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TINSMITHS' AND PLUMBERS' SUPPLIES
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METAL MERCHANTS,
 11 McWILLIAM ST. EAST,
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G. F. STEPHENS & CO.,
 Importers of and Wholesale Dealers in
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 VARNISHES, BRUSHES, PLASTER.

GOLDEN STAR MACHINE OILS.
 NORTHWESTERN AGENTS FOR
 Benny Macpherson & Co., Importers of Shell and Heavy
 Hardware, Montreal.
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 Nails, Railroad Spikes, Horse Shoes, Tacks, Brads,
 etc., Montreal.
 Alex. McArthur & Co., Manufacturers Tanned Paper,
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Bird Block, Cor. Main and Bannatyne Sts.,
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

THOS. G. FLEETON,
 Manufacturer of
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361 Main St., WINNIPEG.

In order to introduce my home manufactured cigars
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 any of the following three brands to any dealer sending me
 me \$5: Fleeton's A. 1. Key West and Grand Discovery.
 Seven half boxes, all different brands, for \$10. Sent C.O.
 D.: if preferred. They are all choice brands made from
 the finest leaf tobacco, and far superior to the ordinary
 imported 10 cent. cigars.

JAS. A. LOUGHEED,
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OPAL GARY & MEDICINE HAT.

JAMES A. SKINNER & CO.,
 HAMILTON, ONT.,
 Importers of Crockery, China, Glassware
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 Largest Stock in Canada to Select From.

NOTHING LIKE LEATHER.
W. N. JOHNSTON & CO.,
 Importers and Dealers in,
Leather, Findings, Plasterers' Hair
HIDES AND OIL.
3 LOGAN ST. WEST WINNIPEG.

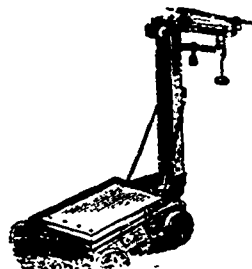
SMITH & KEIGHLEY,
 =Teas=
EAST AND WEST INDIA PRODUCE
 —AND—
GENERAL GROCERIES,
 No. 9 FRONT STREET EAST,
TORONTO.

THE FEDERAL BANK
OF CANADA.
HEAD OFFICE, - - - TORONTO.
 Capital, - - - - - \$1,250,000.
 Rest, - - - - - 100,000.
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 B. Cronyn, Esq. H. E. Clarke, Esq., M.P.P.
 J. W. Langmuir, Esq.
 G. W. YARKEK, General Manager.
WINNIPEG. F. L. PATTON, MANAGER.

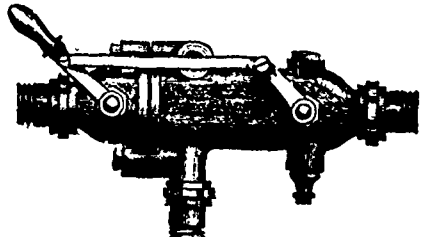
BRANCHES
 Aurora, Kingston, Strathroy, Tilsonburg,
 Chatham, London, Simcoe, Winnipeg,
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 Bankers—New York—American Exchange National
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 Britain—The National Bank of Scotland.

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Banker, Broker & General Loan & Insurance Agent
 DRAFTS SOLD ON ANY PART OF CANADA
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 Collections promptly attended to
EMERSON, MANITOBA.
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 nipeg; Manager London & Ontario Inv. Co., Toronto.

GURNEY & WARE,
 Manufacturers of
 Platform Scales—all sizes.
 Millers and Grain Scales.
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 Hay, Coal and Stock Scales.
 Grocers, Counter and Union
 Scales
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SCALES
 Wholesale Dealers—J. H. ASHDOWN,
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THE KORTING INJECTOR!!
 Acknowledged to be the
Best Boiler Feeder in the World



Manufactured by
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 St. Peter and Craig Streets, **MONTREAL.**

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 OPPOSITE NEW C. P. R. STATION,
BRANDON, MANITOBA
FRANK BOISSEAU, Proprietor.
 LATE OF THE RUSSELL HOUSE, OTTAWA.
 Strictly first-class in every respect. Commercial Sample
 Rooms Attached.

Mulholland Bros
GENERAL HARDWARE MERCHANTS,
 Importers of
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 DEALERS IN STOVES AND
MANUFACTURERS OF TINWARE,
 Agents for the Wasaga and Moch Celebrated Galvanized Barbed Wire
Main Street, - Winnipeg.

Hodgson, Sumner & Co.
 IMPORTERS OF
 British, French, American and German
DRY GOODS,
FANCY GOODS,
Smallwares,
TOYS, BEADS, &c
 WHOLESALE ONLY.
Cor. Princess & Bannatyne Streets
WINNIPEG.

Andrew Allan, President. John McKechnie, Superintendent
 F. H. Brydges, Vice-President. H. N. Williams, Sec.-Treas.

THE VULCAN IRON COMPANY,
 OF MANITOBA, (LIMITED).
BRASS & IRON FOUNDERS,
 Light and Heavy Forgings, Engine and Boiler Works,
 Millwrighting,
GENERAL BLACKSMITHING,
 All Kinds of Machinery.
POINT DOUGLAS AV., WINNIPEG

HENDERSON & BULL,

Wholesale Commission Merchants

AGENTS FOR

The Canada Sugar Refining Company,
The Canada Jute Company,
MONTREAL.STORAGE, Bond or Free. Lowest Rates of
Insurance Liberal Advances made on Consig-
ments.

OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE:

Corner Princess and Alexander Streets,
WINNIPEG.

AMES, HOLDEN & CO., MONTREAL.

The Ames, Holden Company,
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Dealers in

BOOTS & SHOES,

33 Queen Street,

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JAMES REDMOND,
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WINNIPEG.**Thompson,****Codville & Co.,**

WHOLESALE GROCERS,

26 McDermott Street,

WINNIPEG.

NEW FRUITS

IN STORE AND ARRIVING.

Choice off-stalk Valencias, London Layers in boxes and
quarter boxes, ordinary Layers and Black Basket in boxes
finest Dehesa in Fancy Cartons. Sultanas, Loose Muscats,
Persian Dates. Figs in 1lb, 10lb and 50lb boxes
Currants, Prunes, etc. CRANBERRIES**New Teas, 85-86**Choice assortment of Japans, Oolongs, India Teas
Hysons, Gunpowders, Scented PeLoes, Assams and Caper
Teas in chests, half chests, caddies and 1lb fancy papers.

PROVISIONS.

HAMS, BACON, CHEESE, BUTTER, LARD, ETC.

WINES, LIQUORS AND CIGARS.

TABLE LUXURIES.

Closest Prices. Samples Mailed.

G. F. & J GALT

PRINCESS STREET

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E. F. Hutchings,
MANUFACTURER AND DEALER IN
SADDLERY, HARNESS,

SADDLERY HARDWARE,

Leather & Findings, Trunks, Valises, &c.

EVERYTHING IN THE SADDLERY LINE.

I have the largest assortment of goods now ready for
SPRING TRADE there are West of Chicago. Mexican,
California and Cheyenne Saddles of my own manufacture
on improved principles. Also a large line of English Sad-
dlery at English Invoice Prices.

Store: 569 Main Street.

Hotel Brunswick Block,

WAREHOUSE AND FACTORY:

46 McWilliam Street East.

ESTABLISHED 1867

WINNIPEG.

TASSE, WOOD & CO

Manufacturers of

Fine Cigars,

MONTREAL.

Our Brands: { RELIANCE &
TERRIER.

Are unsurpassed by any in the Dominion

Ask your Wholesale Merchant
FOR THEM.**Turnbull & McManus,**

WHOLESALE

SASH, DOORS,

Building Paper, Etc.

OPPOSITE C. P. R. DEPOT,

WINNIPEG, - MANITOBA.

Sutherland & Campbell,

WHOLESALE GROCERS

—AND—

COMMISSION MERCHANTS

STOCK LARGE AND WELL ASSORTED.

PRICES LOW TO CASH AND

PROMPT MEN.

