coast.....	8,276,000	

Bradstreet's report for the week ended Dec. 5, shows a decrease of 2,447,000 bushels in stocks of wheat east of the mountains, making the total 73,956,000 bushels on the latter date.

Worlds stocks of wheat on December 1, 1896, (United States, Canada, in Europe and Africa for Europe) were 148,435,000 bushels, as compared with 161,318,000 bushels on Dec. 1, 1895; 181,610,000 on December 1, 1894; 190,886,000 on December 1, 1893; 175,814,000 on December 1, 1892; 157,748,000 on Dec. 1, 1891; 107,669,000 on December 1, 1890.

Montreal Grocery Market.

There has been no important change in the situation of the local sugar market during the past week. The demand for all grades is slow and refiners state that the volume of now business is small, with little prospects of improvement in the near future. The scarcity of yellows, which was a feature of the market for the past two or three weeks, is now practically over, and manufacturers state that all orders booked to date for these grades were pretty well filled. Granulated in round lots has sold at 37c, and in small quantities at 4c.

Yellow ranges from 3 1/2 to 3 3/4, as to quality at the factory. In New York granulated is unchanged at 4.11 per 100 lbs net, but this market for raw material is firmer, holders of such now asking 3 3/4 for crystals. Private cables from London to day reported the market for beet quiet at 9s 1 1/2 Dec 12, and at 9s 8d January.

There has been no improvement in the demand for syrups, and the market rules quiet and steady at 1 1/2 to 2 1/2c per lb., as to quality at the factory.

There has been more enquiry for molasses during the past week, some fair sized lots have been placed, including one lot of 200 puncheons genuine Barbadoes at 28c, and 100 of Antigua at p.s. In a jobbing way Barbadoes is selling at 28 1/2c, and mixed stock at 26 1/2c to 27c and Porto Rico at 27 1/2c. The stock of molasses on spot is not as large as was generally thought some time ago, and the indications are that it will be all wanted before next season. There is still in first hands two small cargoes of Barbadoes, and, outside of these, it is stated that few round lots are to be had.

In spices some fair sized sales of white pepper, ginger and nutmegs have been made. The ginger was placed at 3 1/4s and pepper at 3 1/2d c.i.f. Montreal. The jobbing demand has been good and a fairly active business is reported at firm prices. The following quotations are what jobbers can buy at only: Penang black pepper, 6c to 7 1/2; white pepper, 10c to 12 1/2c; cloves, 7 1/2c to 9c; cassia, 8 1/2c to 9 1/2c; nutmegs, 60c to 90c, and Jamaica ginger, 15 1/2c to 18 1/2c.

There was no change in the situation of the rice market. Advices from abroad continue very firm and values here are fully

maintained, but the volume of business doing is small at the present. We quote:—Crystal Japan, \$5.00 to \$5.25; standard B., \$1.70; Patna, \$1.50 to \$5.25; Carolina, \$6.75 to \$7.75; choice Bermuda, \$1, and Java kinds, \$1.25.

The feature in the coffee market is the scarcity of Maracaibo, which grade is chiefly sought after, but buyers find it impossible to fill their wants and prices are very firm. We quote:—Maracaibo, 17 1/2c; Santo, 11c to 16c; Rio, 16c to 16 1/2c; and Mocha, 24c to 26c.

A little more business has been done in teas since our last, but the market on the whole was quiet and not much activity is anticipated before the middle of next month, when it is expected that jobbers will commence operating again, as by that time they will have present supplies pretty well worked off. Stocks of teas here are not excessive and holders in consequence are very firm in their views. There has been a very fair demand from United States buyers for Japans and Ping-Suez gunpowder, and some good round lots have been shipped to Chicago this week.

Brokers here have also had considerable enquiries from New York for Japans, and samples have been forwarded. On local account some fair sized sales have also been made, including one lot of 500 packages of China black at 9c to 11c and 600 Japan at 15c to 16c.

