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WINNIPEG, APRIL 19, 1897.

Manitoba.

Winnipeg retailers are troubled over a civic by-law preventing them from displaying goods on the street which is to come into force later on.

The contract for supplying books for the Winnipeg public library for the current year has been awarded to Russell & Co.

J. W. McLeod, hotel, Alexander, is advertising his business for sale.

Edgar & Co., tailors, Carberry have moved to Dauphin.

Anderson & Graham general store-keepers, Carman, have dissolved.

W. M. Lawrence, hardware, Winnipeg, is advertising his business for sale.

Munt & Co., liquors, Winnipeg, are advertising their business for sale.

Alberta.

The Dominion public works department has agreed it is to build a combined railway and traffic bridge over the Saskatchewan river at Edmonton, if the town will give \$25,000 toward its construction. The offer will be accepted. It is hoped that this will speedily be accomplished, thus carrying the railway to the north of the great Saskatchewan, and into the old town of Edmonton. The next move northward will no doubt be to build the railway as far as Athabasca Landing where it will connect with a vast inland system of navigation, stretching away to the Atlantic ocean.

Assiniboia.

A report from Regina on April 12, says: sowing has commenced in several sections of the district, and it is expected that by the 25th of the present week it will be general. At first of the season, to your correspondent's knowledge, was on Saturday, the third, when one farmer reported having ten seeds sown.

Ontario Insurance Acts.

Quite a ponderous volume of no less than 120 large pages of printed matter is being put through the usual course of three readings in the Legislature, for the consolidation of all the Insurance Acts in force in the Province. The Bill is in charge of Hon. Mr. Gibson. It contains 196 sections, most of them with numerous sub-sections and tables, rates, forms and schedules. It opens with seven pages of definitions as to the meanings of all sorts of technical terms used in the measure, forming quite a dictionary. There are 56 such words or phrases thus dealt with, section two having that many sub-sections. Then it deals in turn with joint stock, and mutual, and cash-mutual fire insurance companies, life and accident and guarantee companies, and friendly societies. All these are required to be registered, as heretofore, and most of the clauses are merely copied from the existing enactments. Some new provisions, however, are made, of considerable consequence, especially to life and assessment companies.

We notice an important omission affecting some life and assessment insurance companies, which has the effect of interfering with the validity of contracts subsisting for many years, between such companies and their members in this province. In 1893 it was enacted that despite of what might have been agreed upon with the insured, as stated in their policies, they should, if living in Ontario, be entitled thereafter to pay their premiums any day within thirty days after the date specified in the policy itself, provided "the event upon the happening of which the insurance money becomes payable has not yet happened." In the consolidation (section 148) that proviso is left out, and the effect will be that if the insured should die even twenty-nine days after he had refused to renew his policy, or membership certificate, any beneficiary may mail or pay the past due premium and revive the insurance. This does not effect such companies as voluntarily give thirty days grace for payment, and most of the regular companies have long been in the habit of doing that.

An important new provision is made for admitting friendly or assessment societies of other provinces to registration in Ontario on reciprocal terms, but with a rather serious proviso. That is, such society must "provide for its contracts upon lives to at least the extent of collecting from its members premiums not less than those set out in Schedule A." This schedule practically sets up, for the first time in this province at all events, a Government standard of premiums, and therefore we quote a few figures from it promising that the expenses are to be provided in addition to collecting and accumulating these rates, upon the ages at entry. Opposite age 20 we find \$10.55; age 25, \$12.42; age 30, \$14.81; age 40, \$20.18; age 45, \$21.66; age 50 \$30.72; and at age 55, \$38.95, in each case for \$1,000 of policy. These figures condemn those in use by probably every fraternal society now operating in Ontario, and especially to the new scale adopted by the A. O. U. W. The I. O. F. rate at age 20 is only \$7.20 or \$3.35 below the standard, and the Home Circle rate is only \$6 up to age 25, or about one-half the Government standard of solvency. At the age 36 the I. O. F. rate is

\$9.60, and the Home Circle's rate the same, while the standard calls for 17.42. One or the other must be a good way out, but the Government scale has the solid rock of experience beneath it, and people will now be able to judge of the ultimate success or otherwise, of societies which bid defiance to all rules of safety.

Trade with Canada and Mexico.

There is no trade quite so profitable as next door trade. Trade with Canada or with Mexico is carried on at much greater advantage than trade with England, France or Germany. The trade of New York, New England, Pennsylvania, Ohio and lake shore States with Canada and the trade of Louisiana, Arkansas, Texas and California with Mexico is more readily managed and is more in consonance with the laws of trade gravitation than is trade between widely separated parts of the Union.

It may be set down as a commercial maxim that there is no trading where there is not resulting mutual advantage to the traders. Whilst the experiment of reciprocal trade with Canada lasted the exchange of commodities grew apace. Before the passage of the McKinley act of 1890 the exports from Canada to the United States were as large as the exports of that country to Great Britain, and we enjoyed an answering market in Canada for our products. Since 1890 we have driven Canadian export trade to Great Britain, until it exceeds the exports to this country three times. The excess in favor of Great Britain, is over \$20,000,000.

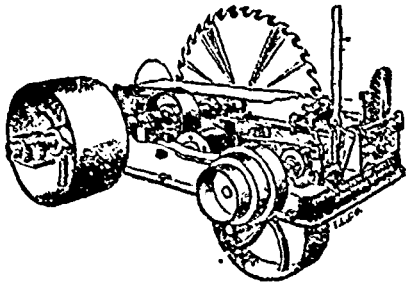
Our farmers should understand that they do not escape Canadian competition by driving Canadian wheat; barley and other farm products into the Liverpool market. They might better meet Canadian competition at Buffalo, Detroit or Duluth, and buy from the Canadians cheap lumber and fish. A tariff war such as the Dingley schedules will precipitate between this nation and adjoining nationalities will advantage nobody. It will be precisely as if a string of custom houses should be erected between Pennsylvania and New Jersey or between Ohio and Indiana to harry and obstruct the free trade which the people of those States now enjoy.

The failure of our government to enter into new reciprocity arrangements with Canada and Mexico, and to pull down every obstruction to the exchange of commodities in so far as it might be able to obtain the consent of the Governments of these countries, is a failure not only of statesmanship but of ordinary horse-trading capacity.—Philadelphia Record.

Grocery Trade Notes.

Owing to large supplies of maple products, prices are lower at Montreal. The demand is fair, and sales of syrup were made at 50c per small tin, 55c to 60c for large, and at 4 1/2c to 5c per lb., in wood. Maple sugar sold at 6 1/2c to 7c per lb.

The Montreal Gazette of April 12, says: "The feature of the local provision market is the stronger feeling for smoked meats, and prices have advanced 1/2c to 1c per lb., with sales of hams at 10c to 12 1/2c, and bacon at 10 1/2c to 11 1/2c per lb. Prices are: Canadian pork, \$12 to \$13 per barrel; pure Canadian lard, in pails, at 6c to 6 1/2c and compound refined at 4 1/2c to 5c per lb., hams, 10c to 12 1/2c, and bacon 10 1/2c to 11 1/2c per lb.

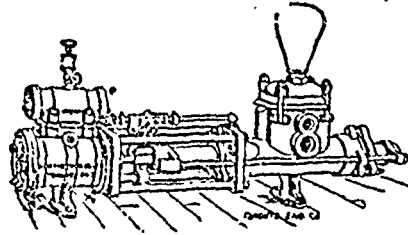


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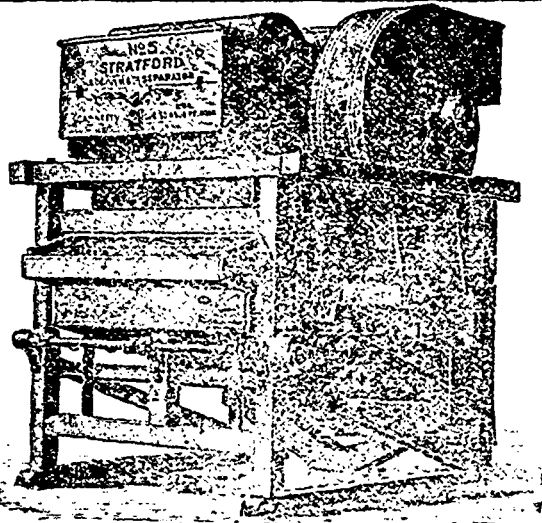
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The Commercial

WINNIPEG, APRIL 19, 1897.

THE PRICE OF WHEAT.

The Toronto Mail and Empire editorially says: "Farmers and grain buyers of Manitoba will not find it easy to forget or to forgive Laurier's free trade programme. In consequence of it they have had to write off about \$2,000,000 from the value of their wheat. By so much has the anticipation of free trade made them poorer. The Mail goes on to say that Manitoba mill owners were paying high prices, in some cases a dollar a bushel for Manitoba wheat, until the Liberal party began to talk of free trade, when the flour men thought it time to call in their buyers and shut down operations. When they took that step the price of wheat rapidly waned. One of the largest flour mill companies stated it stopped buying because it was apprehensive of the duty on flour being removed. The free trade talk of Laurier and his braves has simply scared the price of wheat down 25 cents a bushel."

This paragraph from the Mail and Empire is of course very far-fetched. According to the Toronto paper, the wheat markets of the world are controlled by the fiscal policy of Canada. This is the only inference which can be drawn from the article, and a very dull intellect it would be indeed which would not comprehend the absurdity of such a contention. Viewed in this light the Mail's article is very stupid.

It is not necessary to so grossly exaggerate matters to point an argument. It is quite true that the milling trade in Canada has suffered severely on account of tariff uncertainty, and this, combined with unfavorable market conditions, has made the present season an unprofitable one for millers.

Manitoba millers are placed in a somewhat peculiar position. In Manitoba the wheat crop is marketed within two or three months in the fall and early winter, or at least the great bulk of it. If the millers do not buy the wheat while it is coming, they would run short of supplies before the season was half over. The millers are therefore obliged to buy their supplies for the year while the rush of wheat deliveries comes in the fall and early winter. Thus they are obliged to carry almost a year's supply on hand.

This season the market has been very unfavorable for the millers. In the early part of the season there was a bull fever on and prices were high. This occurred during the season of heavy deliveries in Manitoba. After the great bulk of the crop had been purchased, prices began to decline, and the wheat now held by the Manitoba millers and this represents an enormous loss to the millers. The situation has been further depressed by the possibilities of a reduction of duty on flour, and altogether the lot of the Canadian, and particularly the Manitoba miller, has not been a happy one this season.

It would certainly be very unfair to Can-

adian millers to make a reduction in the duty on flour, in the face of the present circumstances. Our millers are now loaded up with dear wheat, and they could not compete with United States millers, who would be operating with wheat which had cost them about twenty cents per bushel less than the raw material held by our millers. If any change is to be made in the wheat and flour duties, they should be arranged so as not to come into force until a new crop is ready for the market, and then our millers would be prepared to buy their wheat at relatively the same prices as were paid in the United States. The price of wheat in Manitoba during the busy marketing season, ruled relatively several cents per bushel higher than prices paid south of the boundary. With free trade in wheat and flour no such difference could exist, as with competition open with the United States the price of wheat here would have to be held down to a level with prices in the United States.

PROTECTING CHILDREN.

Hon. Mr. Mowat has introduced a bill in the Senate at Ottawa regulating the employment of children in factories. The bill says that no boy under twelve or girl under fourteen shall be employed in a factory. Provision is made that boys under sixteen and eighteen may be prohibited from working in factories where the work may be considered dangerous or unwholesome. No child (meaning a boy under fourteen or a girl under sixteen) shall be employed in a factory before eight in the morning, or after six in the evening, with one full hour for meals. Provision is made for the appointment of inspectors and for the punishment of offenders. These provisions are no doubt good so far as they go. The main objection we see is, that they do not go far enough. The question naturally arises: Why should these restrictions apply only to factories? Many stores and offices where children are employed, are quite as unhealthy places for children as the average factory. As a rule the hours of labor in shops and offices are longer than in factories. This being the case, it would seem even more necessary to protect children from being over-worked in stores and offices than in factories. In the case of factories, organized labor is at work to restrict the employment of children. This, however, does not alter the principle. By all means let us have the children protected, not by a half-way measure, but by a law which will apply to all kinds of employment. The principle of protecting children in this respect is sound, and the application of the principle should be general, and not partial.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF PROTECTION.

Protection takes various forms. In free trade Great Britain there has been a strong tendency of late in favor of protective legislation. Not protection as we understand it in Canada, but nevertheless very much the same thing in respect to the object sought to be attained. One of these protective measures is the law placing restrictions upon the importation of live stock. Another one is

the bill now before the Imperial parliament to prevent the sale of imported meats, etc., as home products. British free traders who would regard with horror any attempt to protect home interests by means of customs duties, are not above employing other forms of protection, by means of thinly-disguised measures, nominally aimed at something else.

In Canada we have had protection of the same sort. The principle opposition to the removal of the live stock quarantine regulations, was on the ground that it would enable United States shippers to send their stock into Canada, in competition with the home industry. The regulations were regarded more in the light of a protective measure of a commercial nature, rather than as a preventative against the introduction of disease. Now we have a demand emanating from the Ontario Fruit Growers' association, for the exclusion of California fruit, on the alleged ground that there is danger of the introduction of fruit diseases. The Ontario fruit growers have to put up with sharp competition from the California fruits, and no doubt it is this competition, rather than the fear of disease, that is troubling them.

The prohibition of the importation of Pacific coast fruit, would be a most serious matter for Manitoba and the Territories. We import enormous quantities of fruit, in proportion to population, and with the exception of apples and some kinds of grapes, nearly everything comes from the United States, principally from the Pacific coast.

Ontario fruit growers are not able to supply this market, except with apples and some kinds of grapes. Plums, peaches, and other soft fruits sent here from Ontario, do not arrive in a marketable condition as a rule. In fact the attempts to bring in soft fruits from the eastern provinces have resulted in failure. British Columbia is so far not able to supply any considerable portion of the demand for fruits from Manitoba and the Territories.

One of the chief things that this western prairie country requires is fresh fruits, and our interest lies chiefly in the latter direction, rather than to give any countenance to a measure intended to increase the cost of fruit here.

WILD LANDS.

The idea seems to prevail in some sections of Manitoba, that the owners of wild or unoccupied lands are fit subjects for plunder. This belief was illustrated by a remark made in the Manitoba legislature, shortly before the close of the recent session. A member said: "He favored the imposition of a wild land tax over and above school taxes and municipal taxes. This, he believed, would compel the owners to sell the land at such prices that there would be some to buy, or they would be compelled to keep a certain amount of land under cultivation. In the country towns and villages the people were practically a unit in their desire to have such a law." This is certainly a very unreasonable proposition. Vacant lands are already taxed to the full extent of improved and occupied farms, so that the municipal

treasuries do not suffer by reason of the vacant lands. The belief that owners of vacant lands are holding these lands at prices which retard settlement, is not true. Most holders of vacant lands in Manitoba are willing and anxious to sell, at very moderate prices. In many cases the lands are offering at much less than their original cost. There is hardly an owner of unoccupied land in Manitoba who would not be willing to sell out at a loss. Holding land has been anything but a profitable business, and there is no reason for the disposition shown in some quarters to establish a discriminating tax against such lands. The fact is that most holders of wild lands are more to be pitied than legislated against. They are not holders from choice, but because they cannot sell.

