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The Commercial

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE FINANCIAL, MERCANTILE AND MANUFACTURING INTERESTS OF THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

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

VOL. 6.

WINNIPEG, DECEMBER 19TH, 1887.

No. 13

The Commercial

Journal devoted to keeping a comprehensive record of the transactions of the Monetary, Mercantile and Manufacturing interests of Manitoba and the Canadian Northwest.

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JAMES E. STEEN,
Publisher

WINNIPEG, DECEMBER 18, 1887.

C. KEEFFERSCHMIDT, a Langenburg druggist, is dead.

H. NELSON, hotelkeeper, Solsgirth, is removing to Birtle.

MRS. SAVAGE has opened a dress-making business at Regina.

THE furniture stock of Winnett & Co., Winnipeg, was damaged by fire.

WM. JEFFERSON, dealer in wagons, Stonewall, has sold out to Thomas Lusted.

P. J. HUNT, groceries, Winnipeg, stock sold for sixty-five cents on the dollar.

DAVIDSON BROS., jewellers, Calgary, are opening a branch at Vancouver, B. C.

S. KIRKPATRICK, has sold his general stock at High River to Limoges & DeJournal for \$1,000.

R. NELSON talks of erecting a hotel building at Birtle.

THE Lethbridge mines are putting out 500 tons of coal daily.

ROSE has renewed business at Moosomin, Assa., and added stationery and fancy goods to his business.

E. L. DREWRY, of the Redwood brewery, Winnipeg, will require about 40,000 bushels of barley this season.

S. J. HOGG, of S. J. Hogg & Co., lumber dealers, Calgary, a well known business man of the western territories, is dead.

W. T. FRASER has retired from the management of the Ford hotel at Dunmore, Assa., and has been succeeded by Richard Porter.

By the amended municipal ordinance in the Territories, municipal councils are given power to license and regulate transient traders.

ROBERT DICKENSON, of the Queen's hotel, Brandon, has bought out the interest of James Guyer in the business, and now has full control.

W. H. HOLMES, of Wyld, Grasset & Darling, wholesale dry goods, Toronto, left last week on a business trip for the Pacific coast. He will be absent about six weeks.

THE Manitoba Northwestern railway will make application for an amendment to its charter, empowering the company to complete the line at the rate of twenty miles per year.

THE Messenger, a monthly magazine published in the interest of the Church of England in the Territories, will make its first appearance on New Year's day. It will be published from Regina.

DAWSON, BOLE & Co., wholesale druggists, of Regina, have just issued their Northwest Almanac for 1888. This almanac is the only one giving astronomical and other information peculiar to the Northwest, and it will therefore form a very useful book of reference. An interesting feature is the weather reports for each month of 1887, taken at Swift Current, Calgary, Medicine Hat, Regina and Qu'Appelle station. Cuts are also given of the four members of Parliament for the Territories. Dawson, Bole & Co. are to be commended for the publication of this useful annual.

ALL the fat cattle in the Neepawa district have been purchased at 2½ cents live weight.

THE Manitoba Electric and Gas Light Co., of Winnipeg, had their buildings and plant destroyed by fire on Wednesday evening last. Loss \$40,000 to \$50,000; no insurance. The works will be replaced as fast as possible.

A NEW company to be known as the Manitoba Building and Loan Company, has been organized at Winnipeg with a capital stock of \$300,000 in shares of \$100 each. The directors are: President, William J. Mitchell; vice-president, Alexander McIntyre; C. S. Hoare, F. L. Patton, T. C. Livingstone, E. B. O'Reilly, M. D., L. N. Betournay, G. W. Girldestone, G. Young, T. Gilroy and G. R. Howard.

THE regular quarterly meeting of the Council of the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Association was held in Winnipeg on Wednesday evening last. There were present W. J. Mitchell, N. H. Jackson, A. W. Bleasdel, H. E. Neelands and D. L. McIntyre, Winnipeg; B. M. Canniff, Portage la Prairie; and G. W. McLaren, Morden. The board recommended that J. A. Hobbs, of Pilot Mound, be registered as a pharmaceutical chemist. The annual meeting will take place in February.

THE Gazette, of Macleod, Alberta, says: Cattle still remain in splendid condition. Cows with late calves are the only poor stock. Cattle never went into a winter under more favorable circumstances, and from present appearances we may expect the loss to be merely nominal. Last year at this time cattle were not in nearly as good condition as they are now, and the winter was the worst in thirty years. The loss last winter was very far from being disastrous, and the prospects are a thousand per cent. better this year.

H. A. PERLEY, the well known caterer to the travelling public on the line of the C. P. R. west of Winnipeg, has lately been extending operations along the road. From having charge of the dining hall at Broadview, he has succeeded to the control of the halls at Swift Current, Moose Jaw and Glacier, the last two having very recently come under his management. It is expected that the dining stations at Field and North Bend will shortly come under his control. A. E. Sutton has the position of general manager in connection with Mr. Perley's system of dining stations.

Our Pacific Province.

With the completion of the C.P.R. through the mountains of British Columbia, a new life has dawned upon the Pacific province. Though British Columbia was a member of the Canadian Confederation for several years previous to the construction of the railway, that membership might be termed merely nominal. True, the province elected members to the Canadian Parliament, sent its representatives to Ottawa, and was subject to the customs and general laws of the Dominion; but in the important direction of trade and commerce, British Columbia could hardly be considered a part of the Dominion. Its trade, both import and export, was carried on, not with the provinces and territories of Canada, but principally with Great Britain and the States of the Pacific coast to the south, especially California. The three principal exports of the province—canned salmon, lumber, and the products of the mines—were almost unknown in other parts of Canada. On the other hand the manufactures of Eastern Canada were not largely to be had in the markets of British Columbia. Now the

SCENE IS CHANGING;

we say changing, because the province is not yet entirely reconciled to the new order of things. In place of British and California goods, the products of Eastern Canada and the Northwest are crowding upon the markets of British Columbia. In turn also the products of the province are finding their way eastward to other parts of the Dominion. Instead of being an isolated province, with little in common with the rest of the country, British Columbia is rapidly being brought into harmony with the national pulse. It is not to be expected that such a change could come about without some indications of friction in certain quarters. The derangement which the commerce of the province has undergone could not but cause depression and dissatisfaction in some directions. The closing up of the old channels of trade and the opening of new could not be expected to work to the perfect satisfaction of all concerned. So it has been in the case of British Columbia. Some few individual interests have certainly suffered by the new order of things, and a people naturally conservative from long isolation, have not viewed the change with general satisfaction. The manufactures of Eastern Canada, being of different quality and pattern from those formerly used, have not always been kindly received, likewise the different style of doing business in the east has not infrequently been a matter of adverse comment. Hence it is that British Columbia is still a large importer of British and foreign goods in proportion to population, as compared with other parts of Canada, though the geographical position of the province also has something to do with this fact.

As already stated, some interests have perhaps been injuriously affected by the change which has been going on of late in the commerce of the province, but taken as a whole, the result will certainly prove to the general advantage of the people. The country is being opened up to settlement; new industries will be developed and new avenues for commerce will be opened. New settlers are flowing in from

the east, and gradually but surely the province is becoming assimilated with the rest of Canada. In no respect has the completion of the railway been more marked than as regards the trade intercourse which has sprung up between Manitoba and British Columbia. During the past season

BRITISH COLUMBIA PRODUCTS

including fish, fruits and lumber, have found their way to Northwestern markets all along the line from Calgary to Winnipeg. On the other hand, Manitoba products, such as flour, feed, millstuffs, grain, butter, cheese, eggs, etc., are now largely used in British Columbia. This inter-provincial trade has come into existence entirely within the past few months, and is the result of a single season. The prospects are for a continuous growth of trade in the same direction, and with the experience now gained the result should prove more satisfactory in the future.