In canned goods a fair jobbing business is reported, the demand from country buyers being good for small lots of most of the leading lines. The feature of late has been the strong feeling in lobsters and French Sardines, and prices for the former show an advance of 7 1/2c to \$1 per case, while for the latter they are from 50c to 75c a case higher. Recent sales of lobsters in fair sized lots have been made at \$9 to \$10 per case, according to brand, and French Sardines at \$10.25 to \$11 per case. Canned Mackerel here are very scarce and prices in consequence are firmly held at \$1.25 per dozen. Salmon are also firm on account of the scarcity of stock at the coast, buyers here who placed their orders some time ago have not had them filled yet, in regard to tomatoes, holders are still very firm in their views and the recent advance in prices is fully maintained. The following are jobbers' prices:—Lobsters, \$9.00 to \$10.00 per case; French sardines, extra brands, \$10.25 to \$11 per case; ordinary brands, \$8.00 to \$9.00; Canadian brands \$1.25; salmon, \$1.30 to \$1.40 per dozen; mackerel, \$1.25; tomatoes 70c to 75c; corn, 65c to 75c; marrow fat peas, 75c to 80c; baked beans, 81b., \$1.25 to \$1.30; peaches, \$1.90 to \$2; strawberries, \$2 to \$2.25; raspberries, \$1.75 to \$2; pin-apples, \$1.75 to \$2, and 81b. apples, 65c to 70c.—Gazette.

Comparative Prices in Staples.

	Dec. 4, 1896.	Dec. 6, 1896.
Flour, straight spring..	\$1.60 to \$1.85.	\$3.00 to \$3.10
Flour, straight winter..	\$1.65 to \$1.75.	\$3.00 to \$3.10
Wheat, No. 2 red.....	1.01	70c
Corn, No. 2 mixed.....	29 to 29 1/2c	35c
Oats, No. 2.....	23 1/2c	23 1/2c
Rye, No. 2, Western.....	46c	47c
Barley, No. 2 Milwaukee	47c	45c
Cotton, mid. upld. ..	7 1/2-16c	5 1/2c
Print cloths, 6x16.....	2 1/2	3c
Wool, Ohio & Pa., X.....	17 1/2c to 18c	17 1/2 to 18c
Wool, N. C. 1 comb.....	21 to 22c	22 1/2 to 23c
Pork, mess new.....	8.25 to 8.75	\$9.00 to \$9.50
Lard, westn, occ't.....	\$1.15	\$1.00c
Butter, ch. creamery ..	23c	25c
Cheese, ch. east fs.	10 1/2c	10c
Sugar, centrif., 99°.....	3 5-16c	3 1/2c
Sugar, granulated.....	43c	43c
Coffee, Rio, No. 7.....	10c	15c
Potroleum, N. T. Co.	\$1.05	\$1.50
Potroleum, rfd. gal., ..	0.50c	\$1.50
*Iron, Bess. pg.	\$1.75	\$1.75
*Steel billets, ton.....	\$20.25	\$18.00
Ocea & Steam freights		
Grain, Liverpool.....	4d	3d
Cotton.....	0-61d	32d

* Pittsburgh.

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W. O. MACDONALD, Actuary

J. K. MACDONALD, Managing Director

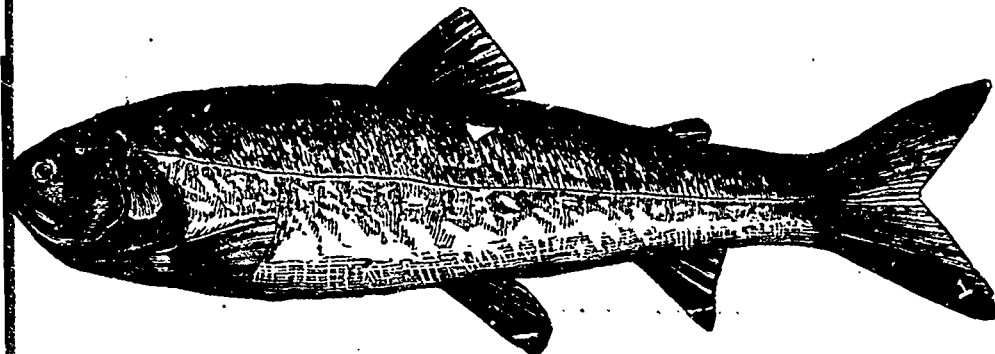
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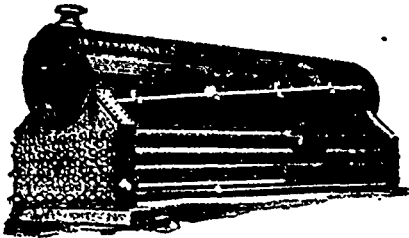
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The Commercial Bank.