EDITORIAL NOTES

THE announcement of the decision of the government to push the work of deepening the St. Lawrence canals, will be received with general favor in the West. It is now the intention, we are told, to have a fourteen feet waterway throughout the St. Lawrence system by the spring of 1899. The deepening of the St. Lawrence canals is a matter of the utmost importance to the West, as upon the improvement of this route, more than any other, depends the cheapening of transportation to and from the West.

* * *

THE Manitoba legislature has very wisely prohibited the granting of bonuses by municipal corporations. When it is desired to give a bonus, a special act has to be obtained from the legislature to legalize the municipal by-law. At the last session of the legislature a strong disposition was shown to oppose the legalizing of bonus by-laws. The bonusing evil has been held in check in Manitoba by these restrictions, and so long as the legislature is inclined to refuse to sanction bonus measures, municipalities will be protected from the folly of granting bonuses, which as a rule result unsatisfactorily to all concerned.

* * *

A Calgary paper is strongly urging the ranchers of the territories not to accept the prices now being offered for cattle, on the ground that prices will be higher later on. Last fall and winter, when wheat was selling at comparatively high prices, many Manitoba papers urged the farmers to hold, as wheat was sure to reach \$1 per bushel. Those who took this advice are heavy losers, prices being now 20 to 25 cents per bushel less than in the early part of the season. Giving advice is seldom a safe thing to do. As a rule it is best to let people judge for themselves, and then you will make no mistake.

* * *

Hon. Mr. Fisher, Dominion minister of agriculture, has very wisely negatived a motion which proposed that the government should fix an export bounty on butter and cheese. The granting of bounties cannot be considered otherwise than a vicious application of a vicious system, whether applied to agriculture products or manufactures. It

is to be hoped this form of bonusing will not gain a footing in this country.

* * *

It is to be hoped that the introduction of the alien labor bill in Parliament at Ottawa, does not mean the beginning of a legislative war between Canada and the United States. It is true that our southern neighbors were the aggressors in this matter. It is also true that the new United States tariff bill possesses some features, which cannot but be exasperating to Canadians. At the same time, matters are not likely to be improved by the passing of retaliatory measures, but rather the contrary. If this thing keeps on, it will result in the declaration of absolute non-intercourse between the two countries. What a fine spectacle this would be to the civilized world. It will be an evil day we fear, when Canada begins copying the selfish legislation of our small-souled neighbors.

* * *

Mr. McLennan, M. P., has introduced a bill at Ottawa to compel railway companies to sell second-class return tickets at the same percentage of reduction as is allowed in the case of first-class return fares, upon trains carrying first and second-class passengers. The penalty for infringement is placed at from \$5 to \$50 for each offence.

* * *

THE proposal to extend the franchise of the Winnipeg Gas Co., has called forth considerable opposition from citizens. The matter is certainly one which should be dealt with with care and deliberation by the council. In return for an extension of the monopoly of the company for twenty five years, it is proposed to reduce the price of gas to \$1.80 net for lighting purposes, and \$1.50 net for cooking purposes. The period named is a long time, during which to grant a monopoly. All civic franchises should be kept well in hand, in case the citizens, through the municipal rulers, should see fit to undertake these enterprises on their own account at some future day. The price offered by the company may be low now, but a year or two hence it might be very much too high, owing to possible cheapening of material or of the process of manufacture.

* * *

The suggestions made by the Winnipeg Free Press and The Commercial regarding the control of elections by the courts, have been very favorably received by the more independent newspapers of the West. Our Qu'Appelle exchange says: "The Winnipeg Commercial and the Free Press have just made some very sensible suggestions for conducting elections which will be free from the taint of political crookedness and ballot-stuffing and party dodges adopted. These journals urge the government to place the conduction of the elections in the courts, and thus free them forever from the control of any political party. It would be very refreshing to the moral sentiment of the country to have our elections conducted fairly and in purity; for there is certainly no more degrading influence at work at present than the disgraceful tactics employed by

unscrupulous, professional politicians of all parties—for none of them are free from guile—who resort to anything from buying votes to stealing ballots in order to achieve a party advantage. If the Liberals act now on these suggestions they will earn the gratitude of everyone who has the spark of true patriotism in him."

Winnipeg Board of Trade.

The quarterly meeting of the board was held Tuesday afternoon.

The president reported on all the acts of the council since the last general meeting, giving explanations of the steps taken by the council in various matters and the position in which the several orders of business now stood.

The following were elected as members of the board: G. H. Rodgers, Geo. Plaxton, J. E. Ruby, C. A. Baskerville, D. D. Ward, S. B. Ritchie, W. J. Hammond, L. A. Nason, A. E. Barro, Ben. Gordon, A. B. Galt, J. B. Hargrave, John Stovel, W. A. Black, G. H. Stovel and Ald. C. H. Wilson.

The following resolutions were passed: Resolved that this board should most strongly urge on the attention of the honorable, the minister of public works, the extreme advisability existing that the supplementary estimates should provide a sum for the construction of the St. Andrew's Rapid improvements; and that active operations should be commenced this spring.

Resolutions were passed for submission to the honorable, the postmaster-general, in connection with improved mail services on the line of the Dauphin railway, and also on the Manitoba and Northwestern railway west of Minnedosa.

Instructions were given to the council to press these matters on the attention of the minister.

A committee was appointed to take up with the post office officials the necessity of providing new post office boxes of a large size than are now situated there. It was complained by several members of the board that the capacity of the present boxes was entirely inadequate for their mail matter.

This committee will also take up the matter of the hours now marked on the postal letter boxes throughout the city. From a letter received from the post office inspector, Winnipeg, it appears that letters are not collected from the boxes in the city at the hours printed thereon.

A motion was passed requesting the council to watch any legislation in regard to the legal rate of interest that might be introduced into the house of commons at Ottawa during the session.

The president and secretary were authorized to sign the petition of the Volunteer Veterans' association for the issue of a general service medal to Canadian volunteers who have been on active service during Fenian raids in Canada.

Silver.

The tone of the London market for silver has been heavy on small balances. Eastern demand is quiet, and there is nothing in sight to stimulate speculation. The New York market has followed London, and has been equally dull and inactive. Silver prices on April 9 were: London, 28 1/2; New York, 61 3/4.

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 All communications addressed to him there, will be
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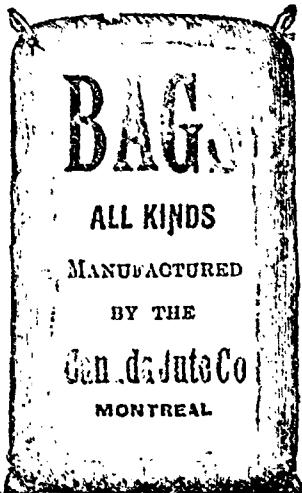
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Messrs THE GRAIN MILLING Co., WINNIPEG MAN.

Dear Sirs—We have pleasure in stating that the quality of the flour made in the Winnipeg mills, of which we have imported considerable on this crop has given the highest satisfaction to everyone who has baked it. Glasgow is pre-eminently a city of large baking establishments, some of them with a capacity of 2000 barrels per week, and all managed by gentle men well qualified to give a sound verdict on the merits of any flour. With remarkable unanimity they have expressed the opinion that nothing finer than your Patent grade has ever been placed on the market. The baking results have been exceptionally high, both in regard to color and out-turn, and we can invariably command a higher price. We are, yours respectfully, WILLIAM MORRISON & SON.

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Each bag guaranteed. Sown with the Special Twine, Red White and Blue.

OGILVIE'S HUNGARIAN,

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British Columbia Markets.

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

(BY WIRE TO THE COMMERCIAL.)

Vancouver, April 17, 1897.

Eggs have declined 1½ to 17c. Cured meats are advancing, and quotations next week will be higher.

Butter.—California dairy, 20c; Local creamery, 25c; Manitoba dairy, 18c; Manitoba cheese, 11c; California cheese, 12½c.

Cured Meats.—Hams 13 cents; breakfast bacon 12½; backs 9½; long, clear, 9½; short rolls 9½ to 10c; smoked sides 9½c. Lard is held at the following figures: Tins 10c per pound; in pails and tubs 9½c lb.

Game.—Mallard, 25c, widgeon, 25c; teal, 20c; grouse, 8c to 11c; geese, 75c to \$1.25; Venison, 4c; sand snipe, 35c.

Fish.—Prices are: Flounders 3c; smelt 2c, sea bass 1c, black cod 5c; rock cod 4c; red cod 4c; tommy cod 5c; herring 4c; spring salmon 8c; steelhead, 7c; whiting 5c; soles 6c; smoked halibut, 10c; kippered cod 9c, sturgeon 6c; smoked salmon, 10c; finnan haddie, 10c; kippered herring, 12c; Columbia river colochans, 7c.

Vegetables.—Local potatoes, \$23.00 to \$25.00 per ton; onions 3c; cabbage, 10c; carrots, turnips and beets, \$10 a ton.

Eggs.—Oregon eggs, 17c.

Fruits.—Fruit is sold by box unless otherwise quoted. Standard American boxes measure one foot ten and a half inches by eleven and a half inches with depth of eleven inches, side measurement and contain from 250 to 300 lemons, from 125 to 300 seedling oranges, from 125 to 150 navel oranges. California peaches \$2.50, California oranges, seedling, \$3.50 to \$2.00, navel oranges \$3.50 to \$3.75; steam apples \$5.50 barrel, Australian peaches \$2.50 bananas \$3.50 per bunch.

Evaporated Fruits.—Apricots 11c per lb; peaches 9c, plums 9 to 10c; prunes, French, 7c to 7½c; loose Muscatel raisins, 6c; Long-layer raisins \$1.90 box; Italian prunes, 5½c lb.

Nuts.—Almonds, 18c; filberts, 12½c; pecans, 10c; Brazil, 12½c; walnuts, 13c lb.

Oats.—National mills rolled oats, 90 lb in \$3.10; 15 pound sacks, \$3.10; 22½ lb sacks, \$3.20; 10.7 sacks, \$2.60. Oatmeal, 10-10's, \$3.25. 2-50's, \$3.00. Off grades, 10-10's, \$2.70.

Flour.—Delivered B.C. points.—Manitoba best per barrel, \$5.10, strong bakers, 10, Oregon, \$5.80.

Wheat.—Local wheat, \$30 to \$35. Oats, \$17.00 per ton.

Ground Feed.—National mills chop, \$23 to 25 per ton; ground barley, \$22 ton; shorts, 10 ton; bran \$1.00; oil cake meal, \$35 F.O.B. Vancouver, including duty on import stuff.

Wool.—\$17.00 per ton.

Cured Meats.—Beef, 8½ to 9c; mutton, 11c, Australian frozen mutton 10c; Francisco mutton, 8½c; pork, 6½ to 7½c; 8 to 9c lb.

Stock.—Steers, \$1.75 to \$5.25 per 100 lbs; sheep, \$1.50 to \$5.25 per 100 lbs; 2-50's, \$3.50 to \$5.75 per 100 lbs.

Poultry.—Chickens, 10c lb., turkeys, 12c lbs, 12c lb, geese, 11c lb.

Sugars.—Powdered and icing, 6½c; Paris lump, 5½c; granulated, 4½c; extra C, 4½c; fancy yellows 4c; yellow 3½c per lb.

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

Teas.—Congo: Fair, 11½c; good, 18c; choice 20c. Ceylons: Fair 25c; good 30c; choice 35c per lb.

British Columbia Business Notes.

Wm. Baillie, Publisher, Kamloops, is succeeded by Baillie & Bennett.

R. E. Smith, general store, Kamloops, has sold out to John Beaton.

Walter Middleton, groceries, &c., Mount Lehman, has sold out to P. Arder.

Catholic Supply Store, stationery, Vancouver, are out of business.

James Brown, butcher, Wellington, is out of business.

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, B. C., April 13.

Demand for provisions of all kinds is increasing, and prices in many lines are consequently advancing, this however, cannot be said of dairy produce, which shows a fractional decline in most lines. Owing to the unusual fatality among British Columbia cattle, the price of meat has advanced. A large consignment of Australian mutton came in by the Australian boat and sold freely at 10 cents. Dressed San Francisco mutton however is sold at 8½c, but is rather dangerous to handle. Several carloads of beef cattle arrived from Manitoba this week, and the shipper stated to The Commercial correspondent that he intended to ship every month until he found it unprofitable. The supply of hay is so exhausted on Vancouver Island that Victoria is importing from Washington State while the Fraser Valley supply from which the Mainland draws its ready stock is just about run out. Hay and oats are very firm at present prices. There is at present a considerable demand for seed grain. There is an unusual heavy acreage of land under the plough this season, and the crop will be comparatively very heavy.

The Live Stock Trade.

At Toronto on April 13, butchers' cattle were slow and some were not sold. Prices ranged from 2½c for rough cows, up to 8½c to 4½c for fancy picked animals. The general run sold at 3½c to 3¾c. Stockers, for Buffalo, 2½c to 3c, feeders, 3½c to 4c. Sheep, 3c to 3½c, yearlings, 5½c to 5¾c. Lambs, \$3 to \$1.50 each. The offerings for hogs were heavy and 5c was paid for the best bacon hogs, off cars, 4½c per lb., for thick fat, 3c for sows, 2c for stags and 1½c for boars. All kinds of hogs are wanted.

At London on April 12, cattle declined ½c, owing to heavy supplies and sheep were ½c lower. Best United States cattle sold at 12½c and Argentines at 11c. Choice sheep sold at 12½c.

A cable from Liverpool on April 12 reported the market for cattle ½c lower. Choice Canadian steers at 11½c and middling stock at 10½c to 10¾c.

A cable from Liverpool reported the market stationary and quoted United States cattle at 10½c to 10¾c. Refrigerator beef, hinds at 12c and fores at 8c.

The Montreal Gazette reports a good demand for ocean space for cattle, for May and June shipment at 10s to 15s, and 10 to 12s 6d to London.

At the East and Abbot market, Montreal, on April 12, prices were maintained at the recent advance. Fancy steers and heifers sold at 5½c to 5¾c; choice 1½c to 5c, good, 1c to 4½c, and ordinary, 3c to 3½c per lb. Sheep were scarce with 1½c to 5c per lb. asked. Yearlings, 5½c to 6c per lb. Spring lambs, \$2 to \$5 each, as to size.

At the point St. Charles market, Montreal, on April 12, the receipts of hogs were 300, for which the demand was good at 5½c to 5¾c per lb. A few lambs sold at 5c to 5½c per lb, and sheep at 4c to 4½c per lb.

Toronto Grain and Produce Market.

Wheat—Cars of red sold north and west to-day at 71c and white is quoted at 72c. Manitoba wheat is rather easier. No. 1 hard is quoted at 78 to 79c Midland and No. 2 hard at 76 to 77c.

Flour—Cars of straight roller are quoted at \$3.45 to \$3.50 west.

Millfeed—Millfeed is steady at \$9 for shorts and \$9.50 for bran west.

Barley—Prices are nominal at 30 to 31c for No. 1, 32 to 33c for No. 1 extra, 26c for No. 2, 2½c for No. 3 extra and 20½c to 21c for feed outside.

