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VOL. 4

WINNIPEG, FEBRUARY 2, 1886.

NO. 19

The City of Winnipeg.

Although the Hudson's Bay Company have had a post at Fort Garcy, in the southern part of the city, since the year 1812, the history of Winnipeg as a town dates back only to 1570, when Sir Garnec Wolseley crushed the Riel O'Donalue rebellion. In the spring of that year the business places in the village of Fort Garry numbered eighteen, and the total buildings outside of the fort, twenty-eight, while the census returns in the rall showed a total popuation of 215 outside of the military stationed in the place. The manufacturing institutions were a tanuery and a harness si:op. From this year forward it became a fixed belief among the people of the place that it was going to advance to a city of some importance in a comparatively small number of years, and that Manitoba was destined to be a rich, populous and prosperous Province. Faith in the place soon spread to the east, and in the fall of 1872 the Merchants' Bank established the first branch of a chartered bank, and from this onward eastern capital began to be freely invested in the town and Province.

It is not necessary for us to follow minutely the additions of new industries to the city during the next few years. Sufficient to say that Winnipeg's industrial progress was steady, although not rapid, and in 1874, the year in which the city was incorporated, the number of buildings within her limits was over nine hundred, twenty seven of which were occupied by manufacturing industries, over one hundred by mercantile concerns, and the balance as office, hotels, hoarding houses, dwellings and so forth. The population of the city was about three thousand seven hundred, and the value of property assessed within its limits \$2,076,018.

Notwithstanding the terrible convulsions that shook the who'e monetary system of America and Europe during the years 1873 and 1874, the year of 1875 opened with bright prospects for the city of Winnipeg and the Province of Manitoba. True it is that foreign capital did not come freely to assist in their development during that year and 1876, but the residents of the city were now convinced that it had a great future, and showed that they had enterprise anough to give material aid in the great work. The number of new enterprises were not so

numerous as during 1874, but older business men were fast adding to their trade. The most valuable addition to the machinery of business was the establishment of the Ontario Bank branch The Red River had five passenger and three freight steamboats plying upon it, where as only one made occasional trips five years previously. The work of city improvement had also been going or apace That summer a new city hall had been erected, and other corporation expenditures added to the price of its construction, made a total of nearly \$90,000. The value of the imports at the port of Winnipeg for the year ending June 30th, 1875, not including goods from Canada, was \$1,248,309; the ex ports for the same period were valued for \$588, 958 and the duties collected \$171,430.76. The value of assessed property was \$2,762,414, and the population of the city aumbered about 5.000.

In 1876 the city's progress in commercial and industrial affairs was steady, and that year two flouring mills were constructed which had an aggregate capacity of nearly 400 barrels a day. The population made material gain, and the value of property assessed that year was \$3,031,585.

In the year 1877 the first determined efforts for railway communication with the eastern world and through the Province were made, and as early as February of that year the citizens offered a bonus of \$200,000 to any company that would construct a railway from the city to the western boundary of the Piovince, but it was not until near the close of the following year that the St. Vincent branch of the C.P.R. connecting with the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba Railway at that city was completed, and through rail communication to the eastern portion of the continent secured. That year the population of the city increased to about 6,500, the value of property to a little over \$3,000,000. The tax receipts amounted to \$67,478.68, and the civic expenditure to \$55,-

In 1879 progress was very rapid, owing to the impetus which railway communication gave to business, and by the close of the year the population had increased to 8,000, and the value of assessed property to \$3,415,005.

During 1880 the city's progress was unusual-

ly rapid, and her population increased with amazing rapidity being, at least, 12,000 by midsummer, while the valuation of assessed property was fixed at \$4,006,160. By the close of the year railway communication was complete to Rat Portage on the east and Portage la Prairie on the west.

With the year ISSI the famous Winnipeg boom set in, and the state of inflation reached before its close can be better remembered by those who were resident here, than described now that it is past. There can be no doubt, but the city and sarrounding country made during that year unprecedented progress of a lasting description, and the influx of actual settlers who had come to remain in the Northwest, and grow up with it, was immeasurably greater than that of any preceding year. The boom, therefore, although carried to the most crazy excess, was not a bubble without substance. The energetic manner which the new C.P.R. Syndicate commenced the work of railway extension, which up to that year had been carried on in a half hearted and irresolute manner by the Dominion Government, gave an impetus to the boom, and in a few months inflation was at its height, and permeated every branch of business more or less. Prices of goods in mercan tile lines were inflated as well as real estate, and money seemed to purchase very little of anything. Before the close of the year the city's population had reached nearly 20,000, some 5,000 of wrich were floating idlers attracted by the speculative mania.

An index to the enormous increase in the general business of the city is to be found in the following statistics, which we take from a work published early in 1882, entitled "Winnipeg and her Industries."

Chartered bank branches in city, 9; Loan companies doing business, S; Manufacturing concerns, 39; Wholesale mercantile concerns, 50; Retail, 170; Miscelianeous trading, 104.

| Volume of wholesale trade, 1881...\$6,236,000 | Volume of retail trade, 1881....\$5,908,000 | Manufacturing, including trades | men, 1881.....\$6,676,000 | Miscellaneous, 1881.....\$1,300,000 | Estimated loans at close of 1881...4,900,000

Although with the opening of 1882 the inflation in real estate collapsed, that year was by

no means one of depression in Winnipeg. Quite a large number of mercantile and manufacturing undertakings were set on foot in the city, and the floating population seemed during the summer rather to increase than decrease; so much so, that in the month of July there were over 25,000 persons in the city, and several thousands of these lived in tents during the summer months. The resident popul tion and number of business concerns had increased so rapidly during the fall and winter of 1881, that people were contented, and in many cases thankful, to carry on business and reside in shed-like buildings, many of which could scarcely be rented now for stables. With the opening of spring, 1882, the work of constructing buildings of a more substantial nature commenced in earnest, and they did not require to be built on speculation, as the majority of them were leased by intending tenants before construction had proceeded very far, and sometimes before it had commenced The real estate boom was thus succeeded by something like a building boom, and there were still many persons living in the city who firmly believed that the collapse of the former was only temporary, and that a return of inflated prices was only a matter of a few months, or a year at most.

The rapid construction both eastward and westward of the Canadian Pacific Railway also brought a large floating, and by no means impecunious, population to the city; so that altogether 1882 was by no means a dull year in mercantile circles, and, could reliable figures have been reached, it would no doubt have shown an aggregate of business done fully as great as that of 1881. Still, the state of trade was far from being healthy. Inflation permeated its every branch, and the cost of living was so high, that shrewd business men could see plainly what a revolution was necessary before a normal state of affairs could be reached. Hundreds of immigrants were weekly passing through the city to seek homes on the prairie farther west; but its reputation for extortionate charges had been told and magnified to them, and they passed through it as rapidly and with as little delay as if it were a plaguestricken district through they must pass, but in which they need not linger.

The business done in the city in 1882 may be guessed at, if not reached, by the Customs statement of imports and duties collected, which was as follows:

GOODS IMPORTED.

Goods imported (dutiable) - \$6,402,158.00 (frec) 1,768,820.00

- - \$8,170,978.00 Total imported

GOODS ENTERED FOR CONSUMPTION.

Goods entered for consamption \$7,454,221.00 (dutiable) Goods entered for consumption 1,968,820.00 (free)

Total for consumption \$9,223,051.00 Duty collected \$1,585,456.96 - - -Goods entered for exportation - \$ 472,021.00

Notwithstanding these figures, symptoms of the coming reaction were felt towards the close of the year. A number of the smaller business men of the city found themselves hopelessly tangled with real estate speculations, and when | pering markets in necessaries of life produced |

the opening of 1883 was reached, it was found than the year just passed through, unlike the two immediately preceding it, had an insolvency record, there having been in the city 19 failures, with aggregato liabilities of \$201,000, the figures for the whole Northwest being: Insolvencies, 28; Liabilities, \$290,000.

It would not be out of place to call 1883 the year of crash in Winnipeg's history. As it wore on, the work of separating legitimate trade from speculation progressed, and the process was anything but helpful to the former. The fact forced itself gradually upon the most unwilling minds, that the collapse of real estate speculation was to be permanent, and men who, early in 1882, were ranked as wealthy, entered upon 1883 with bankruptcy staring them in the

That contraction should follow inflation is accepted as an axiom of commerce by many, and it was certainly the experience of the city of Winnipeg in 1883; and the city was only an index of the unsafe state of affairs all over the Northwest. When the 1st of April was reached, it was found that there had been 47 failures iu the Northwest, and nearly one-balf of the number in Winnipeg during the first quarter of the year; and the gross liabilities of the 47 exceeded \$400,000. During the second quarter the depression became deeper, and 45 failures were recorded, with gross liabilities of \$596,000. The month of July w.s entered upon with a dread of panic hanging over the country, and business men who were weak financially soon fornd it impossible to stand the pressure. Banks and other financial institutions which had encouraged and fostered the reckless 'aflation of boom days, were now mercilessly exacting in their demands, and many a man, who in a more con fident state of trade could have weathered the pressure with honor, was forced to insolvency. Nevertheless, the number of men who reached failure through purely trade misfortunes was singularly small, over 90 per cent. of the insolvents having succumbed to the pressure of a real estate or other speculative load. There can be no doubt that a tremor ran through the whole fabric of Northwestorn trade when the business misfortunes of the third quarter of the year were published, showing 87 failures, with aggregate liabilities of \$1,458,000; and, as before, the city of Winnipeg had its full proportion of this crash. Depression then seemed to have spent its force; and although the last quarter of 1883 was one of great stringency, comparative safety had evidently been reached, and the number of failures dropped to 53, and their aggregate liabilities to \$415,000. The Northwestern failures in 1883 were thus 232 in number, and their aggregate liabilities amounted to \$2,869,000; while the proportion contributed by Winnipeg was 101 failures, with aggregate liabilities of \$1,750,000.

While trade was making this black record, a great revolution had been going on in other affairs in the city. Speculative extortioners had been nearly all swamped in the crash, and rents of business buildings and residences dropped gradually down, until in the opening of 1884 they were at less than half their boom prices. Speculators who had figured upon corat home, were sadly disappointed, and the price of almost every commodity included in what is termed living declined rapidly in value, so that 1884 was entered upon with everything connected with trade affairs in a healthy, if not a prosperous, state, and as a natural consequence solid, if not rapid, progress was made during the year, as is shown by the following figures taken from a statistical report of the city's trade as presented to the Winnipog Board of Trade, at its annual meeting, held on February 3rd, 1885.

Trading institutions of Wholesale mercantile	every	ch	155	 ••	• • •	.912
Retail "						408
Manufactaring	44		٠.	 		.167
Miscellaneous						.262

BUSINESS DONE IN 1884.

Wholesale mercantile	14,220,098
Retail "	5,809,600
Manufacturing, contracting and building 'not included in mercan-	•
tile)	2,550,00 500,0

Total.....\$23,079,6' Value of imports......\$2,239.611.6 Customs duties collected 509,516.8

In 1885 business in Winnipeg made considerable progress, although the outbreak of rebellion away in the far Northwest made a bad interruption, and just as the spring was about to open up, and the prospect tooked brighter than it had done for four years, military preparations for crushing the rising occupied the attention more than business, and completely staggered many branches of trade. For weeks in March and April the sound of the bugle was more familiar than the clang of the hammer, and by the close of the latter months the city had sent to the front some two thousand men as soldiers, teamsters, transport men and other branches of the service. Such an exodus had a very bad effect upon the retail trade of the city, there being so many less to supply with the necessacies of life, not to mention the comforts and luxuries.

On industrial affairs the effect was also unfavorable, and so many artisans went to the front, that quite a few manufacturing conceras were practically at a standstill for three or four months.

Of the wholesale trade after the first shock was over, the effect was not so unfavorable, although the lines dependant upon building and contracting suffered very severely, as no building was undertaken until after midsummer, and heavy undertakings of every kind were postponed until after the return of the troops from the front.

The recovery in the city's trade since the close of the rebellion has been very marked and rapid, but it would be unwise to calculate all as an index to what we are to expect from this time forward. Into the last four or five months of the year were crowded quite a portion of the business, which should have been done in spring and summer, and the rush thus caused in many branches is too casily mistaken for signs of permanent activity. Still Winnipog's trude has recovered amazingly during 1885, and the recovery has been more in the direction of safety and confidence, than in magnitude of furn over. The statistical report of the city's trade for the year will be found elsewhere in our columns, and its figures corroborate what we now state.

BOARD OF TRADE.

ANNUAL MEETING.

REPORT OF A BUSY YEAR'S WORK.

The annual general meeting of the Board of Trade was held on Tuesday, the 26th January, in the board room, when there was probably the largest attendance ever seen at any of the board meetings.

President Kenneth MacKenzie occupied the chair, and opened the meeting by calling on the secretary to read minutes of last meeting, which were read and approved.

Some discussion took place on the exemption law, and very strong expressions of disapproval were made by several of the speakers. Messrs. Galt, Ashdowr, Luxton, Whitla, Jones and others took part in the disscussion, and a strong determination was manifested in favor of sweeping amendments to the same.

The question of discriminating rates on the C.P.R. was also brought up, and very decided expressions upon the subject made by Messrs. Whitla, Ashdown, Galt, Jones and others.

Mr. Ashdown elso introduced the question of settling with immigrants the vacant lands in the old part of the province, and especially around Winnipeg.

Eventually it was agreed that these matters be left for discussion at an adjourned meeting to be held next week.

The president called upon the secretary to read his annual report of the Board's work, which was read and, with one or two trifling changes in the wording, unanimously adopted. The report was as follows:

SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 1885.

To the President and members of the Winnipeg Board of Trade.

Your council beg to submit this the seventh annual report of the Winnipeg Board of Trade.

The duties and labors of your board commenced last year, when there were evident signs, that the cloud of depression, which had for two years hung over this city and Province, was likely soon to clear away, and a period of prosperity be entered upon, and although the work of commercial recovery has had its interruptions, it is pleasing to know it has made considerable progress.

About the first act of the past year was the publication of the board's report for the former year, together with a statistical report of the city's trade affairs for the same year, which was issued in pamphlet form, and distributed liberally and widely over this continent and Eur-

Your board deemed it advisable early in the year to co-operate with the boards of Montreal and Toronto, in pressing once more upon the Dominion Government the necessity of the passing of some act which world compel the equal distribution of involvent estates. With this aim a petition was circulated and signed by the leading business men of this city, and forwarded for presentation, along with similar documents from other boards in Eastern Canada.

Judging that there was little or no hope of securing the passing of such an act during the

past session of the Dominion Parliament, your board also petitioned the Manitoba Government in favor of the passing of an act similar to the "Creditors Relief Act" of Ontario, which would in a measure take the place of more comprehensive insolvency legislation, such as would be expected from Ottawa.

As you are all aware, no legislation on insolvency was undertaken last session, and your board's representations to the Local Government, while they elicited liberal promises from Attorney General Hamilton, brought ro legislative relief.

Another matter brought prominently before your board and which received attention, was the question of immigration for the province. Your board appointed a committee, who in company with another committee of the City Council pressed the matter upon the Local Government, showing how the immigration to this country from all parts has for years been carried westward into the Territories, to much less desirable homes than could be found within Manitoha. The organization of the Government immigration Bureau was undertaken, showing that the Government had at least some desire to accomplish what was pressed upon them by the committee of your board and others.

A piece of very unjust and mischievous legislation enacted during the last session of the Local Legislature, and known as the administration of Justice Act, met with the prompt and determined opposition of your board Said Act contained exemption provisions, which were of an unwarrants ble nature in themselves, and were so arranged as to apply to debts contracted before the passing of the measure, showing evidently that as a whole the Act was a matter carefully studied in the interests of the dishonest, and for the injury and loss of the industrious, and interfered seriously with the trade arrangements of the Province. Your board at considerable expense and much trouble opposed the measure, and forwarded to the Minister of Justice at Ottawa a petition calling for its disallowance, signed by three thousand three hundred and forty (3,340) citizens of the Province, which was presented by your president, accompanied by one of the most influential deputations that could wait upon the honorable gentleman. Your board regret to state however, that while the honorable minister and the right honorable the premier of the Dominion admitted the injustice of and condemned the act complained of, no disallowance of the measure could be secured at Ottawa.

Your board are pleased to state that the longdelayed appointment of Capt. Clark as grain inspecto- for this province was made in time for the opening of the present grain sesson, and that a system of grain inspection here has already done much to bring that trade into thorough organization.

In connection with this same matter your hoard of grain examiners, through your secretary, have been in frequent communication with the department of Iuland Revenue, regarding the amendments to the Inspection Act passed at the last session of the Dominion Parliament, and in no small measure are we indebted to their efforts for an amended inspection act.

which while it may have some defects, is framed so as to guard well the interests of both grain dealers end growers in the northwest.

At the request of the leading hide dealers and butchers of the city your board took steps for the appointment of a hide and leather inspector for this city. A board of examiners were appointed, and candidates for the position examined, resulting in the unanimous selection of Mr. W. J. Bird, a selection which your board ratified, and which your secretary has placed before the Department of Inland Revenue at Ottawa in regular form. As yet Mr. Bird's appointment has not taken place, but the delay has not yet been greater than is generally experienced in connection with such appointments.