PRINCESS ST., - WINNIPEG.

HENRY LYMAN. GEO. W. LILLIE. JHO. HENDERSON

Lyman Brothers & Co.,
WHOLESALE**DRUGGISTS,**

Every requisite for the Retail Trade

CONTRACTORS OUTFITS

PROMPTLY SUPPLIED.

TORONTO.**LYON, MACKENZIE & POWIS,**

WHOLESALE GROCERS,

Cor. McDermott & Albert Sts., WINNIPEG

Geo. D. Wood, Winnipeg.

Wood & Leggat,
Hamilton, Ont.**GEO. D. WOOD & CO.**

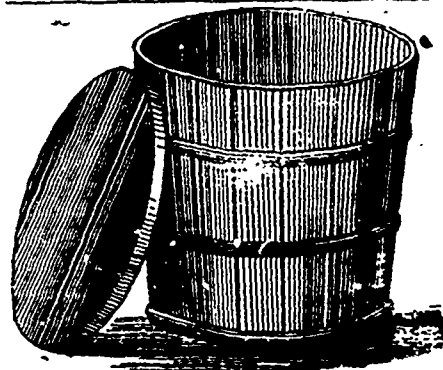
WHOLESALE

Hardware & Metals

GUNS AND SPORTING GOODS.

22 & 24 ALEXANDER STREET EAST, and
36 & 37 McWILLIAM ST. EAST,

WINNIPEG.

**Tin Lined Butter Tub,
Chase & Sanborn's Coffees**

FOR SALE BY

TURNER, MACKEAND & CO.,
25 BANNATYNE STREET EAST, - WINNIPEG.

The Commercial

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

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

VOL. 4

WINNIPEG, APRIL 27, 1886.

NO. 31

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 advance.

ADVERTISING RATES

1 month's weekly insertion	\$ 30 per line.
3 months, do	0 75 "
6 " do	1 25 "
12 " do	2 00 "

Casual rates for all advertisements inserted for a less period than one month, or for all transient advertising 10 cents per line each insertion.

Reading notices in news columns, 15 cents per line each insertion. Special location will be charged extra.

THE COMMERCIAL will be circulated extensively amongst wholesale and retail Merchants, Jobbers, Bankers, Brokers, Manufacturers, Hotel Keepers, Insurance and Loan Agencies throughout the entire Canadian Northwest.

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

Office, 4 and 6 James St. East

JAS. E. STEEN,
Publisher.

WINNIPEG, APRIL 27, 1886.

FITZGERALD COCHRANE, barrister, Calgary, is dead.

GEO. CLARKE has opened a law office at Battleford.

— COLLINS will open a dry goods store at Calgary.

— MOULTON, of Calgary, will build an hotel at Banff.

MISS JASPER, milliner, Emerson, has moved to Winnipeg.

HOLDEN & ALKINS have opened a blacksmith shop at Brandon.

WORK in the Galt coal mines at Lethbridge has been resumed.

THE 12th of May has been proclaimed Arbor day for this province.

A. YORK, of York & Co., butchers, Moosemin, is reported away.

HINCK & Co. have opened a general store at Strateburg, near Regina.

— FRITH, of West Emerson, has opened a blacksmith shop at Boissevain.

J. C. GRAY & Co. have arranged to continue their store business at Morden.

J. ELLIOTT & Sons are erecting an implement warehouse at Portage la Prairie.

A. W. BLEASDELL & Co. are opening a branch drug store at Ficher Creek, Alberta.

H. J. CLARKE, M. D., has commenced the practice of his profession at Battleford.

MCQUEEN BROS., general storekeepers, Moose Jaw, have retired from business.

THE first through train for British Columbia will leave Montreal on the 24th of May.

KINSEY & YOUNG, of Winnipeg, are building coal docks at Fort William, Lake Superior.

J. HORSMAN is erecting a building at Oak Lake and will open out in the hardware line.

J. A. FINNEY has withdrawn from the firm of W. Dufour & Co., auctioneers, Victoria, B.C.

CHAS. DAVIS and Wm. Sheriff, of Portage la Prairie, are arranging to start a brewery in Minnedosa.

H. F. PRINCE, of Prince & Co., Winnipeg, the well-known music Dealers, died on Tuesday morning last.

A PAPER has been started at Killarney. It is to be known as the *Southwest Manitoban*. D. Wilcox is editor.

P. DALY & Co., druggists, Edmonton, are adding stationery, fancy goods, jewelry and cigars to their business.

THE Massey Manufacturing Co. will erect a warehouse and put in a stock of agricultural implements at Calgary.

WM. FERGOUSON has opened a shirt factory in Winnipeg, for the manufacture of shirts, collars, cuffs, etc., to order.

It is reported from Ottawa that an additional fifty miles of the Northwestern Railway have been placed under contract.

THE assignee of the estate of Wm. Stephenson, of Winnipeg, will make a statement of the condition of the estate on May 1st, at a meeting of creditors to be held on that date.

THE law firm of Bain, Blanchard & Mulock, will in future be carried on under the style of Bain, Mulock, Perdue & Morphy.

— BARKER, formerly of the firm of Knox & Barker, general storekeepers, Prince Albert, will open a general store at Battleford.

DURING the year 1885, the amount paid for salaries in the Winnipeg post office was \$25,738. The receipts for the same time were \$55,251.

THE citizens of Macleod, in mass meeting, have unanimously condemned the liquor laws and permit system, in vogue in the territories.

EGGS were sold in Edmonton at 20c a dozen. Most farmers, however, decline to sell at less than 30, 35 or 40 cents. Butter sells at 35 to 40 cents.

PRairie fires have been very destructive this spring. From all parts of the country come reports of the destruction of barns, granaries and dwellings.

SHWARTZ & RYBINSKI, merchant tailors, Victoria, B. C., have left suddenly for the U.S., without paying for their stock of goods, obtained from Victoria wholesalers.

THE Hudson's Bay Railway Co. are asking for certain amendments to their charter, one of which will provide for the distribution of the land grant of the company among the stockholders.

LAMOUREUX BROS' mill, Edmonton, has sawed about 200,000 feet of lumber this winter. Over 30,000 feet have been sold from the mill; the remainder is lying on the river bank for shipment to Battleford.

A BRANDON paper says buyers there are giving about 70c for good wheat and the dealers are asking \$1.10 for the best samples of imported wheat for sale. Oats bring 25c; potatoes 20c; butter 25c and eggs 10c.

THE case of Robinson vs. Huston came up before Justice Killam on Tuesday. This case grew out of the assignment of J. Robinson, of this city. The stock was bought from the assignee by a brother of the debtor. The present action is to test the validity of the assignment, which is attached by an execution creditor on the ground that the same is conditional and void in law. The case was enlarged until the 27th inst.

Business East.

ONTARIO.