Oats—White are quoted at 19 to 19½c north and west, 20½c middle freights and 21½c east.

Butter—Large pairy rolls, 13 to 14½c, dairy tubs, 8 to 12c; creamery rolls, 19 to 21c; creamery tubs, 18 to 19c.

Eggs—New laid sell at 9½c.—Toronto, April 14.

Montreal Grain and Produce Market.

Grain—There was a good enquiry for oats at the ½c advance of yesterday. No. 2 white oats in store, 2½c, and afloat May 25½c. Peas at 48c.

Flour—The feeling is unsettled at lower prices. The demand is chiefly of a jobbing character. We quote.—Winter wheat patents at \$1.25 to \$1.10; straight rollers at \$3.85 to \$4.00, and in bags, at \$1.85 to \$1.90 Manitoba strong bakers' choice, \$1.25 to \$1.40; outside brands, \$1 to \$1.10, and spring wheat patents at \$1.60 to \$1.70.

Bran—Manitoba bran is quoted at \$12, and shorts at \$13 per ton, including bags. Ontario bran is held at \$12, and shorts at \$13 per ton in bulk.

Oatmeal.—Quiet and easy at \$2.70 to \$2.80 per barrel, and at \$1.35 to \$1.40 per bag for rolled.

Cheese—Cheese is quiet at 10½c to 10¾c.

Butter—The tone continues easy under free receipts, and prices are quite likely to go lower shortly. Creamery, 19 to 19½c.

Eggs—In eggs, business was active at 9½c per dozen for round lots, and at 10c for single cases.—Montreal, April 14.

Grain and Milling.

A Canadian Pacific circular has been issued among the circular of February 22, as regards shipments of wheat to the maritime provinces. Wheat in car loads from Manitoba and the Territories via Owen Sound, consigned to millers at eastern division stations for the purpose of being milled, and the manufactured products re-shipped in car loads to points in the maritime provinces, will be given through rates from Owen Sound, with the addition of 2 1-3 cents per 100 pounds stop-off charge.

A movement is on foot at Qu'Appelle station to form a local company to build a flour mill.

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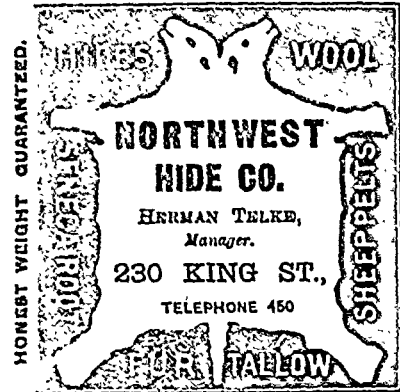
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For the province of Manitoba, under the recommendation of the Board of Trade of the city of Winnipeg. Insolvent and Trust Estates Managed with Promptness and Economy
Special attention to Confidential Business Enquiries.
Corner 2nd. Avenue and 2nd St. North,
WINNIPEG, MAN

W. R. Johnston and Co.
(Late Livingston, Johnston & Co.)
WHOLESALE MANUFACTURERS
OF READY MADE

CLOTHING.
Cor. BAY & FRONT STS., TORONTO.
Samples at McIntyre } REPRESENTATIVES
Block, Winnipeg } A. W. Loebner W W Armstrong

Mills:
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Winnipeg, Man.



STEPHEN NAIRN,
Rolled Oats, Oatmeal, Pot and Pearl Barley,
Rolled Wheat, Breakfast Cereals.
ORDER THROUGH WHOLESALE TRADE OR
DIRECT FROM MILLS....

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, April 17.

Business has been slowly picking up and the movement is gradually increasing. An early opening of navigation is looked for. Freight is now being booked for lake and rail shipment, on the opening of navigation. Bank clearings at Winnipeg this week were about 19 per cent. less than for the corresponding week last year, but were 30 per cent greater than for the like week two years ago.

At New York on Thursday call money was quoted $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., prime mercantile paper $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 per cent., bar silver was $\frac{1}{2}$ higher than a week ago at 62c, Mexican dollars, 48 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, April 17

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

CORDWOOD—Prices are firm. Pine is held about \$3.50 for cars on track here; tamarac, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per cord on track, and poplar at \$2.50 to \$2.75.

COAL—Prices here are the same, as follows: Pennsylvania anthracite \$10.00; western anthracite, \$9.50 per ton. Souris coal \$1.50 ton; Lethbridge \$6.50. These prices are delivered to consumers in Winnipeg. Car lots on track of Souris coal are held at \$3.85 to 3.90 per ton here, or \$1.50 per ton on cars at the mines.

DRUGS—Cream of tartar has again advanced sharply abroad, showing a further gain of 2s to 2s 6d per 100 lbs. Sal soda has advanced 5s per ton abroad, making 10s in all. Prices here for parcel lots are as follows, with liberal reductions for large orders: Alum per pound, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; alcohol, \$5.25 gallon; bleaching powder per pound; 6 to 8c; bluestone, barrel lots $\frac{1}{2}$ c, less than barrels, 5 to 6c; borax 11 to 13 cents; bromide potash, 65 to 75c; camphor, 90 to 95c; camphor, ounces 90 to 1.00; carbolic acid, 40 to 65c; castor oil, 11 to 15c; chlorate potash, 25 to 30c; citric acid, 55 to 65c; copperas $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1c; cocaine, per oz., \$5.00 to \$5.50; cream tartar, per pound, 30 to 35c; cloves, 20 to 25c; epsom salts, $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1c; extract logwood, bulk, 14 to 18c; do., boxes, 18 to 20c; German quinine, 35 to 40c; glycerine, per pound, 30 to 35c; ginger, Jamaica, 30 to 35c; do., African, 20 to 25c; Howard's quinine, per ounce, 45 to 55c; iodine, \$5.50 to 6.00; insect powder, 35 to 40c; morphia sul., \$1.90 to \$2.25. Opium, \$1.50 to \$5.00; oil, olive, \$1.25 to \$1.40; oil, U. S. salad, \$1.25 to \$1.40; oil, lemon, super \$2.75 to 3.25; oil, peppermint, \$1.00 to \$1.50; oil, cod liver, \$2.50 to \$1 per gallon as to brand; oxalic acid, 13 to 16c; potassium iodide, \$1.25 to 1.50; paris green, 18 to 20c lb, saltpetre; 10 to 12c; sal rochelle, 80 to 35c; shellac, 45 to 50c; sulphur flowers, $\frac{3}{4}$ to 5c; sulphur roll, per keg, $\frac{3}{4}$ to 5c; soda bicarb., per keg of 112 pounds, \$1.00 to \$1.25; sal. E., \$2 to \$3; tartaric acid, per lb., 45 to 55c; strychnine, pure crystals \$1 to \$1.25 per oz.

FLUID BEEF, ETC.—Following are prices of the goods put up by the Johnston Fluid Beef Company of Montreal.—Johnstons Fluid Beef—No. 1, 2-oz. tins, per dozen, \$2.70; No. 2 4oz., \$1.50; No. 3, 8oz., \$7.83; No. 4, 1 lb., \$12.83; No. 5, 2 lb., \$24.90. Staminol—2oz. bottles, per dozen, \$2.55; do, 4oz, \$5.10.

FISH—Haddies are scarce, a few being held in cold storage. Fresh salmon is coming in. Oysters are firmer, and shell oysters are about out of the market. Jobbing prices are as follows:—Finnish haddies, 8c per lb; whitefish, 4 to 5c; Lake Superior trout, 9c; pickerel, 3 to 4c; salmon, 12c halibut, 12c; cod, 8c; halibout, 8c per lb; smelts, 10c, herrings, 25c per dozen; oysters, \$1.80 per gallon for standards, \$2.00 for selects, and \$2.25 for extra selects and counts; blotters, \$1.00 to \$1.25 box; red herrings, 20c box; pickled trout, \$7.50 per barrel of 100 lbs; pickled whitefish, \$6 per barrel; salt herrings \$3.50 per half barrel; boneless fish, 5c lb.

NUTS—Tarragona almonds, 10c; Sicily filberts, large, 15c, filberts ordinary, 12c. peanuts, roasted, 12c; peanuts, green, 9c. Ontario butternuts 9c; Ontario Walnuts 6c; hickory nuts, 10; Grenoble walnuts, 15c; French walnuts, 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ c lb.

GREEN FRUITS—Apples are still coming in from the East, but good keeping stock is scarce. Trains from the south have got through better than was expected, considering the floods south. Prices are as follows: Apples, choice, \$3.75 to \$4.00, other fair to good stock, \$3.00 to \$3.50 per barrel as to quality, poor stock, \$2 to \$2.50. California oranges, navels, \$1.50 to \$1.75 per box; California seedling oranges \$1.50 to \$1.90 per box; Messina lemons, \$1.50 per box; California lemons, \$1.50 to \$5 box; Cape Cod cranberries, 17 ctn, \$5 to \$5.7 per barrel; Malaga grapes, \$9.50 per keg; bananas, \$2.50 to \$3.25 per bunch; pineapples, \$1 per dozen; sweet potatoes, \$1 to \$1.50 per barrel; dates, 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 7c lb, figs, 13 to 15c lb. for layers.

HARDWARE—Business is improving. The feeling is easy on a number of staple lines, in consequence of tariff uncertainty. The lower summer freight rates also has an easier tendency. Freight on some special lines will be lower than last year. Barb wire is lower here, and for car lots very close prices are being made. Wire nails are 10c lower all around in sympathy with the decline east at factories, noted last week. There has been an important change in extras on cut nails, at the factories, and new prices will be announced here next week. It is expected the base price will be slightly advanced, but there will be important reductions in extras which will make the average price somewhat lower. Prices are:

TIN, lamb and 56 and 28 lb. ingots, per lb. 19 to 20c.

TIN PLATES—Charcoal plates, I. C. 10 by 14, 12 by 12 and 14 by 20, per box, \$1.50 to \$1.75, I. N., same sizes, per box, \$5.75 to \$6; I. C., charcoal, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$9.00 to 9.25; I. N. per box, 20 by 28, 112 sheets to box, \$11.00 to 11.20.

TERNE PLATES—I. C., 20 by 28, \$9.00 to 9.25.

IRON AND STEEL—Bar iron, per 100 lbs. base price, \$2.35 to \$2.50, band iron, per 100 lbs., \$2.85 to 3.00, Swedish iron, per 100 lbs., \$5.25 to 6; slough shoe steel, \$3.00 to 3.25; best cast tool steel, per lb, 9 to 11c; Russian sheet, per lb, 12 to 13c.

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

CANADA PLATES—Garth and Blaine, \$3.16

GALVANIZED IRON—American, 20 gauge, \$4.00; 22 and 24 gauge, \$4.25, 26 gauge \$4.50; 28 gauge, \$4.75 per 100 lbs.

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

LEAD—Pig, per lb., 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
SHEET ZINC—In casks, 5.75 lb., broken lots, 6.00.

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

AMMUNITION—Cartridges—Rim fire pistol, American, discount, 40 per cent.; rim fire cartridges, Dominion, 50 and 5; rim fire military, American, net list; central fire pistol and rifle, American, 12 per cent.; central fire cartridge, Dominion, 30 per cent.; shot shells, 12 gungo, \$6 to 7.50; shot, Canadian, soft, $\frac{5}{16}$ c, shot, Canadian, chilled, 6c.

WIRE—Galvanized barb wire, plain twisted wire and staples, \$2.90 to \$3 per 100 lbs. These prices are being shaded for car lots.

ROPE—Sisal, per lb., $\frac{7}{8}$ to 8c base; manilla, per lb., 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ c base; cotton, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch at 1 larger, 15c lb.

AXES—Per box, \$6.00 to 9.00.

NAILS—Cut, per keg, base price, \$2.63 for 60 d, with usual extras; common steel wire nails, 3 to 6 inch, \$3.10 per keg; 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, \$3.23, with usual extras for smaller sizes.

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

PAINTS, OILS, ETC.—Prices are as follows:

WHITE LEAD—Pure, \$5.75 per 100 lbs.

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

DRY COLORS—White lead, per lb., 7c; red lead, keg-3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, yellow ochre in barrel lots, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, less than barrels, 3c; golden ochre, barrels, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; light barrels, 4c; Venetian, red, barrels, 3c; less than barrels, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; American vermilion, 1c; English vermilion, \$1 per lb., Paris green, 14 to 19c, Canadian metallic oxide, barrel lots 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; less than barrel lots, 3c; English purple oxides, 100 lb. kegs, 4c; less than kegs, 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c lb.

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

SPINDRILLS—Gilt, S.S., in sheets, per lb. 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 15c; glue, white, for kalsomining, 15 to 18c. Stove gas-oil, per case, \$1.00; benzine, per case, \$1.00; benzine and gasoline, per gallon, 50c. Axle grease, Imperial per case, \$2.50, Fraser's axle grease, per case, \$3.75; diamond, do, \$2.25 per case. Coal tar, per barrel, \$8; Portland cement, per barrel, \$4.00; plaster, per barrel, \$3.10; plasterer's hair, P.P. 90c per bale, putty, in bladders, barrel lots 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c per lb., for less than barrels per lb., 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

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

LINSEED OIL—Raw, per gal., 52c; boiled per gal., 55c in barrels; less than barrels 5c per gallon extra, with additional charges for cans.

TURPENTINE—Pure spirits, in barrels, per gallon, 55c; less than barrels, per gallon 55c. An additional charge for packages for small quantities.

OILS—Range about as follows: Black oils, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 30c per gallon; clear machine oils, 93 to

40c; cylinder oil, 50 to 75c, as to quality; castor oil, 10c per lb.; lard oil, 70c per gal.; tanner's or harness oil, 65c; neatsfoot oil, \$1.20; steam refined seal oil, 85c; pure winter bleached sperm oil, \$2 per gallon.

REFINED PETROLEUM.—Prices here are as follows: Silver star, 19½c; crescent, 22½c; oleophene, 4½c in barrels. Car lots 1c per gallon less. United States oils in barrels are quoted at 28c for coceno and 25c for sunlight.

RAW FURS.—Following gives the range as to size and quality of prices paid here for skins:

Badger	\$ 05 to \$ 60
Bear, black or brown	5 00 to 20 00
Bear, yearlings	2 00 to 7 00
Bear, grizzly	5 00 to 15 00
Beaver, large	5 00 to 6 50
" medium	3 00 to 4 00
" small	50 to 2 00
" cubs	25 to 50
" castors, per lb	2 50 to 5 50
Fisher	3 00 to 8 00
Fox, cross	50 to 10 00
" kitt	10 to 40
" red	25 to 1 50
" silver	20 00 to 75 00
Lynx, large	1 00 to 2 00
" medium	75 to 1 50
" small	50 to 75
Marten, dark	1 00 to 4 50
" pale or brown	1 00 to 3 25
" light pale	75 to 1 75
Mink	50 to 1 50
Musquash, winter	03 to 10
" spring	05 to 15
Otter	2 00 to 9 00
Skunk	25 to 50
Wolf, timber	1 00 to 1 50
" prairie	25 to 60
" bush or large prairie	75
Wolverine	1 00 to 4 00

WHEAT—GENERAL SITUATION.—Wheat has had quite a strong movement this week, beginning with the advance on the curb last Saturday, after the exchanges closed. More warlike reports from Europe, and some unfavorable crop reports have been the principal features in the re-action. There was a sharp advance to-day, particularly in the last hour at Chicago.