Owing to this trade intercourse which is so rapidly extending between Manitoba and the Territories and British Columbia, it is desirable that the business communities of the different sections should become better acquainted with each other. With this object in view the writer has undertaken the preparation of a series of letters, on matters particularly of a commercial and industrial nature, pertaining to the Pacific Province. British Columbia and the Northwest must in the natural course of events become very intimate in their trade relationship. These two great divisions are quite different in their leading features and resources, and on this account the products of each are required by the other. It is most desirable that Northwestern shippers should fully understand the requirements of British Columbia markets, in order that the greatest benefit may be derived from the trade. It will therefore be the object to endeavor to throw out in future letters some useful hints in the direction indicated. In the meantime, however, a fitting introduction to British Columbia would be to give a sketch of the

TRADE OF VICTORIA

the commercial, industrial and financial capital of the Pacific Province.

The readers of THE COMMERCIAL with some exceptions, are probably but slightly acquainted with the extent of the wholesale trade of Victoria. Perhaps many are hardly aware that the city has any standing as a wholesale centre, though as a matter of fact its importance in this respect is by no means inconsiderable. Victoria ranks amongst its business institutions wholesale houses in almost every branch of trade, and many of these are of the first order. A number of old and substantial firms are here engaged in the wholesale trade, some of these having a financial standing second to none in Canada. A glance over the commercial references will quickly dispel any belief that Victoria has no first-class houses. As a matter of fact the rating of the wholesale houses of the city is very high as a general rule, and the amount of capital represented in this way is much greater than would be naturally supposed, for a city with the population of Victoria. No failures of any consequence have occurred for years, and the trade of the city appears to be in a prosperous and healthy condition. An

enumeration of the houses engaged in wholesale trade, with a brief special reference to each would perhaps best serve to show the extent of the wholesale trade of the city. It will be noted that several of the houses have been established for a considerable length of time. Another feature which will be observed is, that several firms carry a general stock of staple goods, instead of confining their business to one branch of trade.

A glance at the commercial reference will show something over

450 TRADING INSTITUTIONS

of all kinds in Victoria. This is exclusive of Chinese, of whom there are a large number in business in various branches of trade. Besides these there will be a number of smaller institutions which have been overlooked. Among this total of business establishments there are a number which may be classed as straight wholesale and jobbing houses. In wholesale dry goods there are several houses engaged either in this branch alone, or in connection with other lines. Lenz & Leiser handle foreign and domestic goods in this branch; also gents furnishings. They carry a heavy stock and do an exclusively wholesale trade. They also manufacture shirts, overhauls, smocks, cottonade goods, etc. Premises 50x80, two floors and basement, are occupied. Mr. M. Lenz established this business eight years ago, and about a year ago the business was changed to present style. C. Strouss & Co. handle dry goods and any goods principally, but also do a wholesale commission trade in other staple goods, and manufacture shirts, overhauls, etc. This firm is one of the oldest, having been established 20 years. Mr. C. Strouss resides in London, Eng., where the firm has an office for convenience in purchasing. J. H. Todd & Son do a wholesale trade in staple goods of several branches, including dry goods, clothing, hats and caps, groceries and provisions, etc. The firm is also proprietor of a salmon cannery on the north arm of the Fraser river, where they put up the Horseshoe brand of salmon. Mr. Todd was president of the board of trade last year. This house was established in 1872. A. B. Gray & Co. devote special attention to wholesale dry goods, though also handling some other staple lines. They also manufacture duck, denim and cottonade goods. The firm has handled liquors largely, but contemplates giving up this branch of business. Established 20 years. Turner, Beeton & Co. are wholesale general merchants, and import largely in dry goods and other branches of trade. They are also interested in the canning industry, and own two canneries on the Skena river, besides handling the product of other canneries. The firm is connected with H. C. Beeton & Co., of London, Eng. Mr. H. C. Beeton is agent general for the colonies in London. J. A. Caton & Co. do a wholesale trade in dry goods, furnishings, notions, jewelry, etc., and have been established five years. A. McLean & Co. do some jobbing trade in clothing, etc., though their business is principally retail. Imported goods are handled exclusively by the latter house. In

WHOLESALE GROCERIES

there are a large number of houses doing business alone or in connection with other branches, besides those handling groceries previously mentioned, in connection with the dry goods trade. S. J. Pitts deals largely in groceries, provisions, produce and green fruits.

He has shipped California fruits as far eastward as Winnipeg, and his regular trade extends well into the Territories. He also handles Manitoba produce to some extent. The business has been established 17 years. Simon Leiser also does a straight wholesale grocery business, and makes a specialty of green fruits for shipment eastward. The firm of Welsh, Rithet & Co. is widely known, not only in connection with the wholesale grocery trade, but also in other lines. The firm was established in Victoria in 1872, and does a large business in importing groceries, provisions, liquors, etc. The firm is agent for the Moodyville saw mills, for export, and also represents five canneries. Mr. R. P. Rithet of the firm is interested in shipping. Thos. Earl does business as wholesale grocer, besides being interested in the Pioneer coffee and spice mills and the Alert Bay Canning Co., owning the only salmon cannery on Vancouver Island. He is also connected with the firm of T. Earl & Co, railway contractors, etc. The firm of Boucherat & Co. has been established over twenty years, and carries on a wholesale business in groceries, provisions, liquors, etc. Richard Carr has been connected with the wholesale grocery, provision and liquor trade of the city for a about twenty years, and has been so successful that he is now arranging to retire from business on a competence. Henry Saunders is also a wholesale dealer in groceries, provisions and liquors, and has handled Manitoba flour and produce to a considerable extent. He is agent for the Windsor Canning Co., Skena river. Angus & Gordon, who succeeded A. Offner, commenced business in April last. They handle groceries, provisions, liquors, etc., and do a considerable jobbing trade, making a specialty of teas. Manitoba flour and produce also receives special attention from this firm. Mr. Gordon, who is an old Winnipegger, being well posted in this trade. John Boyd does a wholesale trade in liquors. There are also several houses doing a mixed jobbing and retail trade, including Fell & Co, groceries, provisions, liquors etc., established 25 years; Carne & Munsie, groceries and provisions; Neufelder & Ross., groceries and liquors; A. Bossi & Co, groceries, liquors, etc. All of the above firms do more or less in importing Manitoba flour, grain, produce, etc.

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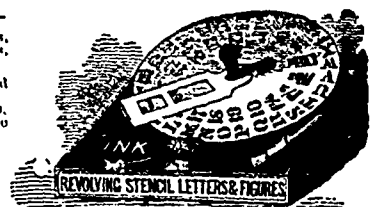
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The Commercial

WINNIPEG, DECEMBER 19, 1887.

CREDIT AND BANK RESOURCES.

THE COMMERCIAL has numerous times spoken out in unmistakable language about the system of long credits, which seems to have such a strong hold upon Canadian trade, and as time advances we only see stronger reasons for a great reform in this direction. Although the arguments in favor of shorter credits have strengthened and increased during the past few years, we believe the tendency has been in the opposite direction among wholesale merchants throughout the Dominion, and the extreme that has been reached in some instances in this Northwest is something appalling.

Four years ago when this Northwestern country was struggling through the depression which followed the collapse of speculative inflation, there was a general movement on the part of local wholesale merchants to shorten credits, and some of the eastern wholesalers were ready to join in the movement. When we say some of the eastern wholesalers, we mean nearly all of the houses there which stood by this country, and labored and sacrificed with our local wholesalers, to bring about a restoration of confidence and a state of trade safety. Most of the houses which rushed in and sold goods recklessly during the excited boom days, had withdrawn from the field and were equally reckless and decidedly unscrupulous about how they extorted payment from lagging customers here. It was then that local wholesalers learned the value of a short credit system. They had to submit to a stinging system of financial niggardliness applied by banks, and they saw in the shortening of credit the only way by which they could lessen the volume of their discount at the grumbling banks. They made determined efforts to accomplish this and in their efforts were well seconded by the eastern wholesale men who still held faith in the country. They had in fact no competitive opposition to their aims, for the houses which might have opposed them were avoiding the Northwest as they would a plague-stricken country. The result was that by the beginning of 1885 mercantile credits within the Northwest were recognized as ranging in extent from thirty days to four

months. The consequence was that our local wholesale men did not require the same volume of discount as formerly, and their business in that way did not make such a strain upon their bankers, and commercial danger as well as other drawbacks began to die away.