The liquidators of the Commercial Bank of Manitoba have issued the following statement addressed to the shareholders:

Dear Sirs,—To enable the shareholders to intelligently understand the position of the bank with a view to deciding the most advantageous policy for the final disposition of the estate, the liquidators beg to submit the following report on the assets and liabilities, and general statement of the liquidation to the 14th November, 1891.

LIABILITIES PAID.

Bank notes in circulation—Amount redeemed, \$112,880; interest paid on same, \$5,659.82; \$118,539.82. Preferred claims—Provincial government of Manitoba, \$81,294.20, interest paid on same \$707.48; \$85,001.68. Secured loans.—Merchants Bank of Canada, \$172,583.57, Confederation Life association, \$30,000, interest paid on same, \$1,222.70; \$203,806.27. Ordinary creditors—Principal paid in cash, \$553,188.18, (offset account sundry debtors—\$72,664.17, offset account shareholders, \$21,978.62.) Sundry debtors—Paid, prior mortgages, taxes and other expenses, \$62,120.57, (\$24,930.81 subsequently recovered.) Real property account—Taxes and other expenses, \$1,977.22. Mortgage account—Prior mortgages, taxes and other expenses, \$4,103.16. Bank premises account—Contract for Minnedosa office, \$2,925.47, taxes and other expenses, \$819.09; \$3,744.56. Commission paid on collections, \$76.90; expenses re debentures, \$1.90; office furniture account, freight, insurance, etc., \$187.90. Charges account—General office advertising, printing, etc., \$5,539.70; clerks salaries, \$23,431.92; travelling expenses, \$704.72; rents and taxes, \$6,012.34; solicitors' charges, \$10,638.61; liquidators' fees, \$25,144.67; \$71,471.86. Cash on hand, \$14,145.93. Total, \$1,418,320.30.

ASSETS REALIZED.

Cash on hand, 3rd July, 1893, \$18,380.10. Bank note circulation redemption fund—Amount on deposit with Government refunded, \$19,750. Sundry debtors—Amount realized from sales of properties, \$20,682.51, other cash collections, \$916,047.81. Sundry debtors—Amounts paid for mortgages, taxes, and other expenses recovered, \$21,930.81. Total interest collected, \$37,480.43. Debentures—Portage la Prairie and Minnedosa bonds sold, \$37,715.80. Real property account—Property sold, \$3,450, rents collected \$2,437.61; \$3,887.61. Mortgage account—Prior mortgages recovered, \$2,484.75; rents collected, \$1,461.85; \$3,946.60. Bank premises—Properties sold, \$3,000; rents collected, \$15.16; \$3,045.16. Office furniture account—Furniture and stationery sold, \$1,618.55. Shareholders—Received on account

of unpaid stock, \$4,693.63, received on account of double liability, \$318,146.79; \$920,810.12. Total, \$1,418,320.30.

With reference to the item of clerks' salaries shown above, viz: \$23,431.92, I beg to state that when the bank suspended payment the total staff consisted of forty officials, including the managers, and their salaries cost at the rate of \$30,236 per annum.

This expenditure was reduced as quickly as the services of the officers could be dispensed with, and the nine branches closed.

LIABILITIES TO BE PROVIDED FOR.

Interest due to creditors, \$11,878, outstanding circulation, \$6,210, creditors' claims, \$3,819, outstanding dividend warrants, \$27, outstanding drafts, \$266; \$55,280.

All the creditors' claims which have been allowed by the court have been paid in full of principal. The amount unpaid creditors (\$3,819) shown in the above statement of liabilities represents a considerable number of depositors who have not filed their claims against the estate, and others whose claims are disputed by the liquidators.

ASSETS.