WHEAT—LOCAL SITUATION.—Receipts of wheat at Fort William last week aggregated 179,028 bushels, and the shipments were 6,313 bushels, leaving in store on Saturday last, 3,514,583 bushels. For the corresponding week last year, receipts at Fort William were 68,503 bushels, and shipments were 3,816 bushels. Stocks at Fort William a year ago were 3,893,000 bushels, compared with 939,000 bushels two years ago, and 2,338,000 three years ago. Stocks of Manitoba wheat at lake and interior points a year ago were estimated at about 3,000,000 bushels, compared with 3,000,000 two years ago. At present, stocks of Manitoba wheat at lake ports and interior ports are estimated at about 6,000,000 bushels. Farmers deliveries at Manitoba country points have been practically nil, there will be little or nothing doing until after seeding. Prices to farmers at Manitoba country points are nominal at from 50c at far west points up to 56c at low freight rate points, for choice hard wheat. There has been a sharp advance in the local Winnipeg market, in sympathy with the advance at leading centres. This morning sales were made early at 71 to

71½c in store at Fort William. Later sales were made at 72c, and at the close to-day nothing could have been had under 73c for No. 1 hard in store. Holders were very firm. 7½c was offered for May to-day.

WHEAT—Winnipeg Street Price.—The millers were paying about 60c to farmers for choice samples of hard wheat, per bushel of 60 lbs; feed wheat brings 45 to 50c.

FLOUR.—The local situation is quiet. Prices are 10c lower this week. We quote \$2.00 for patents, \$1.80 for bakers, \$1.45 to \$1.50 for second bakers and \$1.00 to \$1.05 for XXXX, per sack of 98 lbs.

MILLSTUFFS.—Bran is firm, and the demand is good. We quote \$6 for bran and \$8 for shorts, per ton, and in a small way \$1 per ton more is asked.

BARLEY.—City brewers are paying 28 to 25c for malting samples to farmers here, and 27 to 28c on track here for car lots. Feed barley 20 to 23c here.

OATS.—There is considerable demand for seed oats of a retail nature. City dealers are selling seed oats at 90c per bushel. From 15 to 20c per bushel of 34 pounds is paid to farmers in this market as to quality, per bushel of 31 lbs., for loads. Car lots range from 18c for light up to 20c for choice feed oats and for fancy seed or milling oats as high as 23 to 24c has been quoted for car lots on track here. Most sales of feed oats are about 18 to 19c, and 22 to 23c for fancy lots.

OATMEAL.—The market is easy. Following are prices here in large lots, with small lots to retail dealers held about 15c more. Rolled oatmeal in 80 lb sacks \$1.60 per sack; standard, \$1.85 and granulated \$1.90 in 98 lb sacks. Rolled wheat, 80 lbs, \$1.60 in round lots. Pot barley, \$1.60; pearl barley, \$2.50 to \$2.75 in round lots.

GROUND FEED.—Prices are steady. Prices range from \$13 to \$17 per ton, as to quality, the top price for rolled oat feed. Ordinary mixed mill feed is held at \$13 per ton.

FLAX SEED.—Normal at about 50c per bushel.

OIL CAKE.—Oil cake is still quoted at \$16 to \$17 per ton, including bags, for nutted or ground meal.

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

BUTTER.—A little new roll butter is beginning to come in, but receipts are still very light. Country dealers are advised to ship in promptly, as the tendency of butter will naturally be easier as the season advances and receipts increase. Early butter is not good keeping quality, and should be marketed promptly. New rolls are selling here at 17c to 18c for good quality.

CHEESE.—Jobbing at 9½ to 11c as to quality.

EGGS.—Prices have declined sharply this week, sales having been made as low as 12 to 12½c toward the close, which is 4 to 4½c lower than a week ago. Receipts are now becoming quite liberal.

POULTRY.—Prices are higher all around. Held cold storage stock has been about cleared out and fresh poultry is bringing good prices. Following are prices: Chicken, 12½c, turkey, 12½c, geese, 12c, ducks, 12c.

LARD.—Prices have again advanced sharply. Prices are: Pure \$1.70 to \$1.75 for 20 lb. pails, and \$1.25 for 50 lb. pails; pure leaf lard in 8, 5 and 10 pound tins, quoted at \$6.00 per case of 60 pounds, tierces 8 to 8½c.

CURED MEATS.—Prices are firm at the recent advance. Smoked meats are quoted: Hams, assorted sizes, 10½ to 11c; breakfast bacon, bellies, 10½ to 11c; lo., backs, 9½ to 10c; short spiced rolls, 7½ to 8c, shoulders, 6½ to 7c smoked long clear, 8½ to 9c; Fancy clear, 8 to 8½c; Dry salt meats are quoted; Long clear bacon, 7½ to 8c per lb; shoulders, 5½c; boneless shoulders, 6½ to 7 cents; backs, 7½ to 8½ cents; barrel pork, clear mess, \$13.00 to \$13.50; short cut, \$15.50 to \$16; rolled shoulders, \$13 to 13.50; per barrel. Pork sundries; fresh sausage, 7½c; bologna sausage, 6c; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 10c per package; pickled hocks, 9c; pickled tongues, 5c; sausage casings, 25 to 30c lb.

DRESSED MEATS.—Prices are firm. Mutton is higher. There is a little cold storage mutton offering. Prices are: Beef, 5½ to 6½c as to quality. Mutton, frozen, 8c, fresh, 9½ to 10c, dressed, hogs, 4½ to 5c. Veal, 6 to 6½c.

HIDES.—Prices are easier. Country hides are quoted at 6c, and 7c is offered for No. 1 green city hides and 6c for No. 2 on inspecting; calf, 8 to 15c lb., skins, 7 to 9c per lb.; dekins 10 to 20c each; kips, 6 to 7c. Sheepskins range from 60c, to 75c according to quality. Horsehides, 75c to \$1.25.

WOOL.—Nothing doing here and prices nominal at 7 to 9½c.

TALLOW.—Dealers are paying 3½ to 3½c for No 1 extra and 2½ to 3c for undergrades. Rough tallow 2c.

SENECA ROOT.—We quote 19 to 20c per lb. for dry root.

HAY.—Held at about \$5 per ton for best prairie on track here, or \$3.75 to \$4.00 on cars in the country, point of shipment.

VEGETABLES.—Prices are: Potatoes, \$1 to 35c; Onions, 3c to 5c lb; carrots, 40c bushel; beets, 30c bushel; turnips, 20c; parsley, 60 to 75c bushel; celery, 50c dozen; cabbage, 50 to 75c dozen. These are prices dealers buy at from market gardeners.

LIVE STOCK.

CATTLE.—Gordon & Ironside shipped a train load of eleven cars of cattle on Thursday, stall fed stock, and they expect to ship another train load about April 22. Prices are steady, ranging from 3 to 4c for cattle off cars here, as to quality. For choice animals a fraction more has been paid.

SHEEP.—Prices are firm. For the local trade they bring 4½ to 4½c off cars here. Nothing doing in sheep.

HOGS.—Prices are firm, at prices quoted last week, and 3c higher has been paid in special cases. We quote: Good heavy stock, weighing 150 to 300 pounds, 4½ to 5c; Sows and heavy hogs, 2½ to 3½c, according to quality. Stags 1½ to 2½c, off cars here.

HORSES.—Quite a number of extra horses have been disposed of here recently, and there is a fair demand. Prices range from \$150 to \$200 per team, for general purpose horses, up to moderately heavy farm teams.

J. M. Johnston, who has been in the employment of Carruthers & Brock, insurance, loan and real estate agents, Winnipeg, for two or three years, has been taken into partnership as a member of the firm. Mr. Johnston was formerly a member of the firm of Johnston & Jarvis.

The Black Sturgeon Mining Company

OF ONTARIO, Limited.
NON-PERSONAL LIABILITY

This Company is not dependent upon one solitary mining claim, upon the results of which, to pay dividend. On the contrary the company has secured

TWENTY-NINE VALUABLE GOLD LOCATIONS,

Some of which are in the Lake of the Woods district, some in the Manitou district and some in the Wabagoon district. Assays from each go to prove that there are

Rich Gold Quartz Veins on Every Location

and that each claim will yield a

Handsome Profit Above the Cost of Production.

The location, from which the Company takes its name, promises to be one of the richest gold mines of North America. It is located on the shore of the Black Sturgeon Lake, about eight miles from Rat Portage, and is located on the same lead as the celebrated Scramble Mine. The mine can be easily reached by a good wagon road, and has a valuable water power right upon the property. It is unquestionably, besides being one of the richest claims on this continent, amongst the easiest of access of all the gold mines of Western Ontario.

The mine has a main vein twenty-seven feet wide, and two other narrower veins, all of which are free milling quartz, and

Pan Gold from Samples Taken Out.

Besides this valuable mine the Company own "The Alaska Group" of four claims, containing one vein of quartz 300 feet wide, and several properties promising to be quite as valuable as the Black Sturgeon.

The Black Sturgeon Company's Head Offices are at Rat Portage, Ont., N. C. WESTERFIELD, Managing Director, and its Directorate, Management and Agencies are as follows:

DIRECTORS.

Hon. Hugh J. Macdonald, Winnipeg; G. Alexander Hamilton, New York; R. H. Agur, Manager. Massey-Harris, Winnipeg; W. C. Edwards, Lumber Merchant, St. Paul; H. H. Beck, Winnipeg; N. C. Westerfield, Winnipeg; R. J. Blanchard, Physician, Winnipeg; Col. J. D. Crawford, Montreal; L. W. Partridge, Detroit.

TREASURER

W. P. Sweatman, Western Canada Manager Mutual Life Insurance Co., of New York.

SECRETARY

W. G. Nicholls, Financial Agent, Winnipeg.

BANKERS

The Bank of Montreal.

SOLICITORS

Macdonald, Tupper, Phippen & Tupper.

PRINCIPAL AGENCIES

WINNIPEG

W. G. Nicholls, No. 486 Main Street, Secretary.

TORONTO

R. H. Temple, Member Toronto Stock Exchange, 9 Toronto Street.

NEW YORK

G. Alexander Hamilton, Manager, 430 Postal Telegraph Building.

ST. PAUL

H. A. Campbell, Manager, 306 Chamber of Commerce.

MONTREAL

Col. J. D. Crawford, 78 Temple Building.

DULUTH

Geo. H. Crosby, Manager, Providence Building.

The capital stock of the Company is \$1,000,000 in 1,000,000 shares of \$1 each par value. The original promoters hold \$50,000 shares of stock, and 470,000 are still in the treasury and held for the benefit of the stock holders at large. 100,000 shares have been disposed of, and a second issue of

80,000 Shares at 25c per Share

is now offered for sale and selling rapidly. Parties looking for a safe and lucrative investment should send in applications at once for stock at this figure to any of the agents above named or to the Secretary.

W. G. NICHOLLS,

486 Main Street, Winnipeg.

Chicago Board of Trade Prices.

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

Wheat opened strong on Monday and maintained a firm tone during the day, influenced by war news, higher cables, unfavorable crop news, etc. Closing prices were about 1/4c above Saturday. Closing prices were

	Apr.	May	July	Sept.
Wheat.....	67 3/4	67 3/4 68	67 1/2	65 1/2
Corn.....	23 1/2	21	25 1/2	26 3/4
Oats.....	—	16 1/2	17 1/2	18 3/4
Mess Pork..	—	8 57 1/2	8 67 1/2	—
Lard.....	—	4 27 1/2	4 37 1/2	—
Short Ribs.	—	4 70	4 75	—

On Tuesday wheat was irregular, selling off early, on less warlike news, and small decrease in supplies, later advancing on export buying and frost in the winter wheat country. Closing prices were:

	Apr.	May	July	Sept.
Wheat....	67 3/4	67 1/2	67 1/2	65 1/2
Corn.....	—	23 1/2-23 3/4	25 1/2	26 3/4
Oats.....	—	16 1/2	17 1/2	18 1/2
Mess Pork.	—	8 37 1/2	8 47 1/2	—
Lard.....	—	4 10	4 30	—
Short Ribs.	—	4 62 1/2	4 65	—

On Wednesday wheat advanced on higher cables, then declined, on favorable crop and weather reports, but again advanced, influenced by a good demand for cash wheat. Closing prices were:

	Apr.	May	July	Sept.
Wheat....	68 1/2	68 1/2	67 1/2	65 1/2
Corn.....	23 1/2	23 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
Oats.....	—	16 1/2	17 1/2	—
Mess Pork..	—	8 2 1/2	8 37 1/2	—
Lard.....	—	4 17 1/2	4 27 1/2	—
Short Ribs	4 62 1/2	4 62 1/2	—	—

On Thursday wheat was strong most of the day, with only moderate reactions, influenced by higher cables, unfavorable crop news from California and speculative buying. Closing prices were:

	April	May	July	Sept.
Wheat....	69 3/4	69 1/2	69 1/2	67 1/2
Corn.....	23 3/4	23 3/4	25 1/2	26 1/2
Oats.....	—	16 1/2	17 1/2	18 1/2
Mess Pork..	—	8 40	8 52 1/2	—
Lard.....	—	4 20	4 30	4 40 1/2
Short Ribs.	—	4 70	4 70	4 77

There was no market on Friday, being a holiday.

On Saturday May wheat opened at 69 1/4c. The market was a strong one, with heavy trading, the price advancing to 73 3/4c. Closing prices were:

	April	May	July	Sept.
Wheat....	73 3/4	73 1/2	73 1/2	71
Corn.....	23 3/4	21 1/2	25 1/2	26 1/2
Oats.....	16 1/2	17	17 1/2	18 1/2
Mess Pork..	—	8 50	8 60	—
Lard.....	—	4 22 1/2	4 32 1/2	—
Short Ribs.	—	4 75	4 77 1/2	—
Flax Seed..	79	76 1/2	77 1/2	78

A week ago May wheat closed at 66c. A year ago May wheat closed at 65 1/2c and two years ago at 59 1/2c, and three years ago at 59 1/2c.

The Peoples Voice, the labor paper, of Winnipeg, has changed hands. H Cowan, A. Puttee and G. Fingle, having arranged to take over the business conducted by Stewart, Anderson and Partington.

New York Wheat.

On Saturday, April 17, May option closed at 77 1/2c and July at 76 3/4c. A week ago May option closed at 72 1/2c and two weeks ago at 77 3/4c.

Minneapolis Wheat.

On Saturday, April 17, No. 1 Northern wheat closed at 73 1/2c for May option, 73 3/4c for July, and 69c for September. A week ago May wheat closed at 65 1/2c.

Duluth Wheat Market.

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

Monday—May, 69 1/2c—July, 69c—Sept —
Tuesday—May 69 1/2c—July 69c—Sept —
Wednesday—May 69 1/2c—July, 69c—Sept —
Thursday—May 70 1/2c—July 71c—Sept —
Friday—Holiday.
Saturday—May, 71 1/2c—July ——Sept. —

On Saturday, April, 17 cash No. 1 hard closed at 70 1/2c, and cash No. 1 Northern at 71 1/2c.

Last week May delivery closed at 66 1/2c. A year ago May closed at 64 1/2c. Two years ago at 61 1/2c, and three years ago at 62c, and four years ago at 66 1/2c.