The turning point of returning confidence in the Northwest undoubtedly dates from the close of the Saskatchewan troubles of 1885. That fall the eastern drummer element was well represented in the Northwest, and next spring it was ubiquitous. One traveller vied with another in offering inducements to purchase to our retailers in order to get a footing in this country. Of course extended credit was one of the first temptations placed before the customer, and the whole short credit arrangements which it had taken years of trial and depression to get into force soon disappeared, and credits were extended to a greater length than in any other part of Canada. For instance, in most lines outside of articles of food, the regular line of credit for spring goods has been from 1st April at two months, a discount or a four months note, bringing payment due nett on October 4th. The cases are numerous when an extra month has been offered and given, and we know instances where two months extra have been allowed. Now these were the terms on which season goods have been sold in this country during the past two years, all spring and summer goods dating from April 1st, and all fall and winter goods from October 1st.

But we must add to the above facts the additional one, that spring goods have as a rule been delivered to the retailer in February, and fall goods in August or early in September, so that the credit allowed him, if he chose to take its limit, ranged from eight to ten months from the time he received his goods until he was called upon for payment, and so keen has competition been of late, that goods have been sold upon the closest margins, even on such terms as above stated.

But unsafety has been stretched to its utmost limit, for by the first day of October travellers from the east were in this country soliciting orders from samples for spring delivery. Thus during that month over one third of the retailers in this country had received all of their fall stock, had not paid a dollar on their previous spring stock, and were being bored day after day by travelling men

wanting to sell them goods for the coming spring. We state emphatically, that at this point trade recklessness had reached the limit of absurdity.

While we are painting a true picture of credit run mad in the Northwest, we are well aware that matters differ but little in other portions of Canada. The whole system of mercantile credit in the Dominion is inflated and stretched to its utmost tension. Is it to be wondered at then, that a time of financial stringency will bring, as it now does throughout Ontario, fears of a panic? With a balloon of credit overhanging the whole country, we must expect that every monetary strain that comes is liable to bring an explosion and collapse. Here we have had the failure of the Central Bank in Toronto, a one horse financial concern of no note, yet its collapse has shaken the financial structure of Ontario to its foundations, and the shock has reverberated from the Atlantic to the Pacific. If we are to be preserved in future from such times of anxiety and fear of panic, there is but one way to secure such immunity, and that is by a curtailing of credit throughout the whole Dominion, and the best point to commence at is the curtailment of mercantile credit. That is in reality the pulse of our monetary structure, and by controlling it, the whole system can be controlled.

It is a singular fact that in the United States, with its population of fifty millions, a system of sixty day's credit has become general, and seldom does the limit exceed ninety days. If a system of ninety days credit were general in Canada at present, or rather had been general during the past two years, the present financial stringency would never have come to pass, and the resources now at the command of our banks would be far beyond all the demands the trade of the country could make upon them. Here then is the opportunity for our banks to lead in a much needed reform. They have now the power in their hands. Let them discourage and eventually shut down upon all mercantile transactions extending beyond a ninety day's limit, and they can soon reduce mercantile credits within that limit. They would be ably seconded by the best wholesale mercantile houses in the country, and in a wonderfully short space of time they would bring their own business down to a state of safety, such as they never can realize under the present system of inflated credits.

HANDLING OUR EXPORTS.

Now that Manitoba is coming to the front as an exporter of various products, it behooves our shippers to study carefully the conditions and requirements of those markets upon which they desire to place their commodities. At the outset this is a matter of more than usual importance. The manufactures of a new institution are always subjected to the keenest scrutiny upon their first appearance in the markets, and any little defects which might be passed over without notice in the case of old and well-known brands, will be made a matter for comment, if not a reason for the entire rejection of new makes of goods, which have not yet established for themselves a reputation. So in the case of exports from a newly developed country. The goods will be subjected to the severest tests, and though perhaps equal in quality to articles already known in the market, yet some little peculiarity or deviation from the recognized mode of preparing for the particular market, may cause a serious depreciation in the price obtainable, as well as greatly retard the introduction and sale of the goods. Therefore, at the outset, and when the Province is just becoming known as a considerable exporter of various products, it is most desirable that our producers and shippers should look carefully to the quality of their goods.

But aside from the matter of quality, there is the important consideration noted above, namely: the preparation of the article to meet the particular requirements of the market to which it will be sent. Every market will be found to have some features peculiar to itself, and the successful shipper will endeavor to make himself acquainted with these and comply with them as nearly as possible. It will not do in every instance to rest the case solely on the quality of the goods, for whilst the stubborn manufacturer, dealer, or shipper is holding out, confident of the superior excellence of his wares, some other person of a more observing and accommodating turn of mind, will most likely be doing the trade.

As a rule it will be found the more profitable course to pursue, for the individual to study and adapt his goods to the requirements of a market, rather than to endeavor to force purchasers to his way of thinking. The usual method for a shipper should therefore be, to comply with all the reasonable requirements of

a market. By understanding these and preparing his wares accordingly, he will be enabled to at once introduce a new line of goods in the market, whilst by pursuing the opposite course it would often take a very long time to bring his goods into public favor, even if finally successful. In cases where the deviation adopted is a decided improvement upon existing usages, the result may prove more speedily satisfactory; but even in instances of the latter nature, the purchasing public are not infrequently very slow to appreciate the change. The thoughtful person will therefore study carefully before deciding upon a departure from established usages, and by being thoroughly posted upon the requirements and peculiarities of a market, he will be the better able to judge as to the desirability of attempting an innovation.

A recent study and inspection of the British Columbia markets, with special reference to the introduction of Manitoba products in that direction, has led to the foregoing remarks. Many Manitoba shippers have apparently very much to learn in the direction indicated in this article. Though the possibilities of trade intercourse between Manitoba and the Pacific Province have been fully considered and discussed, and though a considerable quantity of Manitoba produce has found its way to the towns and cities of the Pacific coast, yet it would seem that many shippers here have made no special effort to inform themselves as to the peculiarities and requirements of British Columbia markets. Shipments of Manitoba products have been made to British Columbia which should never have been sent in that direction. In other cases, goods which were adapted in quality to the requirements of the markets, have been reduced in price and have had their sale retarded by the shape in which they have been placed before the purchasing public. It is safe to say that the demand for Manitoba produce in British Columbia would now be very much greater than it really is, if shippers here had paid a little more attention to the peculiarities of the markets there, and exercised more care in selecting and preparing their shipments. This lack of knowledge and want of care has brought some classes of Manitoba produce into decided disrepute with the purchasing public of some parts of British Columbia, and the result has been to greatly retard the introduction and sale of such goods.

An inspection of Manitoba products in the Victoria market alongside of similar articles imported from California and other states to the south, revealed imperfections in the case of the former in almost every instance. The greater care exercised in preparing the California goods for the market was evident at a glance. In such a simple thing as oats, one would suppose there would be little difference, yet it required but a brief explanation from the dealers to show that there is a very considerable difference in the Manitoba, as compared with the California grain, and that to the disadvantage of the former. The California oats come to hand in evenly sized sacks of 100 pounds each. A car of Manitoba oats would hardly contain two sacks of the same weight, and ranging from a bushel and a half to five bushels each. The California sacks were stitched to hold; the Manitoba sacks were stitched like the buttons on a suit of shoddy hand-me-downs and frequently broke open in handling. Whilst the California oats were invariably clean and free from seeds, etc., the Manitoba grain, though of much better quality, was usually just as it came from the thresher—full of dirt. The result is that the dealers prefer to handle the evenly sized and securely stitched sacks, whilst the purchaser will select the clean grain, even at an advance of a few cents per bushel. In ground feed there was no comparison between the Manitoba and California article. The one was prepared from clean grain; the other often from dirty grain. Dealers complained that they had the greatest difficulty in disposing of the Manitoba feed. Their customers often returned it with the statement that their animals will not eat it, owing to the foul seeds in the feed, whilst such a thing never happens with the California article. The mere mention of Eastern butter would sometimes send a customer out of the shop, though the same party would willingly pay 50 cents per pound for good native or California butter. The neatness and care in preparing California butter for the market was especially noticeable, and gave the Manitoba article a slovenly appearance in comparison. Dealers complained very greatly that when they ordered a choice article from Manitoba, they often received a few tubs of inferior with the lot, and in more than one instance packages of very poor butter were shown, which had been forwarded on an order for strictly choice. Only choice butter is wanted in the coast towns of British Columbia, and the shipment thither of medium and inferior grades has to some extent brought Manitoba butter generally into disrepute.