During the past summer and fall several prominent individuals from Ottawa have visited this city, and your board have not been slow to impress metters in the interests of Manitoba trade upon such. A petition asking for the discontinuance of the railway disallowance policy of the Dominion Government, which has been such a burden on the trade of the Province, was presented with the signatures of the best men of this city attached, to the Honorable the Minister of the Interior during his late visit, and elicited from him an expression of the hope and belief that the policy of the Government would soon cease to call for the maintenance of this railway restriction.

A deputation from your hoard also waited upon the same gentleman and the honorable the Minister of Militia, to press upon both the necessity for early settlement of claims for losses sustained by men in trade during the late rebellion, and for goods supplied and services rendered by the same class during its suppression. Both gentlemen promised that no unnecessary delay in such settlements should occur.

Your board have heard from time to time the complaints of the business men of this city regarding unnecessarily, high rates of insurance, and have had a committee at work in conjunction with the city council to secure a reduction of those rates from the companies doing business here. Their efforts have in some measure been seconded by the local Board of Underwriters, and there is a probability that more or less of a reduction will soon be made. Your committee, however, deem it wise that this matter should be persistently pressed.

Complaints from the importers of this city against the uncivil and arbitrary conduct of the heads of the Customs Department here had become so numerous that a short time ago your board were compelled to memorialize the Hon. the Minister of Customs for the removal of the collector and surveyor at this port. A committee appointed to look into this matter reported most unfavorally with regard to both of these officers, and furnished voluminous correspondence of the most convincing character in support of their report. Your board, therefore, reluctantly forwarded the same, with a request for the removal of these officers, to the Minister of the Depa. nent.

By the terms of a recent order of the Governor-General-in-Council, the inspection and other arrangements connected with the grain handling of Manitoba are practically entrusted to the care of this board, and through the medium of your board of examiners these have been carefully looked after. Twoof their number were sent to Toronto, in October last, to look after Manitoba interests in the fixing of grain standards for the present season. They have also examined and recommended a candidate for deputy inspector at this city, the ratification of which will be asked from this board. Applications for similar officers at other points have been made, and the work of examining and recommending such will have to be attended to and the results brought before you for ratification.

Numerous other matters have received the attention of your board and council during the past year, among which may be mentioned the efforts put forth for securing reduced freights on grain on the Canadian Pacific Railway by all rail to the East; the efforts late in the season for the organization of an elevator company, and construction of a storage elevator, which, while unsuccessful for the time, had the effect of causing the work to be taken by another party, a member of your board, to whom is due the credit of supplying the first storage elevator for Winnipeg; also the efforts for the establishment of a system of daily trading meetings of the board, which, if not 'yet reached, promises to be in the very near fature.

These and other efforts have contributed to make a year of activity for your board, and a year in which the good work of organization has made great progress; so that in entering upon 1886 with the prospect of the commencement of construction of the Hudson's Boy Railway and other great public works, and the certainty of open railway communication to the Pacific as well as the Atlantic, the machinery of your board stands in order to enable you to grapple with questions affecting the city's trade interests in connection with these great undertakings.

In looking back over the events of the year, your board will find much cause for congratulation, but also some cause for regret, and among the latter the most powerful is the fact that 1885 supplies this board with a death roll.

Early in the year Mr. James Sutherland, of Sutherland & Campbell, wholesale grocers, passed from among us after a severe and lingering illness. Near the close Mr. William Higgins wholesale boot and shoe dealer, was numbered among the unfortunate victims in the wreck of the stermship "Algoma." Both were active members of this board and enterprising business men, who had made their way forward to a front place in Winnipegs mercantile ranks. Their loss is much felt in a growing city like our own, and all the more so when we consider that neither were taken from the number of our own aged veterans, but were both among our young, energetic and ambitious business men. Let us hope that at the close of 1886 we shall have no such record to look back over.

Your council and officers desire to express their gratitude for the implicit confidence reposed in them while acting for the board during the past year, and have pleasure in submitting this report for your approval.

'The treasurer's report for the past year was also read and unanimously approved and was as follows:—

Fees from 116 members at \$10	
To rent of board rooms	1,193.77 175.00
Printing and postal cards, including	
Advertising	254.00 40.25
Legal services employed Legal services	36.50 50.00
Postage and miscellaneous	30.25

Secretary's salary balance from 1884...

Balance on hand January 26th, 1886...

Secretary's salary in full, 1885.

\$1,183.77

30,00

500.00

67.77

The Treasurer's report being unanimously adopted, the Secretary read a statistical report of the the city for 1885 which will be found on another page.

Mr. Whitla moved and Mr. Matthewson seconded that a vote of thanks be given to the Secretary-Treasurer for his labors in compiling the reports just read. The motion was cordially responded to by the meeting, and Mr. Steen returned thanks for the encouraging expression.

On motion of Mr. A. Strang, seconded by Mr. Alex. Woods, it was decided to have 2,000 copies of all these reports printed, along with other facts and figures which the council of the board might approve.

The president then declared the election of officers for 1886 in order.

Mr. Whitla moved and Mr. J. B. Mather seconded that Mr. Kenneth Mackenzie be reelected president.

Mr. W. F. Henderson as chairman protem put the motion, which was unanimously carried.

Mr. J. Redmond proposed and Mr. P. Gal lagher seconded Mr. J. H. Ashdown for vicepresident, which was carried unanimously

Mr. Strang proposed and Mr. Bertrand seconded James E. Steen as secretary-treasurer, and the motion on being put was ananimously carried

The balloting for twelve members of council was next proceeded with, and resulted in the election of Messus R. J. Whitla, G. F. Galt, A. Mackeand, L. M. Jones, S. A. D. Bertrand, W. F. Luxton, Jas. Redmond, G. R. Crowe, G. J. Maulson, G. F. Stephens and W. A. Hastings.

The secretary brought forward a motion, of which notice had been given at the last quarterly neeting, to the effect that a treasurer be appointed who shall take charge of all monies, and ex-officio be a member of the council, adding that Mr. F. W. Stobart be the first treasurer. The motion was put to the meeting and unanimously carried.

The following gentlemen were put forward for membership of the Board, having been recommended for the same by the council: Messrs. W. B. MacArthur, Thos. Montgomery, Robert Maxwell, E. D. Moore, G. W. Girdlestone, J. F. Caldwell, D. Grant, — Hutcheson, Frank Anderson and Alex Taylor.

A ballot was taken and all the applicants were declared elected.

After some other informal conversation the meeting adjourned until Monday next at 3 o'clock p.m.

Building in Winnipeg in 1885.

The building business of Wiunipeg during the year now closed has received very little attention from the press either of this city or the east, a fact which is due to the record being the smallest since 1880. But we have learned to be content with small things during

the past year, and small though the building operations of Winnipeg were during 1885, they furnish strong proof of the progress of legitimate trade in the city during that year.

The bulk of the building done in this city during last year was for mercantile and manufacturing perposes, a. if we take out the new post office and a few modest residences, the balance was all for mercantile purposes. Among buildings of that class we have the fine new block of the Massey Manufacturing Co., at the corner of Princess and William Streets, a solid brick structure of three floors and basement with an area of 25x100 feet, which is now occupied by the company in their agricultural machine. y business. The block is ornamental as well as substantial, and is a proof that its constructors are determined not to lose, but to extend the business footing they have secured in this country.

The Maycock Block on Main Street, at the corner of Alexander, is another solid structure, and quite an addition to the long rarge of brick and stone blocks which are now to be seen on the principal street of the city. It will be occupied partly by its owner in his business of dealer in fancy goods, and is now about completed.

But last year the buildings constructed were not on Main Street as a rule, showing that on the less noisy thoroughfares wholesale business concerns are beginning to centre, and that business of that kind will gradually move away from Main Street, and leave it to staple and fancy retail concerns. On Princess Street, at the corner of Bannatyne, we have another of those wholesale blocks, built by the Confederation Ioan Association, which takes its place among the substantial and handsome business buildings of the city. It has three floors, and a frontage of some sixty feet on Princess and ninety on Bannatyne Street. It is occupied already by two of our leading wholesale concerns, Messrs. Hodgson, Sumner & Co., dry goods, small wares and fancy goods dealers, and Messrs. Sutherland & Campbell, wholesale grocers, and makes two spacious warehouses, well adapted in every way for wholesale mer cantile business.

The manufacturing interests have had their share of the small total of building in 1885, and the most prominent addition in that way is the arcated water factory of Messrs. Blackwood Bros. on Colony Street. This is another solid Bros. on Colony Street. brick structure with a stone foundation, furnishing spacious cool cellarage, commodious bottling and packing rooms and a welled in yard. The works altogether cover an area of about 150 feet square, and are being fitted up with the newest and most improved machinery used in the trade. Altogether these works will be, by the opening of the spring trade, the most complete and extensive in the Dominion. It has been decided that the water for manufacturing such goods of the best quality can be had here, and Messrs. Blackwood Bros. have shown that they can make fall use of this as well as other advantages. Even with the facilities they formerly had, they have succeeded in competing with and entirely driving out of this market the fine goods of Belfest, Ireland, a thing which has not been accomplished in any city as large or larger than Winnipeg in Canada, or, in fact, the United States cast of the Mississippi River.

We have no other important business buildings which were constructed during 1885, but quite a number of additions and improvements have been made upon several, so that of the \$190,000 spent in building last year \$125,000 were directed by the increasing demands of trade. Now that we have entered upon 1886, and that we have no prespect of trade interruptions by rebellion or other unpleasant causes, let us hope that the building record will show a heavy increase on 1885, and we have no doubt but the mercantile and manufacturing interests will contribute their share to architectural solidity and improvement.

TY. E. SANTORD & CO.

Manufacturers of Clothing

WHITLA BLOCK, ALBERT ST., WINNIPEG.

MANUFACTORY:

45 TO 49 KING STREET, HAMILTON.

JNO. E. WATSON. A. E. WATSON.

JNO. WATSON, President.

W. D. WATSON, W. W. WATSON,

Harvesting

Watson Manufacturing Co.

(LIMITED)

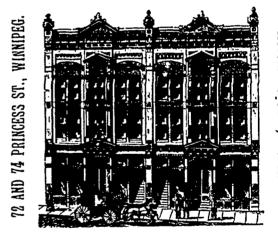
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

MAIN OFFICE: AYR, ONTARIO



OPPOSITE CITY HALL, WINNIPEG.

JAMES O'BRIEN & CO., Manufacturers of Clothing



AND IMPORTERS OF

GENTS' FURNISHINGS, HATS, CAPS FUR GOODS, CLOVES AND MITTENS.

JOHN TROTTER,

(SUCCESSOR TO TROTTER & CO.)

MANUFACTURING JEWELER,

Begs to inform the trade throughout the Northwest that he is prepared to give prompt attention to

Diamond Setting, Chasing, Engraving, Electroplating and Repairing,

And the Manufacture of all kinds of Fine Gold Jewelery. Prices will be found Right.

22 M DERMOT STREET,

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

JAMES ROBERTSON & CO., Importers of Tinsmiths Plumbers Supplies

ÑD.

GENERAL METAL MERCHANTS,

ALSO MANUFACTURERS OF

CIRCULAR, MILL, GANG.

SAWS.

CROSS CUT,

AND

BILLET WEE

- White Lead, * Putty, * Shot Oil, * Lead Pipe,

Canada Plates, Tin Plates, Sheet Iron, Tinned Iron, Galv. Iron, Bar Iron, Nails, Horse Shoes, Sheet Lead, Iron Tube, Gas and Steam Fittings, Bellows, Arvils, Vices, Carriage Goods, etc.

BRANCHES: Montreal, Toronto. St. John, N.B., Baltimore, M.D.

11 McWilliam Street East,

Winnipeg, Man.

W. D. PETTIGREW, MANAGER.

WINNIPEG WAREHOUSING COMPANY,

(LIMITED)

Having been established in the City of Winnipeg for the last four years, desire to call attention to the great facilities they have for

-: STORING AND HANDLING GOODS,: -

PREMISES LARGE AND WAREHOUSE ROOM FOR ALL KINDS OF MERCHANDISE.

BONDED OR FREE

>FROST PROOF STORAGE A SPECIALTY.

Negotiable Receipts issued and goods insured when required. Freight and Cash advanced on consignments. Prices Low. A call solicited. Orders by mail receive prompt attention.

WAREHOUSES & OFFICE: Point Douglas Avenue and Higgins St., WINNIPEG.

JNO. E. DINGMAN, Manager

WINNIPEG'S TRADE IN 1885.

A VERY SATISFACTORY STATEMENT.

PROGRESS DESPITE RECELLION.

STATISTICAL REPORT PRESENTED BY THE SECRE-TARY AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF TRADE.

In entering upon statistics of the trade of Winnipeg for 1885, the further enquiry is pros couted the more contradictory are the facts to those in former years. The year has been a peculiar one in many senses, and its effects upon trade have been in keeping with other srheres.

On the surface of affairs there seems but little change in trade mattery since the last report was presented to this board. The number of trading institutions in the city has changed very little, there being at the close of 1885 some 898, or fourteen less than at the close of 1884. One or two institutions of moderate im portance have disappeared, and others have taken their place, while the bulk of those which have fallen out have been very small concerns of no trado consequence.

Nor does the change in the figures of the aggregate business of the city give any cause for wonder, although there has been considerable changing of places as to the importance of several branches. This is clearly discernible in the figures of some of the leading branches of wholesale trade, where reliable statistics can be obtained, and is shadowed if not made plain in retail lines.

The past year closed with 87 houses in Winnipeg which do more or less of a wholesale or jobbing business, which shows an increase of twelve over the figures of 1884. There have been no new concerns started during the year, but fourteen have added jobbing to their retail trade, while two wholesale concerns have gone out of business.

The 87 are divided as follows: In grain, grain products and milling, nine; in groceries and provisions, sixteen; in dry goods and clothing, eight; in lumber and lumber manu factures, including furniture, twelve; in hardware, metals and stoves, ten; in farm machinery, seven; in boots and shoes, harness and leather goods, four; and miscellaneous, nine-

In 1884 the grocery and provision trade showed the largest aggregate of business, but this year it has to give place to grain, grain products and milling, whch comes to the front with an aggregate business of \$3,518,452, divided as follows: Wheat, 3,455,400 bushels, at a cost of \$2,033,600 . oats, 599,450 bushels at a cost of \$259,860; barley, flax and other grains and seeds to a value of \$141,100; flour, 474,160 bags at a value of \$923,892; catmeal, bran, shorts, chopped grain and other grain products of a alue of \$160,000.

Groceries and provisions although taking a second place during 1885, show on increase in aggregate over 1884, and figure up to \$3,397,. 846.

trade, but is 1885 that place is taken by dry goods and clothing, with an aggregate business of \$1.594,450.

Lumber and timber manufactures take the fourth place with en eg regate of \$1.257,000, and are very closely followed by hardware metals and stoves with a total of \$1,226,000.

Farm machinery takes the sixth place with a total of \$1,064,327, while there is quite a wide gap between that and the next on the list, namely, boots and shoes, harness and leather goods which foots up to \$517,000.

The remaining ninteen houses are spread over a number of branches, including paints and oils, stationery, crockery and glassware, wines and liquors, fruits, etc., and they show an aggregate business for the year of \$1,263,000.

Thus the aggregate wholesale trade of the past year foots up to \$13,848,075 or \$372,023, short of that of 1884, which reached \$14,220,-

This deficiency is made up as follows: Lumber shows a decrease of \$1,302,300; hardware of \$277,273; farm machinery of \$39,200, and boots and shoes, harness and leather goods of \$33,500; making a total of \$1,652,323 in these four branches.

On the other hand the grain and milling business shows an increase of \$562,932; grocer's and provisions of \$243,500; dry goods of \$5,450, and miscellaneous lines of \$458,400, giving a total increase of all lines of \$1,280,282.

A very slight study of the events of the past year will furnish somewhat of a key to the above figures. The outbreak of rebellion in March last had a staggering effect upon trade of every kind in this city, and although some of the branches quickly recovered, those connected with building operations suffered severely for a long time, and it was only with the return of our victorious volunteers, when midsummer had passed, that attempts were made to carry out a few of the building contracts, which, early in the year, it was the intention to have entered upon. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that there has been such a marked decrease in the lumber and hardware branches. The whole building operations carried on in the city during the past year had a value of not more than \$190,000, and if we add the full contract price of the new post office, somewhat about \$125,000, we have an aggregate of only \$215,000, the smallest for this city since 1880.

The decrease in farm machinery, and the improved state financially of our farmers, compared with a year ago, can only be reconciled by a reference to that legislative monstrosity. the new exemption law, which has curtailed the farmer's credit, and benefitted only the dishonest in the Province.

Before entering upon the retail or manufactuing interests, we shall refer to the export trade of the city, which has received special attention in the compiling of this report, and has been as closely sifted as the opportunity for securing facts and fireres would allow.

