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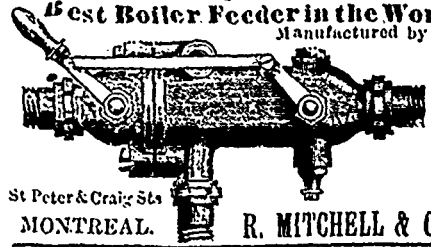
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A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE FINANCIAL, MERCANTILE AND MANUFACTURING INTERESTS OF THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

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

VOL. 5.

WINNIPEG, DECEMBER 7TH, 1886.

No. 11.

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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WINNIPEG, DECEMBER 7, 1886.

Miss K. HYDER, Milliner, Winnipeg has assigned.

F. C. McPHERSON is building a hotel at Binscarth.

BLUNDELL & VINE have opened a meat market at Medicine Hat.

DUNN & BENNIE, commission agents, Winnipeg, have dissolved partnership.

ALLEN & MCKENZIE, brewers, Moosejaw, contemplate dissolving partnership.

ROBT. BALKWELL, grocers and liquor dealers, Boissevain, has moved to Deloraine.

E. GALLAGHER, of the firm of P. Gallagher & Sons, butchers, Winnipeg, is dead.

S. GRAHAM has purchased the interest of C. W. Merrill in the Royal Hotel, Lethbridge.

D. W. CUMMINS has opened a banking office and brokerage and collecting agency at Birtle, Man.

HUNT & DICKSON, grocers and liquor dealers, Winnipeg, contemplate dissolving partnership.

— GOLDSMITH has opened a store at Binscarth, west of Birtle, on the M & N. W. Ry.

A. H. MCINTYRE of Portage la Prairie, will open a jewelry and watchmaking establishment at Minnedosa.

R. SWEET, saddler, Regina, has taken Alex. McDonald into partnership, under the style of Sweet & McDonald.

B. R. HAMILTON & Co general storekeepers, Neepawa, have dissolved partnership. R. C. Emis will continue the business.

THE C.P.R. Co. have contracted with a San Francisco firm for the building of a steamer of 1,000 tons, at a cost of \$200,000. The steamer will be used in the Pacific waters.

THE partnership existing between E. D. Wood and E. T. Saunders, publishers of the Macleod Gazette and Lethbridge News, has been dissolved. Wood will continue the former and Saunders the latter journal.

JOHN ADAMS, of London, England, author of a valuable treatise on bookkeeping, designated "Bookkeeping Simplified," has established himself at 42 Dagmar St, Winnipeg. He will act in the capacity of accountant, general commission agent, etc.

THE city grain dealers are just at present considerably exercised over the announcement that Mr. Alexander Mitchell, of Montreal, had returned to Winnipeg, having completed arrangements in the former city for the extensive handling of Manitoba wheat, and that he would at once commence operations here on a large scale. Mr. Mitchell is well known here in connection with the wheat syndicate of the season of 1884-85, in which shady transaction he gained considerable notoriety. The details of the whole scheme, conceived by the "smart Aleck" of the C.P.R. and carried out with the aid of Mr. Mitchell and the irresponsibles of the defunct Farmers' Union, are still familiar to the public here. Farmers who still have little balances due them through the operation of the scheme, will likely require cash down in the future before they allow their wheat to go out of the country. Mr. Mitchell may not be directly

responsible for these losses, but the farmers who came out behind will be very liable to judge him by the company in which he was found. However, if Mr. Mitchell is now here to do a straight grain business, he will be welcomed by all our grain dealers, who only ask a fair field and no favors. The field here is large enough for all, and the more the merrier. On the other hand, if another C.P.R. philanthropic scheme is to be tried whereby special freight rates are to be conceded, as against our regular dealers, trouble may be expected.

THE C.P.R. seem determined in their policy to choke off the grain trade of this city as much as possible. When the agitation was going on for the erection of storage elevators here about a year ago, the C. P. R. Co. promised to allow through rates from point of shipment to grain stored in such elevators, instead of charging the local rate to Winnipeg, and then the full rate from Winnipeg to the point of destination at the East, when such grain should be transhipped. With this understanding the Winnipeg Elevator Co. put up the public elevator here. Now, however, the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. have seen fit to go back on their agreement, taking a menial advantage of the fact that the elevator has since passed into other hands. This is the only excuse which the company now has to offer for refusing to stand by their promise, and to say the least it is a most contemptible one. They now refuse to give the rebate to equal the through freight rate, if the grain is allowed to remain over here for over twenty-four hours. This of course is too short a time to be of any use to our grain dealers, and hence the advantage to them of having an elevator where they could clean or grade their grain under their own inspection, is entirely lost, and the work has to be done at Port Arthur by telegraph, with its attendant disadvantages. As a result of this policy the elevator at Winnipeg has been standing empty all the season, when otherwise it now would have been filled with wheat. Indeed, one of our largest grain firms were anxious to take the elevator at the commencement of the season, but when they found out how much reliance could be placed upon an arrangement with the C.P.R., the idea had to be abandoned.

THE Regina board of trade is an institution of which that town may well feel proud. The members work diligently in the interest of the place, and every matter of importance affecting the district receives their attention. At the last meeting of the board committees were appointed to obtain information and interview Prof. Saunders re the experimental farms to be established in the Territories; to prepare statistics of the trade of Regina; and to take steps with regard to the Wood Mountain Railway.

THE *Monetary Times* notes the failure of J. Griffin, of St. Thomas, Ontario, and states that he owes \$10,000 in Winnipeg. This amount, it is understood, was invested in real estate in 1882, and is now held for the benefit of the late firm of Griffin & Douglas. The business of the last mentioned firm has been paying interest on this investment since the year named, and notwithstanding this and other drains, and a lack of working capital, has proved fairly successful, though the somewhat abrupt manner in which it was terminated, may cause a small deficit when the affairs are wound up.

By some inexplicable means known only to the printers, three lines from a paragraph appearing in last week's *COMMERCIAL*, regarding natural gas, were inserted in an item about salt, in such a manner as to leave the impression that a company had been formed at Chicago, to prospect for salt in Manitoba. The matter will be made clear to the reader, if he will turn to page 184 of the last issue and transfer the first three lines at the top of the second column on that page, inserting them after the third line at the top of the third column of the same page.

THERE is every probability that a permanent exhibition will be established in London, England, as an outcome of the success attending the Indian and Colonial exhibition. The London chamber of commerce has taken up the matter, and representatives will be sent to visit the leading continental commercial museums, for the purpose of obtaining information regarding the same. Much enthusiasm is said to be manifested in favor of the scheme in Britain, and already branches are talked of at leading trade centres throughout the United Kingdom.

AFTER considerable delay and a great deal of grumbling, Toronto and Western Ontario have at last been given shorter connection with the C.B.Ry., by the opening of the Northern and Pacific junction railway. The distance from Toronto to the main line of the C.P.Ry. by the route is 225½ miles, and the time in covering it is eleven hours. The new line will make a great saving of time and mileage in reaching points in Western Ontario, and will bring Toronto 138 miles nearer Winnipeg than Montreal. The road has been bonused to the extent of \$12,000 per mile.

Braidstreets last trade report notes rather less activity in the movement of merchandise, though Chicago and Northwestern points show some exception to the general feeling. Domestic money markets are said to be easier. Bank clearings show a decline of 8½ per cent., as com-

pared with the previous week, though this is accounted for by the holiday. The movement of dry goods at the east is said to have been disappointing. Prices, however, have been sustained, and the outlook remains bright, especially in heavy woollens. Prints declined ½c from 3½c for 64s. The total number of failures in the United States was 204, against 227 last week, 225 last year. Canada had 6 against 18 last week and 20 last year. The total failures in the country this year to date is 9,162 against 10,006 last year, a decline of \$44, against 9,763 in 1884, 8,896 in 1883 and 6,437 in 1882.