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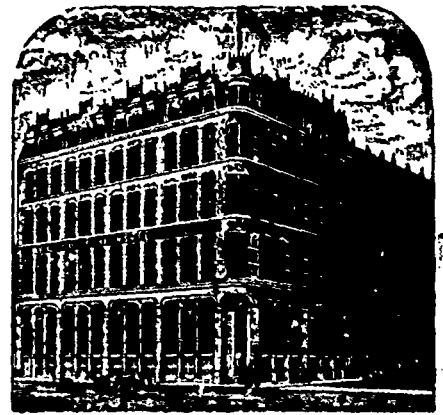
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Varnishes, etc. Importers of PLATE GLASS and
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ton's Artists' Materials.

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

Monetary affairs in the city have during the past week been settling down to a steady and undisturbed flow. The talk about financial tightness is now scarcely heard, and so far as trade finances are concerned the friction between the banks and their customers is about at an end. The former have undoubtedly relaxed some of the unnecessary stringency with which they started in some two months ago, and the steady loosening up caused by crop movement has enabled them to do so without any great strain. Their customers on the other hand have quietly, if a little sullenly, settled their minds down to an acceptance of the increased discount rates, with a kind of "Hobson's choice" resolution. With the crop moving freely, and a goodly amount of the fall sales in general merchandise taking the form of acceptances, the call for bank funds is liberal, and the volume required quite heavy. There is, however, a minimum of renewed mercantile paper, and that fact is a very satisfactory one. The banks seem able to handle all the business of their regular customers without any pressure. There is still no break on the 8 per cent. rate, and some small business men have to pay 9 and 10. In real estate mortgage loans the situation is very little changed since our last report. There are a few more calls for farm loans, and as a rule first-class loans, but there is no volume of such business, such as was expected once December opened. Interest payments are coming in steadily, although delayed in many instances by the slowness of farmers in getting crop marketed. The feeling, however, on the part of companies is one of safety and satisfaction, notwithstanding the slowness. The interest rate stands steady at 8 per cent., unless when a loan is renewed, and then the figure may go as high as 10.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

The city wholesale trade gave general evidence last week of the usual holiday season's quiet. In about all staple lines there was but a moderate movement, and dealers expect a quiet season the balance of the year. In fancy wares there was quite a little flurry in a small way. Numerous little packets were being sent out hastily by express to country customers—the last feature of the expiring holiday trade. There was also quite a call from the city trade, in the same lines. Stocks of wholesalers, however, are now down pretty fine in strictly holiday goods. Travellers were coming in from the country fast, and there will be few left on the road now. Collections were on the whole said to be somewhat improved.

ROOTS AND SHOES.

There has been little doing in this branch the winter sorting trade being now well over for the season. Travellers have mostly returned from their trips for spring business, with fairly well filled books.

CANNED GOODS.

The usual seasonable demand is all that has been apparent. Prices steady as follows: Tomatoes, \$3.25; peas, \$3.25 to \$3.45; beans, \$2.75 to \$3.00; corn, \$3.25 to \$3.40; peaches, (Canadian) \$7.00 to \$8.00; apples, \$3.25 to \$3.50; pears, \$3.25 to \$3.60; plums, \$4.50 to

\$5.00; strawberries \$5.25; raspberries, \$4.75 to \$5.25; peaches (California) \$8.50; pears, \$8.00; Plums, \$7.50; apricots, \$8.00.

CLOTHING.

A light business in a small way is all that can be said at present. Orders for spring delivery are now pretty well in.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

This trade has enjoyed rather an active week in a small way. There have been few large orders received, but numerous little orders for holiday goods and novelties have been coming in freely from city and country.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

There is no new feature to note regarding the movement in this branch, and the same holds true as to prices, which remain as follows: Howard's quinine, 75 to 90c; German quinine, 65 to 75c; morphia, \$2.75 to \$3.25; iodide of potassium, 65 to 75c; bromide of potassium, 65 to 75c; American camphor, 40 to 45c; English camphor, 45 to 50c; glycerine, 30 to 40c; tartaric acid, 70 to 75c; cream of tartar, 35 to 40c; bleaching powder, per keg, \$8 to \$10; bicarb soda, \$4.50 to \$5; sal soda, \$2.25 to \$2.50; chlorate of potash, 25 to 30c; alum, \$4 to \$5.00; coppers, \$3 to \$3.25; sulphur flour, \$4.50 to \$5.00; sulphur, roll, \$4.50 to \$5.25; American blue vitrol, 6 to 8c.

DRY GOODS.

Staple goods have remained in slack demand, and the call for goods suitable for the Christmas trade, noted last week is now considered wound up. Travellers are coming in for the holiday season, and their work so far shows very well for the future.

FURNITURE.

There is little doing in furniture in a wholesale way, though a fair movement in miscellaneous trade, more of a retail nature. Not until toward the spring is the wholesale trade expected to loom up much.

FRUITS—GREEN, VEGETABLES, ETC.

The only change to note is in apples, the usual appreciation in prices at this season having commenced. An advance of about 25c. per barrel all around is noted. Quotations are now: Apples, cooking \$3.75 to \$4.25; fancy eating, \$4 to \$4.50; snows, \$5.75 to \$6; oranges, russets, \$6 to \$6.50; bright to fancy, \$6.50 to \$7.50; Malaga grapes, \$8.25 to \$8.50 per keg. California pears, \$2.50 to \$5; cranberries, bell and cherry, \$11; bell and bugle, \$13 per bbl; lemons, \$6.50 to \$7.

FRUITS—DRIED, AND NUTS.

No new varieties are reported on the market. Prices are: Valencia raisins, \$2.50 to \$2.65 per box; Morandi's Valencias, \$2.75 to \$3.00 per box; Malagas, London layers, \$3.50; Black Crown, \$5.25; Eleme figs, in different sized boxes, 18c per lb.; Spanish onions, \$7.50 per crate. Walnuts, 18c per lb.; peanuts, raw, 15c; roasted, 17c; almonds, 20c; pecans, 17c.

GROCERIES.

Trade has held very steady and with the usual holiday quiet apparent. Sugars hold strong. Sugar syrups are also scarce and higher. Quotations are: Sugars, raw Porto Rico, 6½c; yellow, 7¼ to 7½c; granulated, 8½c; lumps, 9½ to 9¾c. Coffees—Rios, from 24 to 28c; Java, 25 to 30c; Old Government 33 to 34c; Mochas, 32 to 35c. Teas, Japan

New season's 23 to 40c; Congous, 22 to 60c; Indian teas, 35 to 60c; young hyson, 20 to 50c. Syrups, corn, \$2.25 to \$2.60; sugar cane, \$2.50 to \$2.75; T. and B. tobacco, 56c per pound; P. of W., butts 47c; P. of W. caddies, 48c; Honeysuckle, 7s, 55c; Brier, 7s, 55c; Laurel Bright Navy, 3s, 57c; Index d. thick Solace, 6s, 48c; Brunetto Solace, 12s, 48c.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

The advances noted last week hold out well, and the tendency is still firm and with further advances expected shortly. Quotations are: Cut nails, 10d and larger \$3.75; I. C. tin plates, \$5.75 to \$9; I. C. tin plates, double, \$11.50 to \$12.00; Canada plates, \$4.00 to \$4.25; sheet iron, \$3.75 to \$5.50, according to grade; iron pipe, 35 to 40 per cent off list prices; iron tin, 35c per lb., according to quality; bar iron, \$3.00 to \$3.50 per 100 lbs.; shot, 6 to 0½c per lb.; tarred felt, \$2.75 to \$2.95 per 100 lbs.; barbed wire, 6½ to 7c. The sales in shelf hardware show a falling off in volume since our last report. Collections are reported fair to good.