Minneapolis Markets.

Flour—The Market Record of April 15 reports the market firm, owing to the advance in wheat. Prices are as follows, in bbls. f. o. b.: First patents, \$3.80 to \$4.00; second patents, \$3.65 to \$3.85; first clears, 3.00 to \$3.10; second clear, 1.80 to \$2.10; Red Dog, per ton, 110 for lbs. rate, \$3.50 to \$3.75. These prices are 5c to 25c higher than a week ago.

Millstuffs—Bran in bulk, \$6.00 to \$9.25; bran in sacks, 200 lbs. \$7.00 to \$6.25; bran in sacks, 100 lbs. \$7.50 to \$7.75; shorts in bulk, 50 to \$5.75; shorts in sacks, 100 lbs. 7.00 to \$7.25 middlings, fine, \$6.75 to \$7.00. These prices are \$1 lower on bran, and 50c lower on shorts.

Oats—Range mostly at 16 to 18c for No. 3.

Barley—Quoted at 22c per bushel for feed grade.

Flax—Quoted at 73c per bushel, an advance of 1c on the week.

Hay—Prairie, \$1.00 to \$1.50 per ton, as to quality.—Market Record, April 14.

Winnipeg Clearing House.

Clearings for the week ending April 15, were 951,497; balances, 178,192. For the previous week clearings were 990,246. For the corresponding week of last year clearings were 1,051,913 and for the week two years ago, were 744,332.

The clearances for the Dominion were as follows. Montreal, \$9,757,321, increase 21 per cent. Toronto, \$6,492,481, decrease 6.0 per cent.; Halifax, \$1,213,915, increase 15.5 per cent.; Winnipeg, \$954,497, decrease, 9.3 per cent.; Hamilton, \$597,007, decrease, 14.7 per cent.; St. John, \$514,170.

Orow's Nest Pass Railway

It is reported that the government decided upon a definite program to provide for the construction of the Nest railway. The programme is a grant of \$10,000 per mile to the Pacific Railway for 315 miles, in return for the surrender of certain monopoly of the original franchise. The relief of freight rates on all parts of the Pacific Railway west of Port Arthur, the preservation of running power on other railways that may want to use

The Argentine Trade

The New York Commercial Advertiser reports that the Argentine wheat crop has fallen most as suddenly as it went up. Not only there are great possibilities of raising in that country, but the crop is yet small and it takes population and agricultural products; Argentina will postpone for a few years its occupation of that dominating position in the wheat trade which a few years ago was about to spring into existence. Figures from Comercio Exterior Argentina show wheat export in 1897 was 1,000,000 bushels, in 1896 only 532,000 tons. However, there was a great increase in export, and this, coinciding in part with a remarkably large export from the United States, suggests a great increase in the consumption of corn by the United States. The ports of Argentina increased their exports in 1895 to 1,570,000 bushels, were also relatively large decrease in seed, and increases in hay export. The price of cattle fell off 25.50 cents, sheep increased 82,000 head, beef and mutton increased nearly 100 cents, and tons, but the exports of wool decreased 9,000, and that of wheat 100,000 tons. American farmers are gratified in the fact that the Argentine market increased from a little more than 2 million pounds to nearly two million pounds in a large decline in cheese exports.

Silver.

The tone of the London market for silver has been heavy and the Eastern demand is quiet with the New York market has followed London. The market has been equally dull and prices on April 17 were London, 61 1/2c, New York, 61 3/4c.

At New York granular silver on Tuesday.

Gilbert & Craig, general commissioning, has sold out to Dimmock, Love & Raymond, Ltd. The firm, in connection, advertise their business.

It is said that Sir Frank Balfour's resignation may result in the formation of a branch of the Dominion

The World's Wheat Crops.

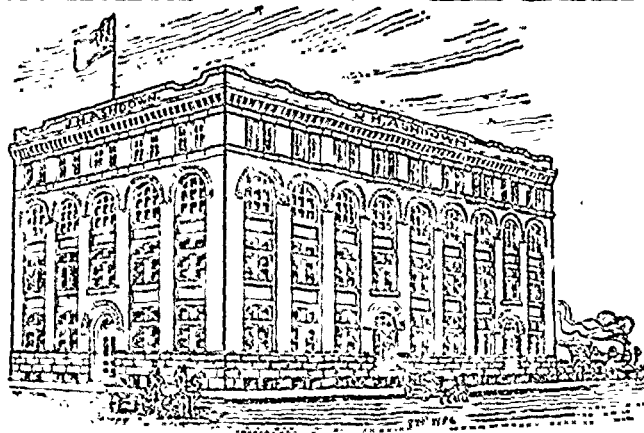
Recently published report by the bureau of the United States Department of Agriculture concerning the crops of the world during the past six years attract attention except as a piece of statistical work, it is of more value than the annual reports of the bureau, which, for four or five years, have called for attention only by reason of their variations and fluctuations. It is difficult to explain why the bureau of the Agricultural Department could be expected to be informed about crops of other countries of the United States; hence one of the objects of their compilation of annual production by foreign countries for the past six years.

The issue of the London Corn Trade Review there is a return of the world's crop for 1896, contrasted with like preceding years. As this report is a final official estimate of the crop, and as it makes some allowance at least for the underestimates of the wheat crop of the United States, the statistical bureau of the Agricultural Department, it may be regarded as of as much attention as a year's figures given are in thousands of bushels being equal to one quarter being omitted:

Quarters, 000 omitted.			
1891	1895	1894	1893
1,500	5,050	5,900	5,300
18,000	19,050	19,050	18,650
2,500	2,200	2,300	2,100
6,250	5,750	1,500	5,450
500	750	500	600
42,000	12,300	12,100	31,750
13,000	12,800	13,800	13,700
750	750	900	1,000
750	650	600	700
16,500	11,000	11,750	16,300
500	700	850	700
8,025	8,250	5,300	7,300
13,000	11,700	18,000	45,000
5,500	8,000	7,500	8,150
1,750	1,250	1,100	1,500
19,000	13,000	13,000	10,500
500	550	150	450
600	600	650	550
5,000	4,500	3,500	4,000
7,250	1,750	7,100	6,300
37,475	188,550	191,250	181,360

Quarters, 000 omitted.			
1896	1897	1894	1893
2,500	2,250	2,500	1,850
1,500	700	750	500
4,000	5,750	7,500	10,300
2,500	3,150	4,150	5,100
1,500	4,000	3,500	4,000
1,250	6,750	5,500	6,000
1,500	600	600	550
1,500	1,700	1,650	2,250
1,000	1,250	2,250	1,250
5,500	31,000	31,500	33,100
2,500	2,500	2,250	2,000
1,500	1,250	1,250	1,500
1,000	62,000	64,000	57,000
750	1,250	1,000	800
1,250	1,500	1,500	1,400
150	123,550	129,000	150,550
125	312,100	324,250	309,250

crop of wheat in 1896 includes the crop (not that about to be harvested, which it is estimated



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Wholesale
Hardware

will be 56,000,000 bushels less than last year) and amounts to 2,375,400,000 bushels, the smallest total in seven years, the corresponding aggregate in 1891 having been 2,392,180,000 bushels. Between 1891 and 1895 the world's crops of wheat were in excess of 2,400,000,000 bushels each year, that for 1892 amounting to 2,410,960,000 bushels; in 1893, 2,474,000,000 bushels, and in 1895, 2,496,800,000 bushels. The falling off in the world's production of wheat during the year as compared with the crop year 1895 is 121,100,000 bushels. As compared with 1891 the decrease is 187,000,000 bushels and compared with the total production in 1893 is about 100,000,000 bushels smaller, while the corresponding decrease compared with the yield in 1892 is 35,000,000 bushels. The final estimates of the Russian wheat crop last year were larger than expected but short crops in Argentina, Australia, and in the United States and Canada offset the apparent increase in Russia, and made the year's decrease in the output of wheat throughout the world nearly 122,000,000 bushels compared with 1895, fully as much as that estimated early in the crop year 1894-97.

Including totals of the world's production of wheat for the years 1888, 1889 and 1890 (278,070,000 quarters, 257,717,000 quarters and 283,155,000 quarters respectively), it appears that the world's present annual requirements of wheat are somewhere between 2,410,000,000 and 2,480,000,000 bushels, while the world's production in the past cereal year has been only 2,375,400,000 bushels. From this the inference is that the world's stocks of reserves of wheat have been reduced nearly 100,000,000 bushels in the past twelve months.

Coffee and Syrup.

A demoralized Brazil coffee situation has brought about substantial declines, leaving the invoice market quoted upon the basis of 7½c for No. 7 Rio. It has been a puzzling problem for a long time and the dealers are not able as yet to see daylight, while the depression is pulling down sharply all West India grades. It is hard to get buyers to consider offerings, since they have been so much astray in their views for a long while to accumulating comparatively high-priced goods, that they are now determined, if possible, to stand out for the lowest figures and average as well as permitted on their current holdings. There has been a break of about 2c a pound even on the West India goods, as against prices that prevailed only a few weeks since. But the East India styles are apart from all of the confusion over the

other descriptions, in their favorable statistical position and good, full distributions to consumers, while they are easily maintained to strong prices.—New York Journal of Commerce.

A New York report says. New Orleans is becoming a little more confident over its holdings of molasses by reason of the liberal reductions made in its stocks latterly. Look for higher range for open kettles a little later on; nearly all of the cheap goods are sold up, while New York now controls essentially the situation of the molasses market. High grades of November centrifugals are now reaching the same value as kettles. There is no shading in freight rates. The probabilities are that low grades will rule by relation higher in value.

The Lakeside Company

The Lakeside Gold Mining company of Rat Portage, limited, is chiefly a development company. Investors in gold mining shares are being attracted by the special advantages it offers. That the Lakeside stands well is evidenced by the fact that the secretary is receiving applications from the Atlantic to the Pacific; an application being received yesterday by telegraph from Newfoundland, for a block of stock.

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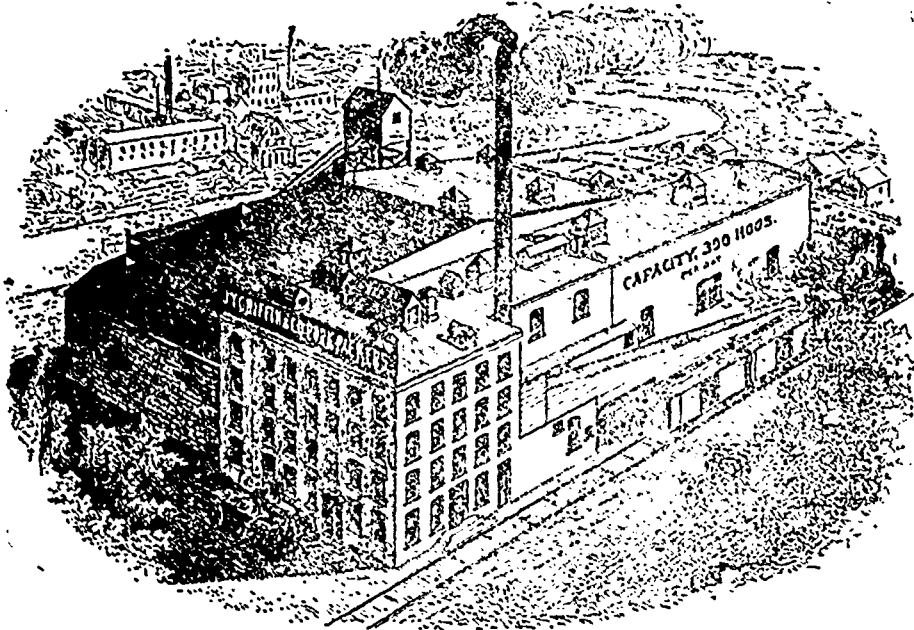
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Railroad Agreements Under the Anti-Trust Law.

No more important decision has been rendered for a long time than that announced by the Supreme Court of the United States on Monday, in the action brought by the federal government against the Transmissouri Freight Association. In effect, the decision holds that railroad traffic agreements are within the inhibitions of the anti-trust law of 1890. Whether viewed in its legal or economic aspects, this decision is of high importance, and it deserves more than a passing mention. The case arose upon a bill brought by the government to have set aside and declared void the agreement of the association, which was signed by some eighteen railroad companies, "for the purpose of mutual protection," by the establishment and maintenance of "reasonable rates, rules and regulations on all freight traffics, both through and local." The government charged in its bill that the defendants were "engaged in the unlawful combination and conspiracy of great injury and grievous prejudice to the common good and the welfare of the people of the United States."

The bill was dismissed by the federal Circuit Court for the district of Kansas, and the action of this court was affirmed by the Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit. Both decisions have now been overruled by the Supreme Court. That tribunal, in the opinion prepared by Judge Peckham, says that to exclude agreements as to rates by competing railroads for the transportation of articles of commerce between the states would leave very little for the anti-trust law to take effect upon, and that is the act by which two legality or the illegality of the agreement is to be determined. The Interstate Commerce law, the court says, does not authorize an agreement like that in question. It may not in terms prohibit it, but it is far from concurring, either directly or indirectly, any authority to make it. On the other hand, while the fifth section of the Interstate Commerce law prohibits what is termed pooling, there is no express provision in the act prohibiting the maintenance of traffic rates among competing roads.

Continuing, the court says that it sees nothing in contemporaneous history, in the legal situation at the time of the passage of the statute, in the legislative history, or in any general difference in the nature or kind of trading or manufacturing companies from railroad companies, which would lead to the conclusion that congress, in prohibiting the making of contracts in restraint of trade, intended to exclude railroads from the operation of the act. The act, the court goes on, prohibits contracts, combinations, etc., in restraint of trade or commerce. Transporting commodities is commerce, and if from one state to or through another it is interstate commerce, and, therefore, contracts relating to either or both subjects are included so long as they relate to trade which is either interstate or foreign. While the act prohibits all combinations in restraint of trade, the limitation is not confined to that form alone. Nor should it be held that the act excepts contracts which are not in unreasonable restraint of trade and which only keep rates to a reasonable price. This would be reading into the act by the way of judicial legislation of an exception not placed there by the lawmaking branch of the government.

Further on the court asks, why should not a railroad be included in general legislation passed at the prevention of that kind of agreement made in restraint of trade which exist in all companies and which tends to produce much the same results, whether put in practice by a trading and manufacturing

company or by a railroad company. It is true, the court says, that the results of trusts may be different in different kinds of corporations, and yet they all have an essential similarity, and have been induced by motives of industrial or corporate aggrandizement as against the public interest. It is admitted that business or trading combinations may temporarily, or perhaps permanently, reduce the price of an article traded in or manufactured by reducing the expense inseparable from the running of many different companies for the same purpose, but trade or commerce may, nevertheless, be badly and unfortunately restrained by driving out of business the small dealers whose lives have been spent therein, and who might be enabled to readjust themselves to their altered surroundings. A mere reduction in the price of the commodity dealt in might, the court suggests, be dearly purchased by the ruin of such a class and the absorption of control over the commodity by an all-powerful combination of capital.