David Thompson, miller, Deans, is dead.
 Samuel Sloan, coal dealer, London, has sold out.
 John Cooper, grocer, Ridgetown, has sold out.
 H. Brown, greener, Niagara Falls, is selling out.
 Ontario Mattress Co., Orillia, were burned out.
 Thos Crean, tailor, Toronto, has assigned in trust.
 Peter Studer, hotelkeeper, New Dundee, has sold out.
 D. Arnott, tinsmith, Lakefield, has assigned in trust.
 Matthew Reiner, tailor, Breslau, is giving up business.
 Jas. Scott & Co., dry goods dealers, Chatham; stock sold.
 A. McCrae, hotelkeeper, Port Arthur, is reported away.
 B. Wilson, harness maker, Camlachie Station, has sold out.
 Alex. Calley, lumber merchant, Strathroy, has sold out.
 Mrs. J. McAvoy, hotelkeeper, Sarnia; bailiff in possession.
 Jas. J. Smith, shoemaker, Perth, is offering to compromise.
 Mrs. Beckett, milliner, Newmarket, has assigned in trust.
 C. Thomas, furniture dealer, Newmarket, was burned out.
 S. Fraser, grocer, Whitby, has sold out to Taylor & Haist.
 S. Curry, hotelkeeper, Macoc; is succeeded by R. Simmons.
 Lindsay Bros., dry goods merchants, Stayner, were burned out.
 A. Conn, general storekeeper, Tyrconnel, has assigned in trust.
 Wm. Foy, livery keeper, Pickering, has sold out to D. Redded.
 Jas. Wright, tinsmith, Newcastle, has sold out to T. Bonathan.
 R. Davidson, confectioner, Mitchell, has sold out to J. H. Winter.
 A. B. Dawswell, machinist, Claremont, has gone out of business.
 Francis Webb, hotelkeeper, Claremont; succeeded by A. Hastings.
 C. Wilson of the Carding Mill, Brougham, has gone out of business.
 Alex. McDonald, general storekeeper, Mountain Grove, has assigned.
 Thos. Cooper, general storekeeper, Thompsonville, has assigned in trust.
 W. A. Sherwood, general storekeeper, Brownsville, has assigned in trust.
 Miss A. M. Smith, milliner, Delhi, has sold out to Miss A. M. Eldridge.
 Mrs. R. H. White, baker, Bracebridge, has closed up and is about to leave.
 W. G. Begg & Co., general storekeeper, Stayner; stock damaged by fire.
 Martin O'Mara, hotel and livery keeper, London, has sold out livery business.
 W. P. Hagerman, hardware merchant, Brougham, has sold out to Gross & Grainger.

Frank Longpré, general storekeeper, LaFontaine; has sold out to M. Beaudoin.
 Jas. Keating, general storekeeper and lumber merchant, Oil City, has sold out general store.

QUEBEC.

Sylvester Duon, confectioner, St. Johns, has assigned.
 Lemay & Sponard, grocers, Montreal, have dissolved.
 Bastien & Bedard, plumbers, Montreal, have dissolved.
 Louis Bisson & Co., tailors, Montreal, have dissolved.
 Lucien Godin, baker, St. Michel d'Yamaska, has assigned.
 Hay & Lauro, cigar manufacturers, Montreal, have dissolved.
 Lapierre & Dagenais, builders, Montreal, have dissolved.
 Alex. Beatron, general storekeeper, St. Polycarpe, has assigned.
 McLachlan Bros. & Co., wholesale dry goods, Montreal have dissolved.
 Dupuy, Bennette & Co., manufacturing agents, Montreal, have dissolved.
 Jas. Callahan, grocer, Montreal; advertises his stock for sale by auction.
 Mrs. L. D. Gelinus, general storekeeper, LaBale, has assigned in trust.
 Mrs. Sophronie Boulois, general storekeeper, Chambly Canton, has assigned.
 Amable Godin, general storekeeper, St. Michel d'Yamaska, has assigned.
 Mrs. C. Berthiaume, hats and fur dealer, Montreal, held a meeting of creditors.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Myers & Naylor, plumbers, Halifax, have dissolved.
 Mosher & Malcolm, grocers, Annapolis, have dissolved.
 Moffatt & Johnston, grocers, North Sydney, have dissolved.
 W. J. Balcom, general storekeeper, Aylesford, has sold out.
 Mrs. B. McConnell, grocer, Halifax, is selling off by auction.
 Alex. Blackie, dealer in boots and shoes, Annapolis, has assigned.
 Halifax Electric Light Co., Limited, Halifax, have given chattel mortgage.

General Notes.

The traffic receipts of the Canadian Pacific for the week ending April 14th were \$87,000, an increase of \$7,000 compared with the corresponding week of last year.

The council of the Toronto Board of Trade have met the representatives of the Hamilton board and also insurance agents and appointed a committee to devise a scheme for making wholesale merchants see that their customers carried seventy five per cent of fire insurance on their stocks.

The wholesale dry goods dealers of Montreal have been thrown into considerable excitement during the past week, by astounding developments regarding the fraud upon the customs by a prominent member of the trade. There is another house in the trade, which it is said will soon have to give an account of its undervalued importations.

The Toronto city council and board of trade have inspected the samples of products of the Northwest in the Canadian Pacific car. The corn exchange branch of the latter body met afterwards, and passed a resolution bearing testimony to the fact that grain from the Northwest, is of superior quality, and when harvested without damage is the best grain on the continent.

The Ontario Court of Appeal has decided that the Canadian Pacific Railway must allow its agents on the Toronto, Grey and Bruce division to act as agents for the Vickers Express Company. The court also affirmed judgment in favor of the Province of Ontario as to its right to timber on the track, and fifty thousand square miles in extent in the district of Algoma. The right was contested by the St. Catharines Milling Company.

British Columbia.

The exports of coal from the Port of Nanaimo for the month of March, 1886 amounted to 19,714 tons.

The sealing schooner *Theresa* has arrived at Victoria with 600 seal skins, which will be sold there. The sealer *Lookout* has also arrived with her catch.

The miners working in the No. 1 Esplanade Shaft, belonging to the Vancouver Coal Company on Saturday opened up an extensive field of superior hard coal. The indications are looked upon by experts as favorable in the extreme, and assure a large area of the famous Nanaimo coal.

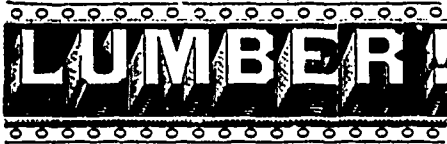
Fixing the price for salmon is an interesting and exciting event every spring at Astoria. The fishermen meet and decide what they shall require. The meeting has just been held. It was reported at the meeting that the cannerymen had said they could not afford to pay more than 50 to 60 cents a fish this year, which the fishermen declare is not enough. A motion was made that the price of fish be set at 70 and 80 cents per fish, discussion of which was followed by an amendment making the price 65 and 75 cents per fish, was declared unanimously carried. The market for canned salmon is weak and prices are low. The partial exclusion will add to the cost of the prepared fish, and now comes a demand for the price above named, a price much higher than that of the past ten years.

Seeding Operations.

Some have doubted the correctness of the report published in these columns last week that the acreage placed under crop this year would be one-half more than that of last year. The writer has taken the trouble to place himself in communication with many who are in a position to know, and there is no reason to doubt that the acreage will be even more than stated. In many cases the farmers are already through seeding, and the grain is up in some places, two inches in length, and more ground is being prepared for oats and barley. There will be a considerable acreage of the latter this season, as the prices seem to favor its growth. By Saturday night, it is thought seeding will be completed.—*Brandon Sun.*

BOYD & CROWE,

WHOLESALE DEALERS IN



MAPLE STREET,

WINNIPEG.

WALL PAPERS!

Wholesale & Retail.

(ENGLISH AND AMERICAN DESIGNS.)

Orders by Mail promptly attended to.
Samples sent free on application.

J. SAUNDERS & CO.,

239 MAIN STREET,

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Winnipeg Warehousing Co.

STORAGE FOR ALL KINDS OF GOODS

BONDED OR FREE.

Customs Government Bond in Building.
Freight advanced. Negotiable Receipts Issued
and Goods Insured. Charges moderate.

Warehouses and Office: POIST DOUGLAS AV. and HIGGINS STREET.

JOHN E. DINGMAN, Acting Manager.

GLINES & CO.,

PRODUCE AND

Commission Merchants.

All Consignments promptly attended to
and Prompt Returns made.

92 PRINCESS STREET,
WINNIPEG.

BOILER PURGER

Prepared specially for the ALKALINE waters
of the NORTHWEST, the

ONLY RELIABLE

preparation of its class made.

JOSEPH PARKINSON,

MANUFACTURING CHEMIST,

WINNIPEG, - - MANITOBA.

City Roller Mills.

D. H. McMILLAN & BROTHER,

Manufacturers and Dealers

ROLLER PROCESS FLOUR,

In the following Grades:

Patents, Strong Bakers, and Spring Extra
Graham Flour, Cracked Wheat,
Bran, Shorts, Oats, Barley and Oatmeal.

MILLS: FOOT OF LOMBARD ST.,
WINNIPEG.