As a matter of course wheat is our leading article of export, and during the year houses in this city sent out 2,220,600 bushels at a value of \$1,422,690. The export of oats reached 110,-200 bushels at a value of \$42,330. The exports The third in the list in 1884 was the lumber of barley, flax and other grains and seeds reach

an aggregate value of \$49,200. The years exports of flour reached 210,765 bags at a value of \$416,600, while in oatmeal, bran, shorts, chopped feed and other grain products they reached \$85,000. The other exports from the city consist of linseed oil and oil cake, potatoes, butter, hides, furs, and fresh fish of which last named alone, nearly 1,500,000 pounds went out during the year. Exact figures as to those miscellane. ous exports cannot be reached, but a careful approximation places them in the neighborhood of \$165,000. Thus the aggregate value of exports in 1885, so far as could be discovered. reached \$2,180,820, and in saying exports, only what was forwarded to the Eastern Provinces. the United States, or the Old World is included. and the shipments to the territories to the west and northwest of Manitoba are not taken into account.

It must be acknowleded that the results of the whole year's retail trade are rather dissappointing, if we start with the impressions given by the general activity during the closing months of the year. It must be remembered that during the first half of 1385, when some 2,000 men from this city, as soldiers, teamsters and others were at the front, retail business generally was in a very depressed state, and although during fall and winter a very rapid recovery set in, the aggregate trade of the year furnishes no figures over which to be enthusi-

As was done a year ago, we received figures from a fair representation of the leading branches, and have made a careful approximation of the business done by the balance, the only course by which the aggregate of business done can be reached in retail lines. The number of institutions has decreased some 20, the figures of 1884 and 1885 being respectively 408 and 388 concerns. The results of figures secured and general inquiries made show that over thirty per cent. of these show an increase of sales, a little more than thirty per cent. have fully neld their own, while over thirty-five per cent. show a decrease, although in no instance have we found the latter very marked. Taking the last year's figures as a guide, namely \$5,-\$09,600, it would be about fair to place the aggregate for 1885 at \$5,500,000.

In entering upon the manufacturing interests of the city, the same course of approximating has to be followed, although in quite a few brarches reliable figures can be secured.

The lumber firms of the city employed during the year about 200 hands, or some 80 less than in 1884. The total cut is included in the wholesale figures of the trade,

In the milling business there has been an increase in the number of hands employed the number in 1885 being about 120, while improvements have been made on some mills, which have raised the gross capacity of flour production to nearly 1,250 barrole a day. The value of manufactures in this branch is also included in the wholesale review.

In iron and metalic manufactures generally, there has been a very pleasing change for the better since the beginning of 1885. The value of manufactures has increased at least 35 per cent., and the number of hauds employed have increased in proportion, and now number about 500, while the value of output is in the neighborhood of \$675,000.

Among other branches we have the printing press and its associates, which employ over 160 hands, and enemed very close upon \$250,000.

Brewing and the manufacture of aerated waters, cordials and so forth, employed nearly 109 hands, and shows an aggregate business of about \$194,000.

The other branches go to make up a total of manufactures outside of what is included in the mercantile figures of about \$2,200,000.

The value of city trade for 1885 may be summed up in the following concise table:

Wholesale mercantile\$	13,848,075
Retail mercantile	5,500,600
Mixed mercantile	850,000
Manufactures	2,200,000
Building, contracting, etc	335,000
Miscellaneous institutions difficult	
to classify	600,000

\$23,333,075

From the facts and figures placed before you now there are points to be drawn which it would be well to study. The most prominent one is, that the work of exporting our products has progressed fairly well, and that of paying off the balance against the country has fairly commenced. Another pleasing feature is, that while in other affairs the city's trade shows a falling off from the previous year, in manufactures there has been an increase in value of the aggregate in most branches. We are more in want of manufacturing institutions than any other class, and while we may feel satisfied with what has been done by those in existence during the past year, we must bear in mind that outside of a second pork packing house and a small factory for making stovepipe elbows no manufacturing institution worthy of notice were added during 1885.

Another point is strongly defined in the fact, that our grain business has already shot ahead of all other branches in importance, and which is, that our greatest hope for future prosperity depends upon our making the city a grain centre.

But there facts and figures also sound their note of warning. They show that we have reached safety, but by no means the rushing state of business some sauguine people among us are ready to believe, and reports of which are by far too freely circulated at present.

Our efforts ought to be made for the securing of industrial institutions in our midst, and extending our grain handling facilities, for there we have a field open for both enterprise and capital. But it is only just to ourcelves as well as others to state, as the for-going facts clearly prove, that in mercantile life the field here is filled at present.

We have reached trade safety, but we must now beware and not open the gate to trade recklessness. All trade openings in this city are by no means closed, but the selection still open is undoubtedly outside of the purely mercantile field.

Travel and Transport in Bygone Days.

Now that we have some sixteen hundred miles of railway in operation between Winnipeg and the Rocky Mountains, the husiness of getting supplies of every kind to points in the far Northwest is a matter comparatively easy Even when shipping to points away from where there is railway communication the difficulties are not so great, for with the C.P.R. extending clear to the mountains' points to start from can be easily selected by which the furthest outlying parts of seitlement can be reached by an overland journey of less than two hundred

'es. Besides the milway has not done away with travel on wheels and runners through the Northwest, but has greatly increased the routes, and materially improved the class of vehicles used, and what has taken place in overland travel has also taken place, though in a less degree in overland transport. Thus the buckboard of a few years ago is fast being superceded by the buggy and spring wagon, while the old Red River cart has been fast disappearing before the invasion of the lumber waggon and the box sleigh.

With our present travel and transportation facilities we cannot realize the difficulties and delays connected with the Northwest ten, seven or only four years ago. We know that in 1877 Lord Dufferin, then Governor General. made some of his journeys through Manitoba in a Red River cart, but most of the modern importations among us have a kind of belief, that His Excellency chose that means of locomotion in preference to a better, and thus displayed that adaptability to circumstances for which he is so justly famous. But some people would stare with incredulity if told, and told truthfully, that less than seven years ago men on business have made journeys of a thousand miles with the conventional cart and oxen, and night after night slept on the ground where they halted after sundown. Such was the regular method of travel up to near the close of the last decade, and the man with a horse and buckboard up to then was indulging in a luxurious locomotion, which might be considered extravagauce by the simple natives among whom he travelled.

But the ox cart was often the only means of transporting goods up to a very recent date, and in the first of the present decade many a train of them started from Portage la Prairie, the end of railway construction and even term Winnipeg for Prince Albert, Battleford, Fort MacLeod, Edmonton and other points. While the transport of goods was thus carried on in trains it was naturally slow, but it went through all right, as the old freighters were always an agreeable and companionly lot among themselves, and ready to help each other when accidents happened. But when freighters started alone on any special trip, the certainty of goods going through to their destination was doubtful. Not that there was any danger or being plundered by the Indians, for they were harmless until a few years ago; nor was their any danger of theft, for the freighters were an nonest class, with rere exceptions. But break downs and delays often took place which were bad drawbacks, and more than one instance could be given. when early and seveer winter compelled freighters to make rapidly and lightly laden for some settlement for shelter, and leave their freight to be destroyed or sectously damaged by exposure to the storms of a whole winter on the prairie.

One case of this kind occured some six years ago to a freignfer who had started from Portage la Prairie for Prince Albert. Mud and wet at first made his journey a tedious one, and in the Touchwood Hills country he had to change wheels for runners, snow he ving faller. Eventually he was compelled to abandon his freight and make for some settlement, although he had shown determined pertinency. But he did not leave it until it was safely reached, and the following season, he returned and took it on delivering to the consignee in June, what he should have received in the previous November at the 'atest.

Still this man's difficulties were only ordinary ones, and not to be compared with those experienced in crossing swollen rivers taking light freight in improvised skin boats, towed at the tails of oxen or ponies, and other extraordinary circumstances in which the freighter underwent sore trials and often braved great dangers, some of which if related would be booked as "stuffed anecdotes," by many in this province as well as the east.

Even in later years when we had steam boats on the Saskatchewan River, the transportation of merchandise was a troublesome matter at times, especially in years when the water in that river was low. It is less than four years since the attempt to establish a journal in Prince Albert, and the plant for the same, which was shipped by steamboat the greater portion of the way was several months in geting there, and had to be taken a portion of the end of the journey by York boat and freighter's 8 waggon. But it reached there eventually, and since then the Prince Albert Times has been regularly published except during the rebellion troubles of last spring and summer.

When we consider how easy it now is to forard goods even to outlying parts of the Northwest, and that we have railway communication tolso many points throughout the country, we should certainly feel satisfied with the great progress we have made, and be hopeful if not sanguine about what will be accomplished during the next few years.

A Starch Factory Wanted.

If there is any new manufacturing institution that would prove a great success in Winnipeg it is a factory for the manufacture of starch from potatoes. Already the production of thees in Manitoba is much beyond the local demand, and the severe winters we bave precludes the idea of shipping to eastern markets as damage by frost would surely ensue. The storing here through winter is a matter of too much care and trouble for the majority of farmers, so that a factory supplied with ample storage could lay in an unlimited stock in the fall at low figures. The raw material can be had cheaper here than anywhere else in the Dominion, and capital and mechanical skill should supply the remaining elements of success.

Jenx's Blunder.

Mr. Jenx was a bagman some fifty years old, Who possessed fullest faith in the goods that he sold; He was not a bore as some bagmen be, But the jolliest fellow you ever did see.

He knew how to sell and a customer cox, And then he was brim full of good natured jokes; He was corpulent, burly but selle withal, With a broad chest, a sl.ore neck and not very tall.

His appearance was happy, his manner the same, And among his companions he bore a good name; For none of them thought he was stingy or greedy, Or would stoop to a trick that could be called seedy.

He could swig at his punch or smoke at his pipe, Or digest a cream Stilton b herumbly and ripe; He could sip at his sherry, or quaff at his fiz, But still Mr. Jenx kept a sharp eye to biz.

As a bagman Mr. Jenx laid claim to some station, But never went much on his high education; He always did bushuss clean "up to the hammer," But possessed a contemptfor both spelling and grammar

His training in boshood was simple and rural, He knew naught of the singular number or plural; And cases and genders he'd laugh at and scout, While tenses and moods he knew nothing about.

But he knew how to sell and that was his work, And he'd ring to it w'th all the pluck of a Tork; He hall'd from Manchester and called it his home, Through the county for thirty long years he did roam.

His house handled piece goods and handled them well, And kept Mr. Jenx always able to sell; He carried full samples of regular lines, But liked to have job stuff to handle at times.

One trip he set out with job samples well stocked, And he laughed as his bags and his boxes he locked; His house had got six hundred places or more Of black wigans, brown wigans, wigans galore.

The lot 't had been a whole factory's stock, And they bought them quite cheap, cash down and en Mr. Jenx was delighted to have such a "job," And with true bagman's pride his big heart did throb

So he thought he would write a few letters ahead, That morning before he was long out of bed; To Shellham, a town he would reach in five days, When he aiways had one of his pleasantest stays.

He had five patrons there all solid and sound, From whom he booked orders each time he went round, He knew that each one would surely be glad To hear of the wonderful bargain he had.

He took up his pen and each letter was short, For writing he knew well it was not his forte; On each missive he simply wrote plainly down, I'll see you all Friday next. Wiggings is down."

He did not do this without consideration For the spelling of Wigans was some botheration; He tried it with 'en' and 'on' as w_ll, But which was the right way poor Jenx couldn't tell.

At length he decided and felt he was right, Twas a matter he could have decided at sight The spelling above he though it just the thing For a word sounds polite when it ends with an 'ing.'

Now there happened in Shellham a draper to be, Named Jonathan Wiggins; A sound man was he! Financially solid and wealthy twas said, And who carried in Shellhama very high head.

But he was not too high for rumor's long tongue, No more than a man on a high gellows hung; The letters of Jenx were read and retailed. Till the whole town believed Mr. Wiggins had failed.

"Poor Wiggins," said one man, "if that letter's true I can't tell what his poor wife and family will do; They never can work, for they're proud people all, But pride you see still comes before a big fall."

'Ah! me," said another, "a church warden too,
And in church had a fine crimson plush cushioned pew;
It will crush his proud spirit, his haughty heart rend,
For he never can stoop to be poverty's friend."

Some wept o'er his trouble with a coodile tears Till the rumor at length came to Wiggins' own ears; Such rumors we know can travel so quick And it struck Mr. Wiggins like a thousand of brick.

It stunned him; He stood and he stared in confusion, Then gasped out there must be some fixedish collusion Then he called for the villian that said he was down, And his oak stick to crack his base rascally crown.

"See my bank book" he yested, "there is five thousand

there,
That will pay all my debts with two thousand to spare;
Then he pulled at his hair and tugged at his beard
And said t'was the cursedest lie ever heard."

But rage it serves no useful purpose at all.
And these no use for Wiggins to bell and to squall;
Bo he calmed down and traced out the rumor's strange links,
Then sullenly vowed to have vengance on Jenx.

So a few days thereafter when Jeny came to town. And in front of the mn from his dog cart stepped down, He scarcely had entered the "Unicorn" door When a crowd gathered round him to bellow and roar.

There stood Wigglas in silence his lips stern and fixed, Looking pistols and daggers and gnn-powder mixed; Behind him stood Take toll the miller who said, "Now Wigglas I'll back you, Just punch his old head."

Old Pounder the blackwhith he also stood there And on! What a heather that man was to swear. He said if such rumors of him had gone round He'd kick that d—ad bagman clean out of the town.

but Jeny was as brave as the heros of song With the plack of a man who had done nothing wrong There was some mistake here he clearly foresaw, And his calm may ner soon did the crowd overawe.

So be shouted "What is all this bluster about, My friends is that me you all bellow and shout; Then your all out of \vec{p}_i we in a tayern hall, For jackasses ought to be tied in a stall."

Mr. Wiggins sprang forward, "You insolent hound, you have started the rumor that Wiggins was down, Now Wiggins is here standing right by your side," To tell you that Jenx when you said so, you fied."

You can't scare me with bluster in any such way, Your letter are here, and they prove what I say; There are five of them here that you sent to this town, And each one states plannly that Wiggins is down.

Jeny looked at the letters which Waggins threw down, And his face quickly changed to a leer from a frown. He started and said "the mistake I see through And Wiggins I blame the whole matter on you"

You can see it yourself if you'll only take time And look at the matter in reason or rhyme; You'll perceive the mistake with the greatest of ease, Why blazes man! Your name's not spelt with three 'g's.

Mr. Jeny he felt proud as he laid down the letters, in business he I new that few men were his betters; but his own ligh esteem he felt now he was earning, For here he had scored quite a triumph in learning.

He continued his speech, "Yes Wiggings is down, As I II show you all clearly before I leave town: I'll show them at figures will make you all laugh, Down from eight and three farthings to six and a half."

In my samples I have them in black, brown and grey, A job of some six hundred pieces I say; And when you have seen them in colors all round I am sare you'll agree with me Wiggings is down."

Mr. Wiggins had listened to Jenx all this while, And his face stowly changed from a frown to 2 smile; He said "my friend Jenx your argument's strong, Still the way that you spell that word Aigans is wrong."

Mr. Jens with his friend could not coincide, But asked for some scholarly man to decide; Their quarrel was pat, but by scholarly telling [spelling. They at least could find out who was wrong in their

They brought the schoolmaster an oily old cove, Who scratched his bald pate and said. "Now by Jove Mr. Jens in one sense you are perfectly right, And yet in the other your blunder is slight."

Mr. Wiggins in one sense you spell the right way, And vet in another you're slightly astray; Orthography gentlemen has many sides, And never in erro inscribed channels abides."

This question seems plain as the spout on a kettle, And yet it is one that I find hard to settle; You're both right and now your quarrel it cods, Just shake hands at once and in future be friends."

The shake it was hearty; The company sat down, Jenx ordered a full howr of punch at a crown. And Wiggurs he ordered another as well, But what more was ordered we're not going to tell.

The school it was closed for a week rumor says, And the mill wheel was idle for several days; Mr. Wiggins was taken home sick we are told And Jenx was three days in his room with a cold.

For many years after he stuck to the road And no falling off in his energy showed; He never lost faith in his powers of selling, But sometimes he doubted his grammar and spelling.

The Bagman's Christmas Out.

A COMMERCIAL ROOM STORY.

It was a chill October night, with a moist atmosphere which made outside exercise a torture to asthmatic persons, and walking anything but a pleasant undertaking even to the sure-footed pedestrian, who was forced to plod along amid a half soapy, half waxy kind of mi, which seemed to have a strong affection for lower skirts and trouser bottoms, and which in a large city is the glory and delight of the professional boot black.