THE rumor has been revived, and this time in more definite form, that an ocean cable will be laid, connecting Canada with Australia and Asia. The report comes from Ottawa that the scheme is fast assuming tangible form, under the manipulation of Sanford Fleming, and that a company will be formed to carry out the undertaking at the next session of the Dominion Parliament. The capital stock is placed at \$10,000,000. It is proposed to raise five millions in four per cent. stock, secured by guarantees from the British, Australian, and Canadian Governments. Canada would guarantee \$75,000, Australia, \$175,060, and Great Britain, \$250,000. On the inauguration of the undertaking it is proposed to very materially reduce rates on messages. From London to Vancouver the rate would be about 12c per word, and four shillings to Australia, or about one fourth present rates.

THE Manitoba correspondent of the *Northwest Miller* reports in his last letter to that journal, the story foolishly started by a Winnipeg daily that a considerable quantity of wheat had been destroyed in Manitoba by the smoke from prairie fires, the theory being that the wind had blown the smoke across the fields of standing grain, permeating the wheat to such an extent as to render it useless for milling. This absurd report has gained such wide circulation, that it is necessary to again say it is entirely without foundation. The whole thing arose from the fact that a few bags of wheat, which had been damaged by fire from the burning of a straw stack, were shipped to this market in a car of other grain. This false report has already been made use of as an argument against settlement in Manitoba, and therefore journals which have unwittingly aided in its circulation, should in justice publish a correction.

THE *Northwest Miller* reports, on the authority of "a gentleman recently arrived from Winnipeg, that there has been a large influx of settlers into Manitoba during the present year who have abandoned their lands in the Northwest territories on account of the summer frosts which at times prevail and destroy their crops." The "gentleman from Winnipeg" was either misinformed or wilfully misstated the facts. No damage was done in any part of the Canadian Northwest from summer frosts or any other kinds of frosts during last season. Some portions of the territories suffered from drought, in common with a great portion of the continent, but the whole country was entirely free from frost during the growing and harvesting season. Besides, this country has never suffer-

ed from summer frosts, the only damage of this nature being caused by early autumn frosts, and that only in years when the crops were unusually late in ripening.

It appears that the Provincial Government has at last decided to take action in the matter of the sufferers from prairie fires. Circulars have been sent to the municipal councils, inquiring as to the extent of the damage done, and promising some measures of relief. Action in this matter has not been taken a moment too soon, and we trust some generous scheme for relief will be devised at once. The question was also very properly brought up in the city council, by Alderman Penrose, but action was deferred until the result of the investigation by the Government should be known. Here is a good cause in which our city council can show its generosity, by donating a respectable amount in aid of those who have lost their all. Where so many hundreds and thousands are so freely voted to far less worthy objects, surely a good sum could be spared for such a noble work. When many settlers of our own province are in want, it is not a time to be stingy. The relief of human suffering is the noblest work which can engage the attention of a people. Some organized efforts might also be made by the citizens, independent of the council, in such a good cause. There are many who could spare a few dollars readily, without inconveniencing themselves; and a generous donation of this nature would go a great way toward giving our city a reputation throughout the province.

THE British Board of Trade has published a table showing the trade between the United Kingdom and Canada, for the first nine months of 1886. From this table it is shown that the imports of British goods into Canada for the time above stated, amounted to £4,639,383, as compared with £4,370,299 for the same time last year. The imports were largely manufactured goods. Cotton piece goods show a falling off for 1886 of £30,000, on a total of £57,000. Silk goods show a considerable increase in imports, and woollen fabrics also show an increase of £45,000 on a total of £650,000. The imports of worsted goods show an increase for the nine months of £85,857, on a total of £518,263. Carpets show an increase of £25,000. Imports of railroad iron have increased to over £75,000 over last year, the total being £474,228. Hardware, china and earthenware, etc., also show a considerable increase in imports, and altogether this year so far as returns are in, shows to the advantage of British manufacturers, in their trade with this country. Exports from Canada to the United Kingdom show a falling off of about £150,000 in live stock, as compared with the same time last year. The exports of wheat amounted to £989,170, against £682,758 for the same time last year, showing an increase of nearly one-third. Exports of flour were £331,591, against £127,854 for last year. Other leading exports were: Butter, £83,448, against £116,596 last year; cheese, £869,039, against £941,327 last year; fish, £316,595, against £327,199 last year; timber, etc., £2,380,782, against £2,950,441 last year. The total exports from Canada to Great Britain for the first ten months of 1886 were £6,158,115, against £6,471,537 for the same time last year, showing a decrease of £313,422 for 1886, as compared with the same time for 1885, or nearly 5 per cent. Though the balance of trade is still largely in favor of Canada, it would appear that this year has been less satisfactory to Canadian than to British exporters, as compared with 1885.

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The Commercial

WINNIPEG, DECEMBER 7, 1886.

RECIPROCITY.

It would appear from a recent communication received by President Mackenzie, of the Winnipeg Board of Trade, from the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce, that the latter body is strongly in favor of reciprocal trade relations between Canada and the United States. The communication states that "the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce have repeatedly recommended to Congress the propriety of securing a reciprocal treaty with the Canadian provinces." An expression of opinion is asked from the Winnipeg Board of Trade on the question. There is undoubtedly a strong feeling in many parts of the United States in favor of a reciprocity treaty with this country, which the existing fishery difficulties have tended to bring into prominence. However, a great deal of opposition to such a scheme would come from certain classes in both countries, and the sentiment fostered by the present high tariff regulations in Canada as well as in the United States, would stand in the way of the substitution of a reciprocity arrangement between the two countries.

It cannot be said that the state of public opinion in the United States has made any great advance toward the principle of free trade. Indeed, the November elections just past would indicate that the opposite is the case; and whilst a free trade sentiment undoubtedly does prevail to a considerable extent in the West, it has been lately asserted that the doctrines of the protectionists have been coming rapidly into favor in the South during the past few years. This is quite probable, as it would be natural to expect that the rapid growth in the iron, cotton and other manufacturing industries in the South would carry with them a good deal of protectionist sentiment. This impression would seem to be borne out by the fact that a Democratic administration has done nothing toward taking a decided step in the direction of free trade, and that nothing more than a few vague hints about tariff tinkering have been thrown out. Such hints as have been given in regard to a remodeling of the tariff have not indicated any radical changes from the present system, but they have been sufficient to arouse a strong display of hostility

against any proposals to alter the existing state of things. The tariff question exerted no light influence in deciding the recent elections, and the result was manifestly against any relaxation in the duties, as was shown in the defeat of many of the candidates who were in favor of tariff revision. It would therefore appear that so far as the sentiment in the United States is concerned, there would be a considerable opposition to a reciprocity treaty from that quarter, in so far as it would indicate a disposition to relax protectionist principles.

In Canada also there would now be a very strong opposition to such a treaty coming from a wealthy and influential portion of our population. Eight or nine years under a high protective tariff has been sufficient time to call into existence a powerful element of opposition to the proposed change. Many lines of manufactures have been established which depend to a great extent upon tariff protection, and which would be left in a serious way by the removal of the same. Some of these industries have been called into existence solely through the adoption of the protective tariff, or the National Policy, as it is usually termed, and they have since continued to lean upon this policy for support. The removal of the prop would mean their annihilation. Such industries, established through the influence of a protective tariff, and depending either wholly or in part upon it for support, have come to be looked upon by many as "vested rights," and worthy of due consideration in any proposals to alter the duties affecting the same. Without discussing the question of vested rights, it is evident that any attempt toward reducing the customs duties would meet with determined opposition from a large section of our people; and the question of reciprocity with the United States, would now find fewer supporters in this country than at any time since the abrogation of the last reciprocity treaty with that country.