Cash on hand, \$236.84; balance at credit of liquidators in the Imperial Bank of Canada, \$15,764.98—\$16,001.82; current loans, \$6,673.70; overdue debts and overdrawn accounts, \$809,459.14—\$816,132.84. Real estate, \$20,520.68; mortgages on real estate sold by the bank, \$11,979.41; debentures, stock, stationery and furniture, \$1,636.35—\$369,271.13.

With the exception of cash on hand and deposited in the Imperial Bank of Canada (\$16,001.82) the remaining assets are mostly of a nominal character, and the figures given are those at which the debts are carried in the books of the bank, without provision being made for loss or depreciation. As tenders for the estate have been advertised for, I have made no estimate of its value in this report.

Accrued interest due creditors.—Before the estate can be finally disposed of, accrued interest amounting to \$44,878.95, due on certain creditors' claims, which are legally entitled to receive interest, and the payment of which has been directed by order of the court, requires to be realized from the assets in addition to the other unpaid liabilities.

The Reserve for Circulation and Unclaimed Balances.—Sub-section 5 of section 88 of the bank act provides that before the final distribution of the assets, the liquidators shall pay over to the minister of finance and receiver-general a sum out of the assets of the bank equal to the amount then outstanding of the notes intended for circulation issued by the bank, and upon such payment being made the bank and its assets shall be relieved from all further liability in respect

of such notes. The sum so paid shall be held by the minister of finance and receiver-general, and applied for the purpose of redeeming such outstanding notes without interest.

By sub-section 4 of section 88 of the said act, it is also provided that any monies payable by the liquidator to creditors of the bank shall be paid to the minister of finance in like manner. It will therefore be necessary to reserve out of the cash on hand above referred to the following monies; to provide for outstanding circulation, \$6,210; creditors' claims, \$3,819; outstanding dividend warrants, \$27; outstanding drafts, \$266—Total, \$10,352.

REAL ESTATE SECURITIES.

As collateral to the debts due the bank, shown in the statement of assets, the following securities, with good titles, are held by the bank: Unimproved farm lands, 9,079 acres, assessed at \$30,490; improved farm lands, 716 acres, assessed at \$4,561; city and town properties, assessed at \$21,977. In addition to the above the bank will participate as a creditor in the sale of 3,831 acres of land, to which title has been completed, in connection with the Assiniboine Valley Stock and Dairy Farming company, limited, which company is now in liquidation. The assessments of the above referred to land and properties are, as a rule, higher than the actual market value, and in many cases extremely excessive. The above item of city and town properties, assessed for \$21,977, includes vacant lots located in Prince Albert, N. W. T., assessed for \$11,000, which are of no value at present. Unimproved farm lands with imperfect titles, aggregating 10,913 acres, assessed for \$33,197, and city and town properties with equally unsatisfactory titles, assessed for \$22,833, are held by the bank in connection with debts due, but in consequence of the defective titles no value can be attached to them as an asset. Most of these defective titles are absolutely bad, and can never be remedied, so far as the bank is concerned.

Call on Original unpaid Stock.—The amount not fully paid up on original, subscribed stock is \$183,356.37.

Double Liability Calls on Stock.—The double liability of Canadian shareholders amounted to \$157,000. Of this sum the liquidators have collected (approximately 26½ per cent.) \$121,354; leaving a balance due of \$35,646. The double liability of British shareholders amounted to \$249,100. Of this sum the liquidators have collected (approximately 83 per cent.) \$206,671; leaving a balance of \$42,429. The double liability of American shareholders amounted to \$34,600. Of this sum the liquidators have collected (approximately 29 per cent.) \$10,086; leaving a balance due of \$24,514.

Winnipeg Board of Trade.

A meeting of the council of the board was held Tuesday afternoon. The committee appointed on the frontage tax system for improving the city's roads and pavements, reported that the representatives of several bodies had met the city council legislative committee, and discussed the matter in a preliminary way, and that another meeting would be held shortly.