Such was the weather in the thriving Mid-land county town of Humberwell on the particular night in question, but inside of the com-

mercial room of the "Star and Garter," the principal inn of the town, there was no sign of the unpleasantness to be experienced outside. It was a genuine old-fashioued commercial room, large and spacious, with curious oak panrelled walle, and a ponderous carved side-board at one end, and its long dining table in the centre. It was a commercial room and nothing else, and had the usual side writing tables capable of accommodating quite a number of scribes, with two of the indispensable high backed, straight armed, hair cloth covered sofas and a few easy chairs of a similar type, whose occupants sat in a semi-circular fushion around the blazing fire in a huge register grate. Then it was a commercial room in the manner in which it was conducted, for the host of the "Star and Gaster" was scrupulous about the observance of every little indit-honored privilege of his bagmen patrons, and every little detail of their professional exclusiveness. With him no one outside of the cloth, not even the Lord of the Manor, could be permitted to include upon the gentlemen of the road. In short, the "Star and Garter" was a first-class commercial ina for a provincial town, and the heraids of commerce showed their appreciation of the fact by the liberal manner in which they patronized it and its considerate landlord.

As we enter this conmercial room on the October night in question, if we possess any knowledge of the olden time rules of such apartments, one can see at a glance that it is after nine o'cloc!.. The "shut shop" has been sounded; the tables have been cleared of their evidences of stomach comforts; the "Boots" has been around with his boot jack, and exchanged slippers for boots and shoes, on the soles of which his chalk marks but feebly recorded the number of each owner's bedroom; and last of all the ponderous brass kettle is on the table, and the steam from its spout indicates that one element for punch making is at hand, while the odor of tobacco can also be felt. a thing which is unpardonable before the conventional hour of nine.

A dozen or so of comforted weary men were congregated in their chairs around the end of the table next the fire, and the conversation among them had a lazy, irresolute tone about it. Sudderly the voice of one of the younger members rose in sharp tones; hove the others as he exclaimed, "Why you astonish me, Mr. Budger, to think that you believe in supernatural appearances."

The words were addressed to a rotund gentleman verging on to the three score years, with a grizzly grey head of hair and stumped whiskers of the same color, a fat jolly face supported by a double chin, and a nose in the centre of it which, under the influence of a third

tumbler, was ripening into rosy hues.
"Don't you?" replied Mr. Budger. "Then
I must tell you, that I was convinced by what we call ocular demonstration, and only it's too long a story I would tell you how it hap pened."

"Let us have it!" was heard from at least

one-half of the company, and Mr. Budger, after taking a pull out of his smoking punch goblet, and making a few apologies about his not being the best at telling a story, commenced his narrative about as follows:-

"This happened, you see, over twenty years ago, and I had then considerably more conceit in myself than I have now, being just that

number of years a younger man.
"Well, it was the only time I ever was a
Christmas out on the road, and ao money would
coax me to be out another. I was in the tobacco trade then as now, and although only the junior traveller of the house, with my journeys confined principally to the smaller towns, I drove as fine a mag as you would wish to sit behind, and a gig with black and yellow striped wheels, which was the envy of many of the younger men on the road.

"But to stick to my story. It was Christ-mas time, and instead of making my way home

to Liverpool, I had been heading for several days across country for one little town of Middleham, where I had heard that a customer was in deep water and likely to go under. I arrived at a village some twelve miles from there late on Christmas eve, and out of pure mercy for my nag, which was sorely played out with the tough roads, I bunked for a night at an apology for a tavern, and next morning, Christmas and all as it was, I startee on the remaining drive to Middleham. It was a miserable sleety morning, and I was about as used up as my nag. I felt all foozled too, and found no shade of comfort in anything except a quart of good cld Irish malt, but for which I should scarcely have reached the town, so searching was the damp cold sleet all the way. When I arrived my quart was about finished, and once I entered the 'Cross Keys,' and had passed the compliments of the season with the Widow Coleby, the hostess, I was glad to swallow a punch.

"Once I had seen my beast attended to, I started cut for my dangerous customer, but was astonished as well as disappointed to find him off on a visit to his father-in-law, some forty miles distant. But I learned through his book-keepe that his difficulties were only of a temporary character, and his visit was to secure some temporary aid from his father-in-law, who was wealthy. The book keeper rided me every way in looking into his employer's affairs, and I soon saw that there was no cause for alarm, and no embarrassment, but could be relieved by two or three hundred pounds for a few mouths. My mind was much easier after this investigation, but the thought of speuding Christmas in Middleham was far from cheer-

ing."

Here the punch goblet wandered involuntarily to Mr. Budger's lips, but its contents wer evidently too limited to slake the thirst cau al by so much talking, and withdrawing it he called to the waiter lad, "Here, Tom, supply me with the elements of another punch."

The elements were quickly supplied, the steaming refreshment brewed, and after a long drawn swig Mr. Budger recommenced.

"Well, stay over in Middleham I had to, for my nag was used up and much in want of a day or two's rest, and I was not out of need of the same myself. I wandered back to the "Cross Keys," for the only customer I had in the town was the one I had been looking after, and I had not a solitary friend with whom to enjoy a Christmas dinner. Outside was only sleet, drizzle and mud, and inside there was not a guest to associate with. So I smoked at times, at others paced the dining room of the tavern, and when the feeling of loneliness became too great I cheered up with another tum-bler of punch. How many pipes I smoked, or how many punches I swallowed, I do not know, for these are things I never keep count of. Five o'clock came, and the short winter day had merged into dusk. The wind had gone down, and the sleet stopped falling, so I made up my mind to try a short stroll through the village. I had donned my top coat, and was going out of the tarern door, when my hostess called me back and informed me that direct would be ready in half an hour, and she had reasted a nice young turkey specially for me. This little act of kindness had also a cheering effect upon me, and I looked to my aged hostess

and from my heart said, 'Bless you, mother.'

""Well, I thought I would have my little
stroll until dinner was ready, and out I went.
The narrow unpaved streets were dark and
sloppy, and I had only gone a short distance
when I determined to return, so dismal was the
appearance of things outside. So I wheeled
round a corner into the main street of the
town, and in the darkness smash I went against
a stranger. We met with a good solid bump,
and as I am not the build of a man easily
thrown from his page, I was soon righted on my
porps, but the stranger, a slim cadaverous looking being, went spinning around and had some

kicking and sparring to avoid a fall. A man who has the best of a collision can afford to be sympathetic, so I expressed sympathy with my new friend, shook hands with hir. warmly, and after a very short conversation insisted on his accompanying me to dine at the "Cross Keys." Rather reductantly he consented, and in less than twenty minutes we were sitting comfortably by the side of a blazing fire over our second tumbler of puach when dinner was brought in, and with it two extra candles, which added greatly to the cheeriness of our room.

"We sat down to our meal, and by the extra

"We sat down to our meal, and by the extra light I could discern more closely the appearance of my guest. He was tall, spare and angular, with high cheek bones, a sallow complexion, deep sunken eyes, and when he laughed, which he did with a deep hollow kind of a gargle, he showed two rows of white wolf-like teeth. His clothes were seedy, rusty black, and impressed me with the idea that he was the village schoolmaster, wearing out the parson's old clothes. Then there was about his mouth and sunken eye sockets a hazy, bluish hue different from anything I had ever seen before, but I explained that phenomenon to my own mind by suggesting that his wife probably did the washing for the parsonage, and before coming out he had inadvertently washed his face in her bluing water."

Mr. Budger again cast his eye at his tumbler, then called loudly for the waiter to supply more elements and to fill the kettle with fresh hot water. When to made his former interval for refreshment there was an evident feeling of being bored on the part of his hearers, but now there was eager attention from them, and appearances of a desire to hear the balance of his story. The kettle was replensished, and a tumbler all round brewed, and Mr. Budger resumed.

"Well, we commenced the dinner, but I had no appetite for turkey, but I pitched into the sherry, and was ably seconded by my friend. As each glass went down his throat his gargling Laugh grew more hollow, the blue haze around his mouth and eyes brightened into a more sulphurous hue, and I must say I at times felt inclined to punch his wolf-like teeth down his throat, for there was something about his manner I did not like. But then he was my guest, and while he did nothing of a really insulting nature I was bound to bear with what might after all be only his peculiarities.

"How many giasses of sherry we drank I cannot say, for these are things I never do keep count of. But when he commenced to break up the plum pudding, I noticed he was careful not to touch the white sugar frosted cross on top of it, and although I pressed him he would not taste the pudding itself. This fairly aroused my suspicions about him, and as I watched him keenly, I noticed strange gleams from his dar's eye glaucing out through its sulphurous surroundings. I must say I felt a little relieved when the girl came to remove the food and dishes from the table, and as she went out and closed the room door behind her I wished sie had staid longer.

wished sive had staid longer.
"But I soon made up my min' not to be annoyed at my companion, even if there were

annoyed at my companion, even if there were some very suspicious circumstances about him. I ordered fresh punch for us both, and charged my pipe with fresh Bristol cut, and was soon whiffing away like a steam engine. I had closed my eyes a little, to enjoy the weed in oblivious silence, and on opening them saw my companion's face through the cloud of smoke looking like one mass of sulphurous haze, with only two fiendish dark eyes and two rows of wolf-like teeth peering through the illuminated mist. The sight startled me a little, and my meerschaum fell from my mouth to the floor. He laughed at its fall, and, oh! what a deep and sepulchural gurgle that laugh was. I was getting angry, and looking down at my pipe I determined to stoop down and pick it up at once, even at the risk of a rush of blood to the head. I bent down to do so, swir zing my chair

forward with me, but the perverse hearth rug caught my toe, and away I went sprawling on the floor. The fall made me laugh, although I was angry a few minutes before, and my companion joined in the laugh in tones which quickly changed my temper. A moment after I felt his tight grip on the guard of my right arm, and I seemed to rise to my feet with a magic case under his power. As my eyes wethis I could see him leering at me with his sulphur cionded eyes, while his laugh was a constant, hellow-gurgling chuckle.

"Mer often lose their best opportunities for want of decision at some moment of trial. This was the most trying moment of my life, for had he held me ten minutes longer grinning and chuckling at me, I believe I should have been a raving madman all the rest of my life. But I am a man of decision whea it is necessary, so I says to myself: "Now, William Budger, you know quite a something about boxing, and this is the time to display your science." So I swung round quickly and dished him a lefter under cut right in the pit of the stomach, and the effect was magical. He let go his grip of me at once, and I followed him up with some smart right and left fibbing about his sulphurous cychalls, finishing up with a flying right shoulder argument, which stretched him on the

"I have often felt relieved when a seeming difficulty disappeared, but the feeling of exuberant joy which overcame me after I flattened out that fellow, I never can describe. I haped in the air some three feet and shouted: "Hurrah! Hurrah!! Hurrah!!! But horror, Hurrah! Hurrah!! Hurrah!!! was echoed all over the room, and along the mantle piece, around the edges of the table, along the cornice of the ceiling, and over the backs of the chairs rows of black cleaming eyes, sulphurous faces and white snapping wolf-like teeth leered, fumed and grinned at me It was intolerable. I seized the poker and thrashed among them with a right good will, but seemingly without effect. A haze seemed to come before my eyes, my head swam with dizziness, and I can remember no more.

"Two days after Christmas I found myself strapped down on a bed, and a doctor beside it. I was sore and bruised all over. I had for days afterwards the worst billious attack I ever had, so that nothing would lie on my stomach. In fact I had a complication of ailments which the doctor diagnosed and gave a Latin name as long as a broomstick. I tell you, gentlemen, I suffered, and it was nearly two weeks before I was able to leave Middleham. The Widow Coleby, too, to leave Middleham. The Widow Coleby, too, abused me like a pickpocket for the inhuman way in which I had beat and abused the poor stranger I had brought to dinver on Christmas day. But when I asked who and what he was, she acknowledged she had never seen him be-fore or since. I knew it was no use to argue with a woman, and I made up my mind not to distuib the dector in his opinions about my discase. I paid him his three guineas for attendance, and my hostess my bill and two pounds fourteen and fourpence for what furniture I had smashed on Christmas. But, gentlemen, no one could or can yet persuado me, but there was something supernatural about that cadaverous, sulphur-faced fellow, who dined with ne at the Middleham Cross Keys on my only Chris'mas out."

As Mr. Badger drained his tumbler after concluding his narrative, it was evident from the faces of his hearers that he had made no converts to his belief in supernatural appearances. Some were mute, some winked at a friend, one middle-aged bagman blew his nose fiercely, and one precedious young man whispered to a friend the ominous initials "D.T." But Mr. Badger was a man of fized opinions, and he quietly smoked out his pipe and an hour afterwards slept the sleep of the weary, while on the little table at his bedside the indispentable brandy and sods for the morning draught tood as sentincle over his slumbers

The Commercial

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

ISSUED EVERY TUESDAY.

THE COMMERCIAL will be mailed to any address in Canada, United States or Great Britain at \$2.00 a year in

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THE COMME. CLAUWILL be circulated extensively amongst wholesale and retal Morchants, Jobbers, Bankers, Brokers, Manufac urers, Hotel Keepers, Insurrance and Loan Agencies throughout the entire Canadian Northwest.

Book, Newspaper, Railroad, Commercial and Job Printing specialties.

AT Office, 4 and 6 James St. Eas

JAS. R. STEEN.

Publisher.

WINNIPEG, FEBRUARY 2, 1886.

STONEWALL is agitating for a roller process flour mill.

CHAS. GOODEN, blacksmith, Winnipeg, is reported away.

D. Beggs will start a livery business at Cherry Creek.

CHAS. A SHEPPARD, harnessmaker, Regina, is reported away.

CARNEY & Co., dealers in lumber, etc., Mantou, are selling out.

Jas. T. Gordon, of Manitou, will open a lumber yard at Pilot Mound.

C. FLEXON, of Emerson, proposes starting a drug store at Killerney.

R. J. Bird, of Emerson, will open a hardware store at Killarney.

A. KMGHT, general storekceper, Rowland, Man., will move to Cherry Creek

S. L. HEAD, Rapid City, offers his flouring mill at that place for sale or to lease.

THOMSON & DOUGLASS, hotelkeepers, Minnedosa, contemplate giving up business.

R. Mills, dealer in boots and shoes, Manitou, will open a branch at Cherry Creek.

W. J. Pirth, of Winnipeg, has been appointed inspector of hides and leather for this city.

G. D. McVicar has opened out in Clement's Block, Winnipeg, with a stock of dry goods.

R. H. LITTLE will erect an elevator at Littleton as soon as the station is definitely located.

M. SMITH, groceries and liquors, Winnipeg, has sold out his stock of liquors to Thos. Hurtley.

E. M. ARMITT, contractor, Winnipeg, is reported to have crossed to the United States' side of the boundary. C. E. Gill, of the Royal Roller Rink, is said to have gone in the same direction.

THE estate of Davidson & Hamilton, general storekeepers, Neepawa, was sold by auction on Monday.

W. Uclow, dealer in books and stationery, Winnipeg, lately barned out, has re-opened at 366 Main St.

TODDBURN farmers, near Birtle, are arranging for the establishment of a cheese factory in their district.

HURTLEY & SEACH, grocers, Winnipeg, have dissolved partnership. Thos. Hurtley continues the business.

THE Algoma Mining Co. has been formed, for the purpose of operating on the north shore of Lake Superior.

Thomas, Bell & Shaw, machinists, Brandon, have dissolved partnership. Wm. Shaw retires from the business.

Thos O. Davis has purchased the general store stock and estate of the late firm of J. O. Davis & Co. of Prince Albert, Sask.

THE \$70,000 suit of Pew vs. Schultz, in connection with Manitoba Southwestern Railway has been decided in favor of Senator Schultz.

ROBSON & ARNOLD, hotelkeepers, Regina have dissolved pactnership. The business will be continued under the style of Arnold & Wade.

D. V. Morrison has retired from the management of the Queen's Hotel, Rat Portage, and the house has been re-opened by Tnompson & Palmer.

BRADBURY & McDonald, saloon and lodging house keepers, Lethbridge, have dissolved partnership. Bradbury will continue the business.

HALL, GEORGE & Co., general storekeepers, Souris, Man., have dissolved partnership-J.K. George retires. The business will be continued under the same style.

THE deposits in the Government Savings Bank for the month of January were \$48,549; withdrawals, \$26,386.62; excess of deposits over withdrawals, \$22,162.38.

A JOINT stock company has been formed at Pilot Mound for the purpose of building a grain storage warehouse. It is proposed to build an elevator luring the coming summer.

THE regulations admitting American cattle for Northwest ranches free of duty, which expired on the 1st instant, have been extended until September first, by au Order in Council.

THE Winnipeg city butchers have petitioned the city council for a refund of the monies paid by them for licences, the by-law under which they were assessed having been declared ultra vires.

CAPT, MOSHER is building a steamer at Fort Francis to ply on the Lake of the Woods and Rainy River. The boat will have forty feet keel, and, it is said, will be one of the best on those waters.

STEPHEN NAIRN, of the Winnipeg oatmcal mills, is building a storchouse alongside of his mill, to hold about 10,000 bushels of grain, rendered necessary on account of the increase of the shipping and local trade,

S. A. GAIVSHA has opened a grocery store at 90 Princess St., Winnipeg.

THE retail price of hard coal at Winnipeg has been advanced to \$11.00 per tou.

S. H. McMichael, Inspector of Finance of the Customs Department, has arrived in the city from Ottawa. His mission here is to investigate the charges made against Collector Mingaye and Sarveyor Bowell by the Winnipeg Board of Trade.