PANSONS & FERGUSON,

Wholesale Paper Dealers

—AND—
GENERAL STATIONERS.

AGENTS

Canada Paper Company,
Manufacturers Printing, Wrapping & Writing Papers
&c., Montreal and Windsor Mills, Quebec.

Alex. Pirie & Sons,
Manufacturers Fine Stationery, Aberdeen, Scotland.

M. Staunton & Co.,
Manufacturers Wall Papers, Toronto.

GERRIE BLOCK, PRINCESS STREET,
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MOORE'S CHINA HALL

Direct Importers of

China, Glass and Earthenware

SILVER-PLATED WARE,

Lamps, Cutlery and General House Furnishings

MOORE & CO., Proprietors,
Wholesale Warehouse, 21 Albert St.
Office and Sample Room, 430 Main St. WINNIPEG

Orders by Mail will receive prompt attention.

THOS. W. TAYLOR,

THE PIONEER PAPER RULER,

Blank Book Manufacturer,
Of Manitoba and the North-West.

13 OWEN STREET, WINNIPEG, MAN.

THE GALT MINE COAL!

Now being delivered at any Railway point in the Northwest.

Pronounced Second to None in Quality.

Winnipeg Offices:
453 Main Street.

G. H. B. WAINWRIGHT,
General Agent.

Dominion Organ and Piano Co.

AGENCY FOR MANITOBA & NORTHWEST.

Tuning and Repairing a Specialty.

Also dealers in Stationery and Fancy Goods.

W. H. NUNN & CO.,

No. 589 MAIN STREET, - WINNIPEG.

J. H. ASHDOWN,

Wholesale Dealer & Importer of all kinds of

Shelf and Heavy Hardware,

STOVES AND TINWARE,

PAINTS, OILS AND GLASS,

Railroad and Mill Supplies

The Trade furnished with our ILLUSTRATED
CATALOGUE on application.

Corner Main and Bannatyne Streets,
WINNIPEG.

R. T. WATSON

Wholesale Confectioners,

75 FRONT STREET EAST,

TORONTO.

We manufacture a large line of General Confectionery and
make a specialty of ACIDULATED and MEDICATED
GOODS for the Drug Trade, packed in Glass Bottles. Our

Imperial Cough Drops

are packed in 5lb Lithographed Tins and are

The Best in the World for the Throat and Chest—for the Voice, UNEQUALLED.

Give us a Trial.

McBEAN BROS.,

CITY HALL SQUARE,

WINNIPEG.

A. G. McBEAN, P. O. Box 1299, Montreal.

Commission Merchants,

AND EXPORTERS OF

GRAIN & PRODUCE.

SAMUEL HOOPER, DEALER IN MONUMENTS, HEAD
stones, Mantle Pieces, Grates, etc. Special designs fur-
nished on application. Cor. Bannatyne and Albert Sts.
Winnipeg.

GRANT & HAMILTON,

ELEPHANT PAINT AND PAPER HOUSE,
—Dealers in—

Wall Papers, Paints, Oils,

GLASS, COLORS, BRUSHES, ETC.

545 Main Street, - WINNIPEG.

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, APRIL 27, 1886.

THE HUDSON'S BAY RAILWAY.

If any reliance can be placed upon the transatlantic news by cable during the past week, there is some hope that the construction of a Hudson's Bay railway will be commenced during the present year. We are not disposed to place too much reliance upon the news thus received, but the possibilities of the future foreshadowed in the dispatch to the *St. Paul Globe*, are so extremely Canadian in their tone, and so in keeping with the system of charter-peddling carried on in connection with the affairs of the Northwest, that cautious people here might question if after all, the opening of the Hudson's Bay route would be an un-mixed blessing to this country.

That the opening of a railway from this province to the shores of the Hudson's Bay would be the greatest impetus to north-western progress possible at present, is the fixed belief of almost every well wisher of this country. But when we come to such a conclusion it is only after taking a superficial view of the question, and making no allowance for the legislative eccentricities which might be indulged in at Ottawa, and the peculiar manipulation the great undertaking might be subjected to by charter peddlers, whose greatest anxiety is to make as much as possible out of the whole affair.

The cablegram we have referred to gives a hazy forecast of the kind of difficulties the Hudson's Bay railway project may yet have to pass through. The opposition of the Hudson's Bay Company is taken into consideration, and vague hints of monopolies in connection with the northern outlet, which might prove as much a burden and check upon north-western progress, as the railway monopoly to the south, under which we have been groaning for the past few years.

We have learned from experience that great public undertakings in Canada are not always carried out with the good of the people as the first aim, but are often made to supply the carrion around which political vultures are allowed to fatten, and although a charter for the construction of a Hudson's Bay railway is now in force, and its intentions are very definite, the necessary amendments to make

it come within the grasp of the political barnacle, can soon be supplied at Ottawa. The recent unseemly wrangle between two Dominion M.P.'s about the "Backsheesh" to be levied off the construction of the Northwest Central railway, supplies a clear indication of the arrogance and impudence with which Ottawa politicians assert their privilege of putting their hands into the public purse. It is no doubt humiliating for the Canadian public to admit that matters have reached such a state in our political affairs. But we have reached that state, and until a complete revolution takes place in the political theories of Canadians, we must submit to all the injustice heaped upon us, or try to, and meet the aggression on our interests with weapons as unscrupulous as those used by the aggressors.

There can be no doubt, but in the now existing Hudson's Bay railway charter we have a measure in which the interests of the public of the Northwest are more, and of the political barnacle less looked after, than is usual in connection with the granting of such charters. This we may attribute to the incredulity of eastern politicians when it was granted as to the possibility of the road being constructed during the present generation. The chances of its being constructed are now good, and more than one Ottawa politician now winces under the belief that he has let a good thing slip past him. It would no doubt be a grand chance, to get the charter once more before Parliament for amendments, especially if such amendments included the granting of some monopoly or monopolies to capitalists. Capitalists before Parliament asking for a monopoly, are good fat chickens to pluck, and no class understand the plucking process as well as the barnacles which hover around Ottawa legislation. Thus if the Hudson's Bay railway charter comes again before Parliament, we may expect its projectors, or intending constructors to secure swinging monopolies in their favor, and to pay unlimited "backsheesh" to the political barnacles and parasites who support their claims. Of course north-western resources will have to pay the piper in the long run, and his bill is likely to be a long tailed one.

In the Northwest we are already in doubt as to whether or not the opening of direct rail communication to the Atlantic will counterbalance the evils of the C.P.R. monopoly. It might be that all the bene-

fits the opening of a Hudson's Bay outlet would confer, would be outweighed by the monopolies and other drawbacks which would surround it. If as is indicated in the telegram above referred to, monopoly as to the navigation of the Hudson's Straits, and the seal and walrus fishing of the bay are part of the prices of a Hudson's Bay railway, we might ponder over the question of the eventual value of such a railway.

COLLECTING IN MANITOBA.

Elsewhere in our columns will be found a communication from Messrs. J. D. Gillies & Co., of Minnedosa, one of the first mercantile firms in north-western Manitoba, which shows the foolish steps taken at times even by respectable wholesale houses, to make collections in this province.

Our correspondents deem themselves (and justly so) subjected to treatment, such as would be expected from no respectable wholesale concern, and the most generous view which can be taken of the whole affair is, that there is a difference of opinion between them and the wholesale house in question, and the latter acts with great indiscretion in adopting anything but straight legal means in securing a settlement of the same, if they cannot arrange the matter amicably with their customer.

There is a very mistaken idea prevalent among eastern business men, regarding facilities for making collections by process of law in Manitoba, which we are desirous of correcting. The opinion has spread, in the east, that the Exemption Law passed a year ago, (a villainous measure no doubt), has placed traders in this province in such a position, that collection from them is impossible, everything they possess being exempt from seizure by the law referred to. The facts in the case are, that the law in question, while it gives to our farmers sweeping exemptions, some of which are expedient if not just, and some unwise and unwarrantable; and while it furnishes a shelter under which bursted speculators can cover some of their property from their creditors, it does not exempt a dollar's worth of the merchant's stock, book debts or business resources of any description. In fact, the measure was passed by a Legislature, scarcely a member of which had a dollar's worth of interest in mercantile affairs, but composed in a large measure of men

oaded with speculative liabilities, and anxious to save something out of the wreck of their gambling. In making collections from the merchants of this province, there is therefore no necessity for employing anything but regular legal measures, and the man who does otherwise acts very foolishly.