There are those in Canada who look upon the tariff question solely from a party standpoint, and who, without understanding the principles of free trade *versus* protection, would be willing to follow their political party in whatever policy the party might adhere to. Some of these would be quite willing to see Canada buried commercially in the United States if their party should so dictate. By a policy of extreme protection, a vast man-

ufacturing interest has been built up in the States; and now stands upon a firm footing. In Canada many manufacturing industries are but in their infancy. To throw our markets open to the highly protected manufacturers of the United States would therefore be to place our home producers of many lines of goods at the mercy of the foreigners, the latter being at the same time shielded from outside competition by the high tariff wall. Thus it might be shown that reciprocity would not prove an unmixed blessing to Canada at large, and many objections might be urged against entering into such a favored nation's arrangement, without at all combating the principles of free trade. A free interchange of natural products between Canada and the United States, without the imposition of duties, would undoubtedly prove of benefit to both countries, but to go beyond this would be to provoke a strong feeling of opposition from a large section of our people.

JAMES' BAY RAILWAY.

Notwithstanding the opposition which has been manifested against the Winnipeg and Hudson's Bay railway in the East, and the expressed belief of the people there in the impracticability of the undertaking, it would appear that these people have after all a great deal of faith in the enterprise. They have been very reluctant about confessing it, but it has at last come out. In Toronto, where save Montréal, the greatest incredulity was expressed in the Winnipeg scheme, they are now agitating for the construction of a railway through Ontario to James' Bay. The financial part of a scheme to build a railway from Lake Nipissing to James' Bay is said to have been satisfactorily arranged, subject to the granting of bonuses by the Dominion and Ontario Governments. It is proposed to ask the Ontario Government for a grant of \$6,000 per mile for 150 miles, whilst an endeavor will be made to mulct the Dominion to the tune of \$4,000 per mile for 350 miles. The engineer has submitted a report showing that the road can be well and substantially built at a cost of about six and a half million dollars, which sum it is proposed to raise by ordinary stock and mortgage bonds, with the assistance previously noted from the respective Governments. The proposed road will run entirely through wild land, without settlers. The directors express their firmness in their belief that the

road will "be remunerative from the outset."

After this declaration we may expect less hostility displayed toward the road from Winnipeg to Hudson's Bay, from Eastern people. If the proposed railway to James' Bay be practical, surely the road from Winnipeg to the Bay is a great deal more so. As far as the country through which the respective roads would pass is concerned, the comparison is very greatly in favor of the western route, topographically and in point of climatic conditions. The heavy snow-falls of northern Ontario, to the depth of from four to six feet, are altogether unknown in the region through which the road from Winnipeg would pass. Then as to the natural obstacles to be overcome in the construction of the different railways, the western route has everything in its favor, the country being comparatively level and free from engineering difficulties.

Taking up the question of navigation, no comparison can be made between the respective routes. James' Bay, which forms the southeastern extension of Hudson's Bay, is known to be a shallow body of water, containing many shoals. It is moreover largely composed of fresh water, owing to the many streams running into the bay, from which cause it freezes over early in the autumn. The Hudson's Bay Co.'s posts on James' Bay are supplied from York Factory by a small schooner during the summer, the larger ships not venturing far into the bay, owing to the shoals. A railroad to James' Bay would therefore depend entirely upon local resources for support, and could not enjoy the advantage of steamship connection with Britain and Europe, with its attendant through-traffic, such as would be the main support of a road to Churchill or York Factory.

In the matter of local traffic, the proposed James' Bay railroad would depend upon the natural resources of the district through which it would pass, together with the products obtainable from the bay itself. These resources undoubtedly represent considerable wealth, including timber, fish, oil, etc., and would in time no doubt, furnish the road with a large and lucrative traffic. But in this respect also the Winnipeg road is not a whit behind the proposed James' Bay railway. In the handling of the products of the bay, the western road would have the advantage of a terminal port accessible to the largest ocean steamships, and in

closer proximity to the most valuable fishing and whaling grounds of those latitudes. The timber resources of the district through which the road would run are also equal if not superior to the proposed eastern line; whilst the mineral wealth of the country is known to be such as would alone prove of great advantage to any road intersecting the district.

The advantages, then, which the Winnipeg and Hudson's Bay railway would possess in comparison with the proposed railway through Ontario to the southern extremity of the bay may be summed up as follows:

A line of railway admitting of a lower cost of construction and in the building of which fewer and less formidable engineering obstacles would be encountered.

Better climatic conditions for the operation of a railway, especially in the freedom from heavy snow falls.

Terminal point at a harbor accessible to the largest ships and enjoying a longer season of open navigation.

Connection with steamship lines to Europe, with the accompanying through freight.

Equal if not superior advantages in the natural wealth of the country through which it would pass, as offering a good prospect for a lucrative local traffic; also offering as good if not better facilities for handling the products of the bay in fish, etc.

These and other advantages in favor of the road from Winnipeg, in comparison with the Ontario scheme may be shown, not with the object of endeavoring to prove the impracticability of the latter, but to make clear the feasibility of the former. The James' Bay railway will unquestionably be built, with excellent prospects for a paying investment, just as the Hudson's Bay railway is bound to prove a successful enterprise; and in due time other similar schemes, now unheard of, will come to the fore.

THE PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS.

The province is just now undergoing all the excitement consequent upon the near approach of election day, and before the next issue of THE COMMERCIAL has made its appearance, the result will have been decided in favor of either the Norquay government or the opposition. Both parties, as is usually the case, profess their utmost confidence in the success of their cause, and either will as clearly demonstrate on paper what the result is to be, as a Chicago speculator would fore-

tell the course of the wheat market for the next six months or a year in advance. Just as the bulls and bears of the wheat pit will prove (to their own satisfaction at least), from the same statistics, that the leading cereal is going to advance or decline in price, so these political bulls and bears will figure out the expected returns from the elections of December the 9th. In the case of the political statistics of either party, the final outcome is about as unreliable as the bullish forecasts of the wheat market have proved for the past year. But one party must win as well as the other lose, and therefore we may expect the 9th of December to prove the coldest day of the present winter to many an aspiring candidate.


The contest has been a long one and a keen one. Electioneering commenced months earlier than there was any necessity for so doing, and it has been kept up throughout in the most active manner, to the neglect of commercial and other interests which may have come between. The fight has been conducted almost entirely on the Dominion political party basis. Many good reasons have been urged why party lines should not be closely drawn in local elections, and especially in Manitoba one might be led to believe that the extreme partyism of eastern Canada should not prevail to such an extent in local matters, especially when we have so little in common with the party strifes of the East. But it seems that the party spirit is as strong here as in any other part of the country, from which it would appear that the majority of our citizens, who are from old Canada, have brought their narrow political prejudices with them, and which it will take time to eradicate. We have seen this partyism crop up and decide votes in the Winnipeg City Council, and there are those in influential positions who at the present time are endeavoring to make this same party feeling a factor in deciding the coming civic elections. When such is the case we could hardly expect to have the provincial elections free from party influences. In a few instances candidates have announced a sort of semi-independence of party, and in some districts an attempt has been made to bring out independent men. On the other hand some candidates have gone out of their way to boast of their slavish adherence to the teachings of certain Dominion party leaders, even to the extent of ignoring local interests. We may therefore expect a straight party vote in the next Manitoba Legislature.

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ETC., AND IMPORTERS AND DEALERS IN
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BOOTS & SHOES,
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Wishart Block, Market St. East,

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In Wood and Bottle always on hand.