THE Department of the Interior has under consideration a scheme for laying out and maintaining a park at the hot springs at Banff, on the Canadian Pacific Railway, west of Calgary. Mr. Hall, secretary of the department, has been sent to the Arkansas sulphur springs to investigate and report upon the system in force there.

An order issued by the Canadisn Pacific Railway Co. during the early part of last week, to the effect that no grain would be received by the Company for shipment to points cast of Port Arthur, caused great dissatisfaction among grain men here. On application to Mr. Robt. Kerr, assistant traffic manager, it was learned that the order was rendered necessary through a scarcity of cars. It is hoped that the difficulty will be removed during the present week.

An item of interest, which was omited from the statistical report of the trade of Winnipeg, in another colum, is the record of insolvency. The total number of failures in the city during the year 1885 were 34, and their aggregate liabilities were \$371,734. In 1884 they numbered 42, and the gross liabilities were \$504,758. In 1883, the year of general crash, they reached the extraordinary number of 10!, with aggregate liabilities of about \$1,750,000. Even the record of commercial disaster shows that progress is being made in the right direction, if indeed it is not the strongest proof of that nature that we can find. Let us hope that 1886 will show further improvement, a hope which at the outset of the year promises to be realized.

THE following is a statement of the inland revenue receipts in this city, for the past month:-

Spirits\$	10,054	05
Tobacco	3,512	20
Malt	987	46
Licences.	71 9	90

Total . \$ 14,625 61

Following is given a comparative statement of the value of goods imported and entered for consumption and exported, and also of duty collected, during the month of January, 1885 and 1886:-

1886. Goods imported, duti-

able.....\$ 94,908 00 \$ 36,706 00 Goods imported, free. 15,033 09 6,590 00

Total imported \$109,967 00 \$ 43,296 00 Goods entered for con-

sumption, dutiable and free.....\$116,26\$ 00\$ 50,429 00 Goods exported..... 17,577 00 26,379 00 Duty collected 27,330 26 13,571 75

Business East.

Jas. Copeland, baker, Sarnia, has sold out.
Philip Cook, shoe maker, London, bas sold out.

J. W. Byam, physician, Campbellford, is dead.

Benner & Sons, millers, Owen Sound, were burned out.

H. V. Howe, grocer, Meaford, has sold out to D. Cameron.

Jas. Johnston, general storckeeper, Gleacoe, bas sold out.

John L. Webb, shoe maker, Point Edward, has assigned.

Potts & Rowe, livery keepers, have dissolved; Potts retires.

Jackson Bros., general storekespers, Hensall, have dissolved.

A. Cohen, general storekeeper, Twp. Darling, was burned out.

Mackie & Edsall, hotelkeepers, Toronto; bailiff in possession.

Martin & McLean, shoe makers, Galt; stock damaged by fire.

Jas. Bennett & Co., sash factory, Brussels,

were burned out.
John Fox, shoe maker, Cobourg, has sold out

to Hugh Gordon, jr.
Thos. Munroe, dry goods dealer, Belleville,

has assigned in trust.

F. W. Benke, general storekeeper, Onondaga, has assigned in trust.

Hugh Gordon, jr., groeer, Cobourg, has sold out to Daniel Gordon.

Christie & Winkinson, dealers in dry goods, Galt, were burned out.

Martin, Werlick & Co., tinemiths, St. Thomas,

have assigned in trust.

Middlemiss & Robertson, dry goods dealers, Galt, were burned out.

H. B. Anderson, shoe maker, Norwwich, has sold out to Jos. Elliott.

Peuchen, Collins & Co., paint manufacturers, Toronto, have dissolved.

W. L. P. Hamblin, dry goods dealer, Toronto, has moved to McIntyre.

C. J. Pritchard, dealer in boots and shoes, Hamilton; reported left.

A. E. Wnite, hardware merchant, Port Stanley, has moved to Dutton.

Boag & Gny, hotelkeepers, Stratford, have dissolved; Gny continues.

John Hamilton, dealer in confectionery, Stratford, has assigned in trust.

Wm. Watson, general storekeeper, Tilson-

burg, has assigned in trust.

Patten & Flannery, tailors, London, have

dissolved; Patten continues.

F. L. Brown, general storckeeper, Myrtle,

has sold out to D. A. Brown.
Alex Crichton, general storekeeper, Parry

Sound, is giving up business.

Thos. Kidd & Son, general storekeepers, Sca-

forth, have assigned in trust.

Hallman Bros., general storeknepers, Mount Elgin, have assigned in trust.

H. J. Tinling, dealer in gents' furnishings, Hamilton, has assigned in trust.

W. T. Chambers & Bro., dealers in gents' furnishings, Toronto; stock sold by trustee.

Wm. Hessin, wholesale dealer in confectionery; stock advertised for sale by tender.

W. H. Burney, general storekeeper, Milgrove, has sold out and will remove to Strabane.

G. & H. Jackson, general storekeepers, Edmondville, have dissolved; G. E. Jackson continues under old style.

QUEBEC.

E. Jalbert, grocer, Montreal, has assigned in trust.

A. J. Roy, tailor, Warwick, has assigned in trust.

Alfred Larocque, hotelkeeper, Valleyfield, is dead.

Commire & Co., foundrymen, Montreal, have dissolved.

P. Dery & Co., hotelkeepers, Quebec, have dissolved.

E. Rouleau, druggist, St. Raymond, was burned out.

E. A. Benoit, furniture dealer, St. Hyacinthe, has assigned.

W. E. Elliott & Co., dealers in oils, Montreab have dissolved.

Isidore Villeneuve, grocer, Warwick, has assigned in trust.

Narcisse Chouinard, baker, Levis, has assigned in trust.

N. Gelinas, dry goods dealer, Three Rivers, was burned out.

J. E. Godin, shoe maker, Three Rivers; stock damaged by fire.

L. S. Lesieur, furdealer, Three Rivers; stock damaged by fire.

· Mrs. D. Leonard, dealer in fancy goods, Montreal, was burned out.

I. Gauthier, dry goods dealer, Three Rivers; stock damaged by fire.

Beaupre & Fiset, boot and shoe manufacturers, Quebec, have dissolved.

Henderson Lumber Co., Montreal; mill destroyed by fire-insured.

stroyed by fire—insured.

Jos. R. Michaud, general storekeeper, Carle-

ton, has assigned in trust.

Thos. Jacobs, general storekeeper, Caugnawaga, has assigned in trust.

H. Prefountaine, dry goods dealer, Sherbrooke, has assigned in trust.

E. Barrette & Co., general stoickeepers, Chambly Basin, have assigned.

J. W. Mackedie & Co., wholesale clothesr, Montreal, have admitted J. R. Mackedie and F. Mahon as partners.

Lefebore & Bro., boot and shoe manufacturers, Montreal, have dissolved; Benjamin Lefebore continues under same style.

Letourneux, Fils & Co., hardware merchants, have dissolved; business continued by Chas. H. Letourneux of Notre de Dame Grace, Chas. Letourneux of St. Henri, and Jos. Letourneux.

NOVA SCOTIA.

H. Graves, teader, Aylesford, has assigned. Bennett Smith, shipping agent, Windsor, is lead.

Wm. Hurley, undertaker, Halifax, has assigued.

Alex. Oswald, general storekeeper, Laurencetown, has sold out.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

E. J. O'Brien, builder, Moncton, has assigned.

T. B. Ritchie, builder, Moncton, has assigned.
A. Wilson & Co., grocer, Moncton, has assigned.

S. McLcod, tailor, Woodstock; stock damaged by fire.

R. Cluff, harness maker, Woodstock; stock damaged by fire.

H. V. Darling, jeweler, Woodstock; stock damaged by fire.

T. L. Estey, harness maker, Woodstock; stock damaged by fire,

Jas. Baker, dealer in boots and shoes, Woodstock; stock damaged by fire.

General Notes.

Moose Jaw wants a tailor and a doctor.

AT Port Arthur wood is worth \$2.50 per cord, and coal \$7 per ton.

A THIRD weekly paper has commenced publication at Portage la Prairie.

POUT ARTHUR is getting up a display of mining specimens for the Colonial Exhibition.

SELKIEK merchants claim to be doing a heavy trade with lumber and fishing camps on Bake Winnipeg.

Owing to the scarcity of good wood along the line of their railway, the Manitoba Northwestern Company will change their locomotives to coal burners.

New buildings have been erected in Carberry during 1885 to the extent of about \$60,000. These include a roller flour mill and four stores, besides other buildings of a commercial nature.

California has some 104,000 Chanese within its borders. The average wages paid them is \$260 per year, which agg.egctes upward of \$27,000,000, upwards of 20,000,000 of which is sent or carried to their native country.

Firry years ago Russia stood almost first among iron-producing vatious; now her acme is nearly last, and her imports of iron and steel amount to more than \$75,000,000. A higher protective tuiff is suggested by various iron masters.

It is stated that two permanent batteries as well as a company of scouts, to be under the command of Major Bolton, are to be organized for service in the Northwest. It is also stated that a fort will be constructed at Gleichen, near the B'ackfect reserve.

The Licence and Police Committee of Winnipeg intend making a vigorous crusade against the sale of liquors during prohibited hours by hotels; also against the sale of liquor by the glass at groceries. It is claimed that many groceries are habitually contravening the bylaw in this respect.

FROM All that can be learned the extension of the Galt railroad to Montana is only a question of a few months. There is no doubt but the money, \$100,000, will be forthcoming, as it lacks less than \$20,000 of the amount asked for. We have been informed that as soon as the preliminaries are settled, an effort will be made to have the work of construction commence at both ends of the line and the work pushed forward to completion without delay. It is expected they will receive their charter from the Dominion Government by the middle of March.

BOYD & GROWE,

WHOLESALE DEALERS IN



MAPLE STREET.

WINNIPEG.

North Western Planing N

Main St., Opposite C. P. R. Station.

SASH, DOORS, BLINDS,

And General House Furnishing Made to Order.

The Wholesale Trade supplied on the Best Terms Orders attended to promptly.

PATERSON & AITCHELL.

Winnipeg Warehousing Co.

BONDED OR FREE. Customs Government Pond in Building Freight advanced. Negotiable Receipts issued and Goods Insurea. Charges moderate

Warehouses and Office : POINT DODGLAS AV. and HIGGISS STREET.

John E. Dingman, Acting Mana er.

On and after Monday the 28th December, the Winnipeg Eleva-tor Company will be prepared to receive Grain for Storage and Clearing.

For terms apply to Winnipeg Elevator Co., 5 Owen St.

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Special attention given to

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The Commercial

WINNIPEG, FEBRUARY 2, 1986.

OUR FIRST ANNUAL NUMBER.

In presenting to our subscribers and the business public this our first annual number, we deem it unnecessary to make any apologies. The extra size of it requires none unless to the Post Office Department for the extra weight of paper and number of copies to be transmitted. Nor is it necessary to apologise for the extra quantity of reading matter we present, and if the quality of the same requires any we are not going to supply it. The season of the year may be out of keeping with the ideas of some people, and require apology, Christmas being the recognized time for such issues. But as commercial!iterature is not the most likely to receive careful perusal about a holiday time, we have chosen the present as the most fitting for our special annual effort. This is the earliest opportunity at which we can lay before our readers the trade facts and figures of the commercial centre of Manitoba for the past year of 1885, and we deem these sufficiently encouraging to call from us special effort. Those of our readers who agree with us in their opinion of these figures can appreciate that effort, and those of a more sauguine turn, who are disappointed with them, can excuse us for differing with them, and be thankful that matters are no worse than they are.

To encourage us in making this special effort, we have asked the co-operation and assistance of our advertising patrons, and we state with pleasure, that our appeal has been liberally responded to, as the pages of this number bear strong testimony. We therefore tender our thanks for the same, and trust that as each succesive annual number of The Commencial appears, it will contain matter more and more encouraging in connection with the trade affairs of Winnipeg and the whole Northwest.

THE BUSINESS MEN WANTED IN THE NORTHWEST.

From the heading of this article it might be assumed that we were beginning to get fastidious, and even saucy about the kind of business men we wish to locate in this growing country, and we acknowledge, in the outset, that we are rather particular, if not anxious, about

securing men of the right stamp. Still we claim that it is not out of pure selfishness, or local greed, that we are thus particular and anxious, but a fair share of both are in the interests of intending immigrants, who might come here to engage in business, and after a trial be disappointed with the results. Unsuccessful business men are not a desirable class to have in any country, and in a new one like our own, where immigration is so much wanted, the reports of such men's misfortunes going back to where they come from do much more than anything else to stop desirable settlers from coming to our country. We may be pardoned, therefore, if we tender a little advice to those who have an intention of coming to the Northwest to engage in commercial pursuits.

In assuming the position of adviser, we start out by saying that we have no advice for the man of extensive capital, who wishes to find in our new and undeveloped country a more remunerative field than he can secure in an older one. Such men are usually possessed of enough business acumen to choose for themselves and choose aright, and about the only word we have for such men is, not to be looking for a modern Eldorado, where huge fortunes can be amassed in a very short time. If they should invest in such they will, in all probability, find them a delusion. This is a country with great natural resources, which can only be developed with the aid of patient industry, and while capital employed in the same work will yield better returns than in any other part of this Dominion, it can only find safe investment where it serves as a prop to industry, and, consequently, must not be too expensive a prop, or it may prove to be a burden.

But we have some advice for the class with motherate means, who wish to and a business field such as the over-crowded state of the East and the Old World, does not furnish them with, and we will commence by stating that the man is not wanted here, who expects by a few years of self-denial, stinginess and business, sharp practice to rake together sufficient means with which to spend the remainder of a life in indolence in his original home. By this we do not imply that we want only men, who leave an old home with their minds made up never to return to it. On the contrary, we respect that feeling of local patriotism, if we might

call it such, which prompts in the breast of the emigrant the hope that some day he may return in improved circumstances to the place of his birth. Men capable of such feelings will gather around them in a new home friends and associations which will soon make it as dear to them as ever the old one was. But the man who hopes to be successful in business here, must come with the intention of being one of the community in which he locates, and have his interests an undivided part of the interests of those around him, while he must often be satisfied with what he considers an unconventional manner of doing certain things, otherwise he must expect soon to be ranked among that list of cranks, who are always talking about and eulogising how things are done in England, in Ontario, or in Quebec, and be avoided in business on that People in a new country are much more sensitive on many points than those in an old one, and nothing touches them so sharply as reflections on the country of their adoption.

But to come down to recognized business pri wiples pure and simple, we commence by statir q most emphatically that men who were never capable of doing good anywhere else, are not good enough to succeed in business in the Northwest, as is too frequently assumed in the East. People here are quite as sharp, quite as industrious, and even more ingenious than in the East or the Old World. They have to struggle along without many things they were accustomed to there in early life, and have their faculties sharpened by such experience, so that the man who comes out here expecting to find a community of wooden-heads or dupes, is very likely to pay for his credulity before he has been long out.

But we do not wish to imply that every man who has not been a complete success in business in an older country, will undoubtedly prove a failure here. There have been thousands of men of decided ability crushed out of business in old countries by the straight-laced conventionalities which surround trade and commerce in such, and to be a man of original ideas in such places often means to be subjected to a business ostracism under which no man could reach success. Such a man would find here a good and profitable field, for the utter absence of business conventionalities, beyond those included in the term business courtesy, is frequently a marked characteristic in the most successful business men of new countries, and in this respect the Northwest is no exception.

We presume that no man comes to the Northwest, without calculating upon making for a time some sacrifices, and, indeed, most who have come are agreeably surprised that these sacrifices are so few and light. With this intention decided upon the remaining wants are a determination to share the fortunes of the country come to; the same close attention to business which is requisite for success in all places, industrious habits, sufficient capital and a knowledge of the business engaged in, and the chances of success are decidedly greater here than they possibly can be in any older country.

COMMERCIAL JOURNALISTIC LANGUAGE.

In old trade centres there is a very circumscribed limit within which the language of commercial journals must be held, and the latitude so allowed has an almost puritanical narrowness about it. The Commecial has no doubt outraged these ideas on many occasions, and indulged in expressions, which would probably shock the conventional tenets of many an eastern or old country business man. But we make no attempt at apology for what we have done in this respect, and are satisfied that those whose interests we guarded saw no fault in the language we often used.

The COMMERCIAL was established under peculiar circumstances, and the first three years of its career were very trying ones. Starting out in a new country with trade composed of a mixture of scattered and discordant elements, its work of organization was no light undertaking, and when we add that the whole commercial fabric of the Northwest was permeated and honey-combed with speculation of the most reckless description, it is not be wondered at, that we were often compelled to make use of language that was more expressive than conventional. Still when now in the middle of trade safety we look over the headings of articles, written when trade crash and depression was at its height, we have reason to smile at some of them. Thus as the cloud of depression was growing dark and threatening, we headed articles "The necessity for retrenchment," "Beware of business recklessness" and such like. Then as we viewed the hundreds of once industrious

men, demoralized by unlucky and gambling speculation, and idling in their time without effort, we treated of the "Speculative loafer." Later on, when the storm of depression was at its height, we headed an article with the cheering slang phrase "Keep a stiff upper lip." When as we rightly judged, the bottom of depression had been touched and the number of our insolvencies showed a very marked decrease, our caption was "The breakers weathered," and when the whole country was wincing under the merciless policy of contraction pursued by our banks, when a little more liberality would have greatly hastened commercial recovery, we adopted the cry of the repentant sinner and headed an article "What shall we do to be saved."

