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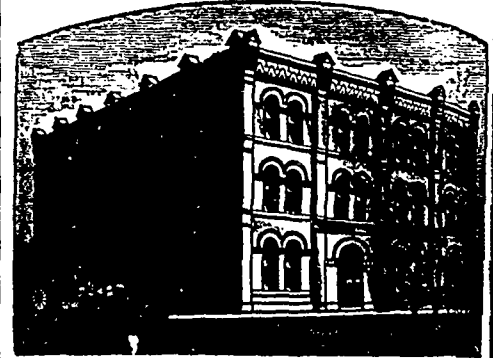
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The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much larger circulation among the business community of the country between Lake Superior and the Pacific Coast, than any other paper in Canada, daily or weekly. By a thorough system of personal solicitation, carried out annually, this journal has been placed upon the desk of the great majority of business men in the vast district designated above, and including northwestern Ontario, the provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia, and the territories of Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, JUNE 22, 1891

Manitoba.

J. Mcnefather, M. D., is opening an office at McGregor.

Lamont & Co., druggists, of Treherne, have sold out to S. L. Taylor.

Geo. Vellie, hotel keeper, Winnipeg, has sold out to J. J. Welterhouse.

Alex. McIntyre, wholesale liquor merchant, Winnipeg, succeeded by Vellie, Carey & Co.

D. J. Dyson, & Co., spice mills, Winnipeg, have admitted C. L. Farnworth into partnership.

Horsely & Todd, butchers of Winnipeg, have dissolved partnership; Richard Horsely continuing.

Reid & Gorhardt, general merchants of Neepawa and Arden, have added Grugs to their Arden branch.

Thomas Huckell has let the contract for the building of his brick block at Carberry, to Bossons, of Portage la Prairie.

The book debts of the estate of Allan M. Chaney, of Brandon, insolvent, are offered for sale by tender at a rate on the dollar.

Murray & McDerpid, Winnipeg, have purchased the planing mill on Smith St. from the Commercial Bank. They paid \$5,000 for the property.

The high wind recently carried off the roof from the Revere house, Deloraine. The inmates were badly frightened, but no further damage done.

The Farmers' league, of Cartwright are making arrangements for purchasing their own binder twine this year. A meeting was held at which prices, &c., were considered.

The Portage *Liberal* of Saturday contains the announcement of H. J. Woodside's retirement from the editorial chair of that journal. The paper will be continued by Mr. Curtis, of Martin & Curtis, who has purchased the interest of Mr. Woodside in the concern.

H. G. McMicken, of Winnipeg, who recently returned from Chicago, brought with him the latest invention of the telephone. It is the Makrophone transmitter, and by adjusting it to the telephone the speaker only has to whisper to be heard distinctly at the other end.

A Winnipeg hardware man says: "On the 5th inst. there was shipped from Toronto via Owen Sound and the lakes, consigned to us, a carload of barbed wire, which was delivered to us here on the 9th inst., being only five days on the way. This is almost as fast as passengers can be carried, and we think that the C. P. R. are deserving of credit for their enterprise in matters of this kind, and in justice to them should be noticed in the public press."

The annual meeting of the Commercial Bank of Manitoba, was held at Winnipeg on Wednesday. The president's report stated that the bank has met with an increased measure of support from the general public, and has done a profitable business during the year. After paying a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. per annum, and providing for all ascertained losses and doubtful debts, the sum of \$10,000 was added to the rest. The paid up capital of the bank has been increased since last year from \$381,000 to \$525,000. The directors intimated that they had made arrangements to establish an agency in London, Eng., under the charge of R. A. McLean & Co.

A. J. Jackson, general manager, and A. W. Belfry, travelling agent of the Canadian Mutual Loan and Investment company, head office Toronto, were in Winnipeg recently with a view of establishing a branch of their company here. Their mode of doing business is on the building society plan. A branch was decided upon here and the following local board of officers and directors was selected from among Winnipeg business men: Mayor Pearson, President; Ald. H. McDougall, 1st Vice-President; Ald. T. W. Taylor, 2nd Vice-President; G. A. Glines, Secretary-Treasurer; Wm. Brydon, Valuator; Directors, D. E. Sprague, John Patterson, A. McMicken, W. F. Doll, George Brown, S. A. D. Bertran, Dr. A. H. Ferguson, G. H. Brown; Solicitors, Mulock & Roberts. Glines & Co., have been appointed local agents.

At the adjourned annual meeting of the Manitoba Medical association, which took place in Winnipeg recently, the election of officers for the year was as follows: Dr. Jones, president; Dr. Blanchard, 1st vice-president; Dr. Thompson, (Manitou), 2nd vice-president; Dr. A. H. Ferguson, secretary-treasurer. Mr. Hart, editor of the British Medical Journal, who is now on his way home from a trip around the world, was present and he was unanimously elected an honorary member of the association. Dr. Nuttall, Vacteriologist of the John Hopkins hospital, of Baltimore, Md., was also elected an honorary member. Interesting papers were read by Dr. Ferguson and McArthur. It was decided to organize a branch of the British Medical association in this province, which will be the first in the Dominion. The next annual meeting was fixed for the second

Tuesday in August, 1892. Four delegates were selected to represent the association at the meeting of the Canada Medical association, which takes place in September. These were, Drs. O'Donnell, Ferguson, Jones and McArthur.

Saskatchewan.

A party named Toogood has opened a confectionery store at Prince Albert.

The issue of Prince Albert debentures recently advertised has been taken up by the Imperial Bank at par.

The Queen's Hotel, Battleford, has changed hands, Mr. Arcand having leased it to Mrs. Callaghan and J. D. Dewan.

The Saskatchewan newspaper of Prince Albert says: Geo. R. Russell is out in the country with a man from Winnipeg purchasing cattle for shipment to Europe. They have already purchased 300 head.

A splendid pamphlet has been issued, descriptive of the district and town of Prince Albert, Saskatchewan territory. Those in search of a place to locate should write to J. C. Coombs, Prince Albert, Sask., for a copy.

"The heavy rains of the past week," says the Battleford *Herald* of June 5th, "have already made a marked change in the appearance of the country, and raised the hopes of the agriculturists. A gentleman who keeps a careful diary of his farming operations and of the weather says the spring opened this year just as it did in 1882, except that the rainy season set in two days earlier, and that the crops of 1892 were the best ever raised in the country.

Complaint is made at Prince Albert, that the mails for that place are delayed at Regina. Mail matter forwarded in time to reach Regina on the day the train leaves for Prince Albert, frequently does not arrive, it is said, until the following train, three or four days later. There is ample time at Regina to connect with the Prince Albert train the same day, and the Prince Albert people would like the mails forwarded from Regina the day they arrive, on train days. It is also stated that mails from Prince Albert, often lay over a day at Regina before being forwarded by the Canadian Pacific.

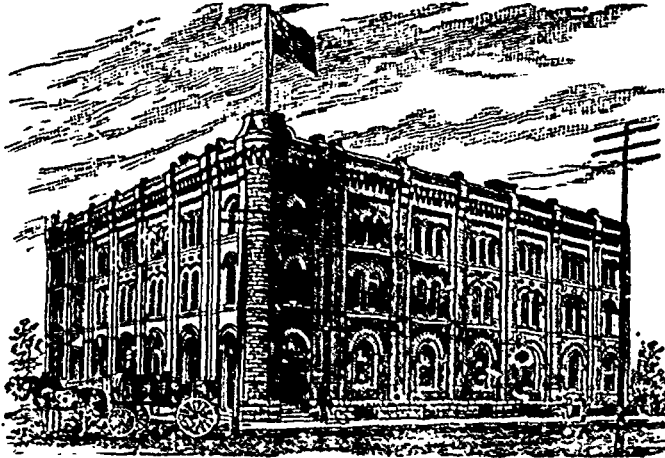
Alberta.

In the year ending October 31st, 1891, there were 117 homestead entries made in the Edmonton land office, and 8 homestead entries cancelled. Twenty patents were granted.

The report of the crown timber agent at Edmonton shows that 840,180 feet of lumber were cut by Moore & Macdowall and Lamaureux Bros saw mills last season, besides 326,166 shingles and 83,109 lath.

D. D. Mann, railway contractor, returned last Monday from the seat of operations on the Calgary & Edmonton railway. He reports the end of track five miles north of Battle river or thirty six miles north of Red Deer. Grading is going on within twenty miles of Edmonton.

At the cheese market at Belleville, Ontario, on June 9th 45 factories offered 3,904 boxes of cheese, consisting of 2,221 white and 1,683 colored, which comprised all the May makes of these factories. The following were the sales: —76 colored, 8½c; 593 colored, 8½c; 1,626 white, 8½c.

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Winnipeg, Man.

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Novelties in Pottery and Glass.

The tendency to change in the character of goods produced, and upon which we have before commented, is continued. Taken all round, the demand for medium and better class goods is increasing, while there is a diminution in the demand for the cheaper classes. Perhaps it would be more correct to say that there is less demand for the commoner goods, for there is both a demand for and a supply of low priced articles, but manufacturers are supplying these of a better quality than formerly.

Varying commercial requirements have also had their influence in altering the character of some sections of the glass trade at least. Electricity has made many demands upon the glass trade especially and it is surprising that British manufacturers have not kept more of this trade in their own hands. It is true, most of our blown glass houses are producing cut and fancy globes and shades suitable for electric purposes, and some very pretty Venetian designs are shown by Messrs. Stone Fawdry and Stone, Birmingham; Burtles, Tate & Co., Manchester, Powell & Co., Whitefriars, London; Mr. John Walsh Walsh, of Birmingham, and others, but there is a large supply coming from the Continent, which might have been furnished from our own factories. Although not to the same extent, some of our pressed glass houses have brought out specialties for electric purposes,

but the trade has not yet become so extensive in them as to make any appreciable difference in the total.

Another direction in which changes in both glass and china productions (but especially glass) are very noticeable, is the supply of table decorations. There has been a constant succession of novelties for this purpose for some time past, and as a result many attractive ornaments are obtainable at moderate prices. One in particular—a representation of the Gloire de Dijon rose—made by Mr. Walsh Walsh, of Birmingham, is very good.

In china, there are new ideas in tea sets. Some of them have the usual external decoration reproduced inside the cup. In nice neat patterns, particularly in gold, the effect is good, as well as novel. We should not care about using a tea set with an "all over," or even a "colored ground" pattern on the inside of the cups. Another novelty in china is a pretty "one-cup" tea set in white with gold handles. The shape of the pieces is slightly oval. The set we saw was the production of Messrs. Pointon & Co., (Limited), of Stoke-on-Trent.

There is a good supply of new decorations in both china and earthenware, and considering the amount of business done during the past twelve months, we do not think manufacturers have been niggardly in this respect. In shapes the greatest novelties have been in connection

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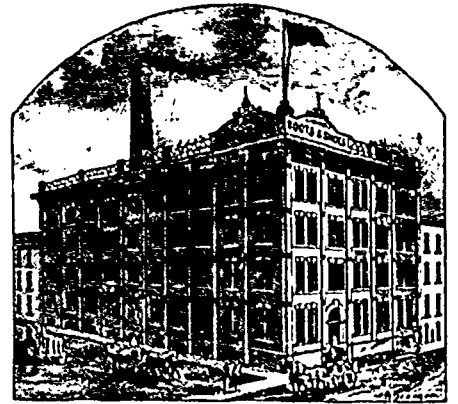
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with toilet sets. There have been some good changes from old-fashioned table ewer. Quite a variety of designs has been brought out for storing the water on the washstand, the principle of most of them being a barrel, or jug, placed behind the basin and made to swing on pivots, so that by merely tilting the receptacle, the water is supplied to the basin without the necessity for lifting the vessel containing it. There seems to be a new variation of this arrangement about every month. We have just seen one that we think is likely to eclipse all that have preceded it for utility and appearance, but as the protection of it is not completed we cannot say more about it at present. What we have for long regarded as a drawback to the new toilet sets produced, has been the sameness that has hitherto characterized the general shape of the water jug or ewer. To be a jug at all, perhaps, this comparative sameness has been unavoidable. But now that revolving barrels and hanging vases are introduced, we are provided with variations that are likely to be further extended. We have only space to refer to one more absolute novelty, and that is a specialty of Messrs. G. W. Turner & Sons, of Tunstall. It is a process of figure printing on china and earthenware, by machine. We have seen some plaques treated very artistically by this new process. One pattern, the "Terry," is, as its name suggests, a reproduction of the likeness of the famous actress, while many other subjects are treated as successfully. The process is already used with good results on toilet and desert sets, as well as on plaques, and appears to lend itself to further application.—*British Trade Journal*, London, Eng.