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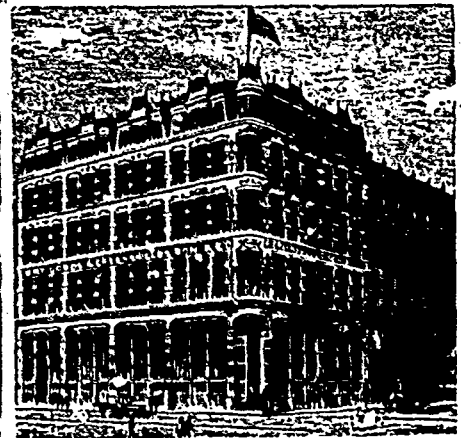
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Pressed and Pierced Tinware, Japanned Ware,
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WHOLESALE ONLY.

Warehouses: Cor. Rachel St. and Point Douglas Avenue.
Sample Rooms and Offices, 7 Spencer Block, Portage Ave.
J. W. DISCOLL, Manager. **WINNIPEG**

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET

There seemed to be a general belief at the close of last week that money was circulating more freely. Wholesalers reported good returns from the country, and much better than previously expected. This seemed to be the general opinion, though some two or three were not quite as decisive in this respect, and thought the worst fair would answer the question. None, however, complained of poor returns. From this showing it may be considered that money has commenced to circulate freely from the sales of grain and other products, and that for the next few months the situation will be easier. At the banks about the usual business was going on, with discount rates steady. In the mortgage loan line the feeling is also very satisfactory in regard to payments. During November payments of interest have been made very promptly. One leading company reported three times the amount met as in the previous month, from a large number of small loans from all parts of the province. Returns show up better than any previous year. There is not a great deal of new business doing, but all applications for advances on improved land are readily taken, at from 8 to 9 per cent. The prairie fires last fall have made little difference in returns, in a few cases the interest having been allowed to stand over, but in comparison with the total the number is very few. The inspectors of the different companies, who have been through the province during the fall, report a satisfactory state of things. A very large amount of plowing has been done, and as a rule the farmers were contented. Quite a number of farms in some of the older sections of the province, which had been mortgaged and abandoned, the owners going west to take up second homesteads, have been again settled upon. This class of land promises to come into better demand, in preference to going farther away to secure government land. Altogether the feeling in regard to farm property is greatly improved, in comparison with a year ago, and a stated value may now be placed upon farming land in all the settled districts of the province.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE

The change to weather more suited to the season has at last had a beneficial effect upon the wholesale trade. From reports during the past week it may be considered that farmers throughout the province have drawn largely on the stocks of storekeepers, and that a considerable amount of cash has been flowing into the tills of country dealers. Dealers report orders coming in freely in many lines for sorting trade for such goods as are in demand with the commencement of cold weather. The near approach of the holiday season has also induced activity in some branches. The political situation, however, attracted more attention last week than mercantile matters, and until the week following the present the same cause will operate against strict attention to business. The city retail trade has continued fairly active, but there is no question but that several leading branches are too largely represented here in a retail way. The clothing line, especially, is overdone. Some wholesalers have complained of great inconvenience through delay in the re-

ceipt of freight, to the extent in some instances of being unable to fill orders. Some lines of holiday goods are not yet to hand, which are badly wanted to complete orders.

BOOTS AND SHOES

Dealers have at last enjoyed an active season, which they were much in need of. During the last week in November, the trade done would be about equal to the total for the month previous. The stocks wanted have been entirely for winter wear, consisting of overshoes and felt goods. The past fall's trade has turned out a very poor one for shoe dealers, owing to the dry weather. There was no mud nor moisture, and anything in the shape of an old shoe answered the purpose, whether with holes or not. People took advantage of this and did not invest in their ordinary requirements for fall wear, continuing the use of their summer shoes until they could take up with overshoes and other winter goods. Collections are said to be very good from the country.

CLOTHING

In this branch a great many orders have been received and dealers have had an active season. The orders have been nearly all for small lots, and though in number greater than last year at this time, yet the aggregate amount has not shown much difference as compared with one year ago. This would indicate careful buying on the part of retailers. Collections are said to be very fair.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE

Dealers have been busy for some time in filling orders, largely for the holiday trade. This work is now well through with, but quite a number of orders are still coming to hand. Collections good.

DRY GOODS

The movement in this branch has not shown much change, though there has been a fair demand for seasonable goods, such as are usually taken at this season of the year. Generally, however, the situation remains quiet.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALL WARES

In small wares and staples business is rather quiet, but in fancy lines and holiday goods there is just now a great rush at the warerooms and night work is necessary to keep up with orders.

FURS

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

FRUITS

New nuts will shortly be in the market, and it is expected that prices will be considerably higher, owing to advances at New York. Prices are: Florida oranges \$8 to \$8.50; Jamaica oranges, in barrels of 300 to 350 count, \$14. or \$5.00 per

100. Winter apples, \$4.00 to \$4.50 per bbl, for good stock. Malaga lemons, \$8.00 to \$8.50 per box; lemons, \$15 to \$17; Messina lemons, \$8.50 to \$9.50; California pears, \$5.00 per box; Malaga grapes, \$8 to \$8.50 per keg; Cranberries, \$10.50 to \$11 per bbl; Citrons, \$1.50 to \$2 per dozen; Figs, in 50 lb. sacks, 12½c; New Elmo figs, in layers, 18c per pound, in one lb. to ten lb. boxes; Golden dates, 12c; peanuts, roasted, 18c; peanuts, raw, 15c; walnuts, 15 to 20c; almonds 15 to 20c; filberts 13 to 15c. Dried fruits are quoted as follows: Valencia raisins \$3.15 to \$2.25; London layers \$3.75 to \$3.90; black crown \$5 to \$5.25; black baskets, ¼ boxes, \$1.30. Apple cider is worth \$10 a barrel, or \$7 per half-barrel; sweet potatoes, \$8.25 per barrel.

HARDWARE AND METALS

The movement in this branch during the week has been rather light and the feeling quiet. Prices hold steady as follows: Cut nails, 10d and larger \$3.35 to \$3.75; I. C. tin plates, \$5.50 to \$5.75; I. C. tin plates, double, \$11 to \$11.50; Canada plates, \$3.50 to \$3.75; sheet iron, \$3 to \$4.50, according to grade; iron pipe, 50 to 55 per cent. off list prices; ingot tin, 26 to 30c per lb., according to quality; bar iron \$2.50 to \$3 per 100 lb; shot, 6½ to 7c a lb; tarred felt, \$2.60 to \$2.85 per 100 lbs; barbed wire 7 to 7½c.

GROCERIES

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

PAINTS, OILS AND COLORS

The only thing now moving seems to be in coal and lubricating oils. Other lines have quieted down for the season. Quotations are keeping steady as follows: Turpentine 75c; harness oil, \$1.10; Neatsfoot oil, \$1.50; linseed oil, raw 69c per gal., boiled 71c; seal oil steam refined, \$1.10; castor, 14c per lb; lard No. 1, \$1.25 per gal; olive, \$1.00 to \$2.00, according to quality; machine oils, black 25 to 40c; oleine, 40c; fine qualities, 50 to 75c. Coal oils, silver star, 20c; headlight, 28c; water white, 30c. American oils, Eocene, 36c; water white, 33c; sunlight, 30c; Eldorado, machine, 50c. Calcined plaster, \$3.75 per bbl; Portland cement, \$4.75; white lead, genuine, \$7.00; No. 1 \$6.50; No. 2 \$6.00; window glass, first break, \$2.25.

PAPERS

Dealers are experiencing an active demand for fancy lines and sundries for the holiday trade, and are obliged to keep busy overt me in filling orders. There is also a fair movement in maple papers, bags, etc.

THE MARKETS

WINNIPEG

WHEAT

Deliveries at provincial points during the week have fallen off, owing to the condition of the roads, which have been bad for either sleighs or wagons. There is not enough snow to make sleighing, but enough to render wheeling difficult. Prices improved some, in sympathy with outside markets; $\frac{1}{2}$ rs being worth from 54c to 55c at provincial points, f. o. b., for through shipment, or to Port Arthur. In the city loads have been taken at the mills steadily at the unchanged prices of 59c for No. 1 hard, and 56c for No. 2 hard and 1 northern.