But the eastern wholesale house in question has not only gone out of the proper path in this matter referred to, but has used miserably bad judgment in the method and means selected. It is one of the evils of trade that we are compelled to make use of private information from mercantile agencies, and the evil is in a great measure mitigated by the fact, that we have well organized, reliable and responsible institutions of that kind, which are at all times prepared to furnish reports, on which reliance can be placed, or make collections if so employed. The two leading mercantile agencies of this continent, (and especially one of them) have their connections all over Manitoba, and are in a position to handle such work. All other institutions of that class with head quarters in the east or the United States are at the best very inefficient, and quite a few might be picked out, which are full fledged frauds, run purely upon the cheek and impudence of their managers. It is unnecessary for us to sum up the value of this "Mercantile Union Law and Collection Association," which threatens our correspondents with all its terrors. Their letter to Messrs. J. D. Gillies & Co., seeks to fix a value. If Messrs. Gillies & Co., will only pay the sum of \$25.66 their credit will be allowed to stand unimpeached, but failing that, they must prepare to stand all the horrors of the ruined credit, which the "Merchants Union Law and Collection Association" can inflict upon them. The alternative is something terrible, and the price of exemption from it is wonderfully low, only \$25. Verily the "Merchants Union Law and Collection Association" have got down to what the "Cheap Jack" would call "hard pan" prices, and no doubt like that mercantile blow hard they believe in cash down, small profits and quick returns. Yet after all we were inclined to agree with our correspondent that their figures are still too high, and we will even question if their opinions and efforts are worth twenty-five cents, much less twenty-five dollars.

We are very much surprised that the wholesale house complained of by Messrs.

Gillies & Co., should adopt the course they have. They have displayed folly in doing so, and are all the more to blame, as the folly was absolutely unnecessary. They should know that two can work at the game their collection agency threatens to follow. Although Messrs. Gillies & Co. mentioned the name of the wholesale house in their letter, we have deemed it wise to suppress it. However should this so called Law and Collection Association carry out the threats made, we should feel bound in the interest of northwestern trade not only to publish names, but to handle this whole matter in a less gentle manner than we have now done.

THE C.P.R. DISCRIMINATING RATES.

The circular recently issued by the Winnipeg Board of Trade upon this subject has met with varied criticism all over the province, and its claims have been treated by some journals in a spirit prompted only by that feeling that whatever is an injury to Winnipeg must be a benefit to other towns in the province and the territories beyond. Of course among the adverse critics are included all, who from party motives give a blind assent to anything the C.P.R. managers seek to enforce, believing that their edicts have some relationship to the policy of the Government they support.

The following are the claims of the Board as set forth in the circular referred to.

"They are not asking that the through rates to points south and west of Winnipeg should be increased.

But they are asking that the local rates from Montreal to Winnipeg, or from Winnipeg, south and west should be decreased

They are not asking that the decrease shall be such as to make the rates from Montreal to Winnipeg and from Winnipeg to local points less than through rates.

All that they ask is that the rates from points east of Winnipeg to Winnipeg, and from Winnipeg to local points shall together not exceed through rates by more than the cost to the O.P.R. of handling goods here, say 4c per 100 lbs.

In other words they wish to give every merchant in the country, whether large or small, the option of buying at the same price in either Winnipeg or Montreal."

The weekly *Tribune* of Portage la Prairie criticises these claims in an article which displays a spirit of fairness, and at

the same time a commendable desire to look after local interests, and which forms a marked contrast to some of the vapourings of partisan journals. We make the following extract:

"If the board of trade will make their request a little broader and ask the same privileges for Portage la Prairie and other western towns which they ask for Winnipeg, then we would join them in their request. If rates from the east to Winnipeg and from Winnipeg to the west are to be made nearly the same as through rates, in order to give western merchants the option of purchasing in Winnipeg or Montreal, then the rates from the east to Portage la Prairie and from Portage la Prairie west should also be made nearly the same as through rates. So the western merchants should have the further option of purchasing in Portage la Prairie, Winnipeg or Montreal. If the Winnipeg Board of Trade will be a little generous, and look at the question in a fair light, then we would join them in their requests."

The *Tribune* assumes that it is the duty of the Winnipeg Board of Trade to attend to the trade interests of Portage and other towns west of it, while the charter under which the Board acts confines its scope to the trade affairs of Winnipeg. If Portage and other leading towns of the Province have failed to organize Boards of Trade or other such institutions, to guard local trade rights, then the fault is their own. When they do so, and make such just demands as the *Tribune* suggests, they will find that the Winnipeg Board will not be opponents, if they are not friends. It is sufficient so far to say that the Winnipeg Board of Trade have asked for no advantage over towns west of the city, but only to secure something approaching to equality with Montreal and Toronto. They ask for the first concession of equal railway freight rates with the east, which if conceded to Winnipeg, could not long be withheld from towns west of it. Of course there are those who would rather bear a burden themselves, than see Winnipeg relieved of it, and secure freedom themselves at the same time. We are pleased with the stand the *Tribune* takes on the question, and none the worse pleased because of our contemporary's anxiety about the interests of the town it is published in. But it must not assume, that the Board of Trade of a neighboring city should shoulder the advocacy of rights its own fellow citizens have not even asked for.

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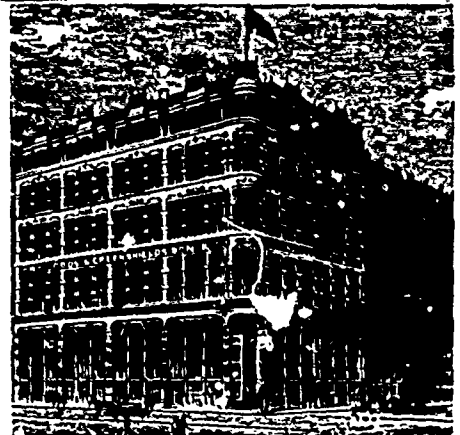
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WINNIPEG.

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

In financial circles during the past week there has been scarcely a ripple of agitation on the surface, and matters have remained in very much the same quiet state as during the past few weeks. In straight commercial business there has been less than the usual call for discounts, and outside of commercial matters scarcely anything has been heard from. The banks now have well filled coffers and bank managers would be pleased to reduce the amount of surplus funds on hand, though they will take no extra risks to attain this end. Rates of discount hold steady at 7 per cent for first class paper to 10 per cent for promiscuous. In mortgage loans on real security, business continues to be confined almost exclusively to advances on improved farm properties, at an average of 8 per cent interest.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

The wholesale trade of the city during the past week has experienced no new features as compared with our last report. The week has, like its predecessor, been a very quiet one, and the dulness has been very general, only a few branches escaping from the almost universal stagnation. The quiet season now being experienced, however, is not looked upon as an unfavorable light, and in fact it is regarded by our wholesalers in quite the opposite feeling. The quietness is attributed to the very favorable weather which has prevailed for the carrying on of farming operations, and to the almost total stoppage of everything but plowing and seeding. Aside from this the present time of year is always a very slow season in a great many lines, spring stocks still remaining sufficiently intact to render sorting up unnecessary. Those lines enjoying a moderate activity are principally agricultural implements, hardware, lumber, paints etc., and such commodities as usually move with the commencement of warm weather. Collections have been quiet, the amount of paper falling due being very little.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The fairly brisk trade in plows, etc., noticed in last week's report, has continued to a considerable extent, and at some agencies throughout the province the demand for such farming implements has been in excess of the last year or two. Quite a number of new agencies have been opened this spring, at points on the extended lines of railways within the province, and also at far western points in the territories, where a year or two ago there was little or no farming done. Collections are rather slow at present.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

Trade in this branch has been decidedly slow for the past few weeks, and last week seemed only to increase the stagnation. However, dealers do not seem to be greatly disappointed, as they were not looking for a commencement of the sorting trade in an active way for some time yet. There has not been a sufficient amount of paper falling due upon which to base a report of collections.