Offerings at the cheese market at Ingersoll, Ontario, on June 9th were 2,600 boxes; sales, 100 at 8½c, 112 at 8¼c, 2,000 at 8½c; good representation of salesmen present, but small offerings on account of several factories having sold during the week.



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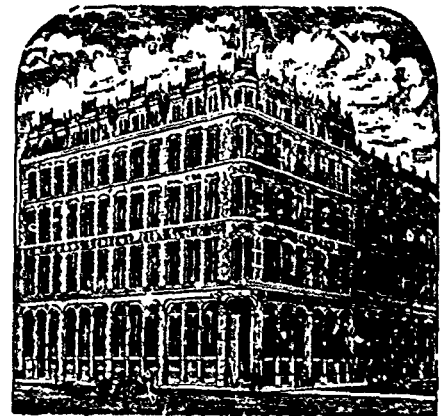
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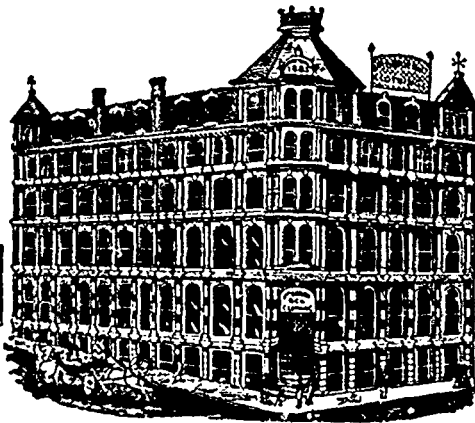
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The Commercial

WINNIPEG, JUNE 22, 1891.

THE PREMIERSHIP.

After some days of suspense the news has come from Ottawa that the Hon. J. J. C. Abbott, leader of the government party in the senate, has undertaken to form a new ministry, as successor to that of the late Sir John A. Macdonald. Later advices reported that all the remaining members of the Macdonald government had agreed to become colleagues with Mr. Abbott, though earlier reports indicated that trouble might be raised by some of the Quebec members, which would seriously imperil the situation.

Mr. Abbott, as a politician and statesman, is not by any means widely known throughout Canada, though he has taken some part in public affairs for many years. In fact, as a public man he is practically unknown, in a wide or general sense, and the fact that he has succeeded to the premiership will be a matter for much surprise and speculation.

Mr. Abbott is credited with being a man of considerable ability. That he has not cut a more illustrious figure as a public man heretofore, is claimed by his friends to be due to the fact that he has given his attention closely to his profession, and to looking after his large legal practice. His part in public matters was a secondary consideration, or but a diversion from his law business.

Mr. Abbott is a native of Argenteuil County, Quebec, where he was born in the village of St. Andrews, in 1821. His father, Rev. Joseph Abbot, was rector of the parish. He is therefore now past his 70th year of age, which is rather late in life to become suddenly a prominent public man and the head of a government. In his early years he chose law as his profession, finished his education at McGill, and was called to the bar in 1847. A little later he took a prominent part in connection with the famous annexation document of 1849, growing out of the "rebellion losses bill." He entered public life in 1857, when he was elected to represent Argenteuil in the old parliament of Canada. For a brief period about 1862, he was a member of the Executive Council and Solicitor General for Lower Canada. He continued to represent Argenteuil in the old parliament, and after confederation in the Dominion house with some intermission until 1887, when he accepted a senatorship, became leader of the government in the senate, and a member of the Macdonald administration, without a portfolio. His connection with the late government was therefore merely nominal.

It might have been expected, that a man in public life so long as Mr. Abbott has been, if he possessed the abilities of a leader, should have made his mark long ago. However this may be, he is now at the head of affairs. We have already stated the reason given by his friends, for his failure heretofore to take a leading position as a public man. He seldom took part in parliamentary debates, and upon many of the most important issues, his voice was not

heard. He has been described as a quiet observer, rather than a participator in the proceedings of the house.

Mr. Abbott has perhaps been best known in his native province as a lawyer of considerable eminence. He has been regarded for some time as the leading commercial lawyer of Quebec province. Legislation introduced or prosecuted by him in parliament has usually been on these lines. The insolvency act of 1864, and several acts relating to legal procedure, gave him a record in this direction, in addition to some published works of a similar nature. He was chairman of the banking and commerce committee during his last term in the lower house, up to 1887.

Mr. Abbott has been associated with the Canadian Pacific railway since the early days of that enterprise. As legal adviser of Sir Hugh Allen, his name was brought forward freely during the "Pacific scandal" discussion. Mr. Abbott has also been identified with the Canadian Pacific railway in its present form, from its inception. He was for many years solicitor for the company. He has a large material interest in the road, and is a director of the company. This position he will now of course resign. His interest in the great railway is such, that during his last term in the lower house of parliament, he was occasionally spoken of as representative of this railway corporation in the house, though it is claimed for him that he always refused to take any part in debates concerning the railway, on the ground of his being a director and stockholder in the company. He is a man of considerable means. He has been twice mayor of Montreal, and was offered but refused a third term.

This briefly outlines the public record of Mr. Abbott. It is not within the scope of a commercial journal to enquire too closely into the reasons which led to his attainment of the leadership of the government. The political papers will no doubt wear this aspect of the case threadbare in their discussions, and they will handle the question according to their party leanings. One thing, however, we may say, and that is, that the Abbott administration may only be regarded as a temporary arrangement, to carry the house through the present session. A general re-organization of the government, after the prorogation of the house, may be set down as a certainty. The Abbott administration is the result no doubt of political exigencies of a more or less acute nature. Jealousies and intrigues have undoubtedly been at work. As the house was in session, something had to be done at once in the way of forming a government. After the house is prorogued, there will be time for re-organization. Sir John Thompson was looked upon as the natural successor of Sir John Macdonald, while Sir Charles Tupper was a favorite with many of the party, who would be anxious to press his claim to the premiership. The selection of the Hon J.J.C. Abbott may perhaps be taken as something in the nature of a compromise between these two. The product of the political mill is sometimes of a surprising nature, and in this respect, the elevation of an almost unknown quantity to the leadership of the government, may not be wondered at, though to the Canadian people in

general, the outcome of the present political crisis will certainly appear surprising. The session is late, public business is pressing, and it is in the general interest that the country should be tided through the present session as expeditiously as possible. A prolonged political crisis would be baneful to the commercial interests of the country. To this extent, the success of the Abbott administration, as a temporary arrangement, is desirable, in the hope of an early organization of a strong government, on popular lines, after prorogation.

DULUTH TO LIVERPOOL DIRECT.

The shipment of a cargo of wheat direct from Duluth to Liverpool, without transshipment, is an important matter for this great wheat region. The claim has been frequently put forth, that the products of our western wheat fields should be loaded on steamships at our upper lake ports, and carried through to the markets of the old world without transshipment. That this will eventually come to pass has long been considered merely a matter of time. Last week the Charles W. Wetmore left Duluth with a cargo of 70,000 bushels of wheat, destined for Liverpool. The vessel is capable of carrying 100,000 bushels, but the quantity taken on gave her a draft of fourteen feet, which is all the Welland canal will permit of. With this draft the vessel can proceed as far as Kingston, but beyond this there are further difficulties to encounter in the St. Lawrence canals, which will permit of the passage of a vessel drawing not more than twelve feet. At Kingston a portion of the cargo of the Wetmore will be transferred to other craft, to allow of her passage down to Montreal. At the latter port the wheat unloaded at Kingston will again be transferred to the Wetmore, together with a sufficient additional quantity to make up a full cargo, and the steamer will then start for Liverpool.

The shipment of this cargo from Duluth to Liverpool will merely tend to show what could be done by the improvement of our canal system. If the full cargo could be loaded at Duluth and taken through, without the transshipment of a portion, the advantage would be obvious. It would mean an immense saving in freight rates between the western wheat fields and the British markets. The water route as now constituted provides a great saving in freights, permitting as it does the passage through to Montreal of smaller craft only. If large carriers of freight could load at our upper lake ports, and proceed without obstruction direct to tide water, the value of the water route would be vastly enhanced. At present wheat is carried from our lake ports at Fort William or Port Arthur, to Owen Sound, Sarnia, or some other port, where it is transferred to cars and forwarded to Montreal, or some other ocean port, and then again is transferred to ocean vessels for shipment across the Atlantic. Freight can be handled so much more cheaply by water, that it pays to transfer wheat from the cars at the upper lake ports, merely for the advantage of taking it by water a portion of the way to Montreal, and then transfer it back to the cars again for the balance of the

route. Large vessels can of course carry freight much cheaper than smaller ones, consequently were the canals enlarged to allow of the passage of the large upper lake craft through to Montreal, a vast saving in freights would be made. But when it comes to leading a vessel at an upper lake port for Liverpool direct, a still greater saving is apparent. It would mean millions in the pocket of western wheat producers every year.

The enlargements of the St. Lawrence canals, is a work which should be earnestly undertaken by the Dominion. It is true vast sums have been expended upon these canals to bring them to their present state of usefulness. This, however, is no argument in favor of stopping off now, and allowing them to remain as they are. On the contrary the argument should be, that if it was worth while spending so much money to render partially available the advantages of the water route, it would be profitable to carry out the work so as to give the greatest possible advantage from the water route. As it now stands, the water route can be used to but a limited extent, in comparison with what it might be. In fact, the value of the route might be increased to more than double its present importance, by the enlargement of the canals. The vast traffic from the west, on each side of the boundary, increasing as it is rapidly year by year, would be rendered almost entirely tributary to the Canadian route via Montreal, by the improvement of our canal system, making Montreal at the same time the greatest seaport on the continent. The immense traffic which would go to Montreal may be conjectured, when we state that the freight tonnage annually passing through the Sault Ste. Marie canal alone is greater than that through the Suez canal.

In connection with this article it may be stated that improvements are being made in the St. Lawrence canals to give them the same navigable depth as the Welland, namely 14 feet. The total canal mileage between Port Arthur and Montreal is 70½ miles. Six of these canals are on the St. Lawrence river, proper. Then there is the Welland canal, connecting lakes Erie and Ontario, 26½ miles long. The Sault and the St. Clair canals are controlled by the United States, but a Canadian canal is being built at the Sault, to have a depth of 18 feet. Vessels drawing 27½ feet of water can ascend from the gulf as far as Montreal.

BEHRING SEA SEALS.

The agreement between Great Britain and the United States, to prevent the killing of seal in Behring sea for a season, has been signed and is to be enforced at once. Telegrams from Washington on Monday last, announced the final ratification of the arrangement. The conditions are substantially as explained in the last issue of this journal. The two Governments agree to prevent their citizens from killing seal in "that part of Behring sea lying eastward of a line of demarcation described in article No. 1 of the treaty of 1867 between the United States and Russia," and will use their best efforts to ensure the observance of the prohibition. The United States is to allow the killing of 7,500 seal only for the subsistence of certain natives.

The prohibition is to continue in force until May 5 next. British vessels may be seized by United States authorities, or *vice versa*, but vessels so seized are to be handed over to the authorities of the nation to which they belong, for trial and penalty.

The agreement has been finally signed with the express understanding that the general questions relating to the Behring sea controversy are to be settled during the period of prohibition.

The conditions of this agreement, viewed from the standpoint of those interested in the sealing industry, seem decidedly harsh and unjust. If notice had been given a reasonable length of time beforehand, there would not be so much ground for complaint, though even in the latter case, a large amount of capital would be retired to enforced idleness. As it is the order has been given at the commencement of the sealing season, and after the vessels have been fitted out and supplies laid in for the trip. Thus in addition to the heavy loss from investments lying idle and going to decay, must be added the unnecessary expense of fitting out and supplying the schooners for the cruise. From this standpoint there is nothing that can be said in favor of the agreement. The loss to the sealing interests of British Columbia will be very heavy.

Montreal Markets.

Flour.—The flour market is dull and easy at the late decline of 25c per bbl in both spring and winter brands. Patent, winter, \$5.50 to \$5.65; patent, spring, \$5.85 to \$6.00; straight roller, \$5.00 to \$5.15; extra, \$4.85 to \$5.00; superfine, \$4.50 to \$4.70; fine, \$4.00 to \$4.50; Manitoba bakers \$5.50 to \$5.70.

Wheat.—Car lots of No. 2 hard Manitoba wheat have been sold to Ontario millers at \$1.16, and No. 3 hard at \$1.04 Montreal freights. We quote prices here at \$1.14 for No. 2 hard, and \$1.03 to \$1.04 for No. 3 hard.