FLOUR

Prices ruled steady during the week at previous figures as follows: Patents, \$2.35; strong bakers', \$1.80; XXXX, \$1.20 to \$1.30; superfine, 90c to \$1.00.

BRAN AND SHORTS

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

BARLEY.

Very little movement appears to be going on in this grain. For local use some lots have been taken at about 40 to 45c.

OATMEAL

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

OATS

There were no offerings in car lots, but prices were nominal at 42c. There appears to be a pretty good stock of oats in the city, and as supplies were bought at present or higher figures, prices will likely hold up. Two cars of oats have been imported from the east, but not for use in Manitoba. These were purchased to fill a western order at a time when prices were considerably higher than they now are. Oats could not be laid down here from the east much under 50c, and therefore there is no likelihood of further importations, unless prices advance considerably. So far as Manitoba is concerned there is undoubtedly a plentiful supply of oats in the province, but the question is whether we have enough for our own use as well as for exportation westward to the territories and British Columbia. In this respect opinion is divided, some dealers claiming that the supply is ample for all purposes, whilst others think that the importation of a few cars will be necessary to supply western points.

POTATOES

have been unsettled and held at firmer prices, with only farmers' loads offered. However, 50c appears to be about the usual price.

CHEESE

Unchanged at 13 to 14c.

EGGS.

Scarcely any fresh offered, and held at 22c. Pickled sell at 20 to 22c.

BUTTER

There has been no change in prices in any respect. About 20c is still the ruling figure for choice qualities, with medium held at from 12 to 18c. There were inquiries for a car lot for shipment to British Columbia.

HAMS

For the home product the regular quotation is 14c.

LARD

Has sold in 20 lb pails at \$2 15 to \$2 25; 3 lb pails have sold at 43c each, and 5 lb pails at 65c each.

BACON

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

DRESSED POULTRY.

The supply of poultry is large, though choice lots go off readily at 9c. Some lots, however, are slow sale at 7c. Turkeys are scarce at 15c, and ducks and geese hold at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. It is likely that importations of turkeys and geese will soon be in this market, as parties are said to be now arranging to bring in car lots. It is said that there are plenty of turkeys in the country, but that these are being sold for higher prices during the holidays. If this be the case, it will likely prove a mistake, as importations will prevent an advance in prices. Prices quoted above are for drawn poultry, which command a better sale in this market.

DRESSED MEATS.

Pork has continued to rule easier, and quotations may now be placed at 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 5c. The latter price, however, may be pretty generally relied upon for good hogs suitable for packing. In beef, a great deal of very poor country dressed is coming to market, which finds slow sale. This beef is mostly too light, weighing from 450 to 500 pounds. Butchers say that farmers are killing their cattle too young, and that it would pay them better to feed up and sell live weight. Present prices would indicate that such is the case. Country sides are quoted at 4 to 5c, whilst butchers wholesale city dressed at 5 to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

LIVE STOCK.

No hogs now coming in. Cattle are firmer and good stock in fair demand. Ordinary lots bring 3c, and choice cattle, suitable for Christmas trade would bring from 4 to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, off cars. A few No. 1 three to four year old steers, fat, would probably bring as high as 5c later on.

Legal Decisions.

The suit of the Union Bank vs. McKilligan came before the full court at Winnipeg, last week. This was an action in which the defendant had endorsed a note made by A. W. Ross, for the sum of \$7,253, and payable to the defendant. At the last hearing a verdict was awarded in favor of the defendant, on the ground that due notice had not been given of dishonor. This verdict has now been set aside, and a verdict returned in favor of the plaintiff. The case hinged on the question as to whether placing a notice in the post office on the day following the day of dishonor was due notice. The post office officials testified that the letter must have been placed in the defendant's box on the day in question, by six o'clock in the evening. The view taken was that the letter once placed in the defendant's box (the place where he desired his letters to be delivered) it was in his possession just as much as if placed on his desk or delivered at his house.

The case of Wright vs. the City of Winnipeg, regarding the dispute over the property on the corner of Main and William streets, has again been decided in favor of the plaintiff, the city having been ordered to pay \$9,755 and interest.

The suit of Stewart vs. Setter came before the court on Tuesday last. The plaintiff kept a store at Snowflake, Man., where he succeeded to the business of a man named Findlay. The defendants, Thibaudeau Brothers, were creditors of Findlay, and the goods in the store were seized under an execution they had against Findlay; the plaintiff Stewart, however, claimed the goods by purchase from Findlay and Thibaudeau Brothers, withdrew their execution. In consequence of this seizure Stewart's creditors proceeded against him, and he had to

close down the business. He then sued the sheriff, Setter, and Thibaudeau Brothers for damages. This matter has been twice tried; the first jury gave the plaintiff \$1,000; that verdict was set aside, and the second jury gave him \$1,918. On the third hearing the Chief Justice decided that the damages awarded by the jury are unreasonable and unjust, and the verdict ought to be set aside. If the plaintiff, however, will consent to reduce the verdict to \$500 and costs the rule will be discharged, otherwise there will be a new trial, costs to abide event.

Selections.

It is shown by official returns of British and colonial shipping that a net decrease of 60,000 tons took place during last year.

The first cotton mill ever erected in the world still stands in Bow street, Nottingham, England, and was built by Hargreaves, who invented the spinning-jenny in Lancashire, whence he was driven out on account of his invention. It was erected about the year 1770, but is now occupied as a tenant-house.

The tariff question, it is said, will play a prominent part in the next Parliamentary elections in Great Britain. The workmen and the trade unions are being rapidly formed into assemblies similar to those of the Knights of Labor in America. Many of these bodies have already adopted resolutions favoring heavy custom duties on foreign importations, and are determined that this question shall be made an issue at the next elections.

Several materials which bear the name of Astrachan have but few points in common—aside from a general resemblance on the surface—to that valuable product. Astrachan wool comes from a species of Asiatic sheep raised within the province. The finest quality is taken from unborn lambs—the mothers being killed for that purpose. A fineness of curl, delicacy of texture and gloss are attained by such means not possible when mature is allowed to run its own course. The high price demanded and paid for this premature wool prevents its use other than persons of wealth, a coat of finest quality of Astrachan costing about \$2,000. The sheep are mostly black, and the natural black wool untouched by dyes is most highly prized.

The Visible Supply.

The amount of wheat in store at principal points in Canada and the United States, on November 27th, was as follows;