The committee on the matter of the proposed business men's convention, to be held in Winnipeg, reported as follows:

"Your committee appointed to inquire into the advisability of having called a convention of business men of Manitoba and the Territories, beg to report. On the 16th November about 600 reply post cards were mailed to business men, asking if they approved of such a convention, to be held say the first week in February next, and also requesting them to suggest subjects for discussion at the convention. To date the following number of replies have been received: Will attend, 66; will try to attend, 45; cannot attend, 38; total, 149. Without an exception the persons replying favor the convention, and with one or two exceptions they find the date proposed satisfactory. The range of subjects suggested for discussion at the convention is very wide, and includes the following: How best to conduct a cash business? How best to compete with departmental stores? How best to discontinue credit? A cheaper means of collecting small debts than now prevails; the present customs tariff as it affects Manitoba and the Territories; freight and passenger rates; express charges; immigration; the existing exemption by-laws; how to stop the selling of staple goods at cost; deep waterways; how to prevent jobbers in the east selling to consumers in the west; construction of the Crow's Nest Pass railway; high rates of fire insurance in country towns and villages; a better system of handling farmers' produce, especially butter; grain elevator monopoly; better system of auditing accounts; insolvency law; sale of bankrupt stocks; grain standards and who should select them; refrigerator car service to Winnipeg and Rat Portage from the interior; business taxation, special rates for merchants to business centres for purchasing of goods; weighing of cars on tracks scales; general development of the west; handling of flour in eastern markets, lowering of amounts subject to garnishee order; two cent letter rate of postage, uniformity of prices of grain at country points; better train service on western extension of M. & N. W. railway; irrigation for the Territories; jobbers selling goods to school boards, patrons, etc., not in trade; creameries and cold storage; H. B. Railway; the craze for cheap goods, early closing for stores in rural districts; the elements of success in business (to be read by some successful and experienced business men) how to secure the B. C. market for prairie farmers and ranchers; extension of our manufacturing interests; a lien law for grocery bills as in some American states; compromises and extensions; need of trade councils in smaller towns; experimental farms; improvement of Saskatchewan river for shipment of coal to Manitoba; extension of Manitoba's trade, how can it be accomplished; abolition of quarantine on settlers' cattle; development of our mines.

"Your committee beg to recommend as follows: That a convention be called to meet on the evening of Thursday, the 4th of February, and continue on next day, that invitations to attend be addressed to business men in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories direct from this board; that members of the board be requested to send to the secretary list of names of persons who shall be invited, so that the list prepared by the com-

mittee may be extended; that the city council be requested to allow the convention to be held in the city council chamber; that a representative committee be appointed to take charge of all preliminary arrangements connected with the calling together of the convention when organized to arrange its own proceedings as it may see fit."

The report was adopted and the following committee appointed to make all arrangements, viz: F. H. Mathewson, Wm George-son, D. W. Bole, R. J. Whittle, J. H. Ash-down, R. T. Riley, F. W. Thompson, Andrew Strang, J. Y. Griffin, J. T. Gordon, J. B. Somersot, D. S. Johnston, M. Bull, A. Car-ruthers and J. E. Steen.

The council decided to open up a correspondence with the British association with a view to having that body visit Winnipeg after their meeting next year, which is to be held in Toronto, being the second occasion on which the association has met outside of Great Britain.

Grain and Milling.

The Edmonton Herald publishes the following description of the new flour mill at Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta: The building is 82x40 feet and 42 feet high, and has besides a stone basement of 8 feet. engine house 36x 30, and the whole covered with steel siding, the studding in the lower story is 2x12 and the upper 2x10, the whole being as complete and strong as it could be built, and a credit to any place. The machinery was supplied by Goldie & McCulloch of Galt, Ont. The purifiers in the mill are a new patent, they have also an automatic flour packer that works to perfection and will fill a 49 lb. or 93 lb. sack to an ounce, the only thing the man has to do is to lift the full sack off the platform and place an empty one there. The power is supplied by the 60 horse power Wheelock engine, and a 75 horse power boiler, and the total cost in round figures is \$12,000. The whole going to make the best and most complete \$6 barrel roller mill that stands in Canada to-day. The surrounding farmers bonused the mill to the extent of \$2,500, and to those they exchange wheat that grades 60 lbs. to the bushel, 35 lbs. S. B. flour, 10 lbs. bran and 3 lbs. shorts. The mill is owned by Percy B. Cunliffe, a young Scotchman.