Oatmeal.—The market for oatmeal is weak and lower, the sale of a round lot of Standard being reported at \$5.50 laid down here, and we quote \$5.50 to \$5.70 per bbl. Granulated and rolled at \$5.75 to \$5.85, with jodding lots higher.

Bran.—The market is firmer and higher at \$15.50 to \$16.00. United States buyers are in market. Shorts are scarce and firm at \$20 and Mouillee at \$26 to \$30.

Oats.—The advance reported last week has been followed by a further rise of 2c to 3c per bushel, Ontario white oats having sold in car lots at 55c to 56c as to quality, about six cars being placed at those figures. Manitoba mixed are also firmer at 53c to 54c. A lot of 2 cars of the latter sold at 53.

Barley.—Feed barley is quoted at 57 to 58c, and malting grades 85 to 70c.

Eggs.—Steady at 11 to 11½c.

Provisions.—Canada short cut mess pork, per bbl, \$17.00 to \$17.50; extra mess beef, per bbl, \$15.00 to \$15.50; hams, city cured, per lb, 10½ to 11½; lard, in pails, per lb, 8c to 9c; bacon, per lb, 10c to 11c; shoulders, per lb, 9½c to 10c.

Butter.—Receipts continue steadily to accumulate, and prices are gradually receding to a lower basis. English shippers are looking for June creamery at 18c, and we hear that a

round lot has been sold at the factory at 18c and another lot is offered to a shipper at 18c delivered here. Holders however as a rule are not inclined to accept 18c. City grocers are just now running on fine Townships for which they are paying 16c to 17c. Lower ports and Newfoundland buyers have taken a few lots of fresh western at 14c to 15c. The few lots of rolls left over are being sold at low prices, a lot of 4 pkgs being just sold at 10c.

Cheese.—The bulk of this week's finest cheese leaving here this week cost about 9½c, a lot of 1,000 boxes being sold on the market here at 9½c. To-day's prices however may be quoted at 9c for finest, and 8½c for eastern townships.

Potatoes.—The market is firmer, round lots being reported at \$1.05, and it is said a car of really choice rose would command even more money. Sales of small jobbing lots have transpired at \$1.10 to \$1.20 as to quality.

Maple products.—Market quiet. Syrup in cans 55c to 65c. Sugar 7c to 7½c per lb, dark Quebec sugar 6c to 6½c per lb.

Wool.—Sales of cape wool reported at 15c to 16½c, common kinds having sold at 14½c. A sale of damaged cape wool was held last week, the prices ranging from 9c to 11c. Canadian fleeces has been sold in the west at 17c to 18c f.o.b.

Hides.—A little better demand for hides has been experienced during the past week, sales having been made to Quebec tanners at 6½c to 7c, for No. 1, dealers paying 6c, 5c, and 4c for Nos. 1, 2 and 3 respectively. Calf skins are down to 7c. Chicago hides are lower and quoted at 6c f.o.b.

Dried apples.—The market is steady at 8c to 9c per lb. Evaporated apples firm at 11c to 15c per lb.

Tea.—New Japans are in good demand and appear to be cleared as soon as landed here. The sale of a round quantity of new Japans was reported at 25c the quality being finest. Other sales were made at 23c to 31c. The market continues in good shape to make offers.

Boots and Shoes.—Sorting orders have shown better volume during the past week or so, but travellers have not as a rule made as much progress in fall orders as was expected, owing to the poor prospects of the crops through continued drouth. Prices appear to be almost as low as ever notwithstanding the reported agreement to advance them. Some of our leading houses have done fairly well on their fall orders although on the whole they have fallen below those of a year ago at this time. Remittances are only fair.

Money.—Call money continues plentiful at 4½ with a few loans at 4 per cent. Commercial paper 6 and 7. The bank rate remains at 4 per cent but the street rate has further declined at 2½.—*Trade Bulletin*, June 12.

The Canadian Pacific railway will run weekly refrigerator cars between Winnipeg and Pacific coast points for the accommodation of shippers of butter, eggs, cheese, poultry, fruit and vegetables, again this year. The first car left Winnipeg last week, and will be continued all through the hot weather, starting from Winnipeg on Thursdays. Freight is only taken on these cars from points between Winnipeg and Moose Jaw inclusive, consigned to either Vancouver, Victoria, Westminster and Nanaimo, so that quick despatch is assured. The freight charges are 20 cents per 100 pounds, in addition to freight for cost of icing.



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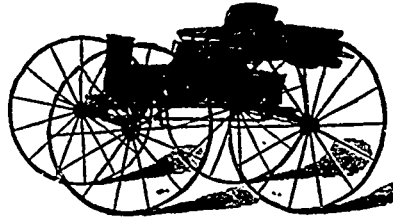
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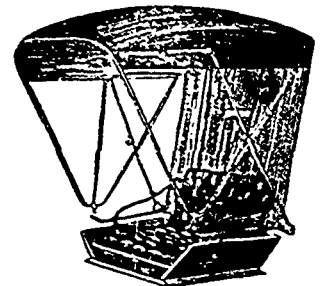
IN THE DOMINION.

Our travellers visit Manitoba, North-west Territories and British Columbia twice a year.

A. C. MCRAE,

—MANUFACTURER OF—

Carriage Tops,



Seat Trimmings,

AND WHOLESALE DEALER IN TRIMMING GOODS.

Corner King and James Streets,

WINNIPEG.

BROWN BROS.,

Wholesale and Manufacturing

STATIONERS,

64 to 68 KING STREET EAST,

TORONTO.

SPECIALTIES.

Account Books Paper—all kind
Office Supplies Stationery
Wallets, Pocket Books
Ladies Hand Satchels
Pocket and Office Dairies
Leather Goods Binders Materials
Printers Supplies

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

The feeling in wholesale circles has been very hopeful on account of the splendid crop prospects, since the recent rains. Business has been brisk in some branches, and nearly all report fair to good movement, though cash is somewhat slow, but proportionately better than during the winter and early spring. A considerable amount of building is going on in the city, and also at outside points, making a good demand for building material. In paints, oils, etc., there has been a brisk trade. Linseed oil is a little easier at 76c for raw and 79c for boiled. Other prices are unchanged. The hardware trade is steady, with prices firm at last quotations. There is little to note in the grocery trade. Sugars were 1/4c lower at the refineries for white. A petition has been presented to Parliament for free raw sugars. Tuckett's Lilly smoking tobacco has been advanced 2c at the factory. There is so little change in prices that owing to pressure of other matter, quotations are withheld in a number of branches this week.

FISH.

Fresh whitefish are plentiful, and offering low, 4c being the wholesale price. Fresh trout are quoted at 9c, and fresh B. C. salmon at 14c. River fish have been plentiful this season, and sell at \$1.75 per hundred for mixed lots of various kinds.

GREEN FRUITS.

Seedling and naval California oranges are out of the market. Stocks of Messinas are also reduced, and blood oranges were about used up. Mediterranean sweats were also about used up. The California St. Michael is now the principal orange in the market, and it is giving good satisfaction, being of fine quality. There has been a large inquiry for strawberries, but orders frequently could not be filled. The season is about over for strawberries, except Minnesota berries, a few of the latter of which have arrived. Strawberries received during the week were soft and not fit for re-shipment to any extent. Minnesota berries have been damaged by wet weather. If the weather turns favorable, there may be some business done in Minnesota berries, but they are held at high prices. Lemons are firm on warm weather demand. Prices are high in outside markets, and may be higher here, if the weather keeps warm. Messina oranges are quoted \$2.50 in 1/2 boxes; California Mediterranean sweets, \$5 to \$5.50. California paper rind St. Michael oranges, \$6 to \$6.50. Messina, lemons, \$6.50 to \$7. Bananas are quoted \$3.25 to \$4 per bunch. Pineapples, \$3.50. California cherries, \$2. to \$2.75 per 10 lb box. Comb honey, 23c a lb; maple sugar, new, 10 to 12c per lb; new maple syrup \$1 to \$1.25 per gallon, as to quality.

WHOLESALE PRODUCE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

WHEAT.

Wheat had an easier tendency most of the week in outside markets, though there was some improvement toward the close, on reports of serious damage from the southwestern states, where the harvest is in progress, from continued wet weather.

In Manitoba a week of very favorable weather has been experienced. The rainy spell which

prevailed at the time we closed our last report, covered all parts of the wheat district thoroughly. The rain was a very heavy one all over the province, continuing showery for three days, followed by a couple of days of cool, cloudy weather, since which it has been warm and clear. To-day (Saturday, June 20), rain is falling here. The least favored districts have now received two thorough soakings during June, while lighter rains have fallen in many sections in addition to this. Though the crops were checked by the cold nights during May, yet a good root was formed, and wonderful progress has been made this month. Tall wheat reports are coming in, one report stating that some wheat was in head already, near Gretna, Man.

FLOUR.

No further change in prices since the decline reported last week. Country mills have been offering in the city, at prices considerably under regular grades, which is partly the cause of lower prices: Quotations per one hundred pounds to the local trade are: Patents, \$2.70; strong bakers', \$2.50; Second bakers, \$2 to \$2 10; XXXX, \$1.60; superfine, \$1.20.

MILLSTUFFS.

Bran and shorts were quotable \$1 lower, per ton, owing to easier feeling caused by offerings of outside mills. Bran, \$9; shorts, \$11 per ton.

GROUND FEED.

Prices hold at \$25 per ton for best quality of feed.

MEALS, OIL CAKE, ETC.

Quotations are:— Oil cake, in bags, \$21 a ton; oil cake meal in ton lots, sacked, \$26. in bulk \$25; Oatmeal, standard \$2.90; granulated, \$3.00 per 100 pounds; rolled oats, \$3.00 per sack of 80 pounds; cornmeal is held at \$2 to 100 lbs. Pot barley, \$3 00 per 100 pounds. Pearl barley, \$3.25; fine, do., in 50 pounds sacks, \$3 per sack.

OATS.

Quite a number of loads were offering on the street market by farmers, and brought 40 to 43c. Jobbing lots in the city held by dealers at about 46c. A dealer from Brandon was in the city offering car lots. Quite a quantity of oats are held at Brandon. There is very little local demand here for car lots, as farmers' offerings about supply the city. Oat prices are advancing in Eastern Canada markets, on account of the poor crop prospect there, and parties holding stocks in Manitoba will probably soon be able to ship east to advantage.

BARLEY.

Quotations are about 33 to 40c.

BUTTER.

No city trade to speak of doing through dealers. Some shipments are being made westward. Good to choice dairy quotable here at about 12 to 14c per lb.

EGGS.

Steady at 13 to 14c per doz.

CURED MEATS.

Prices are:— Dry salt bacon, 9 to 9 1/2c; smoked long clear, 10 1/2c; spiced hams, 11c; breakfast bacon, 12 to 12 1/2c; smoked hams, 13 to 13 1/2c; mess pork, \$17 per barrel. Sausage are quoted: Fresh pork sausage, 10c per lb.; Bologna, do., 9c per pound; German, do., 9c per pound.

LARD.

Pure lard held at \$2.20 for 20 pound pails; compound, \$1.90 to \$1.95.

POULTRY.

Chickens bring about 55 to 65c per pair. Turkeys, 10 to 11c per pound live weight.

HIDES.

Hides are dull and lower everywhere, and the situation in the States and the east is very unsatisfactory, here prices are 1/4 lower for cows,

which decline was indicated last week. Calf also lower. No 1 cows, 4 1/2c lb., No. 1 heavy steers, 5 1/2c, calfskins, No. 1, 5c, No. 2 4c.

DRESSED MEATS.

A large number of cattle have been purchased from the territorial ranches, by city dealers, and this class of beef is the principal thing on the market. Beef holds at 7c for choice. Mutton is unchanged at 13c, pork, 7 to 8c.

WOOL.

The highest that can be quoted here regularly is 10 1/2c for ordinary unwashed, though 11c is sometimes offered. The outlook is unfavorable for disposing of Canadian wools, the quantity of coarse wools produced being largely in excess of home consumption, and the high duty shuts off the U.S. Market.

British Columbia Trade Letter

(SPECIAL CORRESPONDENCE.)

VANCOUVER, June 15. — British Columbia trade has settled down to a steady go. Business in most lines is good, and complaints are never heard, with the best of prospects ahead for an abundant harvest. Real estate is in about the same condition as it was the same time for several years back, neither better nor worse. In the aggregate a lot of property is changing hands. Investments, however, are becoming more permanent in their character, and principally for business purposes. A good deal of money is going into outside properties, which has a tendency to diminish the volume of investments in the business centres, but the shrinkage if at all felt will be only temporary as these transactions promise to be sufficiently remunerative to bring back manifold returns. The principal event of this week will be the sale of Steveston town lots. Interest in this new place has been enhanced by the discovery of natural gas, of which more anon.