Strange as all these headings may seem to business people, now that commercial danger is over and prosperity is steadily making headway, they were not considered very startling at the time they were used, and we only say now, that while we have no apology to offer for them, we hope we shall never again have occasion to use them.

GOVERNMENT ENCOURAGEMENT TO TRADE.

The revenue resources of Manitoba limited as they are by the conditions of Mr. Norquay's so called "betterterms,' are now sufficient to allow our Local Government to make some annual expenditure in the direction of improvements, which will tend to develope the trade of the province generally. Hitherto by far too large a proportion of the provincial revenue has been expended upon a civil service, which, whatever may be its value to the Government in power, has not contributed much to the progress of the country.

The Department of Agriculture has no doubt done some good service for the province, but its annual financial demands have been far in excess of the value of all that it has accomplished, and it does seem as if its machinery was organized with a desire to secure the acme of intricacy Its annual expenditure is not heavier than we would be willing to sanction, but we certainly do look for more practical results for our money, than we have hither-to received.

But to come to the Department of Public Works, the one in which trade interests can be best looked after, and we find that the funds voted last year for that purpose are ridiculously small compared with the importance of the Department, and of that small allowance, works in the interests of trade progress have received practically nothing. There is not a single evidence in the province of assistance given to the trade interests of the same out of its revenue, and it must be kept in mind that men in trade as well as others form a population basis, on which our Provincial Premier can figure up a subsidy

grant, and the same class are among the heaviest contributors to Dominion revenue.

At present Mr. Norquay and members of his cabinet are anxious to make capital out of the subsidy offered for the construction of branch railways within the province, and the Minister of Public Works recently took credit for thereby having done quite a big stroke in the interests of trade. That the construction of these lines helped trade, we will not deny, and that the limited mileage subsidy offered by the Local Government was something of an incentive to their construction we are also prepared to admit. But we find that Mr. Norquay's Government have no intention of stinting the cash allowance to their followers in order to bonus these roads out of the present revenue. Their course was simply the floating of debentures, and saddling the province with a debt, the payment of which is not at all likely to fall to the lot of Mr. Norquay and his colleagues, but will be a work to be undertaken by future Governments. They have been very liberal in a manner in which their liberality cost them nothing, and they have bestoved upon the province a sympathy and assistance similar to what the "friend of humanity" extended to the "weary knife grinder."

The climax of absurdity in the above respect is reached, when last Thursday the Winnipeg organ of the Local Government, owned and controlled by Mr. Norquay and his friends, began to lecture the Board of Trade and City Council of this city, about the efforts they should put forth, to encourage the location of manufactures here. That journal seemed to propound the doctrine that a Local Government which annually received hundreds of thousands of dollars of provincial revenue, had no responsibility in connection with the expenditure of the same, beyond the payment of the emoluments of its own hungry following; but that city and town councils which secured their revenue from the direct taxation levied on their rate payers, and Boards of Trade, whose revenue resources were drawn from the pockets of their members, were the organization on which the whole burden of industrial progress should fall. Such a doctrine may suit political barnacles, who subsist at the public crib, and who would be in straits if deprived of this scource of subsistence. But it will not suit the active working population of this province. If our present or any future Local Government are to keep pace with the just demands of the people, whose interests they are supposed to look after they must curtail the disbursements to their civil servants and parasites, many of whom are as useless as they are burdensome, and expend a little of the money thus saved, in stimulating commercial and industrial growth throughout the province. When they do that, they will find city and town councils and boards of trade ready

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WINNIPEG.

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

The financial circle the last week of January has been an exceptionally quiet one, and the iractivity has reached almost to stagnation. The principal call for funds was expected to come from the grain trade, but the almost total shutting down of the movement in cereals, at least so far as shipping is concerned, has put a audden check to any demand from this quarter. General mercantile trade has not developed and special inquiry for money, and outside of this there has been no undertakings of a miscellaneous nature which would cause a demand for cash. So that all around there has been no feature to the market except quictness. Rates of discounts have to a great extent been nominal, but are quoted: First class commercial paper, at 7 per cent; ordinary, 8 to 9; promiscuous and one name, 9 to 10. In loans on real estate mortgage business has been little bester than in trade finances. The bulk of the business is still taken at 9 per cent, with quotations at from 9 to 10c.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

The wholesale trade of the city during the past week has not experienced any change of importance, as compared with the previous week. Business has been rather quiet, and the movement in merchandise has not increased to any appreciable ext "*. In fact, the review given in our last issue would just about cover the situation as existing at present. The weather has continued too cold to allow of any movement in goods liable to damage from frost, while frequent blustery days have probably reduced travel in the country, and consequently lessened the demand upon retailers for general merchandise. Lines depending on building and contracting, such as hardware and lumber, have also been affected by the weather. Another factor which undoubtedly exercises no small influence upon the wholesale trade of the city, is the low price prevailing for wheat, and the greatly decreased .rovement in that cercal. In the meantime the work of receiving orders for spring delivery is being actively engaged in, and returns are fairly satisfactory all around. A sharp struggle is going on between the local houses and representatives of eastern mercantile institutions, for se amacy in the Northwestern trade. Eastern firms are putting forth a desperate effort this season to regain the footing here which they voluntarily abandoned a few years ago, and no stone is left unturned to secure that end. However, local houses are undoubtedly getting the cream of the trade, both as regards quantity and quality, and perhaps more especially the latter. But herein lies the danger, for it is to be feared that by means of the competition which exists. and the desire on the part of travellers to take orders, irresponsible parties may be supplied with large stocks of goods which they ought never to have been entrusted with. In case such turns out to be the result to any extent, those who are not responsible for the state of things, and who will not be direct losers thereby, will suffer through the general demorlization. It is to be hoped, however, that the competition between local and eastern firms for the | terruption, and in such proportion as to in-

trade of the Northwest, will be carried on in a business-like manner, and due caution used in the disposal of goods, in which case no barm will result. In collections, the past month of January has not been as easy as in December, which was an exceptionally good month in this respect, but the arount falling due has been so light, as hardly to serve as a true index.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

In this line there has been nothing to indicate a near return to active business. No sales to speak of are being made, and no effort has yet been put forth toward pushing sales. Agents have not yet gone out to commence the seasons work, but will shortly make a start in this direction. The only line receiving special attention is in collections, and although in this respect there is something of an easier feeling, yet there is still room for improvement. Cash is not coming in as freely as before the holiday

BOOTS AND SHOES.

Trade continues very flat in this branch, and the quietness increases as the season advances. The demand for winter goods is now about over, even for small sorting orders, and the present time being between seasons for receiving second orders and the opening of the spring trade, a very dull spell is expected. Travellers are now busy taking orders for spring delivery. Collections coatinue satisfactory though not as good as in December.

CLOTHING.

There is no improvement to note in this line. Business remains very quiet, the season being too far advanced to expect much demand in the way of sorting goods. The spring trade has been pretty well canvassed for first orders, and the work of preparing these is now going on. Collections are fairly satisfactory.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

There has been comparatively little change in this line since our last report. Business keeps rather quiet. A few orders have been received for stores which are being started in the new towns on the extended railway lines, but in general trade there is little doing, and not much expected at this season. In the course of a few weeks an augmented movement may be looked for. Collections are rather backward.

DRY GOODS.

There is still a fair business doing in this stable line, but orders are coming focusard more slowly than during the early part of the month. As the season advances the call for winter goods is gradually dropping off, and ..nything approuching a really brisk movement is not now expected until spring goods come into active demand. Travellers are all out taking orders for future delivery, and this work will be pushed vigorously for some time yet. In collections there is so little falling due this mouth that a report is h. lly necessary. However, the 4th of February will be a heavy day in this respect, and indications are favorable for the same.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

Business in this line coatinues in very much the same state as for the past few weeks. The movement is going on steadily and without indicate a fairly active trade. Collections are still satisfactory.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

General trade in this line continues rather quiet, and orders for present wants are neither numerous or heavy. A few light orders are coming in from the country, and occasionally a light sorting call from the city. Travellers now on the road with spring samples are meeting with very good success and book a large number of very fair orders for future delivery. Collections ore about fair.

The supply of fresh Lake Winnipeg fish coming to this market has fallen off to rather light proportion, owing to the fact that agents for American dealers have been purchasing largely at Selkirk, from traders who would otherwise have brought their fish to the city. The demand for Lake Winnipeg fish for American markets continues good, and all arriving are immediately shipped south. Salt fish are quiet and unchanged. Prices for fresh are as follows: whitefish, 5c; pickerel 4c; jack, th 2c. Salt white, \$4 per bbl ; Labrador herrings, \$8 per bbl; salmon, \$17 per bbl; mackerel \$1 to \$1.75 per kit; smoked haddocks, lle per pound,

The remarks of the previous week just about cover the situation for the past week. Cold weather has prevented anything approaching an active movement, and shipment to the country have been reduced to next to nothing. In the city some improvement has taken place in the comand. No new lines are in the market, but those previously on hand are in fair supply. Florida oranges have advanced 50c per box, owing to the damaging frost in Florida, and it is expected that a scarcity of this fruit will follow, with a further advance in pricer. Quotations now are as follows; Florida oranges are quoted at \$7.00 to \$7.50 per box. California pears are worth \$4.50 per box; Apples are in fair supply and are worth about \$1 to \$4.50 per bbl for good qualities. Messina lemons, \$6.50 to \$7 per box; cranberrries, \$5.50 to \$10.50; valen. cia raisins, \$3.75; London layer rasins, \$4 to \$4.-25; black crown, \$5 to \$5.25 walnuts, 15e a lb; almonds, 20c; filberts, 122c; pecans, 16c; peanuts, 15c for roasted and 121c for raw; figs 18c to 20c. and d tes 10c a lb. Apple cider, \$10 per bbl.

FURNITURE.

No improvement has yet taken place in this branch, and business is at about as low an ebb as it could be very little city trade is doing in the wholesale departments, and from the country there is practically no call for furniture of any kind. Collections are backward in coming to hand.

Notwithstanding the pretty steady and cold weather which we have been enjoying of late, the wood business is no particularly active. Coal being principally used for heating purposes. Prices for wood are somewhat lowe; quotations being as follows: poplar \$3.50; oak \$5.75; tamarac \$4.75. Prices are for car lots, delivered. On track, 75c per cord less than above. Hard coal is worth \$10.25, and soft \$8. Galt coal sells at \$7.50 on track.

OROCERIES.

There has been very little if any change in this branch for the last few weeks. Trade has been generally foir for the season. The movement during the past week, however, was probably lighter than usual, although the difference is so slight as to be hardly noticeable. The tendency of prices is toward a firmer feeling in most leading lines of this trade. In Canadian canned goods it is said that stocks at the canneries are nearly exhausted, both in fruit and vegetables. Canners state that they have had a heavy season's trade which has reduced their stocks, and prices are higher for some kinds. Stocks, in the city, however, are fairly full, and having been purchased earlier in the scason I d in larger quanty, owing to the distance from the eastern markets, prices will not be materially changed here. Teas, sugars, currants, raisins, etc., are all very firm, and prices higher at first markets, Quotations as follows: Sugars, raw 61c, ye'low 61 to 7c; granulated 84c; lump 94 to 93c. Coffces, Rios, 13 to 15c; Government Java 32 to 33c, other Jevas 22 to 27c; Mochas 31 to 34c. Teas range, Moyune gunpowder 25 to 70c; pan-fired Japan 23 to 45c, basket-fired 25 to 40c, Ping Sucy young hyson 20 to 30c; Moyune young hyson 25 to 50c; Season's congous, 1885-86, 20 to 55c.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

There is still little if any improvement to note in this line, and present demands are rather light. The demand for hardware in the country is principally for such lines as are cequired by builders and farmers, and consequently very little trade is expected during the winter months, lines required in manufacturing not being so much called for. Collections are fair. Prices are unchanged and are as follows: Cut nails, 10d and larger \$3.50 to \$3.75; I. C. tin plates, \$5.50 to \$5.75; I. C. tin plates, double, \$11 to \$11.50; Canada-plates, \$3.50 to \$3.75: sheet iron, \$3 to \$4.50, according to grade; iron ripe, 40 to 50 per cent. off list prices; ingot tin, 25 to 30c per lb., according to quality, bar iron, \$2.50 to \$3 per 100 lb; shot, 6 to 61ca lb; tarred felt, \$2.50 to \$2.75 per 106 lbs.

LEATHER AND FINDINGS.

Trade continues reasonably slow in this branch. Prices are unchanged as follows: Spanish sole, 31 to 33c; slaughtersole, 33 to 35c; French calf, first choice, \$1.40 to \$1.50; domstie, \$5c; B Z kip, \$1 to \$1.10; French kip, \$1 to \$1.10; B Z kip, \$5 to 90c; slaughter kip, 65 to 75c; No. 1, wax upper, 50c; grain upper, 55c; harness leather, 33 to 35c for plumb stock; American oak sole, 50c.

LUMBER.

There has been no factor of any kind to induce a movement in this trade. No building operations are being gone on with at present, and there is no apparent disposition to anticipate wants for the future. Consequently business is dead, so far as any present movement is concerned. Some stipments were made to the new stations along the lately constructed railway lines, but these are now about supplied. The next move will probably be toward far western points, where the building season commences considerably earlier than in Manitoba.

PAINTS, OILS AND COLORS

Business continues slow in this branch, as might we'l be expected at this season of the year. In fact there is really no movement at present. Quotations being as follows: steam refined, \$1.10; castor, 15c per 1b; lard No 1, \$1.25 per gal; olive, \$1.50 to \$2, according to quality; machine oils, black 25c; oleine, 40c; fine qualities, 50 to 75c. Coal oils, headlight, 25c; water white, 30c. Calcined plaster, \$4.25 per bbl; Portland cement, \$5; white lead, genuin 7.75; No 1 \$6.75; No 2, \$5.25 and window g.as first break, \$2.50.

SADDLERY AND HARNESS.

There has been no movement of importance in this line since our last report. Trade is rather slow, and collections said to be very backward.

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

A very fair state of trade exists in this brench. There is not what might be called a real active disposition, but for the season business is good, and quite up to the expectations of dealers. Collections are good.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

In this branch the city trade is very quiet, and from the country the demand is comparatively about the same, though a few orders are coming in. Quotations are as follows: Gooderman & Wo:t's five year old, \$2.75; 7 year old, \$3.25; old rye, \$1.80; Jules Robin brandy, \$4.50; Bisquet Debouche & Co., \$4.75; Martell, \$6 Hennesy, \$6.50; DeKuyper gin, \$2.75; Port wine, \$2.25 and upwards; Sherry, \$2.25 and upwards; Januaica rum, \$3.50; DeKuyper red gin, \$11 per case; DeKuyper green gin, \$6 per case; Martell and Hennery's brandy \$13.50 per case of 12 bottles.

THE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS,

Very little change has occurred in the grain market of the city during the past week. The movement all over the northwest has been very light, dealers reporting almost nothing doing in the line of receipts here, and very little coming in at receiving points throughout the province and territories. Street receipts in the city have also gone down to a very small aggregate. Three incipal reasons may be assigned as having brought about the present dull and inactive state in grain circles. First, there is the fact of the low prices for wheat, which have ruled for some weeks back. Earlier in the scason formers were holding their grain in some instances, expecting better prices, Especially was this the case with those having damaged wheat, prices having been comparatively bitter for choice samples at the opening of the season, than for damaged lots; at least this was the epinion entertained by many farmers, who held that damaged grain was not bringing as high a price as it should, in comparison with choice samples. However, prices have declined steadily instead of advancing, and the weakness has been more keenly felt in the low grades. Then, again, the weather has continued unfavorable to a heavy delivery by farmers, not from severe cold, but from the blustery na-

ture of the past week, which has blocked trails to some extent. The greatest drawback to the movement, however, is the order issued by the C P. Railway Co., to the effect that no more grain will be received for shipment to points east of Port Arthur until further notice, on account of the blockade on the eastern portion of the Montreal division of their line. This, of course, has practically killed the shipping business for the present, and to a great extent affeeted receipts in the city, as dealers here do not care about accepting further consignments until they can see the way clear to continue shipments to the cast. In provisions the week has been rather quiet as regards the trade in the city, while orders from the country have been next to nothing. Dairy products have maintained an ordinary movement.

WHEAT

The situation in this market is practically unchanged as regards the recling, while the cessation of shipping to the eastern markets has added to the general inactivity. There is still a very good demand for local milling purposes, choice samples being in greater request, but everything offered is purchased. Until the rartial blocktdo is cleared on the Montreal division of the C.P.R., so that the shipping trade to the cast can be resumed, the wheat market will continue decidedly flat. Prices have not been changed during the week, and quotations still remain as follows: No. 1 hard 75c; No. 2 70c; No. 1 northern 70e; No. 2 60c; No. 3 55c. Frosted lots are worth 50c for No. 1; 40c for No. 2, and 25 to 30c for poorer qualities.