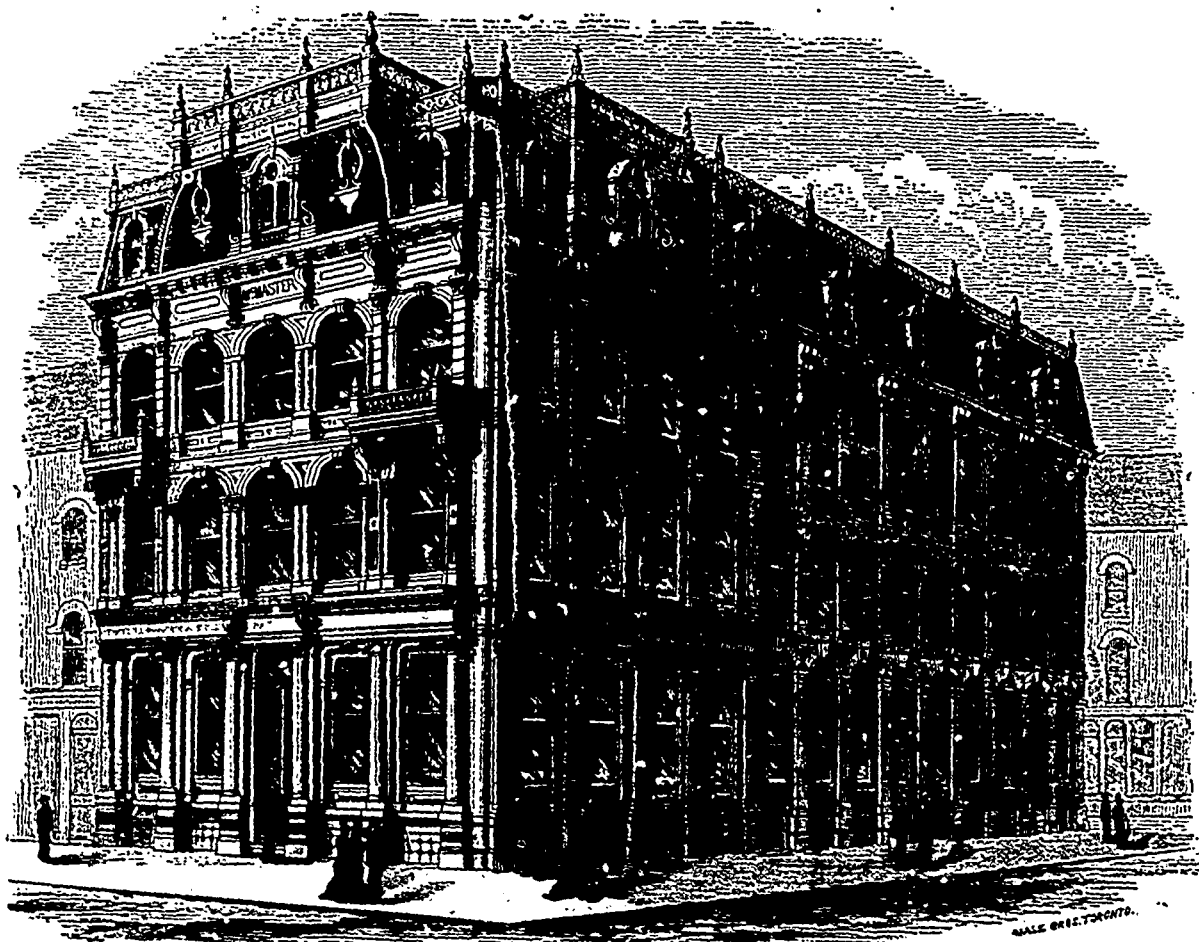
Total in store	983,548
Afloat—	
New York	1,134,100
Totals in store and afloat ..	58,117,648
On lakes	926,692
On canal	528,000

Grand totals..... 59,572,340
Correspond'g week last year 55,539,993

By this statement it will be seen that the visible supply of wheat increased 9,887 bushels over the previous week. When it was 59,562,433.

McMaster, Darling & Co.

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MONTREAL.

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CLOTHING

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Platform Scales—all sizes.
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WOOL AND FEATHER PILLOWS, ETC.

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Bakers' and Spring Extra Flour; Oatmeal, Pot
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Wheat, Bran, Shortst, Ground Feed, Oats,
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Wheat buyers at all C.P.R. Shipping Stations.

EASTERN MARKETS.

CHICAGO.

Wheat opened strong on Monday, owing to the tone of the cables. The destruction of wheat by the fire at Duluth also had the effect of strengthening the market. Prices started $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ higher, but heavy selling by those who had bought last week, to realize, took prices back $\frac{1}{4}$. The market then fluctuated and continued rather unsettled until near the close, when active trading took place, at stronger prices. The exports for the previous week were announced at 2,000,000 bushels, including flour. Corn and oats were active and stronger. Provisions were active. Pork sold up 20c, and ribs 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, with a slight improvement in lard. In the afternoon prices continued strong, May pork going up to \$11, but closing 5c lower. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.
Wheat	70 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats	27	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork	10.25	10.65
Lard	6.05	6.12 $\frac{1}{2}$

Wheat was nervous on Tuesday, with alternate spells of strength and weakness, with sharp fluctuation. Outside buying was the main feature of strength. Prices dropped $\frac{1}{4}$ from the start, but recovered most of the loss. Pork sold off 30c, with active trading. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.
Wheat	75 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats	27	27
Pork	10.00	10.65
Lard	6.02 $\frac{1}{2}$	6.10

On Wednesday the feeling continued nervous, but generally stronger. First sales were $\frac{1}{4}$ higher, from which point prices advanced to 77 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for January. Prices then settled back $\frac{1}{4}$, but advanced later $\frac{1}{4}$ to 84c for May. Pork advanced steadily from the opening. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.
Wheat	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	38
Oats	27	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork	10.50	10.92 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lard	6.12 $\frac{1}{2}$	6.17 $\frac{1}{2}$

Wheat was strong on Thursday, the opening being $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ higher, and the feeling firm throughout, with but short seasons of depression. The price advanced from the start nearly 1c, and after a slight retrograde movement again advanced $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ c, closing near the top. In the afternoon May reached 85 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, the highest point of the day, but free selling caused a decline to 85 $\frac{1}{4}$ c, finally closing at 85 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. New York and outside markets generally were free sellers on every bulge, but the market kept well up under such pressure. An immense quantity of long wheat came out, but it was all taken. Heavy purchases were made on foreign account. The Northwest has apparently whirled around to the bull side, according to advices from that quarter. Corn and oats were active in a speculative way. Provisions were strong, but packers were free sellers. Pork advanced 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, ribs 5c, and lard 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 10c, pork declining 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c at the close. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.
Wheat	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	78 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn	38	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork	10.70	11.07 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lard	6.17 $\frac{1}{2}$	6.22 $\frac{1}{2}$

Wheat started strong on Friday, and then after a short depression again became strong, remaining firm to the close at one o'clock. In the afternoon the market opened $\frac{1}{4}$ higher and held firm, closing near the top. Late Liverpool cables were strong, and there was active buying while a noticeable feature was shown in the absence of a desire to realize on every little bulge, thus indicating that dealers are believers in a continuation of advancing prices. Many bears are out of the deal and waiting developments, but claim that Chicago is 5c above an export basis. Provisions were more unsettled and easier at the start, but last prices were higher:

	Dec.	Jan.
Wheat	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats	27	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork	10.85	11.12 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lard	6.15	6.20

On Saturday the wheat market was quieter and fairly steady, with prices a shade lower at the close than last prices for the previous day. Provisions were stronger at the close. Closing prices were:

	Dec.	Jan.
Wheat	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	79 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats	27	27 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork	10.80	11.20
Lard	6.22 $\frac{1}{2}$	6.22 $\frac{1}{2}$

TORONTO.

STOCKS

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

	Nov. 24.		Dec. 1.	
	ASKED.	BID.	ASKED.	BID.
Montreal	233 $\frac{1}{2}$	236 $\frac{1}{2}$	237 $\frac{1}{2}$	230
Ontario	116 $\frac{1}{2}$	115	115 $\frac{1}{2}$	114
Toronto	—	200	—	200
Merchants	—	127	128	126 $\frac{1}{2}$
Commerce	129	128 $\frac{1}{2}$	130	129 $\frac{1}{2}$
Imperial	137	136 $\frac{1}{2}$	137	135 $\frac{1}{2}$
Federal	108	107	107 $\frac{1}{2}$	107 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dominion	220	219 $\frac{1}{2}$	220 $\frac{1}{2}$	220
Standard	127	126 $\frac{1}{2}$	128 $\frac{1}{2}$	127
Hamilton	136	134	136 $\frac{1}{2}$	133
Northwest Land	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	63 $\frac{1}{2}$	64	63
C. P. R. Bonds	106	105	106	105

WHEAT

There has been a better inquiry for shipment, owing to the improvement in outside markets. The local demand, however, has been light, as few mills are now in operation. No. 2 spring sold at 77c; No. 2 fall at 76c and red winter at 77c, with prices firm.