The crop prospects are excellent, especially fruit. Strawberries are on the market in considerable quantities and before the week is out are expected to be quite cheap; quality is first-class and yield large. The imported fruit, too, has greatly improved over last year. British Columbia cherries will be better in quality and yield than last season, and the cannories anticipate no trouble in securing all the stock they want at reasonable prices.

Shipping continues very brisk, locally, coast-wise and foreign. The ships, Grand Admiral, Ordovic, Svea and Louise Martha, have begun loading for foreign parts, and the Spartan and Exporter have been towed out. The British barque, Robt. S. Besnard, has arrived with 1750 tons of raw sugar from Manilla for the refinery. The Premier, which has connected Vancouver with the Sound cities, has been withdrawn, now that direct connection has been established by rail by way of the Mission branch, and will run from Whatcom alternately with the Eastern Oregon to Seattle and Tacoma. It is also understood that the daily service between Westminster and Victoria has been changed to a tri-weekly. The ship, Duke of Argyll, consigned from London to Messrs. Bell, Irving & Patterson, is expected daily.

In railway circles the completion of the Columbia & Kootenay railway and the Mission branch of the C. P. R., are chronicled and regular train service will be established. The first connects Nelson and Sproat's Landing and the latter Mission City with the boundary line at Huntington, meeting two lines of railway,

the Seattle, Lake Shore & Southern and the Bellingham Bay & British Columbia. The Victoria, Saanich and New Westminster railway scheme has been revived in Victoria, by an application for a cash bonus in addition to guaranteeing the bonds. This road is projected from Victoria to Saanich, whence the cars are to be ferried to Point Roberts, which will be connected with Westminster by rail. It is uncertain yet what action will be taken by that city.

An important discovery has been announced viz.; a large tract of prairie land on the coast between Vancouver and Fort Simpson, containing some seven million acres more or less. By the way, a town-site at Fort Simpson has been laid out and is now on the market. Undoubtedly there will be a city of considerable importance there some day, and the real estate man is taking the bull by the horns with a long rope.

The awarding of the premiership to Hon. J. C. Abbott gives pretty general satisfaction. However, the feeling exists that this is but a temporary bridging over of the political hiatus caused by the death of Sir John A. Macdonald, and that a permanent organization will be made with either Sir Charles Tupper or Sir John Thompson at the head of affairs. The new premier is a brother of Mr. Harry Abbott, General Superintendent of the Pacific division of the C. P. R., and as a former solicitor of and a shareholder in that corporation his appointment is regarded as a strengthening of C. P. R. influence.

The celebration committee has announced a programme for Dominion Day, which consists of firemen's races, baseball, lacrosse, rifle competition, cricket, cycling, athletic sports and a regatta. The events will extend over only one day this year. The following items will be of interest:—

The plans for a new Bank of Montreal block have been received. A refrigerator factory has been started at Westminster. Maple Grove dairy farm of 450 acres, Sumas prairie, has been purchased by Messrs. Tingly & Nilbank at a very large purchase price. The Canadian Pacific & Lumbering Co. have commenced the erection of a new saw mill on Lulu Island; and the Chemainus saw mill, owned by the Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Co., and having a capacity of 250,000 feet per day, is now in operation. Reports from Yale say the gold gravel syndicate is working their gravel sluices with big promise of success. A large shingle trade is being done with Manitoba and the Territories. Considerable street car extension is to take place both in Vancouver and Victoria this season. Census returns for the cities have been completed and the announcements from Ottawa are awaited with a great deal of interest.

The flour market is more settled. Eastern butter is now coming in freely; and fish is more plentiful. Produce and supplies of all kinds show a general downward tendency as the home production increases. Prices are about as follows:—

Flour and Grain—Manitoba patents, \$6.50; Manitoba bakers', \$6.00; Oregon, \$5.50 to \$5.75. Shorts, 26 per ton; bran \$24; wheat, \$36 to \$40; oats, \$40 to \$45; cornmeal and oatmeal, \$4; rolled oats, \$4.25. Oil cake, \$40 per ton.

Meats—Dry salt, 12c; roll bacon, 12c; breakfast bacon, 14c; backs, 13c; hams, 15c; mess

pork, 22c; pickled pork bollies, 15c; lard, in tubs, 12c; in pails, 12c; in tins, 13c; lard compound, 12c.

Sugar—Granulated, 7c per lb; yellow, 6c to 6c; cube, 8c. Syrup is quoted at 3c.

Butter—California roll, 27 to 29c per lb. Manitoba butter, 23 to 25c. Eggs, 18 to 20c per dozen and cheese 13c per lb.

Potatoes—New, \$1.50 to \$1.75 per 100 lbs, and onions the same. Cabbage, 2 and 2c per pound.

Oranges—Navals, \$4.50 to \$5.50; Riverside seedlings, \$2.75 to \$3.25; San Gabrielle, \$2.75. Sicilian lemons are worth from \$6.75 to \$7.50, and California lemons, \$3 to \$4.75. Rhubarb, 5c per lb. Cherries, \$1.15 to \$1.25 per box. Bananas, \$3 to \$4. Apricots, \$1.65 to \$1.85; Pears and apples, \$1.25 per box.

Toronto Hardware Prices.

Both pig and bar iron are unchanged here, but cables are lower. Boiler plate is firm, with a more active demand. Copper strong at 14c to 15c. Tin is also improving, and nothing offers under 23c here; cables are up another 5s. Lead scarce and firm, with London 2s 6d higher. Spelter has advanced 7s 6d abroad. Other metals unchanged. Horse nails are easier at 50 and 10 to 60 and 10 off the list. Scrap rubber is 7c lower, at 2c to 2c.

Antimony—Cookson's, per pound, 16c to 17c; other makes, 16 to 18c.

Tin—Lamb and flag, 56 and 28-lb. ingots per pound, 23 to 24c; Straight's, 100-lb. ingots, 23 to 23c; strip, 25 to 27c.

Copper—Ingot, 14c to 15c; sheet, 19 to 21c.

Lead—Bar, 4c to 4c; pig, 3c to 4c; sheet, per roll, \$4.75 to \$5.25; shot, Can. dis. 7c per cent.

Zinc—Sheet, 6c to 7c; zinc spelter, 4c to 5c; solder, hf and hf, 19c to 21.

Brass—Sheet, 21 to 29c.

Iron—Bar, ordinary \$2 to \$2.10; bar refined, \$2.60 to \$2.65; Swedes, 1 in. or over, \$4 to 4.50; Lowmoor, 5c to 6c; hoops, coopers', \$2.65 to \$2.80; do, band, \$2.60 to \$2.75; tank plates, \$2 to \$2.25; boiler rivets, best, \$4.50 to \$5; sheet, 21 to 20 gauge, \$2.75 to \$3; 22 to 24 do, \$2.75 to \$3; 26 do, \$3 to \$3.25; 28 do, \$3.50 to \$3.75; Russia, sheet, per pound, 10 to 12c.

Galvanized iron—16 to 24 gauge, 5c to 6c; 26 do, 5c to 6c; 28 do, 5c to 6c.

Iron wire—Market bright and annealed, Nos. 1 to 16, net list from stock; 7c per cent. discount from factory; market, tinned, per lb., 4c to 8c; galvanized fence, 5 per cent. advance on list; barbed wire, 4c to 4c; coil chain, 1/2 in., 4c to 4c; 1-16 in., 5c to 5c; iron pipe, off list, 55 p.c.; do, galv., off list, 30 p.c.; boiler tubes, 2 in., 13c; do, tin, 13c.

Steel—Cast, 13 to 14c; boiler plate, 1/2 in., \$2.75; 5-26 do, \$2.60; 3/4 do, \$2.50; sleigh shoes, \$2.50 to \$2.75.

Nails—3 in. and upwards, \$2.30; brads and mouldings, dis. and 10 p.c.; wire, 70c and 5 p.c. to 70c and 10 p.c. dis.

Horse nails Can. dis. 50 to 60c and 10 p.c.

Horse shoes—Per keg, \$3.60.

Canada plates—Blain, \$3.20 to \$3.25.

Tin plates—1C coke, \$4.75 to \$5; 1C charcoal, \$5.50 to \$5.75; 1X charcoal, \$6.50 to \$6.75; 1XX charcoal, \$7.50 to \$7.75; DC charcoal, \$5.

Gunpowder—Can blasting, per keg, \$3.25 to \$3.50; can sporting, FF, \$5; can sporting, FFF, \$5.25; can rifle, \$5.25.

Rope—Manilla, 1 1/2 to 1 3/8c; sisal, 9c to 10c. Axes—Per box, \$7 to \$12.

Twine—Binder, blue ribbon, 14c; red cap, 12c; crown, 11c; composite, 9c.

Glass—Fourth quality star, 1st break, \$1.40 to \$1.50; 2nd do, \$1.50 to \$1.60; 3rd do, \$3.65 to \$3.75; 4th do, \$3.95 to \$4; 5th do, \$4.25 to \$4.30.

The Toronto Mill Stock and Metal Company quote dealers paying prices as follows: No 1 heavy scrap, 65 to 75c per 100 lbs.; stove cast scrap 45 to 50c; No. 1 wrought scrap, 65 to 75c; No. 2, including sheet iron, hoop iron and mixed steel, 20 to 25c; new scrap copper, 10 to 10c; heavy scrap copper, 10c; old copper bottoms, 8c to 9c; light scrap brass, 5c; heavy yellow scrap brass, 7c; heavy red scrap brass, 9 to 9c; scrap lead, 2c to 2c; country mixed rags, \$1 to \$1.10 per 100 lbs.; clear dry bones, 60c per 100 lbs.—*Empire*, June 12.

Leather Prices at Toronto.

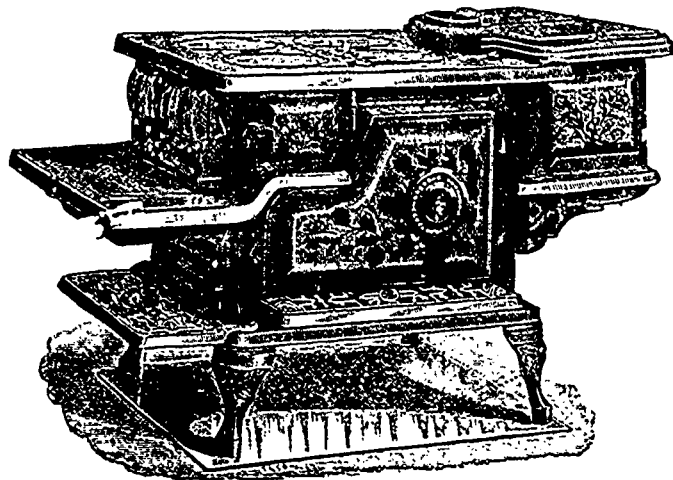
Sole slaughter, medium heavy, per lb, 21 to 26c; sole, Spanish, No. 1, per lb, 24 to 26c; sole, Spanish, No. 2, per lb, 22 to 24c; sole, Spanish, No. 3, per lb, 20 to 21c; calfskin, Canadian, light, 65 to 70c; calfskin, Canadian, medium, 70 to 75c; calfskin, Canadian, heavy, 65 to 70c; calfskin, French, \$1.05 to \$1.30; upper, light, medium, 35 to 37c; splits, 20 to 27c; buff, 14 to 16c; pebble, 14 to 15c; harness leather, prime, 15 to 18 lbs, 25 to 27c; harness leather, light, 24 to 25c; oak harness, American, 45 to 50c; oak harness, English backs, 65 to 70c; oak bridle and skirting, English, 75 to 80c; Cordovan vamps, No. 1, \$5.50 to \$6; Cordovan vamps, No. 3, \$5 to \$5.50; Cordovan goloshes, \$11 to \$12; Cordovan sides, No. 1, 16c; Cordovan sides, No. 2, 13c; Cordovan sides, No. 3, 11 to 12c; oak cut soles, \$4.50 to \$5; hemlock taps, \$3 to \$3.75; cod oil, per gal, 45 to 50c; Degras, per lb, 4c to 5c; japonica, per lb, 6 to 6c; oak extract, 4c; hemlock extract, 3c; lampblack, 20 to 30c; sumac, per ton, \$65 to \$70; roundings, white oak, 20 to 25c; roundings, black, 18 to 20c; roundings, hemlock, 15c.