At Montreal on Monday last oatmeal declined 10c per barrel for rolled, and sales of a carload lot in small quantities were made at \$3.50 to \$3.60 per barrel.

At Edmonton, Alberta, oats are worth 18 to 20c for feed quality and 23 to 25c for milling.

At Montreal on Monday the feature of the grain market was the weaker feeling in oats and prices declined $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ c. A round lot of 10,000 bushels of No. 2 white oats was offered at 25 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. without meeting with a buyer.

A sale of a cargo of No. 1 hard Manitoba wheat was made recently at New York at 93 $\frac{1}{2}$ c per bushel, afloat for export, this figure being 8c per bushel under Duluth.

Leave has been granted to the Northern Elevator company to raise its capitalization from \$250,000 to \$500,000.

Supt. Leonard and other officials of the Canadian Pacific Railway, visited Owen Sound, Ont., recently, to confer with the mayor and council regarding the question of the construction of another large grain elevator there, with a capacity of a million bushels and for increasing the company's facilities for handling grain coming from the west. A bonus will be asked from the town.

The total receipts of wheat at the four principal United States winter wheat points, Toledo, St. Louis, Detroit and Kansas City from July 1st to date are 22,056,988 bushels, against 19,501,699 bushels in 1895, and 27,-

875,470 bushels in 1891. The total receipts at the four principal spring wheat points since August 1st, the beginning of the crop year, foot up as follows: Minneapolis, 38,-103,770 bus.; Duluth, 29,459,150 bus.; Chicago, 12,429,681 bus.; Milwaukee, 4,756,-610 bus.; making a total of 79,809,214 bus. against 93,706,157 bus. during the same time last year and 78,581,239 bus. in 1891.

The Altona Milling company's flour mill, at Altona, Man., which was just completed, was burned to the ground on December 7. The cause of the fire is unknown. The mill was insured for \$3,000 in the Norwich Union and for \$3,000 in the Manchester.

The Ogilvie Milling Co., Winnipeg, contemplate the erection of a 750,000 bushel elevator in connection with their mill here. W. W. Ogilvie, of Montreal, is on his way to Winnipeg to inspect the plans of the proposed improvements. It is also contemplated to build a half million elevator at Montreal.

The Travellers.

The annual general meeting of the North-west Commercial Travellers' association of Canada was held on Dec. 5 in the board of trade rooms, Winnipeg. The president S. A. Binn, occupied the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting was read and approved, and the chairman then called for nominations for officers and board of directors. The following were received: President, A. L. Johnston, acclamation. Vice-President, J. Mundie, acclamation. Treasurer, L. C. McIntyre, acclamation. Directors, F. Drewry, J. Lindsay, E. L. Thomas, J. T. Perse, W. Hargraves, S. S. Cummings, H. W. Lathbridge, M. W. Rublee, K. McRenzie, C. R. Steele, A. P. Jeffreys, F. Couso, F. J. C. Cox. Seven of the foregoing will comprise the board. The result of the balloting will be known on Saturday evening, Dec. 19th. Auditors, S. S. Cummings, F. J. C. Cox.

The president appoint A. Strang, J. M. Lamb and T. H. Middleton as secretaries to count the ballots and report to the annual meeting to be held on Dec. 19. In former years the ballot papers were counted after the meeting was called to order, and it always caused a delay, waiting until the secretaries were finished with the work.

A. L. Johnston, chairman of the committee on by-laws, reported that they had revised the by-laws, as requested, and that a copy of the same had been mailed to each member, and will come up for discussion at the annual meeting.

After considerable discussion in regard to the annual entertainment, it was moved by E. L. Thomas, seconded by J. M. Lamb, and carried, that the annual celebration be the same as last year, viz., a conversazione and ball, to be held on Monday evening, the 28th Dec.

The following committee was appointed: E. L. Thomas, J. M. Lamb, J. Maw, F. M. Morgan, S. S. Cummings, F. Agnew, E. W. Low, F. J. C. Cox, A. P. Jeffreys, J. Y. Griffin, T. Black, A. Strang, A. McAllister, and the officers and board of directors of this year.