It is, in fact, the court says, not material that the price of an article may be lowered, for it is in the power of the combination to raise it. It is not, according to the court, for the real prosperity of the country that such changes should occur as result in transferring an independent business man, the head of his establishment, small though it may be, into a mere servant or agent of a corporation for selling the commodities which he once manufactured or dealt in, having no voice in shaping the business policy of the company and bound to obey orders issued by others. Finally, the court says, it is entirely appropriate generally to subject corporations or persons engaged in trading or manufacturing to different rules from those applicable to railroads in their transportation business, but when the evil to be remedied is similar in both kinds of corporations, such as contracts unquestionably in restraint of trade, there is no reason why similar rules should not be promulgated in regard to both.

This important decision comes as a surprise both to the legal and to the business world. It will not have escaped the attention of those who have followed the course of recent decisions that the current of judicial opinion has been in the opposite direction from the following by the Supreme Court. Both the lower courts, in fact, held that traffic agreements did not come within the inhibitions of the anti-trust law. The same view was taken by the federal judges in the New York circuit in their decision upholding the validity of the joint tariff agreement last week. It will be noticed also that the decision was reached by a bare majority, four of the members of the court having joined in a dissenting opinion. Of course this fact does not affect the binding nature of the decision of the court. A decision reached by a bare majority has the same legal force as a judgment rendered by an unanimous court. The wide divergence of judicial opinion upon the important question involved is, however, a circumstance which may be taken into consideration by the national legislature when it is called upon, as it doubtless will be, to relieve the railroads from the burden which the decision puts upon them. Indeed, there seems to remain but this one resource to the railroads, for it is in a high degree unlikely that the court, while it retains its present personnel, will consent to allow a rehearing.—Bradstreets.

Since the repeated frosts in Florida, from which the orange growers have suffered so severely, great attention is being paid to the cultivation of pineapples, which are known to stand frost much better than oranges.

Financial Notes

From July 1st next interest on deposits in post-office and government savings banks will be reduced from 3½ to 3 per cent. The banks have been urging this step for some time on the ground that the present state of the money market did not justify the government rate and evidently their representations have had weight with Mr. Fielling, who thereby will save \$170,500 annually.

Coal Trade Statistics.

An interesting report is made by the British Board of Trade on the coal industry of the world. England produces the greatest quantity, after that, among European nations, Germany with only half of England's product. Next after that comes France with only a third of Germany's product. In 1895 England produced 189,661,000 tons, and Germany 79,160,000 tons. Referring to the United States the Pall Mall Gazette points out our great progress in coal production. In 1883-5 the average product of the United States was 103,000,000 tons, and in 1893-5 it averaged 162,000,000 tons, while that of England was 181,000,000 tons. During the latter period it is stated that the cost of the production of coal at the pit's mouth in the United States was lower than the cost at the pit's mouth in either Great Britain or Germany. Here is a nut for the protectionist's to crack. Our coal miners are paid less than the average wage in Great Britain and Germany.—Pittsburg Post.

Opposition to the Dingley Bill.

The following from the pen of Mr. Goldwin Smith, in the Toronto Weekly Sun, is in line with what The Commercial has said regarding the new United States tariff measure:

"It is to be hoped that readers of The Sun have not failed to notice the protest entered by the Chamber of Commerce, of New York, against some of the provisions of the Dingley Bill. It shows in the first place, that there is considerable opposition in the United States to parts at least of the bill. In the second place, it indicates that this legislation is a purely domestic concern, framed with a view solely to American interests, not in pursuance of hostile designs against Canada or any other foreign nation.

Let us be guided in our tariff legislation by our interests, coolly considered, and not by our resentment. For resentment there is really no ground. The Americans are simply taking the course which they believe, however erroneously, the best for themselves.

So long as the system of indirect taxation continues, each nation must have its own tariff; and the tariff must be adjusted to the special circumstances of the nation. England herself is not, in the full sense of the term, a free trade nation. She raises a large part of her revenue by import duties, laying them on the articles which suit her convenience best.

It was fully understood that, to meet the pressing requirements of revenue, the Dingley bill would be rushed through the House of representatives. The real discussion will come in the Senate, where it is fully expected that amendments will be made. If the anti-United States party at Ottawa has any sense of responsibility it will control its temper while there is still hope of moderation at Washington in favor of Canadian industry and trade. That hostility to Canada, or desire to put pressure on her, is not the actuating motive of Washington legislators must surely be apparent from the fact that the Corliss provision in the alien bill has been dropped in compliance with Canadian remonstrance.

New Cut Nail Scale.

Another result of the quarterly meeting of the iron manufacturers of Montreal was a substantial change in cut nails which was decided upon after almost two days of discussion. By the change the price of 50 penny and 60 penny nails is advanced 10c per keg in the province of Ontario, to \$2.25. Ten keg lots are delivered as heretofore in that Province where the rate does not exceed 25c per 100 lbs. In the province of Quebec the old price of \$2.15 per keg f. o. b. Montreal is maintained. The classification of all extras above 50 and 60's has been radically altered, the charges in detail being as follows:—

- Cut and fence nails:—
- 20d to 40d, hot cut, 5c per 100 lbs.
- 10 to 16d, hot cut, 10c per 100 lbs.
- 8 to 9d, hot cut, 15c per 100 lbs.
- 6d to 7d, hot cut, 20c per 100 lbs.
- 4 to 5d, hot cut, 45c per 100 lbs.
- 3d, hot cut, 70c per 100 lbs.
- 2d hot cut, \$1 per 100 lbs.
- Fine blued nails—
- 3d, \$1 per 100 lbs.
- 2d, \$1.50 per 100 lbs.
- Cut spikes are advanced 10c per keg on the old basis.
- Casing, box, tobacco box and flooring nails—
- 20d to 30d, 55c per 100 lbs.
- 10d to 16d, 60c per 100 lbs.
- 8 to 9, 65c per 100 lbs.
- 6 to 7d, 70c per 100 lbs.
- 4d to 5d, 95c per 100 lbs.
- 3d, \$1.20 per 100 lbs.
- Finishing nails—
- 8 inch and under, 60c per 100 lbs.
- 2½ to 2¾ inch, 65c per 100 lbs.
- 2 to 2½ inch, 70c per 100 lbs.
- 1½ to 1¾ inch, 95c per 100 lbs.
- 1½ inch, \$1.20 per 100 lbs.
- 1 inch, \$1.50 per 100 lbs.
- Slatting nails—
- 1½ to 1¾ inches, 95c per 100 lbs.
- 1½ inch, \$1.20 per 100 lbs.
- 1 inch, \$1.50 per 100 lbs.
- Common barrel nails—
- 1½ inches, \$1 per 100 lbs.
- 1 inch, \$1.25 per 100 lbs.
- ¾ inch, \$1.50 per 100 lbs.
- ½ inch, \$2 per 100 lbs.
- Clinch nails—
- 8 inch and up, 60c per 100 lbs.
- 2½ to 2¾ inch, 65c per 100 lbs.
- 2 to 2½ inch, 70c per 100 lbs.
- 1½ to 1¾ inch, 95c per 100 lbs.
- 1½ inch, \$1.20 per 100 lbs.
- 1 inch, \$1.50 per 100 lbs.
- Sharp and flat pressed nails remain the same as before.

The Quarter's Failures.

The trade conditions in Canada are slowly improving is shown by a comparison of the record of failures in the first quarter of 1897, with the same three months last year. In spite of tariff uncertainty, and the consequent depression of business, the number of commercial disasters is relatively less than a year ago. The compilation of Braistretts shows 683 failures thus far in 1897, with assets of \$1,366,963 and liabilities of \$1,819,845, as compared with 781 failures, \$2,345,494 assets, and \$5,753,587 liabilities in the same period last year:

The failures are distributed throughout the Dominion as follows:

Ontario	314	853
Quebec	240	311
New Brunswick.....	26	21
Nova Scotia.....	68	38
P. E. Island.....	4	7
Manitoba.....	17	10
N. W. Territory.....	2	10
British Columbia.....	12	28

Totals, Canada..... 683 781

	Assets.		Liabilities.	
	1897.	1896	1897	1896.
Ont....	877,487	830,651	1,399,057	1,976,487
Que....	600,191	690,600	2,015,648	2,621,980
N. B....	51,400	57,180	116,500	180,690
N. S....	175,890	83,280	871,261	1,820,200
P. E. I.	15,800	12,808	87,602	21,568
Man....	103,095	93,650	208,401	175,000
N. W. T.	21,700	20,687	31,773	53,675
B. C....	18,500	851,575	53,100	577,986
Totals,				
Can.	1,866,963	2,315,494	4,819,345	5,753,586

In a classification according to interests, R. G. Den & Co. show that the traders have made a better comparative showing than the manufacturers. While 187 manufacturing businesses, with \$1,492,226 liabilities, came to grief in the three months of 1897, but 177 failures and \$1,110,773 in liabilities were reported during the same period in 1896. There were 471 failures of traders having liabilities of \$1,531,339, reported this year as compared with 553 failures and \$1,603,914 a year ago. Two private bankers suspended payment during the first quarter of both years, the liabilities in 1897 amounting to \$50,000, as compared with obligations of \$32,000 a year ago.

Comparative Prices in Staples.

Prices at New York compared with a year ago.

	April 9, 1897.	April 10, 1896
Flour, straight spring.	\$3.35 to \$4.00	\$3.10 to \$3.50
Flour, straight winter.	\$3.91 to \$4.00	\$3.25 to \$3.55
Wheat, No. 2 red.....	9 ½	7 ½
Corn, No. 2 mixed.....	28 3-4	40c
Oats, No. 2.....	22	25 1-2
Rye, No. 2, Western.....	41	48 ½
Barley, No. 2 Milwaukee	41c	—
Cotton, mid. upld.....	7 7-10c	7 7-8
Print cloths, 64x64.....	29-10	2 1-2
Wool, Ohio & Pa., X....	19: to 20	17 to 17 1-2
Wool, No. 1 combg.....	23 to 24c	21 to 23c
Pork, mess new.....	8 75 to 9.25	\$9.00 to 9.50
Lard, prime, con'd.....	\$1.35	\$5.30c
Butter, ex. creamery....	20c	18c
Cheese, ch. east fly.....	120 ½	10c
Sugar, centrif., 96°.....	3 3-8c	4 1-4c
Sugar, granulated.....	4 ½c	5 ½c
Coffee, Rio, No. 7.....	7 ½	14c
Petroleum, N. T. Co....	—	\$1.20
Petroleum, rfd. gal....	—	\$6.00
*Iron, Best, pg.....	\$10.00	\$13.75
*Steel billets, ton.....	\$14.75	\$20.25
*Steel Rails.....	\$2.00	\$3.00
Ocean Steam Freight—		
Grain, Liverpool.....	2 ½d	1 d
Cotton.....	11 1/2cd	1 1-10

* Pittsburgh.

Department Store Legislation.

The first attempt to legislate the department stores out of existence have failed. A bill introduced into the Illinois Legislature, the provisions of which we referred to last week, has been laid upon the table, and the opponents of the large stores regard this as a decision not to pass legislation upon the matter in the present session. One of the interesting features of the debate in the Minnesota Senate on the Thoden Occupation Tax bill, aimed at department stores, was the statement that the classification, as proposed in the measure, would severely operate against the country stores, some of which carried twenty-eight lines of goods under the classification proposed. The bill was refer-

red back to the committee, with instructions to amend it by reducing a number of classifications and rearranging them upon a more equitable basis.

The bill before the Ontario Legislature was discussed this week. The Government recognized that the question was of great importance, and the Attorney-General thought that something ought to be done to modify the evils attendant upon the growth of these immense concerns. This, he intimated, would probably take the form of a special commission, with power to enquire by taking evidence from both sides. Mr. Whitney, representing the Opposition, said that retail merchants everywhere were suffering serious losses from these department stores. He told of an agreement in Nova Scotia by which the Western Counties Railroad ran a special car for the daily service of distributing goods from a department store in Toronto. As it appeared to be the general opinion of the members that the question was too serious to be settled within the limited time at the disposal of the Legislature, the bill was withdrawn, upon the understanding that it should serve as a notice of action at the next session of the Legislature.—Monetary Times.

The Hardware and Paint Trade.

The Montreal Gazette says: The various manufacturers report business active in all lines. Orders are numerous, but not so heavy as is customary at this season. One of the oldest manufacturers reports a larger business in ready mixed paint s than he has ever done. While lead is in active request, and stocks in manufacturers' hands for April are believed to be light. Prices in this line are very firm, and some makers speak of a possible advance next month if the present high prices of dry white is maintained by the corrodors. Two of our local manufacturers claim increasing interest in export business, and some good orders are in hand. A new branch house, recently established, reports a favorable demand for their special lead and other items. There is an active demand for Paris green and prices are very firm at 13½c in barrels, 14c in drums, and 15c in small quantities. Gum shellac is unchanged at 27c for pale orange. For oil cable advices received during the past week show an important improvement in values for linseed, and the feeling now is that the bottom has been touched. Stocks on spot are light and prices unchanged. Gaspe and Newfoundland cod oil continues scarce on spot, and prices are firmly held at 30c. Montreal prices are: Choice brands white lead, Government standard, \$5.00; No. 1, \$1.62½; No. 2, \$1.25; No. 3, \$3.87½; dry white lead, 4½c; red lead, pure, 4 to 4½c; do. No. 1, 3½ to 4c; zinc, white, pure, \$7.25; glass, \$1.35 first break; \$1.50 second break per 50 feet; \$3.30 for third break, per 100 feet; linseed oil, round lots, raw 43 to 44c; boiled, 46 to 47c; cod oil, 37½c; seal oil, 43 to 50c; castor oil, 9 to 9½c; putty, in ball, \$1.75; Paris green, in barrels, 13½c; drums, 14c; small lots, 15c.

Insurance and Financial Notes.

J. A. Prendergast and J. A. Vaillancet the former president, and the latter a director of the Banque de Hochelaga, were in Winnipeg last week.

E. T. Bartlett having failed to take delivery of the city of Winnipeg debenture awarded to him, the offer of Osler, Hammond & Nanton, of \$8,721.72 and accrued interest has been accepted.

A CARD TO THE CLOTHING TRADE

We must ask our customers to have a little patience with us this season as our trade has considerably exceeded our expectations.

We are endeavoring to give everyone a portion of their orders and we are working our staff night and day to complete them, and hope soon to catch up, and with our increased facilities, to keep abreast of our trade.

H. SHOREY & CO.,
Wholesale Clothiers and Manufacturers of Rigby Goods
MONTREAL.

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Partner Wanted.

Wanted in an established and growing jobbing and retail business, a partner with business energy and some business experience sufficient to manage the commercial part of the business, while the subscriber manages the practical part. A capital of about \$3,000 necessary. To the proper party, the opening is an exceptionally good one.

Apply by letter addressed to

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—WHOLESALE—

Wines, Liquors and Cigars

8th Street, Brandon.

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Shingles and Lath,

DOORS AND SASH.

FACTORY AT KEEWATIN. OFFICE: OPPOSITE C.P.R. PASSENGER DEPOT, WINNIPEG.

Robin, Sadler & Haworth

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LEATHER BELTING

MONTREAL and TORONTO.

NOTICE

Is hereby given that the business of Richard & Co. has been purchased by Messrs. Eugene Richard and H. Beliveau, and will in future be carried on at the old stand, No 365 Main St., Winnipeg, under the same style of

RICHARD & CO.

Soliciting a continuance of the patronage so liberally bestowed to Richard and Co. for the past seventeen years.