CLOTHING.

The past week has been one of the quietest in this line since the commencement of the

spring trade. All along since the first rush of spring business was concluded, a few new orders from those who had put off their buying until later, were coming in; but last week these had almost entirely ceased. Collections slow.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

The steady and moderately active trade which has been doing in this branch for some time back, has been considerably decreased during the past week. This, however, is considered but temporary and due to spring farming operations. Collections fairly satisfactory.

DRY GOODS.

The past week has not altered the situation to any noticeable extent in this staple branch, and business has continued quiet and the movement confined to small sorting lots. Spring stocks have not yet been sufficiently broken to induce a very active sorting trade, and it will be a few weeks before dealers will be receiving such orders in large number. Travellers from all the houses are now on the road, and the result of their work will soon be apparent. In the meantime quietness is the only feature in connection with the dry goods trade. Collections have been rather slow, with but little paper maturing.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

Trade continues about as usual and prices are still unchanged as follows: Howard's quinine, 90c to \$1.00; Gramen quinine, 80 to 90c; opium, \$4.50 to \$5.00; morphia, \$2 to \$2.50; iodine, \$4.25 to \$4.50; bromide potassium, 50 to 55c; American camphor, 33 to 40c; English camphor, 45 to 50c; glycerine, 25 to 35c; tartaric acid, 65 to 70c; cream of tartar, 35 to 40c; bleaching powder, per keg \$8 to \$10; bicarb soda, 35 to 40c; sal soda, \$2.25 to \$2.50; soda ash, \$3 to \$3.25; chlorate potash, 25 to 35c; alum, \$2.75 to \$3; copperas, \$3 to \$3.25; sulphur, flour, \$4 to \$4.25; sulphur, roll, \$3.75 to \$4; American blue vitrol, cask \$7 to \$8.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

Travellers are now all on the road and a good many manufacturing orders have already been taken for fall delivery, for shirts, collars, cuffs, etc. The immediate demand has slackened up considerably, and the past week has been quiet.

FISH.

The market is pretty bare of fresh fish at present. The only stocks coming in now are river fish, and not in large quantities. Jackfish are out of the market. A few old white are yet on hand and sell at 3c. Fresh river pickerel also bring 3c. Goldeyes and sturgeon are the only other varieties in the market. There is still a quantity of fresh sea fish on hand, at prices given below. Other quotations are: Salt white, \$4 per bbl; Labrador herrings, \$8 per bbl; salmon, \$17 per bbl; mackerel \$1 to \$1.75 per kit; smoked haddocks, 9½ to 10c per pound. Fresh sea fish are quoted: haddock 7c; cod 6c; herrings 5c; smelts 8c; tommy cods 4c; lobsters 12c.

FRUITS.

Really choice apples still command good prices, but there is a large quantity of bad stock in the city which is hard to dispose of at any price, and there will likely be a considerable loss on these. California oranges are still

in plentiful supply, though the season for these is becoming well advanced and stocks are getting soft in some instances. Lemons continue firm and are again quoted higher. A car lot of bananas arrived during the week, in poor condition. Quotations are as follows: Oranges, Los Angeles, \$4.00 to \$5.25 per box, Messinas, \$6.00; Riverside \$6.00 to \$6.50 per box. Apples are in large supply and are worth about \$1.00 to \$5.00 for extra choice. Messina lemons, \$7.00 to \$7.50 per box; Valencia raisins, \$3.75; London layer raisins, \$4.00 to \$4.25; black crown, \$5.00 to \$5.25 walnuts, 15 to 20c a lb; almonds, 20c; filberts, 15c; pecans, 16c; peanuts, 17c for roasted and 13c for raw; figs 18c to 20c; dates mats 8 to 10c, golden 11c. Apple cider, \$10 per bbl.

FUEL.

There is now a steady trade doing with dealers in the city, supplies delivered on the market by farmers having ceased. Galt mine coal has been reduced in price about one dollar per ton. Quotations are: poplar \$3.25; to \$3.35; oak \$5.00 to \$5.50; tamarac \$4.50. Prices are for lots, on track. Hard coal is worth \$10.00, and soft \$8.00. Galt coal sells at \$6.50 on track.

FURNITURE.

Dealers have had an improved trade during the past week, but hardly what could be called a straight wholesale trade. A good business has been done in furnishing new residents in the city with furniture, and a similar trade with settlers going to the country. Straight wholesale trade has been quiet.

GROCERIES.

There has been no change in this branch and dealers have experienced another quiet week. The sugar market is very strong and prices have advanced in all markets. In London an advance of 6d per cwt has taken place. Syrups and molasses are also firmer in sympathy with sugar. Teas are quiet and steady. Quotations are unchanged as follows: Sugar raw, 6¼c, yellow 6½ to 7c; granulated 8¼c; lump 9½ to 9¾c. Coffee, Rio, 13 to 15c; Government Java 23 to 33c, other Javas 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 Suey young hyson 20 to 30c; Moyune young hyson 25 to 50c; Season's congous, 1885-86, 20 to 55c.

HIDES.

Prices rule steady and unchanged as follows: Steers. Winnipeg inspection, No. 1 7c; No. 2, 6c; cows, No. 1, 6c. No. 2, 5c; balls, 5c. calf, fine haired real veal, 7 to 13 pound skins, No. 1, 10; No. 2, 8c. Sheep pelts, 30 to 65c. Tallow 3½c per lb.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

Dealers in this branch have had a fairly active business during the past week, especially from western points. Prices are steady and unchanged. Barbed wire continues to rule at quotations, though prices are sometimes shaded by agents of manufacturers. The trade in this manufacture here is of an irregular character, and not always legitimate. Quotations are as follows: Cut nails, 10d and larger \$3.35 to \$3.75c. I. C. tin plates, \$5.50 to \$5.75; I. C. tin plates, double, \$11 to \$11.50; Canada plates,

\$3.50 to \$3.75; sheet iron, \$3 to \$4.50, according to grade; iron pipe, 40 to 50 per cent. of list prices; ingot tin, 25 to 30c per lb., according to quality, bar iron, \$2.50 to \$3 per 100 lb; shot, 6½ to 7c a lb; tarred felt, \$2.60 to \$2.85 per 100 lbs; barbed wire 7 to 7½.

LEATHER AND FINDINGS.

Prices remain steady and unchanged as follows: Spanish sole, 30 to 32c; slaughter sole, 33 to 35c; French calf, first choice, \$1.35 to \$1.50; Canada Calf \$1.00; French kip, \$1 to \$1.10; B Z kip, \$5 to 90c; slaughter kip, 55 to 75c; No. 1, wax upper, 50c; grain upper, 65c; harness leather, 33 to 35c for plump stock; American oak sole, 55 to 60.

LUMBER.

Quite a number of private residences are going up in all parts of the city, but a good many of those so far commenced are small sized buildings. The call for lumber for these has been in some proportion. Shippers to the country have also been more brisk, but farmers have little time at present to engage in building. After seeding is completed dealers expect a brisk trade from the country.

PAINTS, OILS AND COLORS.

The movement continues in fair proportion. Prices are as follows: turpentine 80c; linseed oil, raw 75c per gal., boiled 78c; seal oil steam refined, \$1.10; castor, 14c per lb; lard No 1, \$1.00 per gal; olive, \$1.00 to \$2, according to quality; machine oils, black 25c; oleine, 40c; fine qualities, 50 to 75c. Coal oils, headlight, 26c; water white, 30c. Calcined plaster, \$4.00 per bbl; Portland cement, \$5; white lead, genuine, 7.50; No 1 \$7.00; No 2, \$6.50 and window glass, first break, \$2.50.

SADDLERY AND HARNESS.