FLOUR

Superior extra was offered at \$3.40, and extra at \$3.35. At the close holders were asking 5c advance on these prices.

OATMEAL

Cars sold at \$3.60 on truck, with small lots at \$3.75 to \$4.25, the latter for granulated.

OATS

Quiet at 32c for mixed to 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for white milling.

BARLEY

The demand has been slack and prices easy. No. 1 was offered at 58c, with 57c bid. No. 2 sold at 53c. Low grades dull.

APPLES

Worth from \$1.75 to \$2.50 for winter fruit, on the market.

POULTRY

Box-lots have been offered in very large quantities, and prices have been weak all over at 8 to 9c per lb. for turkeys, at 5 to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ c per lb for geese, at 30 to 40c per pair for fowl and 45 to 55c for ducks.

BUTTER

Receipts of medium were large, and the feeling dull, with prices at about 12 to 14c, with white out. Good dairy sold slowly at 15 to 16c, and selections at 18 to 19c. Common 8 to 9c. Good rolls worth 15 to 16c.

EGGS

Quoted at 17c for pickled and 18c for candled.

CHEESE

Held very firmly. For choice 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c has been the usual price, but common has been offered at 10c, and medium at 11 to 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. At Ingersoll on Tuesday eight factories offered 5,075 boxes of September and balance; sales, 400 boxes at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; eighteen factories represented and ten buyers present. This is the last market this season.

PORK

Inactive and almost nominal at about \$13.50.

BACON

Sales few and of small lots only. Prices easy at about 8c for long clear and 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for Cumberland in cases; 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 9c for rolls; 10 to 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for backs and bellies; and 10c for boniless racks.

HAMS

Very quiet, the only movement being in small lots of smoked at about 11c.

LARD

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

DRESSED HOGS

Rail-lots have begun to offer to a small extent and have sold at from \$5.37 to \$5.60, closing steady. No cars yet on hand. Street prices closing at \$5.25 to \$5.75.

LIVE STOCK

Hogs, if anything, firmer, from \$4 to \$4.20 has been paid for medium fat weighing 160 to 220 lbs; good sale also for heavy and light fat. Butchers' choice pickled cattle per lb 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ c; butchers' choice per lb 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ c; butchers' common to good per lb 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 3c.

HIDES AND WOOL

Following are quotations:—Hides, No. 1 inspected steers, \$9; No. 1 inspected cows, \$8.25; No. 2 inspected, \$7.25; No. 3 inspected, \$5; calfskins, green, 11 to 13c; calfskins, cured, 13 to 14c; calfskins, dry, 11 to 15c; sheepskins, green, 65 to 90c; wool, super, 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 23c; extra super, 27 to 28c; wool pickings, 9 to 10c; tallow, rough, 2c; rendered, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ c.

DULUTH WHEAT MARKET

There were about 7,600,000 bushels of grain in store at the commencement of the week, all wheat, leaving only about 2,000,000 bushels elevator capacity unoccupied. A number of flat warehouses have been brought into requisition, bringing the total wheat storage capacity up to 11,000,000 bushels. All the elevators along the Manitoba road are said to be full of wheat, amounting to 10,000,000 bushels, in addition to large amounts in warehouses. It is estimated that there are 15,000,000 bushels in farmers' hands along this road, and the same thing is reported of the Northern Pacific. The inspector here says Duluth will handle 100,000,000 bushels of grain annually within a few years, and that had the capacity been sufficient 20,000,000 bushels more would have been handled this year. The market during the week has been strong on the whole, and trading more active, in sympathy with outside prices. Receipts have averaged about 275 cars daily. The course of prices will be shown by the following closing quotations for No. 1 hard, on each day of the week.

	Cash	Dec.	May
Monday	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tuesday	76	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 $\frac{1}{2}$
Wednesday	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	76 $\frac{1}{2}$	83 $\frac{1}{2}$
Thursday	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$
Friday	—	—	—
Saturday	—	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$

Business East.**ONTARIO.**

N. K. Scott, grocer, Kingston, has assigned in trust.

J. W. Nichlin, hardware, Moorefield, has sold out.

Black Bros., grocers, Toronto, have sold out to F. Bowling.

Chas. H. Poile, jeweller, Chatham, is offering to compromise.

John Kennedy, shoe dealer, Guelph, has moved to Toronto.

John Hambly, general storekeeper, Stirton, has moved to Toronto.

W. Bowles & Co., grocers, Toronto, have sold out to Robt. Hurst.

Hiram Lumley, general storekeeper, Wardsville, has assigned in trust.

James Parr, general storekeeper, Cartwright, succeeded by Mrs. S. Parr.

Schooly & Dell, dry goods, Aylmer, have dissolved—Schooley continues.

Cox & Barber, rubber stamps, Toronto, have dissolved—R. H. Cox continues.

Cobain Bros., general storekeepers, Hastings, have dissolved—Joseph Cobain continues.

Wm. Silver, Jr., manufacturer of boots and shoes, Hamilton,—meeting of creditors, 30 inst.

C. J. Brown & Co., hardware, Parkdale, have admitted John Burns, Jr., and style is now Brown & Burns.

QUEBEC.

T. Coderre, druggist, Montreal, has assigned. Miss H. Dubeau, millinery, Montreal, has assigned.

Cyrille Mongeon, dry goods, Sorel, have assigned.

M. Tolmie, carpenter, Montreal, was partially burned out.

Ed. Morin, drugs, Montreal, is offering to compromise.

Richard A. Caughlin, shoe dealer, Bryson, has assigned.

Painchaud & Vincent, contractors, Montreal, have assigned.

Thos. Lang, general storekeeper, Caldwell,—curator appointed.

Richard Smardon, manufacturer of boots and shoes, has assigned.

Dominion Oil Cloth Co., Montreal; table oil cloth factory burned.

Thos. Ouellet, general storekeeper, Isle Verte, is offering to compromise.

G. W. Bailey & Co., general merchants, Montreal, have dissolved.

C. O. Lapierre, hardware, Montreal,—stock advertised for sale by auction.

Sharpe & McKinnon, manufacturers of boots and shoes, Montreal, have assigned.

W. E. Blumhart, publisher *La Presse*, Montreal, has sold out to Dansereau & Co.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Wm. Crusc, liquors, Halifax, is dead.

Wm. Williams, liquors, Sidney, is away.

Capt. John Gillis, —, Pictou, has assigned.

Martin McPhee, general storekeeper, Rawdon, is away.

Copeland & Co., druggists, North Sidney, have dissolved.

L. J. Hart, general storekeeper, Whybocoamah, has assigned.

D. Holmes, general storekeeper, Sutherlands River, has assigned.

Reagh & Andrews, general storekeepers, Kingston, have dissolved.

J. P. Chipman & Co., lumber dealers, Kentville, advertise business for sale.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

James W. Webster, —, Harvey, has assigned.

A. S. Sutherland, general storekeeper, Bathurst, has assigned.

General Notes.

Life insurance has taken root in Mexico, and American companies have established agencies in that country with great success.

A severe agricultural crisis has existed in Belgium for several years past, and as a result the value of land has depreciated from 25 to 33 per cent. At the present time the net revenue from land has diminished in very many instances from 50 to 60 per cent, and in numerous instances the cultivation has been entirely abandoned.

The investment of capital in new enterprises in the Southern States amounted to \$84,000,000 during the first nine months of the current year. This was \$31,000,000 more than invested in the same territory during the corresponding period of last year. This shows how remarkably the South is developing, and the field is barely opened for the possibilities which may be derived from it.