Respectfully yours,

EUGENE RICHARD & H. BELIVEAU.

WALKER HOUSE.

The most conveniently located Hotel in Toronto One Block from Union Railway Depot A first-class Family and Commercial House

Terms from \$2 a day

DAVID WALKER, Proprietor

Corner York and Front Sts., TORONTO, Ont.

OSMUND SKRINE & CO.,

VANCOUVER, B.C.

DEALERS IN

BUTTER, CHEESE, EGGS,

Choice California & Local Fruits

Our Specialty :

Consignments of Produce from Manitoba and Northwest Territories.

PROMPT RETURNS MADE ON THE 16TH OF EACH MONTH. **TRY US**

J. & A. Clearihue,
COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

—DEALERS IN—

FRUITS AND ALL KINDS OF PRODUCE.

Special attention to consignments of Fats and Skins, Butter and Eggs.

Yates Street, VICTORIA, B.C.
P.O. BOX 536.

AGENTS: D. Richards, Laundry Soap, Woodstock, Oelaris, Toller, Holbrook Co., Montreal, Parlane Washing Machine. We have a large cool storeroom with good facilities for handling Butter and Produce in quantities. Consignments Received in all Lines. Correspondence Solicited.

McMILLAN & HAMILTON
COMMISSION MERCHANTS

—WHOLESALE DEALERS IN—

BUTTER, EGGS, FRUITS AND PRODUCE

A PERFECT SYSTEM OF

COLD STORAGE.

230 ABBOTT STREET, VANCOUVER,
P.O. BOX NO. 296.

Quote prices on first quality Dairy Butter or condensed it to us and get top market prices.

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LINES.

LATEST TIME CARD.

Daily Through Trains.

12.45 pm	6.25 pm	Lv. Minneapolis Ar.	8.40 am	4.20 pm
1.25 pm	7.15 pm	Lv. St. Paul Ar.	8.00 am	3.40 pm
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	7.15 pm	Lv. Ashland Ar.	3.15 am	
7.15 am	10.15 am	Ar. Chicago Lv.	6.00 pm	10.40 pm

Tickets sold and baggage checked through to points in the United States and Canada.

Close connection made in Chicago with all trains going East and South.

For full information apply to your nearest ticket agent or

JAS. C. POND,
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Advertisers.

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

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"Anchor Brand"
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No. 1 Hard Wheat.

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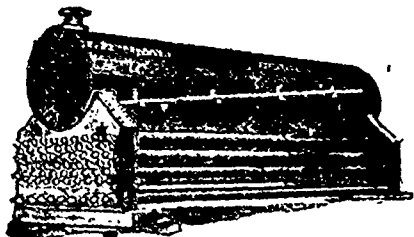
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HEINE SAFETY STEAM BOILERS

Lyman, Knox & Co

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Wholesale Druggists,

MONTREAL

TORONTO WINNIPEG

PARKER'S STEAM DYE WORKS

The first and only dye works in Manitoba
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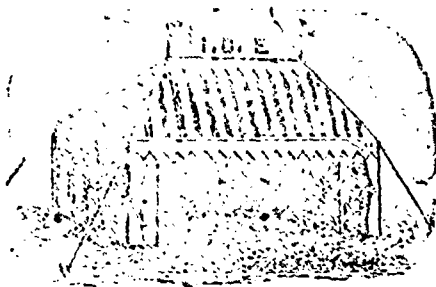
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ONLY WORKS IN MANITOBA using
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No Agents employed.



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TENTS,
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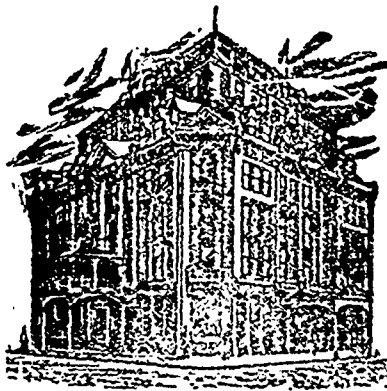
Our Special Brands of Cigars for 1890: Army and Navy Specials, Pride of Winnipeg
Pharaoh, Great West, Blue Jackets, Bird, Ellen Terry, Climax.

Also full Stock of English, American, Turkish and Canadian Tobaccos and Cigarettes.

A full Line of English, French, German and Turkish Pipes

Complete stock of Smokers Sundries. 537 Main St., Winnipeg.

HOTEL LELAND,



The palace Family and Commercial
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RATES, 2.00 TO \$4.00 PER DAY

Second to nothing in Canada.

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PRINTERS' STOCK,

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Get ready for Trade
Stock up with

RAMSAY'S

RUSSIAN PURE LEAD
UNICORN MIXED PAINT
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INK! INK! INK!

The severe weather now over we can safely ship ink. Note the variety of our stock. In STEPHENS we have Blue Black in quarts and pints, half pints and quarter pints COMBINED in quarts and pints. COPYING in quarts pint, and half pints. VIOLETTE NOIRE in quarts, pints and half pints. DWARF in glass and stone. ENDORSING in quarter pints in black and violet. SCARLET in pints and half pints. In STAFFORD'S we are stocked in Office Combined and Commercial in all regular sizes. Universal Jet Black, quarts and cones. Violet in pints. Violet Black in quarts. Blue and Violet in cones. Stylographic, Indelible, Architects, Drawing and Liquid India in Red, Green and Black. Carmine and Scarlet in all sizes. MUCILAGE—Stafford's Office, sponge top, cones, pints and quarts. Also Carter's Arabian Mucilage in quarts. STAFFORD'S WHITE PASTE in 1½, 3 and 6 oz.

Orders for Inks and all lines in Stationery respectfully solicited.

The Consolidated Stationery Co., Ltd.

41 PRINCESS STREET, WINNIPEG, MAN

The Boot and Shoe Trade.

Whatever may be said about the dullness of trade in general, the term does not apply to the boot and shoe industry, as manufacturers both here and in Quebec report a very active demand for spring goods, and some houses admit that they have not been able to fill their orders fast enough although they have been working overtime. In fact, one large firm has had to refuse recent new business, on account of being so hard pushed in the execution of orders on hand. The principal of a Quebec firm stated a few days ago that he was never before so crowded with orders as he is at present, and that the volume of his trade this spring is 20 per cent. larger than at this time last year. Owing to the great rush for spring orders, manufacturers have been able to secure an advance of 10 per cent. in some lines without any grumbling, and a still further advance in the price of fall goods is said to be assured, as there are no prospects at the moment of any change in the firm tone of either hides or leather. Itmittances on the fourth and subsequent days showed an improvement on those of the two previous months, although it is admitted there were more renewals than expected this month. Some firms have their fall samples out, but there is scarcely anything doing in this class of goods as it is too early in the season.

A Boston firm has a large assortment of samples of ladies' and men's boots and shoes which it is showing to the trade here at very reasonable prices; but those who have seen the goods say that they will not compare with our own manufactured goods in quality. Sales of same, however, are being made to some of our wholesale and jobbing houses.—Montreal Trade bulletin.

Cash or Credit.

The present thorough discussion of the methods which have made the department stores successful has served to emphasize the importance of merchants placing their trade upon a cash basis, or at least to reduce credit within the narrowest limits. The Maritime Merchant reports a Halifax dry goods trader as having stated that there was no difficulty in adopting cash methods, provided the merchant had back-bone enough to carry out the proposition in its entirety. On the assumption that 30 days is equivalent to cash, or is a means towards attaining such a reasonable basis, firmness and promptness in sending out and collecting the bills would seem to be one of the strongest levers that can be used to gain the desired end. The great evil of a large portion of the retail dry goods trade in Halifax, is caused by the six month credit system which has been so prominent a feature of the business in the past, and which merchants who are tied down by the

existence of such a custom, would but make an effort, steady and persistent in reducing this long term, it would not take a great while to educate the customers that the short time or spot cash method was the most satisfactory in the long run. As it is at present, when the long-term system is in vogue, a customer looks upon the receipt of a bill in the light of an impertinence, and if the amount is at all large the dealer stands a chance of offending a person who owes him, and every one knows that it is very much easier to offend a customer who is largely indebted to you than a cash buyer."

Montreal Grocery Market.

There has been no important change in the situation of the sugar market since our last. Advices generally from primary markets continue firm in tone, and the recent advance in prices has been fully maintained. A private cable received from London to-day reported the market for cane dull, best quiet at 8s 10½c for April and May. The demand on spot for the refined article has fallen off considerably owing to the fact that buyers generally have filled their wants for the present, consequently business at present is quiet. Granulated is quoted at 1½ to 1½, and yellow at 3¼ to 3¼; as to quality, at the factory.

The market for molasses is without any new feature. Advices from the island continue of a conflicting character, some calling for quoting the first cost at 8c and others at 9c. Although a number of orders have been called from local houses it is stated that no purchases have been made yet. On spot business dull and prices difficult to quote.

There has been no change in the syrup market. The demand is limited and business quiet at 1½ to 1½c for lb., as to its quality at factory.

Business in rice continues of a hard to-mouth character, and the market in consequence is quiet and without any feature to note. We quote: Crystal Japan, \$5.00 to \$5.25; standard B., \$3.50; Patna, \$4.50 to \$5.25; Carolina, \$6.75 to \$7.75; choice Bermuda, \$1, and Java kinds, \$1.25.

The demand for spices has been principally for small lots to fill actual wants and the market rules quiet but firm. We quote: Black pepper, 8c to 10c; white, 11 to 11c; Jamaica ginger, 20 to 25c; cloves, 7½ to 10c, and nutmegs, 60 to 90c.

Coffee continues dull and the tone of the market is easier as holders show a disposition to make concessions, but no actual change can be noted. We quote: Maracaibo, 17½ to 18c; Santos, 14 to 16c; Rio, 15 to 16c; and Mocha, 21 to 26c.

The speculative demand for teas referred to in our last report has not been so buoyant during the past week, owing to the fact that such buyers have, no doubt, filled their

wants and are now waiting anxiously for the tariff to be announced. On the whole the market has been quiet and the volume of business light, with sales confined chiefly to small lots between houses. The feeling, however, continues very firm and values are fully maintained, especially so for all grades of Japans, of which stocks are small in first hands.—Gazette, April 9.

Montreal Drug Prices

Bleaching powder, \$2 to 2.50; bicarb. soda, \$2.25 to \$2.35; sal soda, 60c to 70c; carbonic acid, 1-lb. bottles, 25c to 30c; caustic soda, 60 per cent. \$1.75 to \$2.00; do. 70 per cent., \$2.00 to \$2.20; chlorate of potash, 17½c to 20c; alum, \$1.40 to \$1.50; copperas, 60c to 75c; sulphur flour, \$1.75 to \$2.25; do. roll, \$1.75 to \$2.25; sulphate of copper, \$1.25 to \$1.50; white sugar of lead, 7½c to 8½c; bich. potash, 10c to 12c; sumac, Sicily, per ton, \$50 to \$60; soda ash, 48 and 58 per cent. \$1.25 to \$1.50; chip logwood, \$2.00 to \$2.50 cream of tartar, per lb., 27c to 32c. Glycerine, per lb., 22c to 25c.

South Africa Mining Depression.

A cable from London says: The effect of the public disquietude respecting South Africa is to depress the Rand gold mining shares, even when the money market has been eased by the reduction of the bank rate, and when other classes of securities have arisen under the influence of the hopeful outlook in the east. The Economist prints a cable today, showing a decline during eighteen months of \$79,220,000 in the aggregate valuation of forty-one Rand companies. The Kaffir circus is frequented only by brokers having stocks to sell. There is no demand for mining stocks from any quarter, enormous losses have been entailed upon investors by this unparalleled depreciation of mining securities.

The Canadian Pacific Railway trackmen have had their wages increased 10 cents a day on all divisions. The men now receive \$1.25 a day and the foreman \$1.70. The advance dates from April 1st. The men asked for an increase of 25 cents a day, but decided to accept the offer of the company.

E Caniff, of Winnipeg, has perfected his machine for preventing prairie fires. He has arranged to keep a machine on exhibition on a vacant lot at the northeast corner of Point Douglas avenue and Rachel street, near McClary & Co.'s warehouse, in order that farmers who visit the city may have an opportunity of seeing it.

Wheat Stocks

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains, for the week ended April 10, 1897, shows a decrease of 933,000 bushels, against a decrease of 992,000 for the corresponding week last year, a decrease of 2,216,000 bushels the corresponding week two years ago, and a decrease of 515,000 bushels three years ago.

The following shows the visible supply by weeks, for four years; the second table shows the visible supply at the end of each week in the current year, compared with the three previous years. This visible supply includes stocks of wheat in store at most important points, east of the Rocky mountains:

Table with columns for years (1893-1896) and rows for months (Jan to Dec) showing wheat stock values.

Table with columns for years (1897-1894) and rows for months (Jan to April) showing wheat stock values.

Bradstreet's report of stocks of wheat in Canada on April 3, is as follows:

Table listing wheat stocks in various Canadian locations: Montreal, Toronto, Kingston, Winnipeg, Manitoba interior elevators, Fort William, Port Arthur & Keewatin.

Total stocks in the United States and Canada as reported by Bradstreet's were as follows, on April 3, 1897:

Table showing bushels for East of the Mountains, Pacific Coast, and Total stocks a year ago were.

Bradstreet's report for the week ended April 10, shows a decrease of 1,229,000 bushels in stocks of wheat east of the mountains, making the total 51,717,000 bushels on the latter date.

Worlds stocks of wheat on April 1, 1897, (United States, Canada, in Europe and Africa for Europe) were 121,676,000 bushels, as compared with 111,875,000 bushels on April 1, 1896; 162,504,000 on April 1, 1895; 176,956,000 on April 1, 1894; 178,233,000 on April 1, 1893; 148,595,000 on April 1, 1892; 99,893,000 on April 1, 1891; and 90,851,000 on April 1, 1890.

The Alberta Stockman

The first annual meeting of the Western Stock Growers' association was held at Macleod Alberta on April 8. There was a large gathering. President D. W. Marsh occupied the chair. The president in opening the meeting, said the object was to elect officers for the ensuing year, and the preparation, revision and adoption of by-laws, as well as to suggest such amendments to the laws re stock as may be desirable, etc.

The election of officers was next proceeded with, and it was suggested and approved that the board of management elected at Calgary should be elected by acclamation, as they had only been in office a short time.

The Gazette report continues: Messrs. Whyte, Kerr, Niblock and Cross, of the C P R., having, arrived in town at about this time, the president was asked to go out and invite them to the meeting.

The question of killing stock was first gone into. Mr. Whyte said that while the company were not liable for cattle killed by their trains while running at large, he

would be glad to investigate any claim for damages from this source, and no doubt some arrangement could be come to as regards compensation, although he could not bind the company to pay half the value of every animal killed. The circumstances would be taken into consideration.

With regard to fire guards, the company let contracts for this work, and insisted on having it properly done. He would like to see the stockmen interest themselves in the fire guards. The company wanted them done properly, and if there were any defect, the person employed by them to look after it was not doing his duty.

The question of freight rates was discussed at considerable length, Mr. Kerr speaking on behalf of the M.P.R. He said the C. P. R. ran to Boston and Chicago, and if cattlemen here wanted to reach those points, they need not use American roads. The C.P.R. would meet any rate given by American roads. He was also practically promised that the rate now given for thoroughbred bulls would be extended to include other thoroughbred stock.