FLOUR.

In this market trade still remains inactive and dull. A fair local trade is doing in the higher grades, but the shipping trade is light. All the mills in the city will be running this week, and a heavier output will follow. Prices are unchanged as follows: patents \$2.45; strong bakers, \$2.15; XXXX \$1.70, and superfine \$1.30 to \$1.40.

BRAN AND SHORTS

The local demand for these products continues fair, and about equal to the absorption of the output. Prices are now quoted at \$8 for bran and \$9 for shorts per ton.

OATMEAL.

The local demandremains fairly active. Prices for the home product are quoted at \$2.25 for standard and \$2.50 for granulated. In car lot quantities, however, a somewhat lower rate may be obtained.

POTATOES.

There has been no movement in potatoes to speak of, and there will not be so long as the weather keeps as cold as during the past week. Quotations are given at 35 to 40c, but are simply nominel.

EGGS.

Very little demand has existed for these during the week. Choice lots of trictly frest are worth 30c. Old stocks may be had at 25c.

CHEESE.

In this product there has been a very fair demand, principally for the home manufactured article. Prime is quoted at 10½ to 11c, and medium at 9½ to 10c. Ontario manufacture in this market is worth 11c.

BUTTER.

There has been a rather active demand for butter, especially for the choice qualities, and stocks of these are somewhat light. In medium grades a fair demand has also existed, from ortside points. Prices have not changed and quantions are: Prime 20 to 22c, and medium from 121 to 18. Inferior lots could probably be obtained at from 8c upward.

Receipts have been even more limited than during the previous week, and as a consequence of this the demand is good and prices are stronger. Supplies for feeding in the city are scarce, and from 28 to 30c is being paid for lots from farmers. On track in car lots 25c is still about the ruling quotation.

BARLKY.

There is no change to note in this market, and the cessation of shipping to the cast has added to the inactivity. Prices are the same as last week, and quoted as follows: No. 2 40c; No. 3 extra 35c; No. 3 30c; feeding qualities 20 to 25c.

BACON.

Some demand from the city but very little western trade. Old dry salt is now about out of the market. Prices are as follows: dry salt 81c; smoked 8fc; old dry salt 7c rolls 12c.

HAMS.

There is no change to note in this product, the invariable quotation still being 13c.

MESS PORK.

Still quiet and unchanged, from \$15 to \$15.50 per bbl. Prices lange

MESS BEEF.

Light demand at the unchanged quotation of \$15 per bbl.

LARD.

No change to note in prices. Quotations are: \$2.25 per pail; or 10c per lb for tierces.

The sapply has not been coming forward as freely as during the previous weeks, but is still sufficient to supply the wants of packers. Prices are somewhat firmer, and quotations range from \$4.50 to \$5.00.

DRESSED POULTRY.

Receipts of these have been lighter, and the demand slow. Turkeys are now quoted at 14c per lb. Geese and ducks are unchanged at 12c per lb. Chickens are easier, and are worth 7 to 8c, the lower quotation for off-color.

OYSTERS.

Quiet and unchanged in price, cans are worth 40e for plain select, and 50c for extra. Bull. sell at \$2 to \$3 per gallon.

MINNEAPOLIS.

A stronger market, with active trading and an advance of 2 to 3c for the week, has greatly changed the current of local opinion, and those who thought wheat was worthless this day week, are now, as a rule, nervously operating for a further rise. Shrewd calculation and magnifying of improbable war and other 1 umors has had more to do in sending prices upward than any other cause, the statistical situation being practically unchanged, the leading feature in it being the decline in English stocks, and even this is liable to be overworked as a price making factor. A sensible reaction after a fifteen cent drop was to be expected, but the regaining of all the lost ground at a sigle jump was more than improbable, though some radical bulls have been talking about dollar wheat ever since the reaction set in.

"I was a bull last week," said a conservative miller, and one who never speculates, "and I am well satisfied that I was right. I think wheat is good porperty at present prices, and feel sure the May option will not touch Soc again at Chicago. The visible supply is apparently very large, but it will melt away like snow from now on. I shall not be surprised if the decrease passes the two million a ark every

week after this. Our advices indicate that the foreigner, are satisfied that the bottom has been touched here. They are ready to take all the flour they can get at the prices we have been making for several weeks back, and we are getting sizable orders at an advance over these figures. Our domestic trade is picking up rapidly and we are fast exhausting the surplus stocks of patents which has piled up during the late season of demand for bakers' and lower grades only. The improved outlook in the flour market will help wheat. I regard both mark. ets as in a very healthy condition and think the wind is blowing toward the bull side."

Receipts for the week were about the same as the consumption by the mills, so that the light shipments nearly equalled the reduction ir stocks. The track wheat has been pretty well cleaned up, and no longer interferes with business. Local millers are credited with free buying on 'change the past week.

The Sighest and lowest wheat prices by grade on 'chi nge during the week ending to-day, closing prices, and the prices one year ago were:

Jan. 28. Wheat, Highest, Lowest, Closing 1886. No. 1 hard. 871 .. 85 .. 874 844 " 1 north'n \$2; ... 801 .. 821 80 u 2 .. 76 74 76 75

Futures showed the same strength and were more active, March 1 hard closing at 88gc, and May at 931c, after opening at 901c. May 1 northern opened at 85c and closed at 874c.

MILLSTUFF.-Bran is scarce and in active demand, bulk closing at \$9.25; with shorts dull at \$9 to \$9.50 per ton.

FLOUR .- Flour values have buildened and the demand has greatly improved, especially for patents. Export i. quiry is brisk, though offers are 5 to 10c below the views of millers, but have a are showing some disposition to raise their bis, so that some mills report a fair amount of export business doings. Domestic trade is assuming a healthy activity an I the situation is full of encouragement to millers generally, although more and larger orders could be handled without overtaxing the mills or their clerical forces. The Lest reports come from Boston, and, if the wheat market holds steady for a few days, millers expect a much more active demand for flour than has existed for many months.

Quotations for car or round lots at the mills are as follows: Petents, \$4.70 to \$4.90; straights, \$4.40 to \$4 60; first bakers', \$3.70 to \$3.90 ;second bakers' \$3.20 to \$3.30; best low grades, \$2.10 to \$2.25, in bags; red dog, \$1.50 to \$1.60, in bags.

These quotations are on flour in barrels, except as stated. The rule is to discount 30e per 10l for 250 and 140 lb jute bars, 20e for 95lb cotton sacks, 15c for 49lb cotton sacks, 10e for 24lb cotton sacks, and 20e for 49lb

The flour market has livened up to some extent and about all the mills would be in operation were it not for low water, this alone holding the output in check. There were sixteen mills that last week made flour, several stacting up late in the week. The production of the week amounted to 90,648 bbls-averaging 12, 950 bbls daily for seven days-against 72,366 bbls the preceding week, and 97,000 bbls for the corresponding time in 1885. There were

seventeen mills running at noon to-day, but were the power good the number would audoubtedly be twenty. Those in operation represent a maximum capacity of 28,000 bbls, but they were probably not turning out more than 14,000 or 15,000 bbls. Of the latter about 4,-500 bbls were being made by steam, three mills being thus operated, wholly or partly. Another mill will start its engine as soon as it can be got in readiness, and it is not improbable that others will soon follow the example. The water was fair on Monday, but as more of the mills were put in motion Tuesday, it became very low and this forenoon it came near choking the most of them off entirely. Few could do more than carry a half feed, and some had to run empty. Ice and bark have been running a good deal, and together with sand carried about by the current, have necessitated constant attention at the water racks. The need of a pool to regulate the running of the mills in accordance with the supply of water has become apparent, and an effort will be made to-day to form one. A mill of 1,000 barrels capacity which has been idle for several weeks will resume work Monday. Flour is rather more active and stronger, but prices are about the same.

The following were the receipts at and shipments from Minneapolis for the weeks ending on the dates given:

RECEIPTS.

	Jan. 26.	Jan. 19.	Jan. 12.				
Wheat, bus	404,880	495,600	477,680				
Flour, bbls	355	265	125				
Millstuff, tons	60	69	45				
	SHIPMENTS.						
	Jan. 26.	Jan. 19.	Jan. 12.				
Wheat, hus	26,880	73,360	54,320				
Flour, bb's	77.875	64,740	69,265				
Millstuff,tons	2,625	1,802	2,715				
The wheat in	elevators	in Minne	apolis, as				

well as the stock at St. Paul and Duluth, is shown in the appended table:

MINNEAPOLIS.

			Jan. 25.	Jan. 18.
No. 1 hard			1,807,421	1,851,023
No. 1 northern		••	1,756,967	1,726,111
No. 2 northern			849,406	819,830
No. 3		• •	8,558	4,885
Rejected			63,369	87,390
Special bins	••	••	1,465,764	1,495,256
[5,951,485	5,984,492
l		ST. PAT	IL.	

In elevators— Jan. 27. Jan. 20. Jan. 11. bush .. 1,172,000 1,186,000 1,200,000 DULUTH.

Jan. 25. Jan. 18. Jan. 13. In store, bus. . . 5,442,046 5,387,600 5,315,708 Afloat, bus. . 124,525 124,521

Total, bus. . 5,567,571 5,512,121 5,440,227 -Northwest Miller.

CHICAGO.

The wheat market opened quite active this week, and at the close stood le above the highest point reached during the previous week. The principal factors in creating a strong market were the despatches from New York to the effect that stocks in store there and affoat had decreased 650,000 bushels during the week, and

the local estimate that the visible supply statement would show a decrease of 1,250,000 bushels. On Tuesday clearances from the 'astern seaboard reached the figure of 160,600. However, the markets receded from 1 to 2 of a cent. On Wednesday the highest point during the week was reached, but only ic over Monday. The advance appeared to be mainly of a speculative nature, and the markets were on the whole weak and soggy. Later in the week it was estimated that the visible supply would only show a decrease of 750,000 bushels, on account of the advance in price having checked the outgoing movement. During the rest of tne week prices fluctuated considerably each day, according to the whims of speculators, and without any predominating influence. The range of prices during the entire week was confined in narrow limits, closing figures showing only about 2c of a difference in price on any day, and although wheat has not made any very great advance, it has apparently been checked in its downward movement. Corn and oats have been neglected to a great extent as centres of speculative activity, and prices had ruled steady. Pork has also held comparatively steady, closing at the highest point reached during the week, and openin, at the lowest. Lard has moved in sympathy with pork.

On Monday wheat opened stronger and § to it chigher, as a result of a drop in consols. Some lively haying was induced in for a time. Offerings increased as the merket advanced, \$1\frac{1}{2}\$ being the highest point touched. The price thea dropped ic, with heavy trading on the decline. Toward the close wheat took another spart, May running up to \$7\frac{1}{2}c. Corn was strong and a shade higher. Pork was lower at the close, although strong at the opening. Closing prices were:

				rev.	Mer.
Wheat			• •	 \$0.81	\$0.81
Corn	••	••	••	 363	37
Oats	••		••	 $29\frac{1}{8}$	-
Pork	• •	4.		 10.80	10.90
Lard	• •	• •		 $6.12\frac{1}{2}$	6.12

On Tuesday wheat was again active at the opening, especially in the local speculative market, and heavy trading was the rule throughout the entire morning session, though considerable was done on a basis of lower values, sales at the start being at S6½ for May wheat, &c lower than yesterday's closing. Heavy buying followed a report of a better export inquiry, which for a time braced up the market and sent prices up to S7½ for May. A weakness again set in, however, and at the close May stood at S6½ again. Corn and oats ruled quiet and easier. Provisions were moderately active. Closing prices were:

					Feb.	Mar.
Whea	t		• •	••	807	811
Corn	• •	••		••	361	367
Oats	• •	• •	• •		283	283
Pork	• •	• •	• •	••	10.80	10.80
Lard	••				$6.12\frac{1}{2}$	$6.12\frac{1}{2}$

On Wednesday wheat opened lower and May sold down to 863c. Trading was rather light on the decline. The whole temper of the market was bearish, and there seemed to be a determination to push prices to the lowest level.

Later a turn came, and with stronger cables and an apparent improvement in the export inquiry, prices again became strong, May going up to 88c. At the close wheat was quieter and te lower. In the corn pit nothing was doing and the closing was weak. Provisions were moderately active in a speculative way. Closing quotations were:

					reo.	mar.
Wheat			••		\$0.818	\$0.81
Corn			••	• •	369	368
Oats				• •	283	283
Pork		••	••		10.85	10.95
Lard		••			6.121	$6.12\frac{1}{2}$
^ =	••					

On Thursday the market opened weak and Jolower. May was quoted at 86%, and after several fractional fluctuations to higher and lower prices, the morning session closed at 86%. In the afternoon the same experience was repeated and the close about same. Corn and oats were dull and fluctuations confined to narrow limits. Provisions were nearly lifeless. Pork fell away a few points and continued rather weak. Closing prices were:

					Feb.	Mar.
Wheat	ե.,	••			\$0.S9¥	\$0.813
Corn			• •		361	១ខង្គ
Oats	• •		••	• •	29	29
Pork		• •			10.80	10.90
Lard			• •		6.10	6.10

On Friday there was a fair degree of activity in the speculative movement, but the preponderance of talk was of a bearish nature, and the feeling weak. May closed gc lower than the closing of yesterday. There seemed to be a general disposition to sell, even by those who were on the bull side a few days ago. However, on all breaks heavy operators were always ready to buy largely, and this helped to streng. then the markets. Good samples of corn sold freely for shipmert, with values a trifle lower. Oats were higher for cash and this month's delivery. Provisions showed more life. Pork was more active, and a large speculative business done in May delivery. In cash and nearer deliveries the market was easier, and closed somewhat lower. At the close prices were:

				Feb.	Mar.
Whea	t	• •		 \$0.801	\$0.80₽
Corn	• •	• •		 36∤	363
Oais	• •	• •	• •	 291	
Pork	••	••	••	 10.85	10.90
Lerd		• •		 6.10	$6.12\frac{1}{2}$

On Saturday the wheat market was fairly active, and at times comparatively strong, though fluctiations were numerous. May closed at 86c. Corn and outs were quiet and unchanged. Pork was more active and higher. Closing prices we.

					Feb.	Mar.
Wheat	••			••	\$9.80 <u>1</u>	\$0.80
Corn	••	• •	••	••	36 1	361
Oats			• •	••	291	291
Pork	• •			.:	11.00	10.95
Lard	• •	••	••	••	6.10	6.15
			TORO	NTO.	-	

STOCKS.

The stock market here during the week has been remarkably steady, and although no very great activity existed at any particular time, yet a fair number of transactions were recorded.

The feeling has been decidedly firm for nearly all the leading bank stocks, all the banks being quoted higher with the single exception of Commerce, which is one point lower, and Hamilton, which stands at the same figures as last week. The most marked advance has been made in Northwest Land Co. shares, as will be seen by a reference to the quotations below. Quite ar activity existed in these shares. Miscellaneous stocks were generally quiet and without important feature. Manitoba Loan was offered at 100, with 85 bid. The following are closing bids of Jan. 27, compared with closing bids of Jan. 19.

J				Jav. 19.	Ju	n, 27.
_uuntreal	• •	• •	• •	2033		2043
Ontario	• •	• •		109		109}
Toronto	• •			186		1885
Merchants'	• •			1164		117
Commerce	• •	• •		121		120
Imperial				131		132
Federal		• •		102		1021
Dominion		• •	• •	204		204
Standard	• •		• •	1201		121
Hamilton				126	••	126
Northwest I	and		• •	731		824

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

The feeling at the opening of the grain market last week was indicative of improvement, both in demand and prices, in sympathy with outside markets. Towards the close of the week, however, an easier feeling prevailed, and prices did not hold the total grain. Holders continued firm and apparently indisposed to press sales, and this helped to maintain the healthy tone of the markets. Stocks in store have gone on steadily increasing, notwithstanding that receipts have been greatly reduced by unfavorable weather. Mill stuffs have been in better demand and firm in price. Provisions have been quiet and without feature.

WHEAT

In this market c firmer feeling has prevailed during most of the week, although not much activity in buying has been displayed. However, a more healthy tone has pervaded the market, shown in the disposition of holders to abstain from pressing sales. No. 2 fail for May delivery was held at 90c, with buyers at 37c. The same grade was held at 83 to 84c for cash, with buyers at 81 to 82c. No. 2 spring was worth about 83c. No. 3 Manitoba, damaged, sold at 62c.

FLOUR.

These has been a better inquiry in this market, and a considerable number of sales were made toward the close of the week. Superior extra sold at \$3.60, and extra \$3.50.

OATS.

There have been in fair and steady demand, with prices firm and receipts ample. Feeding are worth 32 to 32c, and white milling 34c.

BARLEY.

A very light business has been done in this grain. The demand appears to have fallen off, and sales of all sorts have been slow, at weak prices. No. 3 choice sold at 65c; extra No. 3 at 70 to 71c; No. 2 80 to 81c, and No. 1 at 95c. Manitoba No. 3 choice was offered on track at 64c, with 63c bid.