HIDES.

Prices remain unsatisfactory both to dealers and sellers, owing to the depression in the east. Prices are: Winnipeg inspection, No. 1, 5c; No. 2, 4c; bulls, 3c; calf, fine-haired real veal, 6 to 11 pound skins, No. 1, 7c; No. 2, 6c; sheep pelts, 25 to 50c. Frozen lots of hides are taken at 3½ to 4c all around; tallow, scarcely saleable at any price.

LEATHER AND FINDINGS.

Trade and prices are unchanged, the latter as follows: Spanish sole, 28 to 31c; slaughter sole, 30 to 32c; French calf, first choice \$1.25 to \$1.50; Canadian calf, 90c to \$1.00; French kip, \$1 to \$1.10; B Z kip, 85 to 90c; Bourdon kip, 75c; slaughter kip, 55 to 65c; No 1, wax upper, 45 to 50c; grain upper, 55c; harness leather, 31 to 34c for plump stock. American oak sole, 45 to 60c; buffe, 17 to 22c a foot; cordovan, 23 to 25c; pebble, 21 to 23c; colored linings, 12c.

PAINTS, OILS AND COLORS.

There is now little doing in this branch, and prices will not likely vary much outside of a few principal lines until the spring trade commences. Quotations are: Turpentine, 80c in five-gallon cans, or 75c in barrels; harness oil \$1.25; neatsfoot oil, \$1.50; linseed oil, raw, 70c per gallon; boiled, 73c in barrels or 5c advance in five-gallon lots; seal oil, steam refined, \$1; castor, 12½c per lb.; lard, No. 1, \$1.25 per gal.; olive, oil, pure, \$1.50; union salad, \$1.25; machine oils, black 25 to 40c; oleine, 40c; fine qualities, 50 to 75c. Coal oils, silver star, 25c; water white, 28c. American oils, Eocene, 34c; water white, 31c; sunlight, 27c. Calcined plaster, \$4.25 per barrel; Portland cement, \$5 to \$5.50; white lead, genuine, \$7.25; No. 1 \$6.75; No. 2 \$6.25; window glass rest break, \$2.25

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

The fancy goods and novelty departments were active in a small way last week, and the numerous little orders would total up a respectable aggregate. Staple goods quiet. Collections good.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

Dealers have had a fairly active week, there

being a good demand for holiday supplies. Prices are: Canadian rye whiskey, five year old, \$2.40; seven year old, \$3; old rye, \$1.75; Jules Robin brandy, \$4.50; Bisquet Debonche & Co., 4.50; Martell, vintage 1885, \$6.50, vintage, 1880, \$7.50; Hennessy, \$6.50 to \$7.50 for vintage 1885 to 1880; DeKuyper gin, \$3.50; Port wine, \$2.50 and upwards; Sherry \$2.50 and upwards; Jamaica rum, \$4.00 to \$4.50; DeKuyper red gin, \$11.50 per case; DeKuyper green gin, \$6.50 per case; Tom Gin, \$9.00 to \$10.00; Martel and Hennessy's brandy, one star, \$14 per case of 12 bottles; v. o., \$19; v. s. o. p., \$22.

THE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

WHEAT.

There has been no variation in the local prices for wheat during the last week. Quotations on the Winnipeg exchange stood at 58c for No. 1 hard, 55c for No. 2 hard and No. 1 Northern and 52c for No. 2 Northern. At country points quotations for No. 1 hard ranged from 51 to 56c, but as the grain is usually taken on a basis of No. 2 hard, the price actually paid would be about 3c under the figures named. Deliveries have been increasing, and the railways have been taxed to their utmost capacity, and the supply of cars is inadequate to the demand. The country storage capacity is well filled, and the Lake Superior elevators are now nearly full, so that any further movement, will have to be all rail through to the East. For the six previous days up to midnight on Friday, 535 cars of wheat passed through Winnipeg, or say 90 cars daily.

FLOUR.

The market is steady, and prices hold their own at last weeks quotations, as follows: Patent, \$2.15; strong bakers, \$1.90; XXXX, \$1.40; superfine, \$1.25.

MILLSUPPLIES.

Unchanged at \$10 for bran and \$12 for shorts.

OATS.

Very little movement in oats and the range of prices paid at country points seems to be somewhat wide, and varies from 19 to 22c. On track here from 23 to 24c is the range.

BARLEY.

Few sales reported, and prices ranging from 28 to 33c.

POTATOES.

Selling only in small lots at about 50c per bushel.

EGGS.

Stocks of fresh are about nil, but a supply of good pickled are to be had, though it is said the quantity of the latter available is not large, and will not hold out for the winter. There appears to be a considerable range in prices, case lots being quoted at from 21 to 23c.

BUTTER.

The feeling in the butter market appears to be generally easier. Receipts from the country are steadily increasing, and dealers are commencing to recognize that unless prices are reduced here, the western trade will be lost. Indeed, as a matter of fact, shipments of butter are already going forward freely from Montreal and other eastern centres to western Ter-

ritorial and British Columbia points. It will therefore take some time to recover this trade at best, and an immediate effort should be made to again command this our natural outlet for butter. There appeared to be a wide range in prices, and with indications that quotations would be considerably shaded rather than miss an opportunity of working a round lot. Quotations for from good to choice were usually given at from 18; to 20c. At these prices there seemed to be little movement. City grocers are well stocked from peddlars and farmers, whilst the western trade has, as previously noted, been looking to the east for supplies.

CHEESE.

Quiet and quoted only in small lots at 13 to 14c.

LARD.

Holds firm and steady at \$2.25 to \$2.30.

CURED MEATS.

Packers are only putting up about enough for the city trade, owing to the scarcity of hogs. Quotations for the home-cured product are: Dry salt bacon, 11c; spiced roll, 12½; smoked breakfast bacon 14c; hams, 14½c. Eastern hams quoted at 14c, and Chicago at 15c.

DRESSED MEATS.

Beef is being offered freely, and brings 4 to 4½c. Dealers selling at about 5c, for sides. Hogs are still scarce and all readily taken at 7½c by packers and butchers. Mutton quoted at about 9 to 10c.

POULTRY.

Poultry has been coming in freely from Ontario and Minnesota, in car lots, and the market is well stocked with all varieties, causing an easier feeling in prices. Some shipments of native chickens and turkeys have also come to hand. Turkeys are quoted all the way from 10 to 12½c per pound, and geese about the same. Chickens range from 7 to 8c, dealers usually selling at the latter figure. Parties preparing native poultry for the market should have them drawn, as they are preferred in this way.

Montreal Fur Trade.

The condition of the weather has unfavorably affected the demand for furs which has dwindled considerably and has caused an easier feeling to prevail in a beaver, bear and otter, and it is generally anticipated that prices for such will rule lower. Lower prices are expected at the next fur sales in London, especially on lynx, marten and otter, offerings of which will be large. Beaver is at \$2.50 to \$4 per lb.; large bear at \$14 to \$18 per skin; fisher, \$4 to \$6; lynx, \$2 to \$3; marten, 60c to 80c; mink, 75c to \$1; otter, \$8 to \$12; raccoon, 50c to 75c; and muskrat, 10c.—*Trade Bulletin.*

Grain and Milling News.

Minnedosa's New Roller mill has been completed and put in operation.

Some 300,000 tons of Oregon flour will be taken from Vancouver by the next steamer for China.

In a well being put down for the Roller mill at Moosomin, Assa., an abundance of water was found at 140 feet.

A Mr. Harvey, of Winnipeg, has been in Rapid City lately, making arrangements to buy grain at that point.