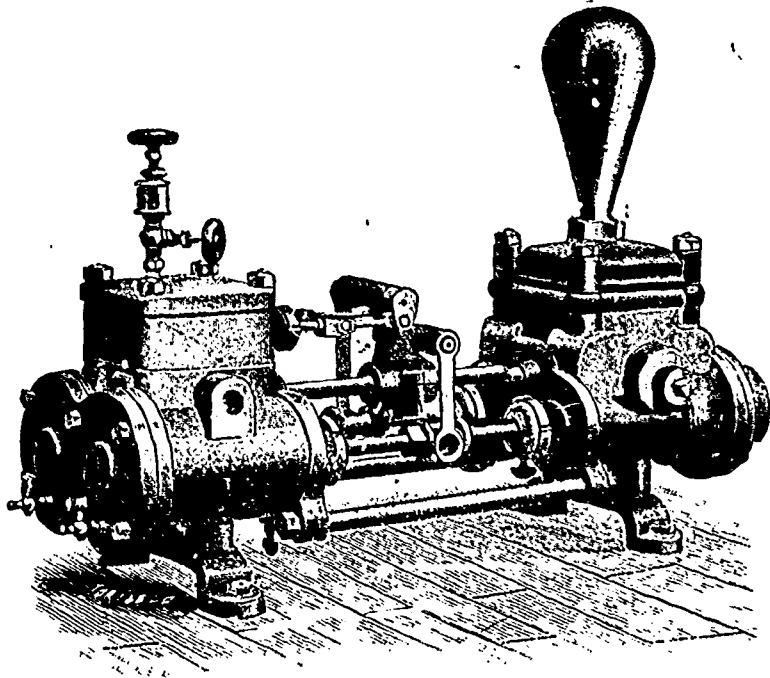
Tickets for the conversazione and ball will be \$2, including lady. An extra lady's ticket will be \$1.

Silver.

The market quotations for silver eased fractionally at the beginning of the week, and since then have remained almost stationary. The principal interest attached to the question whether the Indian government will buy silver in connection with the financial pressure in that country due to the famine. Silver prices on Dec. 4 were, London, 29 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., New York, 65 $\frac{3}{4}$ c.

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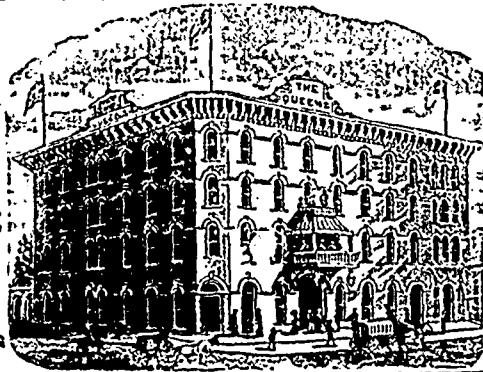
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The Commercial Bank.

Continued from Page 294.

The total liability on stock remaining unpaid is as follows: Due by Canadian shareholders, \$518,821; due by British shareholders, \$12,609, due by American shareholders, \$24,511. Total, \$395,941.

Shareholders Claims Shareholders who have fully paid all calls made by order of the court, and who are therefore entitled to rank upon the estate, hold stock amounting to \$315,900.

General Character of the Assets A complete review of the general character of the assets of the bank was given in two previous reports to the shareholders, made by the liquidators. A detailed list of the assets can be seen at the offices of the liquidators, and while the liquidators have endeavored from time to time to fully explain the true position of the bank's affairs, if any information has been omitted, the liquidators shall be pleased to hear from any of the shareholders who may desire to make inquiries regarding any special matter connected with the liquidation.

F. W. FERGUSON,
Managing Liquidator.

JOHN S. EWART,
WM. HESPELER,
Liquidators.

The Implement Duties.