Drug Prices at Montreal.

Bleaching powder, \$2 to \$2.25; bicard soda, \$2.30 to \$2.50; sal soda, 90c to \$1; caustic soda, \$2.50 to \$2.80; soda ash, \$1.75 to \$2.25; chlorate potash, 22 to 25c; alum, \$1.75 to \$2; copperas, 80c to \$1; sulphur flour, \$2.50 to 2.75; sulphur roll, \$2.25; sulphate of copper, \$4.50 to \$5.50. white sugar of lead, 8 to 12c; brown sugar of lead, 7 to 10c; bich, potash, 8 to 10c; bich, soda, 6 to 8c; logwood, per 100 lbs, \$2 to \$2.25; sumac, Sicilian, \$75 to \$80; Pruss, potash, yellow, 27 to 30c; cutch, 7c to 8c; gambler, 6c to 7c; Madris indigo, 60 to 80c; Quinine, Howard's, 40 to 45c; Quinine, German, 35 to 40c; Opium, \$4.50; morphia, \$1.75; Iodide potas, \$3.75 to \$4; oil of peppermint, \$4.50 to \$5; Bromide potassium, 50 to 55c; camphor, English, 70 to 75c; glycerine, 20c; gum arabic, 45c to \$1.25; carbolic acid, 45 to 55c; insect powder, 30 to 40c; salicene, \$3 to \$3.50; tartaric acid, 45 to 50c; cream tartar, 26 to 28c.

J. Kuhn & Son, general store, Balmoral, and produce, Wianipeg, have abandoned the idea of opening business at Lethbridge. The Balmoral stock is being moved to Winnipeg.

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MANUFACTURERS AND DEALERS IN ALL KINDS OF

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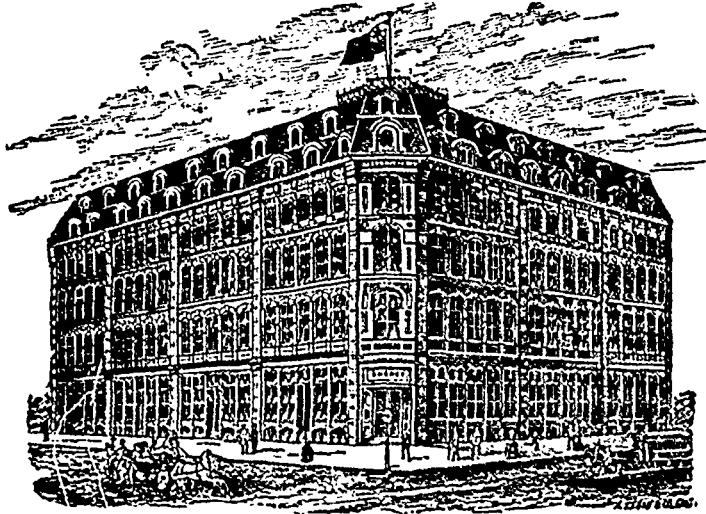
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CHILDREN'S CLOTHING A SPECIALTY.



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INDIAN, CEYLON, CHINA AND JAPAN
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PORK PACKERS,**

—AND—

Wholesale Dealers in Provisions.

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EGGS WANTED.

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PORK PACKERS

Sugar-Cured Hams, Breakfast Bacon, Spiced Roll, Pure Pork Sausage, Long Clear Bacon, Bologna Sausage, German Sausage, Ham, Tongue and Chicken Sausage.

Pigs Feet, Bologna and Sausage Casings.
PACKERS AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

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SAMUEL HOOPER, DEALER IN MONUMENTS, HEAD STONES, Mantle Pieces, Grates, Etc. Special designs furnished on application. Corner Bannatyne and Albert streets, Winnipeg.

**ALLEN & BROWN,
WINNIPEG.**

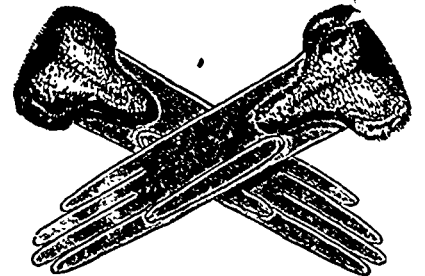
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At Lowest Prices.

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In fine Buck and Antelope universally acknowledged the best.

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BOOT MANUFACTURERS.

Sole, Harness and Upper Leathers.

BOOTS, SHOES AND BOOT TOPS.

HIDES TANNED FOR ROBES, ETC.

Highest Cash Price Paid for Hides and Skins

171 and 173 KING STREET,
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CORNER OF ST. HELEN AND LEMOINE STS
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**ROYAL
CROWN SOAP**
THE BEST.

Chicago Board of Trade Prices.

On Monday, June 15, wheat prices averaged lower, August wheat ranging from 90½ to 91½c. Fine crop weather and lower cables were the bear features. Closing prices were:—

	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.
Wheat	96	94½	91½	—
Corn	57	54½	53½	—
Oats	37½	37½	32½	—
Pork	—	10.40	—	10.02½
Lard	—	6.30	—	6.55
Short Ribs	—	60.5	—	6.27½

Wheat pulled up some on Tuesday. Closing over 1c higher, under speculative impetus and reports of export buying. Cables were lower. Closing prices were:—

	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.
Wheat	97	95½	92½	—
Corn	58½	55½	53½	—
Oats	38½	37½	32½	—
Pork	—	10.42½	—	10.07½
Lard	—	6.35	—	6.57½
Short Ribs	—	6.07½	—	6.32½

On Wednesday wheat advanced ½ to ¾c under speculative buying, and reports of wet weather in winter wheat districts, where harvesting is going on. Later prices declined and closed about the same as yesterday, as follows:—

	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.
Wheat	97½	95½	92½	—
Corn	60½	57½	54½	—
Oats	39	38½	32½	—
Pork	—	10.42½	—	10.07½
Lard	—	6.30	—	6.55
Short Ribs	—	6.05	—	6.32½

Wheat was lower on Thursday on weak foreign news. Closing prices were 2 to 2½c lower:—

	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.
Wheat	—	93½	90½	90½
Corn	59½	55½	53½	52½
Oats	—	36½	31½	30½
Pork	10.25	10.30	—	10.55
Lard	6.22½	6.27½	—	6.52½
Short Ribs	5.95	6.02½	—	6.27½

On Friday wheat closed ½ to ¾c higher. The main cause of the strength was the continued wet weather in the winter wheat districts:—

	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.
Wheat	—	94½	91½	90½
Corn	59½	56½	54	52½
Oats	—	36½	32	31
Pork	10.35	10.40	—	10.62½
Lard	6.22½	6.27½	—	6.52½
Short Ribs	5.97½	6.05	—	6.32½

Duluth Wheat Market.

No. 1 hard wheat closed at \$1.04 for July option on Monday, June 15, and on the following day the close was ½c higher. This was the highest closing price of the week. The lowest closing price was 99½c for July, on Thursday. On Saturday, June 20, July wheat at noon stood at \$1.00½, and June at 99½c. A week ago June was at \$1.04, and July at \$1.05.

Grain and Milling.

I. P. Dill, of Wolsley, has leased the roller flour mill and elevator at that place.

There is considerable excellent wheat coming into this market at present, says the Regina Standard. Mr. Moody will ship seven carloads this week. J. D. Sibbald & Co. are also buying. The price is about 75 cents.

The statistician of the New York Produce Exchange estimates the wheat crop of the United States for 1891 at 538,600,000 bushels or 13.73 per acre, about 95.4 per cent. of a full

crop. The Cincinnati Price Current estimates the crop at 515,000,000 bushels.

The party of United States flour millers, which is now on a visit to Great Britain, arrived in Liverpool on the 20th of May. The party is composed of a large number of leading millers, and a few ladies. They are having a big time and are being wined and dined liberally in the old country.

The Regina Standard says: "There was a large attendance at the meeting held in Valley Hotel last Friday to consider the mill question. The meeting was more unanimous than any former one. It was decided to organize a joint stock company and a committee was appointed to canvass the farmers to take stock, with the object of securing the erection of a flour mill. A meeting will be held again in the same place on Friday, the 19th inst., to hear their report and take further action if the committee meet with proper encouragement.

Assiniboia.

A. J. Osment, merchant, of Indian Head, has started for the Pacific coast, where he intends to spend the next week or two examining the western provinces in regard to its climate and business advantages.

Some time back a settler named Pohl, residing in the Ebenezer colony, had the misfortune to lose everything by prairie fire. A matter of some \$11 or so was owed by him to the Manitoba & Northwestern railway company for freight, but on the matter being represented to the proper authorities, word was received that the company had decided to waive their claim, and also expressing a wish that the matter was not as bad as at first expressed. The company deserves credit for this act of kindness.

The following resolution has been passed by the Regina board of trade: "That this board having made a request to the Mayor and Council of the town asking them to consider the advisability of proclaiming Wednesday afternoons a public holiday and in view of a further request by petition of the most of the citizens we heroby place on record our disapproval of the apparently indifferent manner in which these requests have been attended to by our representatives and more particularly by the Mayor himself."

Northwest States Crops.

The Minnesota reports are much more favorable. The crops are looking well, owing to plenty of rain. In the vicinity of Mankato the crops are wonderfully improved and the corn is taking on a healthy color. The same is true in the vicinity of Jordan, Le Seuer, Hamilton, St. James and Bigelow. St. Vincent and Stillwater report that the recent rains improved the crops wonderfully, and a large yield is assured. Bismarck, North Dakota, reports the crops in that vicinity in splendid condition, there being more moisture in the ground at present than at any time in the last four years. The wheat yield around Wilmot, South Dakota, will be the best ever harvested. In South Dakota everything but corn is reported as doing well. The cold weather has damaged the corn. Similar reports are received from Nebraska. In Iowa the conditions are fully as promising, with the exception of the corn crop, which has been damaged by cut worms in Le Mars and

vicinity. In central and southern Wisconsin the weather during the past week has been favorable, although rain is needed in some portions of the state near Cartwright and Chitlik. Corn is a trifle backward. It is thought that the hay crop will be light. In north Wisconsin the crops are at a standstill owing to cold weather and lack of sufficient rain.—Minneapolis Market Record.

North West Ontario.

H. D. Leo has opened in fancy goods at Fort William.

J. N. McCracken, butcher, Rat Portage, has sold out.

Wm. B. Fotheringham, sawmill, Rainy River, has assigned in trust.

Duty collected at Fort William for the month of May amounted to the sum of \$9,535.77.

The steamer Celtic has brought a cargo of rails for the Port Arthur, Duluth & Western railway.

Alexander Locking, who at various times has written to the papers relating to Rainy river country, and the advantage it offered to the settler, has recently returned from England with a party of 22 settlers for this district.

It is proposed to erect a statue at the capital in memory of Sir John A. Macdonald. In der that this shall be the offering of the people amounts from 25 cents up to \$200 will be received, the latter being the highest from any one individual.

E. Cordingly, of the late firm of E. S. White & Co., Carberry, Man., has been arrested at Vancouver, charged with the larceny of some goods from the Carberry stock, at the instance of the creditors of the estate. A quantity of goods were seized at Carberry. Cordingly has been brought to Carberry for trial.

Theodore Habernal, who embarked in the general store trade at Langenburg, Assa., five or six months ago, is already in trouble, one Beers, of Winnipeg, having secured a judgment against him for \$600. He has since assigned, and the stock is in charge of Mr. Johnson, of W. N. Johnson & Co. Liabilities are something over \$3,000. A compromise at 75 cents is likely to be made.

Crop reports received from all parts of the province of Ontario to June 13, state that in districts visited by the recent heavy rains the crops have a much more promising look. The hay crop will be a failure, but an average yield is expected from fall wheat, while spring grains will, with the recurrence of regular rains, return a good average crop.

Joseph Carman, wholesale commission merchant, Winnipeg, is giving up business. He has disposed of his agencies and stock to Robertson, Thompson & Co., a firm which started in the produce and grain commission trade in Winnipeg a short time ago. Mr. Carman's intention is to go into the Life Insurance line, and he has accepted a good offer from the Confederation Life, to take the city agency of this company, J. B. Somerset, who lately held this position, having taken a position on the Free Press. Mr. Carman has a good company, and with his large acquaintanceship in the city, he will doubtless make a success in life insurance.