PEAS.

Offerings still fight, and transactions few. Quotations are steady at from 59 to 60c.

POTATOES.

Sales of car lots have been made at 50 to 53c, and firmer toward the close.

EGGS

Eggs have been moving slowly, and are rather easier in price, at 20 to 21c for fresh, in round lots, and 16c for pickled.

BUTTER.

There has been an improvement in the tone of this market, and rather more activity has been displayed than for some time back. Medium grades, which have been very dall all along, move; off a little, but prices were rather low, even for these grades, sales having been made at from 5½ to 6c. Holders, however, have generally stood out for higher prices. Fifty tubes of duiry sold at 14c, and selections have been well taken at 15 to 17c. Rolls of good quantity have sold well, at from 12½ to 14c, and inferior slow at 10c and under.

T.ARIE.

Lard has been in less demand, and only moving in small lots, at 9 to 91c for tinnets and pails. Large lots could be had at 31c.

APPLES.

A steady trade is doing in shipments of car lots. One car of Russets sold at \$1.75. Prices are from \$1.50 to \$2.55 per barrel.

HAMS.

Quiet, and unchanged in price, at 101 to 11c for new smoked.

BACON.

A few cases of long clear have sold as before, at 62 to 7c. Cumberland nominal at 63c; solls easy, 82 to 9c; bellies, 10 to 11c.

CHEESE.

There has been some movement in inferior at 6½c, with smaller lots at 7c. Choice is worth 9 to 9½c.

PORK.

l'ork is still quiet and unchanged, and receipts light. Prices are from \$13 to \$13.50,

POULTRY.

Little doing here. Turkeys are worth 10c per lb. Chickens, 25 to 30c per pair. Ducks, worth 50 to 60c per pair.

Commercial Summary.

Taking the country as a whole, special telegrams to Bradstreet's received this week do not indicate any material gain in the distribution of general merchandise. At Boston there are no new features, and there is considerabl anxiety among manufacturers over the low margins of profit, particularly in view of the prevalence of labor troubles. At Philadelphia it is asserted that there is a tendency to improve, but business has been checked by the weather Baltimore reports are that the severe weather has checked all lines of trade, although dry goods jobbers look ahead to a fair distribution. At Boston the dry goods trade with jobbers starts moderately favorable, the western and southwestern orders for spring prints and dress ginghams being above conservtaive expectations. With agents business is more quiet, and the low range of prices is a prominent feature Print cloths at the mills appear firmer than for some time at unchanged prices, 31c. for 64s. Stocks are still light. The scaboard wool markets are steady with no new features. Manufacturers are slow to order until goods making are disposed of, though the average aggregate of weekly sales is good. Australian wools bound hither tend to check any advance in fine wools. At Milwaukee and St. Paul, at St. Louis, and

at Burlington, Iowa, the movement of general merchandisc is relatively quiet, with mercantile collections only fair. The movement of dry goods in the central Mississippi river valley has slackened, and prices are not so firm. At Chattanooga and at Memphis there is no material improvement, except in dry goods, to a moderate degree, at the latter. Trade has been visibly checked at the former, the iron industry there being almost at a standstill. At Indian apolis the business situation is disappointing. and collections are slow; there is little disposition to buy, and traders are not so confident as heretofore. At Evansville the commercial outlook is less inspiriting also. Chicago reports a slight gain in the distribution of goods. The iron and steel industries have not improved any. On the contrary, there is a perceptible check to orders for raw and manufactured iron Prices remain unchanged. Anthracite coal is more demoralized, prices are off again, and there has been no decision respecting the quarter's or the year's output Checked buying of cotton by spinners and continued light exports have permitted spots to go off about 1-16c. and futures about 13 points on the week. The wheat situation looks more bullish. Leading interior storage points have begun shipping wheat back to country milling points, which indicates a very light invisible supply. The outlook for six months of this year promises a far more rapid destruction of the enormous visible supply stocks than had been expected, and has turned attention to the world's demand and supply from a new point of view. Spot wheat closed at 901c. a week sgo. Indian corn and oats, too, are firm and higher. The decline in the supply of hogs at packing points has bolstered up the hog products markets. The movement of grocery staples has been disappointing, and behind those in the like week last year. Dairy products are quiet, with limited export demand. The total number of business failures in the United States reported to Bradstreet's this week is 394, against 334 last week, 386 in the third week of January, 1885, 310 in 1884, 289 in 1883 and 210 in 1882. The large increase is striking, as it parallels totals in the early weeks of last year, when the failure list was exceptionally heavy. Canada had 30 failures, as against 28 last week, 30 in the like week in 1885, 38 in 1884, 26 in 1883 and 8 in 1882. The total number of failures in the United States for twenty-two days of 1886 is 1,027, agaiust 1,279 in 1885, 976 in 1884, 948 in 1883 and 565 in 1882 .- Eradstreet's.

The Port Arthur papers are working the mining business for all it is worth, and if untold wealth is not discovered among the rocks of that neighborhood, it will not be the fault of the papers. The Herald reports that there is renewed activity in silver mining in Thunder Bay, on the north shore of Lake Superior. The Silver Islet people are reported to have struck a new lode on Prophry Point, an island lying between Thunder Bay and Black Bay, on Lake Superior. They have also found gold as well as silver. It is not as yet known, however, that the gold is in paying quantities or not, but silver is booming in consequence of the new strike.

Board of Trade.

ADJOURNED MEETING.

The adjourned meeting of the Winnipeg Board of Trade was held in the Board Room yesterday afternoon, the chair being occupied by the president Mr. Kenneth MacKenzie.

After the meeting was called to order, the question of changes of the by-laws in accordance with notice of motion given at the October meeting was taken up, and changes made appointing a Treasurer and arranging his and the Secretory's duties.

The Secretary introduced the question of a membership fee exclusive of annual subscription, and after some discussion, it was agreed that all new members admitted after the first day of May, 1886, shall pay an ent-ance fee of \$25, which shall include yearly subscription for the current year, and that this sum shall in future accompany application for membership.

Mr. David Horne, who had been recommended by the Board of Grain Examiners for the position of Deputy Grain Inspector in this city, was further recommended by the Board, and the Secretary instructed to take steps for his appointment.

Messra. Jas. Pettigrew, N. D. McDonald and H. Leslie were admitted as new members of the Board.

The question of the Exemption Law was discussed at length, and the matter remitted to the council to take steps for its amendment.

Col. Mackeand introduced the question of discriminating freight rates on the C.P.R., and a strong resolution in favor of an independent railway connection with the east was passed, which we have not space for in this issue.

Mr. Ashdown, in an eloquent speech introduced the subject of immigration to and drainage of our vacant lands, urging the necessity for the Local Government grappling with the question.

Messrs. Whitla and Luxton and Capt. Clark also spoke in support of such a course, and a resolution in that direction was unanimously passed, which space compels us to hold over till another issue.

The President read a letter from Pilot Mound complaining bitterly of the action of the C.P.R. in refersing to receive grain for points east of Port Arthur.

The Secretary read a communication from Mr. Kerr, traffic manager of the C.P.R., which stated that the order regarding grain for the east was purely a temporary one, caused by the scarcity of cars, and would likely be rescinded in a week at the furthest. This explanation was deemed satisfactory and the Board decided to take no action in the matter.

After some matters of detail had been attended to the meeting adjourned.

THE Manitoba Southwestern Railway Company have transferred to the province of Manitoba sine hundred thousand acres of land as security for the provincial bonds issued in aid of the extension of the lines in Southern Manitoba, in accordance with the Railway Aid Act of last session. The transfer of 375,000 acres from the Manitoba & Northwestern was made some weeks ago.

A Growing Wholcsale Centre.

The statement frequently made, that "Truth is stronger than fiction," has become a truism, and in reviewing a history of the new world. many instances will be found to verify this. Especially when we turn to the western portion of the North American continent and learn of its wonderful progress; of civies springing up as if by magic; of the peopling of whole districts, which were marked "unexplored regione" on the mans that we studied at school during our early childhood; of the establishment of thriving business centres, with all the bustle, con fusion and excitement incident to the whirl of trade and commerce; with thousands and tens of thousands of busy people constantly thronging crowded theroughfares; with their boards of trade ar ! . nambers of commerce; with their noisy cal, coards, where men congregate to speculate in grain and provisions, with stock exchanges, where wealthy men are sometimes made pappers, and occasionally a risky venturer secures a competence in a day, in the latter instance almost sure to be lost in as short a time; with to bring factories and workshops, whose tall chimneys send forth black clouds of smoke day and night, and where the wheels of industry never sease to revolve. And all this taking place within the memory of comparatively young men, and at a locality which a short time before was either primeval forest or virgin prairie. Is it any wonder, then, that the tales of Sinbad the Sailor appear to the reader as mild pleasantries in comparison with the astounding facts presented in the rapid development of the great West and Northwest?

While this development of comparatively unknown regions has been going on so constantly and rapidly, it may naturally be expected thawholesale commerce has also been expanding and branching out into new fields, and establishing centres of supply in the newly peopled districts. The merch of commerce has followed closely in the trail of the westward flowing tide of emigration, and no longer are the cities of the Atlantic seaboard the sole and only competitors for the growing wholesale trade of the country. Towns of greater or less import. ance as wholesale centres have been growing up in the interior, and at points then regarded as the outside limit of organized trade, only in a short time to be succeeded by other centres further beyond these again. Indeed, castern merchants have found it necessary to either move westward or establish branches at principal points in the interior, in order to protect their trade.

Twenty-five [years ago such a thing as a wholesale centre could not be said to have existed west of the Mississippi River. Now, such places not only exist, but are numerous. St. Paul, Minneapolis, Dubuque, Davenport, Des Moines, Cedar Rapids, Council Bluffs, Kansas City, Denver, and probably a dozen other places of less importance, all do a thriving wholesale trade, and the number of such places is being constantly augmented. The wonderfully rapid development of the wholesale trade in the west, and the circumstances attending it, has been cause for surprise even to those

resources of the country, while the uninformed can hardly credit what has been published respecting its progress. Minneapolis, now the largest city north-west of Chicago, and the largest primary wheat market on the contin-1 tes its evistence back some thirty years, while, with de adjoining city of "t. Paul, the two form " actically one wholesale and manufacturing centre ranking among the largest in the country

Following the tide of commerce from the places just referred to, the next point of importance as a wholesale centre will be our own city of Winnipeg. Less than .. quarter of a century ago the locality was known only to the voyageurs, traders and trappers of the great far company which then held sway over the land. us the leading supply depot and head centre of the said company. The immense territory, which she now supplies with mercantile commodities, was known to the outside world as the "Great Lone Land," and to the Hudson's Bay Co. and its employees as a preserve wherein to carry on their trade in the fers and skins of the wild animals, which, with the almost equally wild Indians, were its only inhabitants. The one is now a repulous and prosperous city, with a wholesale trade represented by nearly 100 institutions; the other, a vast region still sparcely populated, but dotted with thriving towns and villages, from the Red River to the Rocky Mountains, and from the United States boundary to the North Saskatchewan. Thus the great region, which was supposed to be so cold, barren and inhospitable as to render it unfit for the residence of civilized communities, has been brought under the sway of commerce, and can beast of a wholesale centre of no mean proportion, while the parties who were interested in holding the country as a preserve for the prosecution of its fur trade. and whose object was to keep the outside world in darkness as to its resources, are now sharing in its commercial advancement.

The history of Winnipeg really commences in the year of 1870, or at the time that the Northwest Territories were brought under 'he control of the Canadian Government. Previous to that time the trading post, which existed at the site of the present city, was known as Fort Garry. The Province of Manitoba was carved out of a portion of the Northwest Territory, Winnipeg was made the capital thereof, and forthwith she started on her career of development, commencing with a population of about 250 souls. From that time forward her growth has been steady and rapid. Anything like an established wholesale trade, however, cannot be said to have existed here previous to the year 1880 Before that date wholesale business, if it could be called such, was done by travelling traders, who, with ox-carts loaded with goods suitable for the wants of their Indian and Half-breed customers, or for the white residents of the few straggling settlements, started out once a year on their tours through the country. These traders, or peddlers as they might be termed. disputed the field with the Hudson's Bay Co., which was their only competitor. The capitalists who came here in the early days, were mostly of the barnacle class, speculators, who bust informed as to the abundant and varied i sought to increase their own wealth, without

regard to the prosperity of the country. Hence legitimate trade enterprises were frequently neglected in the furthering of wild-cat chemes of various kinds. Since this class of parasites have been shaken off, the wholesale trade here has made great strides in its establishment and development. During the year referred te. wholesa'e trade began to assume an organized form, and at the close of 1880, after a year of prosperous activity, the jobbing institutions of the city numbered about wenty. By the close of 1881 the number had grown to 50, and with the commencement of 1886 a total of 87 wholesale institutions were in the field.

In other columns of this paper will be found full and complete accounts of the establishment and development of Winnipeg as a trade centie, with special reference to the trade of the past year. To those unacquainted with the facts the story may seem extraordinary, but yet the development of wholesale trade here has only just commenced. The proportion which it may and will assume, is as incomprehensible to the uninformed as are the boundless prairies to the residents of the crowded countries of the Old World. It can only cease to expand when there is no further field for development in the mighty region, of which Winnipeg is the commercial capital. Situated in the centre of a continent, midway between the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, the gateway to a vast agricultural and ranching country which stretches a thousand miles westward, and nearly twice that distance north-westward, whose resources are only beginning to be known, her possibilities are truly illimitable. Then add to this the fact that, owing to the nature of the country to the east, Winnipeg is located at a point over 1,000 miles west of any place that can ever become a wholesale commercial centre of importance. A reference to one branch alone is sufficient to show what may be expected from the future, and we select the grair trade. When the central point or largest primary mar-Let for wheat commenced to be moved westward from the Atlantic seaboard, it followed the route of navigation slong the great lakes from Buffalo onward to Chicago, where apparently a final resting place had been found. But how delusive this idea, for we find that, leaving the great lakes, the largest primary wheat market is yow located at Minneapolis, a jump northward of over 400 miles. Another little skip of less than that distance will bring it to Winnipeg, whither it is now travelling. As a roof of this, i; will be seen that our grain trade has already outstripped every other line of commerce, and is advancing with leaps and bounds. There is not only a possibility, but a strong probability that Winnipeg will at no distant day be the leading grain centre of the North American continent. With a railway to Hudson's Bay as one of the probabilities of the very near future, Winnipeg would undoubtedly become in a very short time, one of the largest receiving points on the continent, not only for grain, but other products, such as flour, butter, cheese, hog products, beef, hides, etc., and many other actural products of the great Northwest, which would be shipped by the shortest route to the Old World. In return manufactured goods would be brought in, and

distributed from Winnipeg to the cities, towns and villages now rapidly springing up all over this vast region. This may seem an overdrawn 1. cture, and chronic grumblers will say: "Yes, it reads very nicely, but there is an 'if' in the question, and the railway is not built yet." But just here we may state that it is a foregone conclusion with everybody here, that the Hudgon's Bay reilway must and thall be built, and with that railwry in operation nobody disputes the fact that Winnipeg is so situated as to become a great wholesale distributing and receiving centre. As matters now stand there is good prospect of a speedy consummation of this desirable result, and of a return of north western commerce to its old and natural route via Hudson's Bay, as in the days when the Hadson's Bay Company imported their goods and exported their furs by the same route. But even without the opening up of this route, the expansion of the wholesale trade must go onthough, perhaps, less rapid - in keeping with the development of the country, and on as solid and sure a basis as an intelligent and industrious population will undoubtedly place it. As the great Northwest becomes more densely populated in its more remote parts, other wholesale centres of considerable importance will be established, and a commercial sketch of the Canadian Northwest ten years from the present time would likely show at least four such places.

Work on the volunteer monument to be erected on the city hall square, Winnipeg, will be commenced in a day or so. The contractors are getting the materials on the ground and have erected a workshop on the square.

THE Winnipeg city engineer is now engaged making an estimate of the cost of paving the market square, according to the council's mstructions. It is the intention to proceed with the work as soon as possible, and to ornament the city hall grounds as soon as spring opens.

MR. GLADSTONE is credited with having once made the remark that Great Britain is enabled, by labor-saving machinery, to perform the work of 600,000,000 hand laborers, or as much as twice the hand labor of the adult labor... population of the globe uraided by machinery. In other words, in place of possessing the manual power of, say, 6,000,000 adults in these islands, machinery multiplies our producing power 100 times, and adds to our wealth in proportion.

"THE meanest fraud recently brought to light in this town," said a Harlem physician to a reporter, "is a fraud on physicians and their patients. There has been for some time a scarcity of vaccine virus hereabouts, owing to the great demand along the Canadian border. Taking advantage of this, unscrupulous druggists have prepared quills with croton oil instead of vaccine matter. The sore produced by croton oil is so much like that of the genuine virus that ordinary people would never know the difference. I have no doubt that there are a good many people in town who suppose that they are safe from small pox infection when they have simply been vaccinated with an rritant."

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