In addition to an active trade with country manufacturers, a very busy time is now being experienced in manufacturing supplies for contractors, who are preparing for railway building and other operations. The demand from the ranching districts of the far west, for home manufactured saddles specially made for that trade, has been very active.

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

The usual steady trade is doing in this branch, and without any features deserving of special notice.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

The movement has been rather quiet. Prices, are unchanged as follows: Gooderman & Wot's 5 year old, \$2.75; 7 year old, \$3.25; old rye, \$1.50; Jules Robin brandy, \$4.50; Bisquet Debonche & Co., \$4.75; Martell, \$6 Hennessy, \$6.50; DeKuyper gin, \$2.75; Port wine, \$2.25 and upwards; Sherry \$2.25 and upwards; Jamaica rum, \$3.50; DeKuyper red gin, \$11 per case; DeKuyper green gin, \$6 per case; Tom Gin, \$9.50 to \$10.00; Martell and Hennessy's brandy \$13.50 per case of 12 bottles.

THE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

There has been scarcely any change in the general situation since our last report. Grain

trade both in the city and at provincial points has lost many of its more active features, and now excites but little interest. Farmers' markets throughout the province are just about dead, deliveries having entirely ceased for the present, while seeding operations are going on. Dealers in the city have displayed little energy during the week, and the spurt made in buying to fill orders for shipment on the opening of navigation, has now quieted down. Prices have not changed in the least in any grain. Provisions have held steady and in only moderate demand.

WHEAT.

In wheat as in all other grains, the situation remains as it was given in our last report in almost every particular. Farmers are still busy with their spring farming operations and have no time to market grain. Exportation from stocks in store in warehouses and elevators throughout the province is going on steadily, though probably not as actively as a week or so ago, and a good deal of the wheat now in store will probably await the opening of navigation. Prices have not changed in any particular. Quotations by grade are as follows: No. 1 hard, 80c; No. 2 75c; No. 1 northern, 75c; No. 2 70c; No. 3 60c.

FLOUR.

A fair trade in Manitoba strong bakers is reported from Montreal at prices ranging from \$4.70 to \$4.80. Minneapolis flour has sold to a considerable extent at Montreal, at prices which are said to have been shaded. The situation here has not changed and prices are as follows: patents, 2.45; strong bakers, \$2.15; XXXX \$1.70, and superfine 10 to \$1.20.

BRAN AND SHORTS

No change to note in these products. Bran is still quoted at \$9.25 and shorts remains steady at \$10.25 per ton.

OATMEAL.

Prices remain steady and unchanged at \$2.25 for standard and \$2.50 for granulated.

POTATOES.

Are moving more freely at about 30c in car lots, with a tendency to lower prices.

EGGS.

Eggs were in active demand last week and prices were firmer owing to the call for Easter supplies. On some days fresh brought 13c. After Easter it is expected that prices will be again easier, and that 11 to 12c will be outside quotations.

CHEESE.

There is no change to note in this product. Prime home manufactured is quoted at from 10½ to 11c, and medium 9½ to 10c.

BUTTER.

There is still a shortage in the receipts of choice qualities, and a larger quantity than is now being received would find a ready market. In medium qualities there is a more liberal supply. Prices remain steady at 20 to 23c for choice and 12 to 13c for mediums. Dealers frequently make complaints of the state in which shipments from the country reach this market, through careless packing, thus occasioning a loss to the shipper and annoyance to dealers here. Country shippers should be more careful in packing butter, especially during the summer season. Each roll should be wrapped separately in new cotton, previously washed before placing around the butter. Paper should not be used for wrapping butter, as it makes a nasty mess in warm weather; neither should old cotton be used, with seams, which gives the butter the appearance of having been wrapped up in cast-off garments. We were shown a lot last week which could hardly be sold, on account of having been wrapped in old cotton. Another lot packed in a deep box and wrapped in paper, which arrived on a very warm day last week,

was in a bad state and hardly saleable as rolls. Rolls should not be packed one upon another in deep boxes. Use a small box and one just deep enough that medium sized rolls may be placed in it upon their ends. Pine boxes should be avoided. Rolls should be made to weigh from five to seven pounds. Putting up butter in pats or prints is not a desirable way for the market. Shippers should avoid as much as possible packing inferior and choice qualities in the same box.

OATS.

A very light movement is noted in these and only a very few cars have been received here. Stocks in the city are quite large enough to supply all demands. Prices remain at the old quotation of 27 to 28c.

BARLEY.

There is nothing doing on spot in this grain, though a few cars have passed through to the east. Prices here would probably range from 25 to 35c, with there any offerings.

BACON.

There has been no change in prices, which rule steady as follows: dry salt, 8c; smoked, 9c; rolls, 10c; breakfast bacon, 11c; o'd dry salt, 7½c.

HAMS.

A fair city demand exists for these. Prices remain steady 11½c.

MESS PORK.

Easier and quiet at \$14.50.

MESS BEEF.

In very moderate demand and unchanged at \$15.50.

LARD.

No change to note in prices. Quotations are: \$2.10 per pail; or 9½c per lb for tierces.

DRESSED HOGS.

There is now but a very light demand, and receipts are also on the decline. Prices range from \$4 to \$4.25.

DRESSED MEATS.

Hind quarters, of beef bring from 7 to 8c. For full carcasses prices are unchanged at 5½ to 6c. Mutton is firm and higher at 12c. Veal unchanged at 8 to 11c. Prices are for dealers' quotations.

OYSTERS.

The trade in these is pretty well over for this season, though there are still some in the market. Prices are irregular, but about as follows: 35c for standard; 40c for plain white, and 45c for extra. Bulk sell at \$2.50 per gallon.

MINNEAPOLIS.

There has been more life in the market the past week than for any similar period in months. The idea seems to have become prevalent that bottom has at last been found, and that although there may be some sharp and important fluctuations from now on, there will be a steady tone and a gradual, healthy advance in values. Many conservative men believe that present values are high enough for the year, unless the world's crop should be seriously shortened by bad weather or other causes. They argue that wheat has had a fictitious value for several years, and that as compared with the reduced prices of all articles of daily use or consumption, present prices of wheat are quite high enough.

General Agent Hiland, of the Millers association, although not yet in receipt of anything like detailed information, says that all his reports indicate an increased acreage of wheat in the Minneapolis belt this year. This would be a natural result, under ordinary cir-

circumstances, but many still cling to the belief heretofore expressed in these columns, that the acreage will not exceed that of 1885, and may fall below it.

Receipts are quite heavy here, and are still large at Duluth. There is little doubt but that the crop is pretty well cleaned out, although present indications point to an abundance for milling until the new crop comes in, in case of a lively flour market the Duluth stock could be drawn upon, and farmers and elevator men would be able to scratch a few millions out of the corners of bins and granaries.

The highest and lowest wheat prices by grade on change during the week ending to-day, closing prices, and the prices one year ago were:

	April 22.		Closing 1885.	
Wheat. Highest.	Lowest.			
No. 1 hard..	84	81½	84	93
No. 1 north'n	81	78	81	90
" 2	74	72	74	83½

Futures have been active and higher, May 1 hard opening at 81½c and closing at 84c. June opened at 83½ and closed at 85½c. May 1 northern opened at 77½c and closed at 81c and June closed at 82c. Coarse grains were quiet, corn closing at 31 to 33c, oats at 30 to 31½c, rye at 48 to 51c and barley at 45 to 60c, all by sample.

MILLSTUFF.—Has been weak and dull, bulk bran closing at \$8.25 to \$8.50 and shorts at \$8.50 to \$8.75 per ton.

FLOUR.—There has been a rather better movement in flour, and cable offers are 9 to 12c higher than those of a week ago, but are still too low, as a rule, to meet the views of millers, who are inclined to hold firm for their quotations, in order to place flour on a level with wheat, where it has not been for more than a year. Millers look for a better demand from now on, owing to the lightness of stocks almost everywhere and, some say, the probable increase in consumption as the weather grows warmer. The heaviest demand at present is for good bakers', other grades being slow to move. Export inquiry is rather light, but there is more life in the domestic demand.