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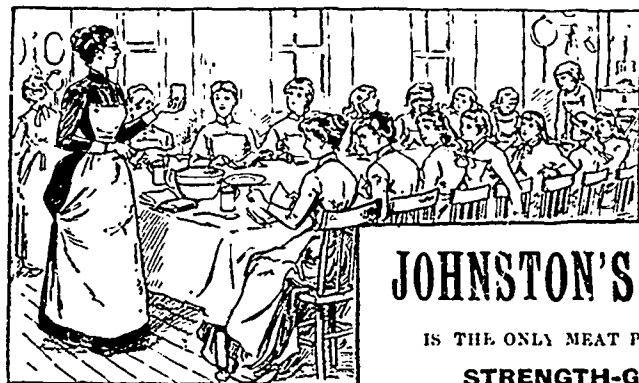
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COMMUNICATION.

Agricultural Implement Manufacturers vs. the Farmers and Merchants.

To the Editor of the Commercial.

DEAR SIR:—While I am pleased to congratulate Mr. Van Allen on an improved lucidity of statement in his second contribution on the above subject, I cannot see that he has added anything substantially to what appeared in his first.

Mr. Van Allen's later communication consisting principally of re-statement and re-iteration, I shall be also compelled to repeat, and possibly amplify much that I have already written. Mr. Van Allen, after dealing with some minor matters, propounds the following question in regard to what he contends to be the "issue" in the discussion, viz.: the necessity of the 35 per cent. tariff:

"Will merchant then answer this question which I asked him in my former letter to reply to, but which he did not do, viz.: If the implement manufacturers are enabled to charge so much more than they should, why do they not charge \$210 for a binder (the price of American binders sold in Manitoba) instead of \$160 as mentioned in my last letter? The irresistible conclusion is that home competition prevents it."

One reason why the Canadian implement manufacturers do not charge \$210 for their binders is, that if they did so, their sales would be very limited, there being a very widespread impression that the American binder is much superior to the Canadian. In this connection I may relate an incident, which if true, (and I have it on the authority of an eye witness) would go far to corroborate the correctness of the popular impression alluded to. Mr. Sanderson, the well known bonanza farmer, of Manitoba, brought or sent last fall to an implement firm in Brandon ten Canadian binders, which he had had on trial. He informed the implement people that the result of his experience with the returned machines was that he had decided to use the McCormick binder, as he did not want those he had been experimenting with "at any price." This real or imaginary disparity in values might be an all sufficient reason for the lower price of the Canadian machine, although Mr. Van Allen, while he admits that the American machines were formerly superior to the Canadian, asserts that owing to recent improvements in Canadian manufacture, the inferiority of the Canadian machine is now a thing of the past. But assuming that the imported and domestic machines are of equal value, and accepting Mr. Van Allen's figures as correct, (which they very probably are, and which I know he believes them to be) I do not see that they prove the necessity for a 35 per cent. tariff. Quite the contrary. The American manufacturer knows that if he expects to do enough business in this country to pay the expense of transacting it, he must get down to "rock-bottom," as he could not hope to do such a business if he charged for his wares a sum largely in excess of what for which goods of alleged equal quality can be bought from the home producer, whom the farmer would naturally patronize by preference. Now notwithstanding this very apparent necessity on the part of the American manufacturer of selling at his lowest possible price, Mr. Van

Allen shows that his selling price is 27½ per cent. higher than the selling price of the home manufacturer, whose products, Mr. Van Allen contends, are equally valuable. The Canadian duty is 35 per cent. Now Mr. Van Allen has shown that with every incentive to sell at his lowest possible figure, the American manufacturer can sell only 7½ per cent. cheaper than the Canadian if there was no duty. Indeed in another portion of his letter Mr. Van Allen says that, "Canadian binders compete in Australia, on equal terms, with these same American binders and secure, at least, an equal share of the trade there." Why does Mr. Van Allen want a 35 per cent. tariff to enable him to compete at home with manufacturers against whom he can successfully compete in Australia on equal terms? Till we have some more convincing defence of the necessity of the 35 per cent. tariff than brought forward by Mr. Van Allen and in view of the expressions of opinions that we have from practical farmers, we must conclude that the reason for the difference in price is the difference in quality between the Canadian and American machines. Mr. Van Allen, by his Australian illustration, does not surely mean to convey the idea that the Canadian implement maker is not without honor save in his own country.

Mr. Van Allen's argument in support of the 35 per cent. duty is that it secures all the Canadian trade to the Canadian manufacturer; and certainly so long as the present fiscal policy obtains in Canada and the United States, a duty which will give the Canadian manufacturer all reasonable protection in his own market is necessary, as it would be most unjust to him that his prescribed territory should be shared with competitors from whose market he is excluded. But Mr. Van Allen has shown, or rather he evidently thinks he has shown, that when put to his best gait the American can beat him by only 7½ per cent. in Canada and curiously enough, by nothing at all in Australia. Suppose we double the outside figure and make the duty 15 per cent., Mr. Van Allen would then revel in a protection, according to his own showing, which would simply kill all possibility of competition. If 15 per cent. would be ample, 35 per cent. is extravagant, and Mr. Van Allen himself himself shows that 15 per cent. is very ample indeed. Mr. Van Allen wants me to produce figures to show that the farmer in Manitoba pays 35 per cent. duty when he buys Canadian implements, adding that, "one sentence of this kind of logic is worth whole volumes of generalities." I asserted in my first letter that the 35 per cent. duty was extravagant, that it enabled the manufacturers to charge prices absurdly disproportionate to the intrinsic value of their goods. That the tariff is altogether extravagant, I think Mr. Van Allen himself has clearly shown by his figures, which are surely not "generalities," and which I have accepted and made use of! If the implement dealers really abstain from availing themselves of the opportunity of charging the prices which the tariff enables them to do, they are a much misunderstood class and I would suggest that they would be giving a tangible earnest of the genuineness of their philanthropy if they would move for a reduction of the duty to half its present figure, by doing which they would not at all endanger their hold on this market, if Mr. Van Allen's Australian illustration has any meaning.

With reference to the clause in the machine notes by which the maker abandons his exemption privileges, Mr. Van Allen still seems to think it a very trivial matter and states that I must have drawn on my imagination for the element of "danger" in this provision. Mr. Van Allen must admit that if this provision could be legally enforced it would be a very serious one for the farmer and dangerous for his other creditors. He says, however, that it is non-effective because it is illegal and therefore infers that it is foolish to discuss it. But if it is illegal or if its legality has always been doubtful why has it always been inserted in the notes? I think this can be explained and the explanation will show at the same time where the "danger" to the farmer's mercantile creditors comes in even if the provision is "against the policy of the law" as Mr. Van Allen diplomatically puts it.

When a farmer signs a note containing a clause by which he contracts to forfeit his exemption rights he is in ninety nine cases in a hundred firmly imbued with the idea that this clause contains an obligation on him equally as binding as any of the other clauses in the contract. He knows that he can mortgage his exempted property and that the mortgage binds him. But he is not sufficiently versed in the "policy of the law" to know that he does not legally hypothecate this exempted property by signing the note containing the clause in question. Under these circumstances once he has signed the note this clause is quite an operative in urging him to protect himself against its supposed consequences as if it had the enforcement of legality. Spurred by a dread of losing his exempted belongings the farmer makes special effort to get rid of the liability and in so doing in many cases renders himself unable to meet his liabilities to his mercantile creditors who are almost invariably unsecured. This is the "danger" to the ordinary commercial community and it is doubtless on account of its invaluable aid as a moral persuasive force on the farmer that this clause has been retained on the notes of the implement firms even whilst they were aware of its doubtful legality. I hope I have now made the reason of my objection to this clause abundantly clear to Mr. Van Allen.

Mr. Van Allen states that he did not believe "that Merchant knew when he wrote his first letter that he was complaining of something which had no legal effect whatever * * * and he was consequently not responsible for the strenuous objection he made thereto." I don't quite grasp the meaning of Mr. Van Allen's allusion to responsibility as I cannot see just where it comes in in this connection, but in a general way I would assure him that I assume full responsibility for everything I have written. If the clause referred to could be legally enforced it would certainly be very objectionable. But when it is inserted in these notes when its legality was questionable or when it was known to have "no legal effect whatever" by the payee, it is doubly objectionable as will be very readily understood when its practical effect as above explained is considered. That my objection to this clause was well taken is best proved by Mr. Van Allen's own statement that the clause in question has been omitted from the note forms of his own company for 1891. I am very pleased to learn this and I am also very much indebted to Mr. Van Allen for the able assistance he has given me in my endeavor to expose the unreality of the "bidge"

which the implement dealers are too generally supposed to possess in this and some other matters. The exemption clause will be less of a bugbear in the future to farmers and retail merchants than I know it has been in the past.

Mr. Van Allen assumes that I am a wholesale merchant, and asks if I did not collect more than 50% of my outstanding accounts receivable in 1899 and 1900. He also asks if I think agricultural implement firms were getting more than their share when they collected in these years 50 per cent. of their paper due. I shall continue Mr. Van Allen's assumption as to my identity and further assume that I collected a good deal more than 50% in both the years specified. The wholesale merchant in Manitoba who did not do so, could not continue in business, even if he were making the very highest profits possible in the wholesale business, unless he had an amount of capital altogether out of proportion to the reasonable requirements of a business of the volume which he does.

I am prepared to admit further that if implement dealers or any other firms collected even 100 per cent. of what was due to them, they would be manifestly not be getting more than their share. I have not been blaming the agricultural implement firms for collecting if I am aware of it. My observations have been addressed more particularly to the retail merchants who are the most direct and principal sufferers from the creditors on which the financial relations of the farmer to his creditors are based, and whose inability in a great many cases to understand the real status of themselves and of the machine people, causes them much loss. The comparative amount collected in any year or series of years by the wholesale and implement firms "has nothing to do with the case." Any comparison in this matter must necessarily be between the implement dealer and the retail merchant, although as I shall endeavor to show, the wholesale merchant is deeply interested in the question in another way.

If the implement manufacturer does not collect in any year the whole amount due to him his abstinence must be due to motives of either policy or philanthropy, because he could very easily compel the farmer to pay up if he felt so disposed having security both of a legal and moral kind as we have seen. With this security for ultimate payment, and, by the way, interest at 12 per cent. per annum, he can with a feeling of comparative calmness allow his payments to go a year by default.

But impelled by various causes he may take a collecting fit (as in 1890 for example) and it is on such occasions that the security he holds enables him to compel the farmer to disburse even if through doing so, his liability to the merchant is left untouched. Should such a year be followed by one of crop failure it is easy to picture the condition of the merchant who would be, and as a matter of fact in many cases has been, forced into insolvency through his inability to collect not 50% but even 10% of outstanding accounts. These accounts when realized upon by an assignee produce possibly 10 cents on the dollar, seldom more, generally less. Why is this? Because to a very large extent he holds no security for the payment of these accounts, while the debtors have other liabilities (their machine debts principally) which are secured and to which, on account of the existence of this security, they

give their attention while being obliged to allow for want of wherewithal to pay them, their mercantile debts to stand unpaid. I do not blame the machine dealers for taking or attempting to get security, or for collecting actively. I want to draw the attention of the merchant to the fact that he has been allowing himself to be discriminated against in a most unbusiness like, ruinous and altogether unnecessary manner.

But this is not all. The security for ultimate payment and the substantial rate of interest which he receives, and his large profits cause the machine dealer to push sales to an extent altogether disproportionate to the requirements of the country. Mr. Van Allen's inference that the ordinary mercantile community is given to pushing business in the same extravagant way is not justified by the facts. The very conditions under which they conduct business, would make it actually suicidal for the merchants, either wholesale or retail in their unsecured position to push their business to push their business to that extent. In fact the heavy and largely unnecessary liability of the farmers for machinery curtails even the amount of legitimate business which the merchants could do, and as a consequence the wholesale merchant is also very deeply interested as I have said.

The reduction of the volume of his business is a very serious matter to him notwithstanding that he may be able to collect much more than 50% of his accounts. While the country is notoriously "implement poor," who ever heard of the farmers having a surfeit of groceries, or can it be charged that they are extravagant in the matter of wearing apparel?

In an article in THE COMMERCIAL of April 27, on "Winnipeg's Implement Business" I find it stated that "the total trade of Winnipeg "in farm implements and machinery, vehicles, "etc., for 1890, amounted to over \$2,700,000."

The total area under cultivation in the province was about one million sixteen thousand acres. Allowing as an offset the implements sold at Brandon and other independent agencies in the province against the acreage in the Northwest Territories we see that the implements used in this province represent the enormous annual charge of \$2.50 on every cultivated acre of every kind of crop, and this whether the season is good or bad. This is of course on the basis of the business of 1890. In this connection Mr. Van Allen says "I would suggest to Merchant "that it is just possible that the overloading "the farmer with implements which he is not "able to pay for, may if left alone work its cure "in a similar manner (by the operation of the "farmer's good sense) if indeed a cure has not "been effected."