The Weekly Sun, the organ of the Patrons of Industry of Ontario, takes a reasonable view of the implement duties. It says: "The existing United States tariff offers reciprocity in a number of implements, members and seem to have this in mind. According to the census, there are 220 implement factories in Canada, employing 4,500 men, with an aggregate capital of \$3,600,000. The smaller implements, forks, rakes and the like, are protected 85 per cent. The duties, on the pig iron, malleable iron, steel, nuts and bolts, etc., used in the manufacture of machines, average from 20 to 50 per cent., so that as the tariff stands it gives a bonus to the United States maker, who gets those materials at first cost. To abolish the 20 per cent. protection whilst maintaining the crushing taxes on raw material, would be even more unfair to the Canadian manufacturers. Assuming, indeed, that the duties on material were abolished and reciprocity in binders and mowers established with the United States, the Canadian manufacturer would still be handicapped. In the first place, it would cost a good deal to bring his material from the States, the freight rate on pig iron from Chicago to Toronto is \$1.75 to \$2 rail or water, or 20 per cent. of the price of a ton at Chicago. Besides having the benefit of coal, iron and steel, the United States competitors would have the advantage of larger capital and plant, as well as of cheaper transportation for the finished machine to all parts of the great wheat belt, including Manitoba. It is plain, moreover, that unless some guarantee could be obtained that Congress would continue to allow Canadian implements to enter the United States free of duty, it would be rough on Canadian makers to subject them to reciprocity. In any event, we suspect that free implements would mean the transfer of all the shops of big concerns like Massey-Harris across the line. It would be safe or them to move bag and baggage to Chicago, where they would be on even terms with McCormack and the rest, than to remain here and compete against so many obvious disadvantages.

Winnipeg Grain Exchange

A meeting of the council of the grain exchange was held on Thursday last. The first thing considered was the opening in the spring and closing in the fall of navigation at Fort William, at a latter and earlier date respectively than at Duluth. General Superintendent Whyte was present, and the matter was discussed at some length. The conclusion arrived at was that with a properly equipped boat for crushing ice, navigation at Fort William could be lengthened from two to three weeks. The council appointed a committee to work with the Canadian Pacific Railway authorities, and endeavor to secure some better means of meeting with the ice difficulty at the port. It is likely that the matter will be taken up with the Dominion government, which has charge of harbors.

A committee was appointed to draft a reply to a request from the department of trade and commerce, Ottawa, on the subject of extending and increasing the facilities for Canada's trade.

A committee consisting of R. P. Roblin, F. Phillips, and S. A. McGaw, who have been working on a scheme for insurance on grain on a coupon system, reported, and the committee was continued, and requested to communicate with the Fire Underwriters with a view to securing a meeting for discussion of the project.

After transacting routine business in connection with the closing of the year's business the council adjourned.

The annual meeting of the exchange will be held on the second Wednesday in January.

California Raisins Short.

The California raisin market continues firm, and it now transpires that the late crop on which so many were relying to make up for the deficiency in the supply is extremely light. The New York Commercial Bulletin says: "The wet weather of the past two or three weeks has put an end to drying. The crop this year was, according to different reports from 40 to 60 per cent, less than that of last year. The weather has, it is said, been most unfavorable from the beginning of the season to the present time. First there were the late spring frosts, which put the vines back, and later came the cold rains, which restricted drying. According to the best information at hand, the crop of 1896 will not exceed 2,600 cars, as compared with 4,200 cars in 1895, and some estimates place the crop for this year at not over 2,000 cars. The early demands of consumption, it is stated, used up a large part of the available supply, but left the distributors with light stocks with which to meet the requirements of the holiday trade. The fuller supply and comparatively low prices of foreign raisins, particularly Malagas, has made up for this in a measure. Still, as the consuming trade has become accustomed to look to California for the bulk of its supplies, the lower prices for foreign goods have not had the influence it might have had a few years ago. California raisins seem to have made for themselves a place in the market that they are likely to hold, it is claimed, no matter how great foreign competition may become. The upward tendency of the market for California loose raisins has brought out a larger enquiry from some sources for goods on the spot or early delivery. To day it was stated that an order for 10 cars, chiefly 3 crown loose, was sent to the coast, but although the price bid was fully up to the quotations the reply came that the order would have to be declined, as there was not sufficient stock there to fill it. The same telegram stated that the stock of 3 crowns on the coast was virtually exhausted, and that the best several of the prominent packers could do was to offer one or two cars of 3-crowns at 40c, f.o.b., firm."

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