The Indians on Silver Creek reserve, Birtle district, have raised large quantities of grain this season, from three to five hundred bushels to a family.

E. P. Allis & Co., of Milwaukee, manufacturers of milling machinery, have forwarded a handsome show card and calendar to THE COMMERCIAL office.

The new roller process flouring mill at Millwood is about completed and will be put in operation at once. The mill has a capacity of one hundred and ten barrels a day.

The Assissippi roller mill has been grinding full time, and several cars of flour have been shipped eastward. This mill is located about eleven miles north of the terminus of the Russell branch of the Manitoba Northwestern. The mill is furnished with an excellent water power from the Shell River.

J. J. Hamilton, at Neepawa, Man., is out with a novel scheme for the raising of funds to establish a roller flour mill at that place. He says he asks no bonus, but if the people of the town and surrounding country will buy tickets at \$5 each, entitling the holder to draw a town lot, it will give him the necessary funds for carrying out the work. He puts up every town lot he owns, and there are no blanks.

A Birtle, Man., correspondent writes: "The want of a grist mill is badly felt at this place. The mill in use—a water power—had to shut down owing to water failing. We would fancy that the bonus the town is offering, the assistance the municipality would contribute, the water power for the summer months, and the trade of the large and populous tract of country that would be tributary to a good mill here, would be sufficient guarantee to some enterprising miller to take hold of the mill here. No better point for starting a mill exists in Western Manitoba to-day, and how it has been so long overlooked is hard to imagine."

The Selkirk Mining and Smelting Company are exhibiting in Victoria a superb specimen of argentiferous galena taken from one of the company's mines at Illecillewaet. The piece is pure metal carrying 81½ per cent. of lead and 77 oz. of silver to the ton. There is not a particle of quartz to the specimen which weighs upwards of a quarter of a ton and is a part of a block over a ton in weight.

The British Columbia salmon pack for 1887, is reported by Robert Ward & Co., of Victoria, as follows:

Fraser River.....	128,806
Skeena River.....	58,278
River's Inlet.....	11,105
Alert Bay.....	3,822

Total.....202,011

The pack for 1886 was 163,004 cases, making an increase for this year of 39,007 cases.

Vancouver papers report the sudden departure for the United States of E. P. Hamilton, leaving behind numerous creditors, who are engaging in a promiscuous scramble for the property of the departed debtor. Hamilton was a contractor, and is said to have undertaken jobs at unremunerative figures.

EASTERN MARKETS.

CHICAGO

The announcement on Monday of an increase in the visible supply of 1,743,000 bushels was a heavy blow to wheat, and prices receded steadily, showing a decline over the opening price of 1 to 1½c. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.
Wheat	76½	76½
Corn	49½	48½
Oats	50½	50½
Pork	—	14.77½
Lard	7.40	7.45
Short Ribs	—	7.00

Wheat continued on in its downward course on Tuesday, though apparently without special reason for so doing. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.
Wheat	76	75½
Corn	47½	48
Oats	50½	—
Pork	—	11.65
Lard	7.42½	7.47½
Short Ribs	—	7.57½

Wheat improved on Wednesday, said to be due largely to outside buying. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.
Wheat	75½	76
Corn	47½	48½
Oats	50½	51½
Pork	—	14.70
Lard	7.45	7.50
Short Ribs	—	7.50

A raid of the bears reduced the price of wheat early on Thursday, but as soon as the load was taken off prices improved. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.
Wheat	75½	76½
Corn	49½	48½
Oats	—	50½
Pork	—	15.00
Lard	7.62½	7.65
Short Ribs	—	—

Wheat was stronger on Friday in the face of dull and easier cables. Prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.
Wheat	76½	76½
Corn	49	49½
Oats	—	50½
Pork	—	14.17½
Lard	7.77½	7.82½
Short Ribs	—	7.75

At noon on Saturday December wheat was quoted at 76½c and January at 76½c. January pork, \$15.12½. January lard, \$7.82½.

DULUTH WHEAT MARKET.

The range of prices will be shown by the following closing quotations each day of the week.

	Cash	Dec.	Jan.	May.
Monday	74½	74½	75½	82½
Tuesday	73½	73½	74	81½
Wednesday	74½	74½	74½	81½
Thursday	74½	74½	74½	81½
Friday	75	75	75½	82½

On Saturday December wheat opened at 75c, and at 11 a.m. stood at 74½c. January was quoted at 75c.

MONTREAL MARKETS.

There has been scarcely any change in prices since last week. Manitoba No. 1 hard wheat was last quoted at \$6 to \$7c. Flour quiet and

unchanged. Butter, 15 to 20c for good dairy; creamery, 20 to 22c; cheese from 9c for poor to 11½c for finest September make. Dressed hogs, \$8.40 to \$8.50 in car lots.

Jas. Furber has opened a butcher shop at Portage la Prairie.

The Brandon Planing Mill Co. is selling out at Brandon, and moving to Winnipeg.

Geo. Ryan, blacksmith, Winnipeg, has formed a partnership with John McArthur.

J. A. MARA, general dealer, Kamloops, B.C., has opened a branch store at Sicamous.

Jas. A. McDonald will open a drug store at Medicine Hat, making the second for that place.

Wm. Matheson, grain buyer for Ogilvie, at Portage la Prairie, has been transferred to Brandon.

THE collector of taxes for Brandon, reports that he received upwards of \$26,000 taxes during the past month.

The business men of Killarney, Man., are moving in the direction of securing some protection against fire.

Work has been commenced on the foundation of Sir Donald A. Smith's block at Vancouver, opposite the C.P.R. hotel.

C. W. Sutter is said to be on his way to Edmonton with a stock of general goods, with the object of commencing business at that place.

The Indians and settlers of the Edmonton district are making large catches of fish in the lakes of that region. Whitefish are very abundant.

R. L. Alexander, grain buyer, etc., Moose Jaw, has opened in the flour and feed business, having received an agency from the Regina Milling Co.

There are now five large vessels loading lumber at the Moodyville Saw Mills, Burrard Inlet, B.C. This lumber is to be sent to China, South America and Australia.

A writ of execution for the amount \$4,083 has been issued by the Supreme Court against the Vancouver Electric Light Co. and placed in the hands of the sheriff.

A petition has been sent to the Temperance Colonization Society, by the Saskatoon settlers, asking that it contribute to the erection of a steam grist mill at that place.

Garvin, ex-M.P.P., Prince Edward Island, for many years an extensive lobster packer there, is en route for British Columbia, where he will invest capital in fisheries.

Rankin & Allan, general merchants, Calgary, have bought out the merchant tailoring business of W. A. Dier, of the same place, and will run it as a department of their general business.

Mackenzie & Mills, wholesale grocers, Winnipeg, made a shipment of Manitoba butter, direct to Hong Kong, China, last week. A quantity of canned fruits and vegetables, was also included in the shipment.

THE proposition to build a farmers' grist mill and elevator in Brandon has now taken definite shape, and a provincial board of directors have been appointed. The company is to be known as the Brandon Milling and Elevator Co. The

capital stock is placed at \$50,000 in shares of \$25.00 each.

DURING the month of October 55,906 bushels of wheat was shipped from Virden, and for the month of November it amounted to \$4,775 bushels. Last year the amount shipped for the same months was 35,890 bushels in October and 44,400 in November. It will thus be seen that over 80,000 bushels more was shipped this November than last.

The Indian bands around Victoria, Saddle Lake and Lac la Biche it is said, have formed a sort of granger society, and have entered into an agreement not to sell their fur to small traders who follow them to their camps, but to bring it into Edmonton and sell it for cash.

The freight shipping report for November, published by Robert Ward & Co., Victoria, gives full information of this season's salmon pack, in British Columbia. The pack for the season, has been disposed of as follows:—

To the United Kingdom.....	127,544 cases
“ Australia.....	15,038 “
“ Canada.....	46,202 “
“ San Francisco.....	9,332 “
“ Local.....	3,895 “

NOTICE is given in the last issue of the Manitoba Gazette that an application will be made to the Provincial Legislature at its next ensuing session for an Act incorporating the Manitoba Central Railway Company, giving powers to construct a railway from the city of Winnipeg to a point on the international boundary line, and from the said city of Winnipeg easterly and westerly to the eastern and western boundaries of the province of Manitoba.