The elections just closed forecast the character of revenue legislation during the two-years' term of the next Congress. The free-trade movement has received a decided check, and the majority of its most prominent advocates have been retired, while those who have secured re-election have barely saved their seats. These results indicate a widening drift of opinion in favor of tariff-laws which shall be so framed as to conserve every interest which foreign competition might frustrate or impair. The growth of this opinion is particularly marked in the Southern States, where once the extreme opinions of free trade were focalized.—*American Mail.*

Items of Interest.

A telephone line will be put in operation between Saskatoon and Clark's Crossing.

It is reported that the M. & N. W. Railway Co. contemplate adopting the 24 o'clock system.

W. V. McLise, solicitor, has sued the Prince Albert *Times* for libel, placing damages at \$10,000.

The Calgary council will petition against the granting of licenses to transient traders, by the Northwest Council.

The steamer *Marquis* which was sunk in the Saskatchewan last fall has been raised by the insurance company and will be repaired.

Very nearly fifty wolves have been killed by the Oxley Rancho Co. The big gray wolves run in packs of nine or ten, and such a pack will tackle a full grown cow.

Dr. Dodd has been making tests of the mineral water found near Regina with the most satisfactory results. He has now established

beyond doubt the fact of its strength and general curative properties.

Several Icelanders from Dakota have settled in the Calgary district, where they will engage in sheep raising. If they like the district they expect a large number of their countrymen will follow them. The Icelanders make good settlers.

In the Government saving bank at Winnipeg during November, the deposits amounted to \$37,028 and the withdrawals \$27,585, leaving an excess of deposits of \$9,442 for the month. The total amount due deposits at the end of month was \$930,874.

There were ten Protestant Schools in operation with 374 pupils on the registers in Prince Albert District, during the past ten months. There were also four Roman Catholic schools, three of which were in operation, with a total of 62 pupils on the registers.

Cayley, member from Calgary to the Northwest Council, has entered an action for libel against the *Calgary Tribune*. The alleged libel occurs in a report of the proceedings of the Council, in which the following words occur: "Mr. Cayley took the floor and with the aid of his desk and chair, succeeded in holding himself in a tolerably erect position for about an hour."

The claims made against the Government in connection with the Northwest Rebellion, have been reduced about half a million by the war claims commission. The claim by the C. P. R. of \$853,617, has been reduced by \$114,713. The Hudson's Bay Co.'s bill of \$1,725,471, has also been cut down \$23,124. Other heavy reductions were the Winnipeg and Western Navigation company, claim \$70,000, reduced by \$17,970; The Northwestern Transportation Company, claim \$15,007, reduced \$719; Northwestern Navigation Company, claim \$21,060, reduced \$11,651.50; Northwest Coal and Navigation Company, claim \$78,879, reduced \$17,804; Qu'Appelle Valley Farming Company, outside the payments made through the Hudson's Bay Company, were reduced \$6,339; W. R. Sinclair, freighter, claim \$63,913, reduced by \$11,530.

British Columbia.

Chas. Nelson will open a drug store at Vancouver.

The Vancouver city council have arranged to have the city illuminated by electricity.

Jas Dwyer & Co, produce and commission dealers, Victoria, have dissolved partnership. James Dwyer will continue the business.

The Vancouver *News* says: Samo, a wholesale furniture dealer of Toronto, will open a branch store next spring in this province, and will likely select Vancouver for its location.

The Victorians are properly raising objections to the spending of \$200,000 in San Francisco for building a steamer to ply on the Sound when the work could be accomplished in Victoria.

Personal.

J. D. ALLAN, of A. A. Allan & Co., wholesale manufacturers and dealers in hats and caps, furs, gloves, etc., Toronto, is doing the Northwest. He notes a great change in the city since his last visit four years ago, in the direction of solid progress.

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Grain and Milling News.

The recent fire at Duluth, which destroyed elevators A and Q, together with nearly 1,000,000 bushels of grain including 800,000 bushels of wheat, reduces the elevator capacity of that city from 10,500,000 to 9,000,000 bushels.

The exports of breadstuffs from San Francisco by sea from July 1 to Nov. 3, 1886, as compared with 1885, were:

	1885.	1886.
Flour, bbls.....	435,505	300,127
Wheat, cents.....	4,752,930	2,752,451

Reckoning 4 1/2 bu of wheat to the barrel of flour, the exports of both during August and September were about 30,000,000 bu, against 12,000,000 bu for the same time last year, and 28,500,000 for the same time in 1884.

The Mark Lane Express, in its review of the British grain trade during the past week, says: The sparse offers of native wheats are attracting the attention of the trade, and it is believed that the crop has been largely overestimated. It is now calculated at only 6,500,000 quarters. In the provincial markets the supplies are rather greater. Values have not risen. The sales of English wheat during the past week were 49,063 quarters at 31s 11d, against 98,218 quarters at 30s 9d, during the corresponding period last year. In London the trade for wheat off coast is firmer and values higher, with its advance on American, Russian and choice Indian.

The Manitoba Electric and Gas Light Co., of Winnipeg, have passed a by-law authorizing the borrowing of \$310,000.

The Montreal hog market was quiet and steady with dressed quoted at \$5.75 to \$6.10 per 100 pounds, during the week.

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MINNEAPOLIS.

Winter closed down upon this country in the week just ended, with some effect upon markets for breadstuffs. The firmer feeling noted last week has continued, and there has been an advance of 2 @3c in wheat prices. The leading factors in causing this were a stronger flour market, and an elevator fire which consumed nearly a million bushels of wheat. The chief cause for regret is that the burned wheat, instead of being some of the ancient stores of the musty eastern elevators, was fresh Duluth receipts of choice northwestern wheat. The movement from farmers hands may average light for a week or two, but in the northwest, at least, there are still large reserves which must come forward as fast as railroads and elevators can handle it.

Receipts for the week were above a million bushels and shipments were the largest ever recorded for a single week.

The highest and lowest wheat prices by grade on change during the week ending Dec. 1, closing prices, and the prices one year ago were:

WHEAT—	Highest	Lowest.	Clos. ag.	1885
No. 1 hard	74½	72	74½	80½
" 1 northern	72½	70	72½	82½
" 2 "	70½	68	70½	78

Futures were more active and showed about the same fluctuations, January 1 hard closing at 75½c and May at 81½c. January 1 northern closed at 73½c and May at 79½c. January 2 northern closed at 71½c and May at 77½c.

FLOUR.—The firmness of last week continued to prevail and in some cases millers have been getting better prices. The movement is not free, but the enforced decrease in production tends to make millers satisfied with light sales on reasonable margins. They are very careful about selling ahead except at prices which afford a certainty of some profit.

Quotations at the mills for car or round lots are: Patents, \$4.20@ \$4.40; straights, \$4@ \$4.20; first bakers, \$3.40@ \$3.60; second bakers, \$2.80@ \$3; best low grades, \$1.70@ \$1.90, in bags; red dog, \$1.30@ \$1.40, in bags.

These quotations are on flour in barrels, except as stated. The rule is to discount 25c per bbl for 250 and 140 lb jute bags, 20c for 98lb cotton sacks, 15c for 40lb cotton sacks, 10c for 24½ lb cotton s. cks. In half barrels, the extra charge is 30c per bbl
—Northwest Miller.

The total shipments of lumber from the St. Lawrence to South America during the season just closed, were 29,088,204 feet, of which 21,384,100 went from Montreal, and 7,305,600 feet from other St. Lawrence ports, showing a decrease of 2,256,000 as compared with last year's shipments.

Heinis Kringle is the name of a new journal published in Icelandic, by Mr. F. B. Anderson, who is devoting himself to bettering his people, and advocates their wholesale emigration to the Northwest. That this would prove an unqualified advantage to us is shown by the progress made by those of this race now here, whose industry, sobriety, and law abiding disposition, render them most valuable settlers, while our national growth benefits by the admixture of a people proudly boasting of such a splendid history in literature, research, and war.

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