I trust that it is as Mr. Van Allen would seem to think, but I would suggest that a powerful auxiliary to this system of cure would be the proper understanding of the matter in its bearing on themselves and their real position with reference to it, by the retail merchants.

The debt of a farmer to a retail merchant is as much a debt as is his liability to a machine dealer.

If there is to be any priority the mercantile debt should be paid first as the merchant's profit is smaller than that of the machine manufacturer.

If the machine dealer obtains security, as a matter of business and of equity the merchant should also insist upon it for his own account.

The merchant should bear clearly and constantly in his mind that there is no great law of nature which ordains that the machine debt must be paid while his account may be left to look after itself. He has as much power and the same status as the implement man if he will exercise the one and hold the other.

These simple and self evident truths have been strangely overlooked in practice by the mercantile community most of whom will accept as a sufficient reason from a farmer for non payment of his debt, that "the machine "man is after him" and must be paid. It seldom seems to strike them that it would be a good thing to get into the machine man's position themselves. In my endeavors to bring these truths as clearly as I can before my fellow merchants, I certainly did not calculate on the assistance of a gentleman in Mr. Van Allen's line of business. It is not the less welcome, however, nor the less gratefully received. The whole bearing and inwardness of this most important matter can be so much more clearly brought out, and attention to the subject can be so much the better secured by controversy that by a plain uncontradicted statement. Having already occupied too much of your valuable space I cannot touch on a few other minor matters dealt with by Mr. Van Allen as I would have wished.

Mr. Van Allen does not yet seem to be quite aware that unless when the correspondence involves personal charges or personal references, it is the legitimate and indeed the usual practice of private individuals when writing on matters of public interest to a public journal, to make use of a *nom de plume*. Indeed I have heard it stated as the opinion of some gentlemen in Mr. Van Allen's line of business, that his reputation for sagacity would not at all have been impaired had he adopted this course himself when he decided to go into this discussion. Of course that is none of my affair as Mr. Van Allen has just as much right to give his every day name as I have to use one which simply denotes my occupation. If my statements "have little in "them of themselves" their own inherent weakness would be almost as fatal to them even with my name attached, as Mr. Van Allen's counter demonstrations.

Before closing I wish it to be clearly understood that nothing that has passed in this dispute impairs the very high respect in which I have always held Mr. Van Allen personally, both for his character and his abilities. I must also repeat my thanks for his assistance although I cannot refrain from again expressing my surprise that he should have volunteered it in this matter.

I am very sincerely yours,
MANITOBA MERCHANT.

The glass market is somewhat unsettled, says the *Montreal Gazette*, and has been so recently, owing to competition between sellers, which has resulted in some sharp cutting, and we understand that as low as \$1.45 has been accepted. Anyhow business will be done readily on a \$1.40 basis, although we quote \$1.40 @ \$1.50 as a jobbing range. In contrast to this condition of affairs on this market advices from abroad quote a much firmer tone, the market there having an advancing tendency.

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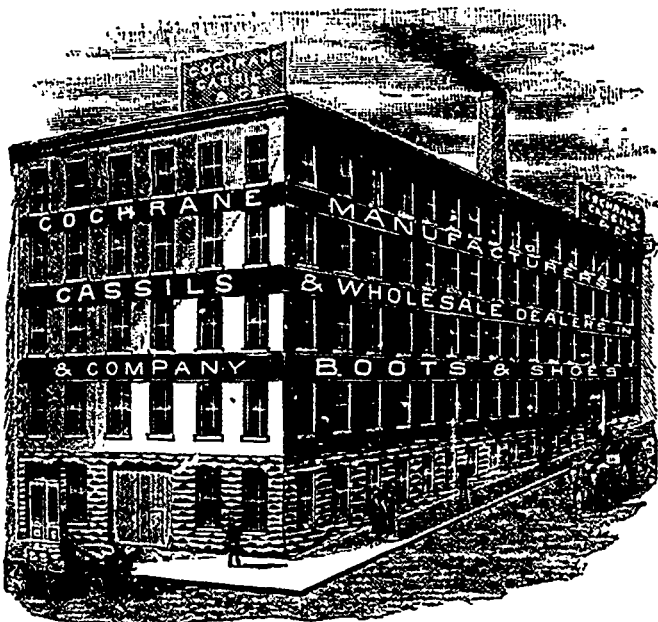
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Manitoba Crop Report.

The official crop bulletin prepared by the Manitoba government, from information received up to June 1, was issued on Monday last.

The system of dividing the province into groups of counties for the purpose of collecting statistics has been discontinued, districts now being made up of Minnedosa, Shoal Lake, Birtle, Russel, as the northwestern; the central—Dennison, Lansdowne, North Brandon and Brandon City; the south western—Souris, Turtle Mountains, South Brandon and Killarney; the south central—Cypress, Mountain, Manitou, Lorne, Dufferin and Morden; the north central—Portage la Prairie, Lakeaido, Norfolk, Westbourne and Beautiful Plains; the eastern—Woodlands, Rockwood, St. Andrews, Kildonan, Springfield, St. Bonifacio, Cartier, Morris, Carillon, La Verandrye, Emerson and Rosenfeldt.

THE AREA

The total acreage put under crop this season—assuming that the area under flax is the same as last year—is shown to be 1,350,201 acres, being an increase of 267,407 over that of 1890. Of this increased area 170,707 acres are devoted to wheat; 70,110 to oats and 23,793 to barley. The remainder of 2,898 acres are divided among the potato, root and rye areas.

The subjoined statement, for the convenience of reference, gives comparisons with 1890, of a number of items dealt with in the report:—

	1890.	1891.
Acres under Wheat.....	746,059	916,664
" " Oats.....	235,534	305,644
" " Barley.....	68,035	89,828
" " Peas.....	1,170	555
" " Potatoes.....	10,812	12,705
" " Roots.....	7,977	9,301
" Followed for crop of.....	180,792	205,232
" Fall plowed for crop of.....	559,101	509,138

WEATHER.

Correspondents reported the weather admirably suited for carrying on seeding operations. The snow left the ground at a very early date and seeding was at once begun and carried on without interruption until the close. Seeding was general over the province during the second week in April, and plowing was very general before that date. Throughout April the weather continued dry and unusually warm, and vegetation was rapid. May opened with a few frosty nights which gave a set-back to the growing plants of all kinds. The entire month continued cool and vegetation was materially checked. During May but little rain fell until the end of the month, and the loss was felt in many places. Reports sent in after the rainfall of the last day of the month showed how much appreciated the rain was. High winds were prevalent and the usual damage to the sown fields prevailed. No damage was reported as caused by the frosts in May beyond a set-back of a few days to the growing grains.

FALLOWING AND PLOWING.

The respective quantities of land prepared for crop by fallowing and fall ploughing are respectively 205,232 and 509,138 acres. The quantity fallowed exceeds that of the previous year 24,440 acres. Fallowing appears to be pretty generally carried out over the province, as the areas each year are on the increase. The quantities fall plowed show a falling off from the previous year of 41,023 acres. Considering the lateness of the harvest last season and the very unfavorable weather which followed, this can hardly be wondered at, and the

area plowed appears extremely large when compared with that done the year before under most favorable conditions.

WHEAT.

The seeding season just past has been very favorable for putting in the wheat crop, and the reports of acreage show that every advantage was taken of it to get in the largest possible area. Seeding was general over the province about the 10th of April and the crop was almost entirely put into the ground during that month. During April growth was very rapid and the opening of May found the crop covering the ground, but a few nights of continuous frosts in the early part of the month cut the blades down and the growth was considerably retarded. Rain was wanted in several places too, as the crop was beginning to show signs of want of moisture. The high winds, which are so prevalent, caused the soil to blow off the grain in some instances and a few cases are reported where the crop was plowed up and sown with other grains. Considering the drawbacks, however, from frost and want of moisture the reports of the general appearance of this crop, as given elsewhere in this report, show that on June 1, the wheat crop with but few exceptions was most promising.

The area shown under crop in the province is a decided increase over that of last season, being a total of 916,664 acres, or an advance of over 22 per cent. With the exception of two or three divisions in the northwestern portion of the province increased areas are noted throughout. These increases are considerable in some cases and in others very large. The smallest increase in any district is 7,574 acres in the northwestern. In arriving at the area given under wheat, reports from 140 townships were included, and these all showed such a general increase that the large addition of 170,606 acres over that of last year, is in this way accounted for.

OATS.

This crop is not so far advanced as it might have been, the cold weather of May having kept it rather backward. Correspondents generally say but little about the crop, and their remarks differed very much as to its condition in different localities. Generally speaking, warm weather with rain was required to stimulate the growth and help make up the drawbacks received by the check from frosts. The area under crop is shown to be 305,644 acres, being an increase of 70,110 acres over that of last year. This increase is shown in every district, and in the majority of the townships. The increases in the several districts vary from 7,489 acres in the eastern, which is the smallest, to 16,380 acres in the north central, which is the largest.

BARLEY.

This crop, through the favorable weather that prevailed, was put into the ground at a comparatively early date, with the result that it received quite a set back from the night frosts of May. Like oats, warm weather with rain was needed to freshen the growth of the crop. The area put under barley shows a marked increase over that of last year, in the addition of 23,793 acres. All the districts show marked increases in area, the principal one being 8,503 acres in the north central division. The smallest increase is in the central division, that being 2,314 acres.

POTATOES, ETC.

The area planted in potatoes shows a

marked increase over that of last season. In all the districts there are increased areas, the total being 1,893 acres over that of 1890. The total area planted in potatoes is 12,705 acres as compared with 10,812 last year. The area put under root crops, like that of potatoes, shows also a gratifying increase. The total area shown devoted to root crops is 9,301 acres, being an increase of 1,324 acres over last season.

ESTIMATED ACREAGE.

The following is given as the estimated acreage under crop for this year:—

Districts.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Potatoes.
North Western.....	53,693	33,005	13,100	1,426
Central	157,219	41,870	7,993	1,490
South Western	202,733	57,949	11,190	2,020
South Central.....	189,222	60,899	23,688	1,013
North Central	178,796	52,292	17,059	2,124
Eastern	135,055	54,639	16,789	3,723

Totals 916,664 305,644 89,828 12,705

The estimated acreage of rye, 921 acres; peas, 555 acres; buckwheat, 30 acres; and corn, 133 acres. Reports as to the flax crop are incomplete.

LIVE STOCK.

The condition of stock generally on June 1, was better than for some time past, owing largely to the very mild winter and to the abundance of fodder that has been provided, as well as the early date at which the grass became sufficient for feeding. Over and above what was required to feed the stock during the winter, there appears to be a goodly supply of hay and other feed still on hand. In a few cases horses, on account of having more than an ordinary amount of work to perform, are reported rather thin. No special mention is made of sheep and hogs. Among cattle there have been a few isolated cases of anthrax but comparatively few deaths have occurred. With these exceptions no other disease is reported among cattle, which were spoken of as in a good healthy condition. Glanders exist among horses in a few localities, but every effort is being put forth by the department to stamp out the disease by strictly quarantining all suspicious cases and destroying all animals affected.

GRAIN, ETC., ON HAND.

Reports go to show that comparatively small quantities of wheat are held in farmers' hands over and above what is required for consumption. In oats there appears to be a considerable quantity held in many places, but no reasons have been given why they have not been disposed of. The reports of the numbers of fat and store cattle in the hands of farmers to be disposed of are most gratifying. In almost every township there are a few at least being prepared for sale, and in many instances the numbers are quite large.

LABOR AND WAGES.

In reply to the question "Is there a sufficient supply of farm laborers now or a scarcity?" correspondents reply very fully. In places the supply is quite equal to the demand that exists, but there are a great many localities in which help is wanted. At the present time several hundred men could find employment as farm hands in different parts of the province. A table appended gives the numbers at present employed as well as the numbers that will be further required. The numbers considerably exceed those at the corresponding date last year. Although a great many correspondents

stated that a certain number would be required for harvest, still that number would be largely governed by what the nature of the harvest will be. The numbers required look astonishingly large, but there are individual townships in which reports say over one hundred men will be wanted. The wages paid farm laborers do not appear to change very much and represent those paid during the working season from spring until fall.