THE Brandon Times reports 48,700 bushels of wheat marketed at that place for the six days ending Wednesday last. The total marketed for the season to that date was, 480,000 bushels, nearly as much as for the entire season of 1896. About 50c was the ruling price. Oats ranged from 16 to 22c; barley, 30 to 35; cattle were quoted at 2½ to 2¾c, live weight, and dressed beef, from farmer's wagons, at 5 to 6c per lb., for quarters; dressed hogs, 6 to 6½c; geese and ducks, 12½c; chickens, 8 to 10c; butter, 20 to 22c; fresh eggs, 22 to 25c, per doz.

The Vancouver News says: A noticeable feature in flour has been the receipt in this city of a carload from the Columbia Mills, Spallumcheen, B. C. This is the first to arrive in the city, and to those who think that this Province has no agricultural lands it will be a surprise. The flour is described as being very good, and is especially adapted for pastry and fancy baking. It will no doubt, in time drive the Oregon and California flours out of the market for these purposes, just as the Manitoba hard wheat flours is driving them out for bakers' use. The demand for Manitoba flour still continues large and dealers are at times considerably pushed to fill orders. Prices continue steady.

The Hudson Bay Company's report, issued on the 10th inst., states that the total quantity of furs to be sold in January and March will be larger than the average of the last few years. It would be premature to forecast the probable result of the business of the current year till the sales are held. The accounts of the last two outfits have been finally adjusted. The general improvement in trade at Winnipeg, Victoria and other stations and the abundant harvest in Manitoba point to a good prospect and an active movement in land next season.

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Jams, Jellies & Fruit Butters.
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 MCGILL STREET, **MO TREAL**

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 Samples with **W. B. McArthur,**
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The Wheat Grades.

The Council of the Winnipeg Board of Trade met Wednesday afternoon to consider a report made to it by the board of grain examiners on the question of the Inspection Act now in force so far as it deals with the inspection of Manitoba wheat.

Following is the general line of the report:—

"Your committee find on comparing the requisities for grading in the Canadian Act and its amendments with those required by law in the State of Minnesota and the Territory of Dakota, that while the latter for No. 1 hard only calls for a wheat composed mostly of Scotch fye, the Canadian standard demands a wheat containing no less than 85 per cent. of the same hard variety.

Your committee also find that the grade of No. 1 northern in Minnesota and Dakota calls for a wheat containing not less than 50 per cent. of red fye which is the same as is required in Canada.

Your committee desire to draw to your notice that in Minnesota and Dakota there is a latitude allowed to the representatives of boards of trade who arrange the standards each year, which is not allowed by the Canadian act to similar representatives in Canada, and with this power in their hands the Minnesota and Dakota board representatives are enabled to arrange their standards each year in keeping with the season's crop peculiarities.

Your committee wish to advise that the board of grain examiners and the council of the Board of Trade take steps to have the following changes made in the Inspection act of the Dominion:—

1st. Your committee is anxious that the reputation of Manitoba for the production of the best red Fye wheat should be maintained, and in order to do so they recommend that the grade known as extra Manitoba hard wheat, which has hitherto been an impracticable one owing to its requiring an absolutely pure red Fye wheat, should be changed so as to make the grade a practical one and yet to afford a standing incentive to farmers to continue, as far as possible, to raise pure red Fye wheat. They recommend that the act be amended to read as follows:

"Extra Manitoba Hard wheat shall be sound and well cleaned, weighing not less than sixty-two pounds to the bushel, and shall be composed of not less than 85 per cent of red fye wheat grown in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories of Canada."

2nd. "No. 1 Manitoba hard wheat shall be sound and well cleaned, weighing not less than 60 pounds to the bushel, and shall be composed of not less than 65 per cent. of red fye wheat grown in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories of Canada."

3rd. No. 2 Manitoba hard wheat shall be sound and reasonably clean, weighing not less than 58 pounds to the bushel, and shall be composed of not less than 65 per cent. of red fye wheat, grown in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories of Canada.

4th. That a new grade be established, which will be described as follows: "No. 1 hard white Fye wheat shall be sound and well cleaned, weighing not less than 60 pounds to the bushel, and shall be composed of not less

than 75 per cent. of hard white Fye wheat, grown in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories of Canada.

5th. Your committee are of the opinion that some provision should be made in the Inspection Act allowing to the Board representatives similar powers to those enjoyed by the representatives in Minnesota and Dakota, by which each successive fixing of standards can be arranged to meet the crop peculiarities of each year, at not less than the percentages named in the Act and the above proposed amendments.

6th. That when in the opinion of this Board it is not practicable to send suitable samples of Manitoba wheat to Toronto in time for the annual meeting of the Dominion Board of Grain Examiners at the date on which this meeting is now usually held, such meeting shall not be called by the council of the Toronto Board of Trade for the fixing of standards for Manitoba wheat until the 1st of October, and if this arrangement conflicts with the general grain interests of the Dominion then that provision be made by the Toronto Board of Trade to arrange for the fixing of the Manitoba standards at a later date.

A committee was appointed to draw up a memorial for transmission to the proper authorities.

Business East.

ONTARIO.

J. A. Phillips, marble dealer, Almonte, has assigned.

R. R. Unger, general storekeeper, Alvinston, is away to St. Thomas.

Price & Elliott, saw and shingle mill, Burks Falls,—Elliott dead.

Mrs. Flora Hamlin, grocer, Campbellford, has assigned.

Minaker & Bro., dry goods, Cobourg, were burned out.

A. Mulhall, hotelkeeper, Cobourg, was burned out.

Wm. Errington, carriages, Colborne, has assigned.

Miss M. A. Storey, boots and shoes, Collingwood, has sold out.

B. Goebel, carriages, Galt, has admitted John Clouston; style now Goebel & Clouston.

John Balmer, grocer, etc., Gravenhurst, has assigned.

John Hough, hotelkeeper, Guelph, was burned out.

Wm. Goering & Co., wines and liquors, Hamilton, have assigned.

Wm. Harris, baker and confectioner, Hamilton, is dead.

John Green & Co., wholesale dry goods, London, have suspended.

Malcolm Campbell, general storekeeper, Lucknow,—style now Campbell & Brumpton.

Neil Leslie, tins, Maxville, has assigned.

Wm. R. Gladstone, hotelkeeper, Midland, has assigned.

Calvin J. Cook, general storekeeper, North Pelham, is dead.

Jas. W. Wild, shoe dealer, Orangeville, has assigned.

C. Gagne & Co., tailors, Ottawa, have assigned.

Mrs. Robt. Fair, fruit, etc., Palmerston, has sold out.

Jos. M. Monteith, dry goods, Paris, is selling off and retiring from business.

W. H. Ridley, general storekeeper, Paris, is selling off.

Jas. Wilson, baker, etc., Paris, is offering compromise of 20c. in the dollar.

S. Williams & Co., tailors, Port Hope, have assigned.

Wm. Willard, general storekeeper, Raglan, has assigned.

W. J. Brumpton, general storekeeper, Rothsay, has sold out and removed to Lucknow.

Chas. A. Gamon, drugs, etc., Shelburne, has assigned.

Haskett & Marlatt, general storekeepers, Simcoe, have dissolved.

Mrs. Mills, fancy goods, Strathroy, has sold out.

H. E. Wilson, grocer, St. Marys, has assigned.

R. Bradshaw, grocer, Toronto, has sold out.

J. W. Gale & Co., wholesale dry goods, Toronto, have suspended.

Harkness & Co., wholesale jewelers, Toronto, have retired from business.

Edward Laing, builder, Toronto, has assigned.

Chas. Lowe, wholesaler's cigars, Toronto, has assigned.

Nurse Bros., grocers, Toronto,—George J. Nurse dead.

Geo. Planner, butcher, Toronto, is offering 25c. in the dollar.