Mr. Whyte assured the meeting that he would do everything in his power to make the industry a success. The Canadian Pacific Railroad had a direct interest in the live stock industry, and he trusted that it would go on improving and with such an intelligent body of men as he saw here, he did not see how it could help doing so.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. Whyte and Mr. Kerr and they withdrew. A motion asking the minister of the Interior and Mr. Oliver, M.P., to maintain the present water reserves was passed.

Before the meeting adjourned, a resolution was passed asking the government to impose the same duty on American cattle as that imposed by the United States on Canadian cattle.

Hides, Wool, Etc.

At Toronto hides are firmer at the advance mentioned last week.

The feature of the hide market during the past week, says the Montreal Gazette, has been an advance of 1c per lb. in the price of calfskins, which is due principally to the opposition buying on the part of some tanners, and dealers are now paying 10c for No. 1, and 8c for No. 2. The receipted hides are light and the quality of the stock generally poor. Dealers are pay 9c for No. 1, 8c for No. 2, and 7c for No. 3. Lambskins are quiet and unchanged at 10c each.

The Chicago market is reported by Hides and Leather as follows: No. 1 bluffs, 40c of brands and grubs, 40 to 60 lbs., have sold more freely at 8 1/2 and 7 1/2c. Five or six cars which moved at these prices contained a goodly percentage of 2 1/4. Buyers have apparently supplied their immediate wants and assume a somewhat indifferent attitude. A car all No. 1 bluffs was sold Tuesday at 10c.

The Canadian Manufacturer, Toronto, will issue a special number containing an authentic copy of the proposed new Canadian tariff, as soon as it becomes law. The tariff will also contain the new United States tariff and the British tariff.

PROSPECTUS OF

**THE LAKESIDE
Gold Mining Co.,**

OF RAT PORTAGE, LTD.
NON-PERSONAL LIABILITY.

CAPITAL, \$750,000.

In 750,000 Shares of One Dollar each.
Head Office, RAT PORTAGE, ONT.

President R. W. JAMESON, ESQ., Mayor of the City of Winnipeg
VICE-PRESIDENT—R. H. AGUR, Manager of Massey-Harris Co., Winnipeg.

DIRECTORS.

- H. H. BECK, Insurance Manager, Winnipeg
- F. W. DREWRY, Brewer, Winnipeg.
- JOHN PLAXTON Plumber, Winnipeg
- H. G. WILSON, Solicitor, Winnipeg.
- Sec. TREAS.—H. S. CROTTY, Real Estate Agt., Winnipeg
- Solicitors—EWART, FISHER and WILSON
- Bankers—IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA.

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

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

CONSULTING ENGINEER for British Columbia—Jno. J. Moynahan, of Moynahan and Campbell, Rossland.
CONSULTING ENGINEER for Rat Portage—J. R. Deacon, C. E. and M. E.

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

OBJECTS—

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

PROPERTIES—

- SNOWBIRD (gold), situated half way between Rossland and Trail, on surveyed line A.C. P. R.
- QUEEN BEE (gold), situated four miles from Harrison Lake Sanitarium.
- Both fine tunnel propositions.
- Eighty acres on steamboat channel, 25 miles from Rat Portage.
- Ten options at Rat Portage and Seine and districts for working interest.

ADVANTAGES—

The investor in shares of this company is not confined to dividends obtained from one claim only, but from a large number, which will be developed and sold by the company, which gives him 100 chances to one over the investor in stocks of ordinary companies.
20,000 shares of stock are now offered for sale at 10 cents per share, par value one dollar. No liability beyond the amount actually paid upon stock in the company attached to the subscribers thereto or to holders thereof.
The practical operations of the company will be carried on under the supervision of a best mining engineering skill that can be secured, so that the stockholders will have a full and complete guarantee for the practical as well as the financial management of the company's affairs.

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

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

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

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

AUSTIN & ROBERTSON,

WHOLESALE STATIONERS,
MONTREAL

Dealers in all Classes of
Writings and Printings,
Linens, Ledger and Bond Papers
and Quotations and Samples on Application

KILGOUR, RIMER & CO.,

WHOLESALE

Boots, Shoes

Overshoes, Rubbers, Mitts & Moccasins

Our travellers are now out for spring. Can't be every place at once. Wait and see our snaps. We are agents for the Harvey, Van Norman Co., Toronto.

KILGOUR, RIMER & CO.,
James Street, WINNIPEG.

Farm for Rent.

Farm in the Winnipeg district to rent, with possession of buildings at once.

Address:
D. W. Buchanan, Commercial Office,
Winnipeg.

**BOECKH'S
Brushes & Brooms**

ALWAYS RELIABLE

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

Chas. Boeckh and Sons,

TORONTO

Jno. E. Dingman, Agent, Winnipeg.

Winnipeg Prices a Year Ago.

Following were Winnipeg prices this week last year:

- Wheat—No. 1 hard, in store at Fort William, 67 to 68c for May delivered.
- Flour.—Local price, per sack, Patents, \$1.85 to \$1.90; Bakers, \$1.65 to \$1.70.
- Ran.—Per ton, \$8.
- Shorts.—Per ton, \$10.
- Oats.—Per bushel, Winnipeg street price, 16 to 18c; Car lots at country points, 11 to 13c.
- Barley —Selling at 17 to 18c for feed here. Car lots at country points worth 13c to 15c.
- Butter.—Dairy, good to choice, jobbing at 12c to 18c as to quality and quantity.
- Cheese.—Jobbing price 9c to 10c.
- Eggs.—Fresh, jobbing at 11c.
- Beef.—City dressed, 5c to 6c.
- Mutton.—Mutton, held stock, 8c, fresh, 10c.
- Hogs.—Dressed, 1c.
- Cattle.—Nominal at 2c to 3c for butchers stock.
- Hogs.—Live, off cars, 8c.
- Sheep.—Sheep nominal at 4c off cars.
- Soutra Root.—Dry 18 to 20c lb.
- Poultry —Chickens, 12c lb; turkeys, 11c, ducks, 10c, geese, 12c.
- Hides.—Green country hides, 3c to 4c; No. 1 4c on inspection.
- Potatoes—12 to 15c per bushel
- Hay—\$5 to \$5.50 for baled on track.

Winnipeg Wheat Inspection.

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

Grade.	Mar. 13 Mar. 20	Mar 27	April 3	April 10
Extra Man. H'd	0	0	7	0
No. 1 hard.	40	71	87	87
No. 2 hard.....	13	12	23	45
No. 3 hard.....	4	3	13	13
No. 1 North'n..	0	1	6	1
No. 2 Nor'h'n..	0	0	1	0
No. 3 North'n..	0	0	0	0
No. 1 white tyle	0	0	0	4
No. 2 white tyle	0	0	0	1
No. 1 Spring...	1	0	2	1
No. 2 Spring ..	0	0	0	0
No. 1 frosted ..	3	0	5	4
No. 2 frosted ..	0	5	3	7
No. 3 Frosted ..	2	0	0	0
No. 1 Rejected..	2	1	0	2
No. 2 Rejected..	1	1	0	0
No Grade.....	1	0	7	0
Feed	0	0	0	0
Total for week	76	94	169	165
Same week last year.....	34	49	208	33

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

Fast Line Contract.

On Ottawa telegram of April 13, says: The government has finally, through Hon. Mr. Debell, who went to England for the purpose, made a contract with the Petersons for a fast Atlantic service of twenty knots an hour. The Canadian subsidy will be \$500,000 annually.

Stock "Tickers" and Bucket Shops

Announcement was made about a week ago that the governing committee of the New York Stock Exchange has formally decided against renewing the contract with the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company for the distribution of the exchange's quotations. The contract in question expires on Jun 30 next, and some interesting questions naturally arise as to what will be the outcome of this latest move-in regard to the "ticker" service. The existing arrangement, it will be remembered, was entered into some years ago, when the exchange acquired control of a company which confines its operations solely to the distribution of the quotations to members of the exchange itself in the Gold and Stock Company, which forms part of the Western Union system, being accorded the privilege of furnishing quotations to the public under certain restrictions.

More or less has of course, been made of the abrogation of the arrangement in respect to its effect on the Western Union Company which leases and controls the Gold and Stock Telegraph. There is no doubt that the contract has been a profitable one to the telegraph company, but some of the statements as to the loss in revenue it would suffer seem to be greatly exaggerated. Besides this, it is generally believed that while the old contract will not be renewed, there is a decided prospect that a new one, on somewhat different terms, may still be made between the parties. Whether such negotiations are in progress cannot, of course, be known, nor is there anything of a definite character in which to either affirm or deny the report that the Postal Telegraph Company is in the field as a bidder for the privilege of distributing the quotations made on the exchange. Suggestions have been heard that if the matter is carried to extremes, legal proceedings, by injunction or otherwise, may be taken to force delivery of the quotations, but this is met by the argument that the peculiar status of the exchange, as a mere voluntary association and not an incorporated body, takes it out of the operation of those legal principles concerning common carriers which have been applied in somewhat similar circumstances elsewhere.

The real point in the whole matter resides in the fact that the step just taken by the exchange is the opening of another attack upon the bucket shops. It is claimed that the telegraph company has not lived up to the spirit of the portions of the present contract regarding the class of customers who should be supplied with quotations. It is not denied that the telegraph company has consulted its own interests solely in selling the quotations, and it is now proposed that if any new contract is made a more effective control over their distribution shall be reserved to the exchange. The latter's policy, it is claimed, is not to exclude the general public from obtaining the quotations where they are needed for legitimate purposes, but so far as possible to cut off the facilities which bucket shops throughout the country enjoy. It cannot be said that the exchange in making this attempt, is actuated by anything but selfish motives. The public even in view of the existence of such purely gambling concerns as the bucket shops is not formally considered. The officials of the exchange have made careful investigations, and have secured knowledge that bucket-shopping, based on the quotations of the exchange itself, now flourishes on an immense scale throughout the country. It is particularly rife at interior cities, where the distinction between legitimate speculation and the class of gaming carried on by the bucket shop is not so apparent to the public, and where the bucket-shop even assumes a certain pretended respectability. By such

means a very large volume of speculative trading is, as a whole, diverted from the New York exchange, while the various abuses and manipulation of quotations, which are inseparable from success on the part of the bucket shops, tend to discredit all speculation and to create a popular prejudice against the legitimate exchanges.

It is naturally too early to speak of any plans that may be adopted. There is indeed room for curiosity on this point. It is manifestly impossible for the exchange to refuse its quotations to the public. Such action would not be tolerated by business and financial interests, and if such a line were adopted it would simply kill all public interest in the stock market. The example of the London Stock Exchange, which had even fallen even and over its quotations than our own, is not, it must be admitted, encouraging as to the success of the efforts now on foot here. Bucket shops flourish in Great Britain as well as in the United States, and a few years ago the London exchange instituted a vigorous campaign against them, cutting off their "ticker" service, and even taking legal action to prevent their obtaining the quotations by indirect means. These proceedings were apparently successful, yet the bucket shops of London and the provinces continue their trade with undiminished vigor. —Bradstreets

The Railroad Building Outlook.

Railroad building is more generally discussed than for some time past and the expectations of the moment are that 1897 will witness a marked increase in the length of the lines added to the railway system of the country. The break in the price of steel rails, it is generally believed adds to the probability that considerable work of this character will be carried out, not only in the construction of new lines, but in the form of extensions and branches of existing ones. According to the Railroad Age, which, as usual, keeps a close watch upon all such projects, the new lines which are either under construction or which have some prospect of being built during the year would represent 17,500 miles of new track. From this estimate it excludes many lines which are merely talked about, and it also prefaces its discussion of the subject by the admission that a very large portion of the above total is certain not to be built in 1897—if ever. The conclusion which the same authority arrives at is, however, that more new lines will be constructed than in any of the last few years, owing to the fact that general conditions are more promising for such a development.

The new railroad mileage actually built in the United States in 1893 was 1,812 miles, the record in 1892 being almost exactly the same—1,803 miles. These were the smallest totals since as far back as 1875, when the country was just recovering from a great panic and when the new railroads built measured only 1,711 miles. Following it came a period of great expansion in the work of railroad extension, which culminated in 1881 and 1882 when 9,799 miles, and 11,568 miles of lines, respectively, were added to our railroad systems. After another halt the record again rose to 9,000 miles in 1886, the figures for the ten last years being more conveniently shown in the following tabulation:

Year	Miles built	Year	Miles built
1887	12,983	1882	4,150
1888	7,120	1893	2,695
1889	5,730	1894	1,948
1890	6,000	1895	1,803
1891	4,168	1896	1,802

In the light of these figures, it would be useless to expect any such extraordinary in-

crease as the estimate of 17,500 miles in 1897 would involve. The figures, indeed, are coupled with qualifications as to the realization of the intentions of corporations or projectors. The total number of separate lines included is no less than 300, the southwestern heading the list, in a geographical classification, with 5,495 miles, while the south Atlantic states supply 3,322 miles and the gulf states 2,317 miles more. It may be added that a summary of the more important roads actually under construction, or which present a prospect of active work being undertaken on them during the year, reaches a total of somewhat over 2,000 miles, including some 275 miles, being reported as actually completed since January 1.

It is well recognized that the bulk of the steel rails for which orders have been recently placed are for renewals of track by existing roads. Some surprise may be expressed at the statement that the difference in the price of steel rails, caused by the break in their price involves an economy of perhaps no more than \$700 per mile in new construction. It would seem, however, that in some instances the break has led to the placing of orders for rails for new lines which would not have been bought without it. The outcome, indeed, still hangs upon financial problems, and on the ability of the builders of new lines to place the securities issued upon them. The better feeling in the financial world since the election has facilitated the completion of arrangements for the needed capital, especially where the new lines are backed by corporations in established credit. There is no indication that the financial public is inclined to absorb the securities of new railroad lines on an extravagant scale. This limitation has to be considered in connection with a very large proportion of the projected new mileage, and it must be remembered that while the tendency to refuse the bonds of established railroads in big credit at a lower interest rate would lead ultimately to attract investors to bonds of lower grade but higher interest, the process is a slow one. It could hardly be expected to influence the securities of new roads so far a considerable time. The probabilities, therefore, are that the present year will witness a moderate, but at the same time healthful, increase in the extent of new railroads constructed in the United States. —Bradstreets.

United States Crop Report.

The report of the United States department of agriculture makes the average condition of winter wheat 81 1/2, against 81 on December 1, 77 1/2 last April, and 81 on the same date in 1895. The average condition was 83.9 against 82.9 last year. The seeding was favorable throughout the country. A few scattered counties report it too dry or too wet, so that by December 1st a crop nearly standard was indicated. The falling off since December is given in Illinois, but strikingly shown in neighboring states and making an average 15 per cent. for the whole country, and the sharp freeze of early winter, covering was ample in the Rocky Mountain states and westward, but elsewhere it was scanty. The deficiency of little damage along the Atlantic slope, the winter was mild and the favorable indications continue. No important states show a condition under 85. The condition of winter wheat is reported as average in Great Britain, France and Ireland, because of excessive rains, but in central and eastern Europe, and in northern Russia there have been extensions, but the wet weather has so delayed work in western Europe that the wheat area will be greatly cut down.