The demand for female servants is apparently on the increase, as is shown in the decided increase in the number employed as well as the number wanted. Wages, too, show an increase, but that does not appear to bring the required relief. Female help is reported so scarce in some places that the dairying interests are allowed to suffer through insufficient help. One correspondent in Southern Manitoba stated that fifty domestics could find employment in twenty four hours in his township, and all at high wages. A total of 1,693 servants is required to supply the demand, according to the correspondents. The averages paid female servants is \$9.43½ per month with board.

FARM RENTALS.

When sending in their reports correspondents were asked to give the average rentals of farm land in their respective districts. The prices asked per acre vary from a few cents to from \$3 to \$5 per acre. The lower prices given applied, of course, to the unbroken prairie, and to land on which little or no work had been expended. The custom of working land on shares prevails in many localities. The average rental value over the province is about \$2 per acre.

Boot and Shoe Making.

During a recent visit to Hamilton, Ontario, a COMMERCIAL representative had the pleasure of visiting and inspecting one of the most interesting industrial institutions in the Dominion, namely the boot and shoe factory of John McPherson & Co., of that city. This large factory is located in a central portion of the city, quite close to the heart of the business district, and unlike most factories is a building of some architectural pretensions, and quite an ornament to the locality in which it is situated. It covers an area of 70 by 142 feet, has a basement and four floors of that area, and is well lighted from all sides.

The first movement in the work of inspection by our representative, was the ascent by elevator to the top floor, where about three score of girls were at work in the manufacture of boots and shoe tops, and many were employed at machines of the most ingenious description. Some of the sewing machines working ornamental and double row stitching were studies for a mechanic, and yet all seemed to work smoothly and with an astonishing minimum of noise.

On the front end of the upper floor is the top cutting room, where some dozen men were at work shaping out the uppers of foot wear. This room is a perfect globe of light, and necessarily so, as it requires bright light and close watching to enable the cutters to steer clear of the thin and otherwise inferior parts in the leather.

Descending to the next floor below the sole and bottoming departments are reached. The front room where the sole leather is cut out is equally as well lighted as the one immediately above it, and for the very same reason. On

this and the floor immediately below it the joining of soles and uppers, sole stitching, heel-ing and polishing and finishing is carried on, and the variety of machines bought to bear on the work is interesting and at times bewildering. To see a boot or shoe wandering around on an eccentric pivot of a queerly constructed stitching machine and coming out fastened as tightly together as if nailed all in less than a minute, is a thing the most credulous must see to believe. The processes of heel and blacking are equally interesting and on some points bewildering, and when one comes down to the street floor and views in the stock room the variety of foot wear from the heaviest laborer's boot to the lady's dress slipper or boot of the finest finish, he realizes in a kind of a way the advances made in mechanical skill since the days of our grandfathers, when Saint Crispin's only representative was the cobbler with his last, lapstone, awl and clem.

John McPherson & Co. have not lost sight of the value of comfortable quarters in which to receive customers, for their offices and sample rooms on the street floor in front are among the most commodious and elegantly fitted up connected with any Canadian factory visited by our representative. Altogether their institution is a model one, and its value as an industry to the city in which it is located may be in some measure estimated by the fact, that it gives employment to about two hundred and fifty hands.

British Columbia.

J. H. Collins, manager of the Fraser River Gold Gravel syndicate, at Yale, in response to enquiries made by a *Columbian* reporter, said that his company now had all their machinery safely across the river and in position. So far, very little working has been done, as the fitting of the massive machinery has taken up a lot of time. However, the company has great hopes of obtaining a large quantity of gold during the summer months. The boilers and machinery which were lost last fall in the Fraser, have never been recovered, and a great deal of expense has been incurred through having to purchase fresh plant from England. Mr. Collins returned yesterday to Yale.

The British Columbia Paper Manufacturing Company, Limited, with a capital stock of \$40,000 has been organized at Victoria. After a trip along all of the rivers of the province for a site for the mill the one best suited was the Sumas river in Alberni. The site was therefore chosen on the first rapids of that river. The reason the company decided to start the mill on the Sumas river, says the *Times*, instead of bidding for the bonus offered by Victoria, is that the paper can be made \$35 a ton cheaper there than in any city on the coast. There is splendid water power and the wood required in the manufacturing of paper is very plentiful in the vicinity. The company expect to have the mill running full blast within eight months.

The Miner says: "The last spike was driven in the Columbia and Kootenay railway at Nelson on Tuesday during a rainstorm, with not a resident present to witness the event—an event too that will mark an epoch in the history of the lake country. The track is now being ballasted and Mr. Wetmore expects to have it in pretty good shape within thirty days trains now covering the distance (28 miles) in two

hours. Hereafter a train will leave Robson for Nelson on Mondays and Thursdays on the arrival of the boat from Revelstoke, which will enable passengers to make the run through from Revelstoke in one day. Until the new boat at Little Dalles is completed, a train will leave Nelson on Tuesdays and Fridays in time for passengers to make connections with the boat at Revelstoke. The Nelson office will be opened next week. As soon as arrangements can be perfected an express office will also be opened."

A special meeting of the B. C. Board of Trade, Victoria, was held to receive the report of the railway committee. It was to the effect that they had communicated with the heads of the big railway companies of the continent, and appended the correspondence received in reply, requesting that having carried out their instructions they wished to be discharged. No recommendations were made by the committee. It seems that only one company entertained the proposition to connect namely, the N. P. R. It was moved "that the board after having communicated with the representatives of the trans-continental lines and Mr. Dunsmuir, and after having received several replies there to, learns with satisfaction that there is a prospect of the city having railway connection with the N. P. R. with steam ferry, and trusts that in an impending interview between President Oakes and the council, a satisfactory arrangement will be completed."

At a regular quarterly meeting of Vancouver Board of Trade held recently, Vice-President Bortaux in the chair, the secretary read communications from the Chamber of Commerce at Suva, Fiji, asking information as to the probability of the establishment of a steamship line between Fiji and Vancouver; from the Secretary of the Post Office Department, Ottawa, saying that henceforth the contents of the parcel post would be sorted en route and delivered here direct instead of being sent to Victoria; from the City Clerk stating that the City Council would assist in the efforts being made to remove the shacks from the foreshore; from the Chamber of Commerce, London, stating that it was proposed to hold a Congress of the Chambers of Commerce of the Empire in London in May, 1892 and asking for any suggestions that it would be desirable to discuss (this was referred to the Council to report to the Board); from H. A. Berry resigning his membership. After the discussion of several matters the Board then adjourned.

The *Victoria Colonist* says: While the facts have been kept very quiet, it has been rumored in shipping circles during the past week that the next would see a lusty rival enter the field against the C. P. R. Co., in competition for the Victoria and Puget Sound trade with China and Japan. It is now almost certain that this rival is the P. & O. Steamship Co., whose lines extend from England to almost every quarter of the inhabited globe. The first steamer of the new line, the Zambezi, is now hourly expected, with a full cargo, from Hong Kong and Yokohama. She will discharge her Victoria freight and passengers and then make the circuit of the Sound ports, for each of which she has some cargo. It is expected that the steamers of this line will make semi-monthly trips between Yokohama and Victoria direct, a fleet of three being utilized in the service. Whether this move on the part of the company is inspired by one of the American transcontinental lines, or is due to the C. P. R. competition with the Suez Canal is still matter for conjecture.

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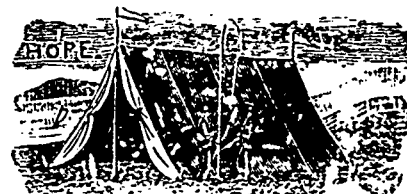
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Poor Prospects for Wool.

The outlook is anything but encouraging for the marketing of this season's clip of Canadian wool, which is large and of fairly good average quality. Ontario fleeces generally found its chief market in the United States, but since the McKinley Bill went into force the high tariff imposed upon it, virtually excluded it from that country except what found its way thither by the under ground route. The adoption of such means of forcing a market by attempting to evade the duty appears to be attended with considerable risks, as several lots of Canadian wool have recently been pounced upon by American customs officers after it had passed the line and confiscated without the slightest ceremony, to the serious loss of the owners. The situation as present therefore wears a perplexing aspect, as farmers have considerable wool on their hands which they cannot sell except at a big concession from former prices, and which they claim does not pay them for their trouble of producing and clipping it. Recent advices received from the west, state that notwithstanding the seizures of the United States customs officers, smuggled wool from Canada continues to find its way across the borders, although not in sufficiently large quantities to relieve the market of its surplus stocks to any appreciable extent. Some farmers have accepted the position and parted with their wool at the lower range of prices, but quite a number are still holding in the hope that something may turn up to advance values to the basis which they obtained before the McKinley tariff came into force. Those dealers in Ontario who were caught with the balance of last season's clip on hand have sustained some smart losses, and are not likely to take any further risks. Consequently they are not buying except at prices low enough to insure them from any further losses. The future of the wool producers of Canada is therefore not by any means a bright one. *Montreal Trade Bulletin.*

Much from Little

It appears now that the wheat crop of 1899 in this country (the United States) was very much above the estimates. Last January, when the final report came in, figured at about 400,000,000 bushels, the small crop people claimed that the amount was too big, for they said, the figures were based on measured bushels, and that if commercial bushels were taken each would be short of the government figures about five pounds, so they took off a twelfth of the crop, as figured, and called the production 366,000,000 bushels. That, they claimed, was the only correct method of figuring, and by fitting that style of calculation to the official figures it was easy to bring out the exact amount. As we draw toward the end of the year it is found we have already consumed, according to the official system of estimating, 286,000,000 bushels and have exported 100,000,000 bushels and have used for seed 55,000,000 bushels. That foots up an amount in excess of the total supply of 398,000,000 bushels, we had in their estimation to begin the year with. That is, in eleven months, we have used more than we had to use for the entire twelve months.—*Minneapolis Market Record.*

Packing Salmon in Glass.

Several prominent citizens were treated to an illustration of a new method of salmon packing

at the office of Morrow, Holland & Co., on Broad street, Victoria, on Thursday afternoon. The process is the invention of S. M. Okell, of Manchester, England, formerly a wholesale merchant and importer of canned salmon, Mr. Okell first commenced his experiments twelve months ago, and on Thursday, in the presence of several well-known gentlemen, a glass jar of hermetically sealed salmon was opened. The fish was found to be fresh and delicious and in every manner the process was successful. It is the intention of Mr. Okell to put up several hundred cases of salmon in glass jars and ship to England, with the view of creating a demand among the middle and upper classes for salmon packed in this manner. Mr. Okell stated that there was a great deal of English capital willing to invest in the idea. It is his purpose to establish a preserving plant in Victoria, which, this summer, will be devoted to the preserving of various small fruits, such as plums, berries, pears, etc., in glass jars, and next season to pack salmon in glass on an extensive scale.—*Victoria, B. C. Times.*

It has been announced that Germany has decided against any reduction being made in corn duties, as a general state of distress did not exist. The crop prospects, it was said, were better than they were a fortnight ago.

The total net debt of Canada on the first of May last was \$234,142,372, a decrease of \$131,077 during April. The expenditure for May on capital account was \$3,791,635 compared with \$1,720,690 for the corresponding month last year. The surplus for the ten months elapsed of the current fiscal year is \$5,920,331.

At the recent meeting of the Bank of Montreal the scrutineers reported the election of the following gentlemen as directors for the ensuing year: J. J. C. Abbott, R. B. Angus, Hon. G. A. Drummond, E. B. Greenshields, W. C. McDonald, Hugh McLennan, A. T. Patterson, Gilbert Scott and the Hon. Donald A. Smith.

At a conference between the Toronto Retail Grocers' Association and the Toronto Wholesale Grocers' Guild it was agreed by the latter to recommend the Dominion guild to grant a discount of 3 per cent. off the price of starch in purchases of 10 boxes; 5 per cent. of 50 boxes, and 7 per cent. off 100 and over. It was discussed by the Dominion guild, and referred to the local guilds. These have all agreed to an allowance of 5 per cent. discount on 50 boxes and up, and these terms may now be considered to be in force. On 10 boxes, however, the Quebec and Kingston guilds will not agree to, and the matter will have to be threshed out again by the Dominion guild.

Cochrane, Cassils & Co., of Montreal, a house that for over forty years has been known as one of the leading wholesale boot and shoe manufacturing establishments of the Dominion, have moved to fine new premises at the corner of Latour and St. Genevieve streets, in order to make room for the steady expansion of their business. Their new factory is 123x52 feet five stories high or a total of some 32,000 square feet of flooring space (over 2 of an acre) and gives employment to a large number of hands. Their output finds a market in every part of the Dominion, as they make a specialty of high grade medium class goods in all lines. It is safe to say that their reputation is unrivalled from the Atlantic to the Pacific.

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