H. Travers, fruit, etc., Toronto, has assigned.

A. R. W. Burrows, general storekeeper, Vandecar, has assigned.

Thos. F. Larney, general storekeeper, Varney, has assigned.

F. Miggs, general storekeeper, Wolverton, has sold out.

J. S. Habkirk, general storekeeper, Auburn, has assigned.

J. C. Richardson, general storekeeper, Beeton, has admitted E. Strangway; style now Richardson & Strangway.

Geo. McNaughton, grocer, Chatham, is asking compromise.

A. Spears, general storekeeper, Davisville, has sold out.

Johnson Bros., planing mill, Essex Centre, were burned out.

Stephen Andrews, butcher, Goderich, has assigned.

Geo. Murray, general storekeeper, Hensall, has assigned.

London Soap Co., London, have dissolved; H. D. Long continues alone.

McDonald & Davis, dentists, London, have dissolved; each continues alone.

H. R. & J. F. Gillon, butchers, North Bay, have assigned.

Blyth & Kerr, wholesale gasfitters, etc., Ottawa,—Wm. Kerr of this firm dead.

Chas. Lemon, hotelkeeper, Owen Sound, has sold out.

R. W. Boyd & Co., (Adam Wilson, Propr.), grocers, Parkdale, have assigned.

J. & D. J. Adams, brokers, Port Perry, have dissolved.

Boult & Smart, tailors, St. Thomas, have dissolved; Boult continues.

Rice & Colvin, butchers, Stratford, have dissolved.

Lot Roe, hotelkeeper, Tiverton, has sold out. T. H. Cairns & Co., grocers, Toronto, have sold out.

A. Milligan, cigar dealer, Toronto,—bailiff in possession.

J. W. Paton, paints, oils, etc., Toronto, advertises stock, etc., for sale.

J. Pinkerton, provisions, Toronto, has gone out of business.

Wm. Robertson & Co., U. T. K. dry goods store, Toronto, have given up business.

S. Femple, shoe dealer, Toronto, is dead.

Walker Bros. & Co., furniture, etc., Toronto and Ottawa, have sold out Ottawa business.

Mrs. Wm. Wickott, fancy goods, York, is away.

QUEBEC.

John F. Cote, Dudswell Township, has assigned.

Clement and Lefebvre, restaurant, Montreal, have dissolved.

Jos. Desrochers, millinery, etc., Montreal, has assigned.

P. E. Gannon & Co., wholesale and retail grocers, Montreal, had their stock damaged by fire and water.

Moses Vineberg, wholesale furs, Montreal, was burned out.

Kirk & Hynes, carpet lining, etc., Bolton Centre,—factory burned.

Mrs. Thomas Moar, general storekeeper, Maniwaki, has assigned.

Gernay & Hamelin, books, etc., Montreal, have dissolved.

Alderic Maille, grocer, Montreal, has assigned. Smith & Krans, vinegar manufacturers, Montreal, have dissolved.

Philip Valliere, furniture manufacturer, Quebec, had his factory burned.

NOVA SCOTIA.

W. T. Keilor, hotelkeeper, etc., Bridgewater, is dead.

R. R. Waterman, victualler, New Glasgow, has assigned.

Ronald Gillis, general storekeeper, North Sydney, has assigned.

Wm. O'Connell, grocer, etc., North Sydney, is dead.

Mulgrave Woollen Mill Co., Upper Stewiacke, are winding up business.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

H. G. & F. A. Marr, dry goods, Moncton, were damaged by fire.

E. G. Langley, blacksmith, Peticodiac, has sold out.

Thomas Finlay, harness dealer, St. John, has assigned.

The Edmonton *Bulletin* says: "R. Kelly and W. Bailey have taken hold of the coal mine on Egg lake coulee, Sturgeon river settlement, and mine the coal for \$1 a load. The seam is eight feet thick and the coal is said to be of better quality than that taken out at Edmonton. It is taken from the face of a cut bank and has been mined for the past three or four winters by the surrounding farmers on the same principle as a sand pit, each one digging his coal as he required it. There is only about twenty feet of soil resting on the coal.

It is estimated that from 6,000,000 to 8,000,000 hogs will be packed in the Western States during the approaching winter season. The average for five years has been 6,150,000 hogs.

Marks, Rutledge & Co., general dealers and proprietors of the Driard hotel, Nicola, have been sold out by the sheriff. Mrs. Marks purchased the hotel at 50 cents on the dollar, and the general store business was bought by one Owens.

Blacket & White, general storekeepers, Langley, have assigned in trust to Welch, Rithet & Co., Victoria. An ineffectual effort was made to compromise in this case, but the demand of the debtors was a most extraordinary one. They asked for an extension of time, extend over two years, payment in full and without interest, and no action to be taken to collect first installment falling due (if not paid), until the last installment came due.

H. Otton, grocer, Vancouver, has taken unceremonious departure for the U. S. "He succeeded," says the *News*, "in getting quite a considerable stock of goods from the wholesale and commission merchants of this city, and then gave a bill of sale on his stock, and after getting the money on it, left for the States, leaving many creditors to mourn his sudden departure."

The effect of high prices for butter in Winnipeg, upon our western trade, will be shown by the following from the Vancouver, B. C., *News*: "Manitoba butter is in demand, but as dealers in Winnipeg are holding it at very high prices, merchants and commission men will probably be inclined to look elsewhere for supplies. Enquiries have been sent to Montreal, and already Eastern Townships butter is in the market. The Winnipeg dealers may yet kill the goose that lays the golden egg."

Victoria Colonist: The sheriff has had a semi-recreation of late, having only had one seizure in two months, that a \$54 one, and in only ten minutes. The sheriff and his deputy are looking blue—"business is bad," they say. However unsatisfactory this state of affairs may be to those whose duty and privilege it is to make a living out of their fellows' misdeeds and misfortunes, it is one of the best possible indices that trade is sound in Victoria. There has not been a failure in this city for a long time. The general business of the year has been exceedingly satisfactory, and although human nature is prone to grumble at the best of times, yet there is every reason for congratulation on the present sound condition of trade.

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It is a fact that there is an enormous quantity of something being sold at the present time under the name of Coffee, which is an insult to the name and an imposition upon the public. In view of this fact, it is the duty of every dealer to purchase his coffee of a reliable house and to protect his own interests by giving his customers pure goods. We have established a reputation for pure coffee which is equalled by no firm in the Dominion, and we intend to hold fast to a reputation so justly earned.

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British Columbia

Alexander Godfrey, of Morden, Man., has completed arrangements to open in the harl-

ware line at Vancouver, under the style of A. Godfrey & Co.

Victoria city has adopted standard time.

Customs collections at Victoria for November were \$62,210.93.

John Berryman, hotelkeeper, Victoria, offers to dispose of his business.

J. B. Johnston, hotelkeeper, Nanaimo, has sold out to Thomas-Miller.

Customs collections at Vancouver for November amounted to \$4,253.59.

Thos. Spense, saloonkeeper, New Westminster, has sold out to Alex. Tolmie.

The output of coal from the Wellington collieries for November was 23,832 tons.

J. Hawley, Commercial hotel, Victoria, has sold out to H. Leach and J. McBride.

H. C. Cooper has commenced the construction of a steamer to ply on Harrison Lake and river, for passenger traffic only, in connection with the Harrison hot springs.

The assessment value of lands in and around Kamloops and on the South Thompson river, has been placed at \$15 per acre, and improvements taken at cost and added to the value. Pasture lands assessed at \$3 and \$2.

The Triumph, a Halifax schooner, of 97 tons register, has been purchased by D. McLean, of Victoria, and will be engaged in the north Pacific seal fisheries. The Victoria sealing fleet for next season promises to be very considerably augmented.

The Vancouver city council has passed a fire limit by-law, which embraces all the territory from Burrard Inlet to False Creek at the narrowest part of the peninsula and thence westerly, and bounded on the south by Hastings street and the easterly, Columbia avenue. This is a large area, and embraces the most valuable portion of the city.

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