Quotations for car or round lots at the mills are as follows: Patents, \$4.50 to \$4.70; straights, \$4.10 to \$4.30; first bakers', \$3.50 to \$3.75; second bakers' \$2.90 to \$3.25; best low grades, \$2.00 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 30c per bbl for 250 and 140 lb jute bags, 20c for 95lb cotton sacks, 15c for 121lb cotton sacks, 10c for 24½lb cotton sacks, and 20c for 49lb paper sacks.

There is a tendency to curtail the flour production, though so far this has not become very pronounced. The 16 mills running last week made 111,300 bbls—averaging 18,550 bbls daily—against 123,200 the preceding week, and 129,500 bbls for the corresponding time in 1885. Two of the smaller mills dropped out of the active list Saturday, reducing the number running at present to 14, but it is not improbable that they will be started up again before the close of the current week. The maximum capacity of the 14 is 23,000 bbls, but they are not getting out more than 18,000 bbls daily. Hot, muggy weather has prevailed for a week or more, making wheat tough and hard to

grind, and the output of the mills is thereby reduced in some degree. There is talk of two of the larger mills, closed down ten days ago, being started up next week, but there is nothing definite about this. While flour is stronger and slightly higher, it has hardly kept up with the advance in wheat, and millers are holding firm for better prices.

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

	RECEIPTS.		
	April 20.	April 13.	April 6.
Wheat, bus ..	425,150	316,900	480,150
Flour, bbls ..	150	125	125
Millstuff, tons..	39	15	—

	SHIPMENTS.		
	April 20.	April 13.	April 6.
Wheat, bus ..	64,350	65,400	75,350
Flour, bbls ..	102,520	117,271	125,238
Millstuff, tons .	3,353	4,275	3,987

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

	MINNEAPOLIS.	
	April 19.	April 12.
No. 1 hard, bus..	1,736,985	1,739,677
No. 1 northern, bus ..	1,339,365	1,369,192
No. 2 northern, bus ..	572,926	676,876
No. 3,	6,300	10,868
Rejected	32,035	33,383
Special bins	1,132,273	1,158,927
	4,919,824	4,922,729

	ST. PAUL.		
	April 21.	April 14.	April 7.
In elevators—			
bush ..	1,015,000	1,030,000	1,039,000

	DULUTH.		
	April 10.	April 12.	April 5.
In store, bus. ..	7,120,365	6,796,955	6,481,020
Afloat, bus. ..	124,521	124,521	124,521

Total, bus. . . 7,244,886 6,921,476 6,605,541
—Northwest Miller.

The State of Trade.

Special telegrams to *Bradstreet's* from business centers point to some gains in sales, notably of dry goods and boots and shoes in New England, to an exceptional activity in most lines at Kansas City, and to a slight improvement at Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Memphis, Omaha, St. Louis and New Orleans. This marks a continuation of the tendency noted last week. At other cities, including New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Chicago, there is no special increase in the volume of business. Interior buying continues restricted to immediate wants. Country roads with better weather have begun to improve, but collections are in most cases slow or unsatisfactory. The New York money market is without feature and call rates are steady at 1½ to 2 per cent. Foreign exchange has advanced slightly, owing to scarcity of commercial bills. The volume of transactions on the Stock exchange is reduced and speculation comparatively featureless. Little beyond professional interest is manifested. More prominent stocks are neglected and specialties

have been prominent. Prices were somewhat stronger during the early part of the week and depressed later, owing to renewed industrial troubles. Railway bonds are in fair demand only for investment and governments steady, without feature. Interior money markets, with few exceptions, sport a fair supply of and moderate demand for funds. The firm money market at Boston resulted in borrowing at New York. A better request is noted at Louisville, Davenport, and a heavy demand at Kansas City. Baltimore has been shipping funds to the interior. At Cincinnati and at Dallas the money market is somewhat stringent. At eastern centers dry goods have been more active, sales of summer fabrics at Boston exceeding those in the like period last year. Retailers, however, are buying cautiously. Print cloths at Fall River are higher, at 3½c for 64s, and stiffer. These prices are but little above those a year ago, while stocks now are but one-third as large as those then held. Wool continues dull. Free receipts of foreign and exported offerings of new crop have a depressing effect. Manufacturers desiring to stock up can buy at cut rates. There is little change in metals, the steel rail industry being in an exceptionally good condition. Anthracite coal is no higher, but firmer under increased demand and lighter stocks, caused by an extra request to meet deficient supplies of bituminous. The general industrial situation is improved, in that there are fewer engaged in striking than two weeks ago. The Knights of Labor at the southwest are now fighting for the recognition of the order, but traffic on the roads affected has been largely resumed without them. The wheat market has been heavy, with good weather at the west and an unwillingness on the part of the United Kingdom and France to buy in advance of requirements, in spite of the many calculations that Indian and Russian surpluses are low, and that exports from the United States prior to August 1st must materially exceed those in the first quarter of the year. Cash wheat, No. 2 red, at New York, advanced 1½c on the week. Wheat clearances from the Atlantic ports this week promise to aggregate nearly one million bushels, or double late averages. Ocean freights are lower for grain. The strike at the west so prevented shipments hither that rates went off in one instance to get freight. Cotton clearances have been heavier, and rates are firm. Petroleum is dull after the advance, and looks heavy. Exports are light. Sugar is higher on a better demand, and coffee lower on a dull market. Heavy receipts of butter and a light export demand for cheese have induced conspicuous in prices of those products. Louisville advices are that the weather favors the tobacco beds. There were 159 failures in the United States reported to *Bradstreet's* this week, against 141 last week, 196 in the like week in 1885, 155 in 1884, 169 in 1883 and 111 in 1882. Canada had 23 this week, against 26 last and 19 last year. The total in the United States this year to date is 3,639, against 4,281 in a like share of 1885, a decline of 642 in 15 weeks, or nearly 43 daily since January 1st. The total in 15 weeks of 1884 was 3,540, or 99 less than in 1886; in 1883 it was 3,473, and in 1882, 376.—*Bradstreet's*.

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EASTERN MARKETS.

CHICAGO.

The past week in the wheat market here has been one of more than usual activity, as compared with the stagnation which has existed for some time. The contending elements have been more evenly balanced than for many a week, and instead of a gradually falling market, the past week has been characterized by several sharp spurts. This has occasioned considerable excitement on some days and awakened new interests in the situation. However, there did not seem to be much stability about the market, and the least turn in the tide was generally sufficient to send prices back to the start, after an advance had been scored. This was owing to the very nervous feeling, and the uncertainty as to the probable course of the market. The bulls, however, were out in greater force, and seemed to display more than usual confidence. It was also evident that genuine buying was going on on a larger scale than for some weeks, and a larger decrease in the visible supply was used as a strong bull argument, indicating the commencement of a better export movement. The decrease in the visible supply in the United States and Canada, for the week ending April 17, was 1,862,745 bushels. The amount of wheat on passage showed an increase of nearly 2,000,000 bushels. Corn and oats have moved steadily and moderately, prices sometimes changing in sympathy with wheat. In provisions the week has been a dull one. Very little trading has been done in pork and prices have continued in a depressed condition.

On Monday trading was active in wheat but, the feeling was nervous, and the market seemed to be lacking in tone and stability. Liverpool cables came in strong at the opening and prices started 7c higher than the close on Saturday. News of a war-like situation in Eastern Europe also had some influence upon the market. The advance soon brought out large offerings, which had a quieting effect upon the market. Added to this were fears of more railroad difficulties, and fine weather in the west and northwest. These combined to produce a weakening effect upon the market and prices fell away fully 1c. At this juncture a report from New York stated that 370,000 bushels represented the clearings from that port on Saturday, and buying commenced actively again, prices advancing 1/2c. This change was of short duration and prices soon settled back 1/2c, closing 1/2c under Saturday. The corn market was firm, and considerable trading done at a fraction higher, prices standing the same as Saturday at the close. Fair trading was done in oats at steady prices. Provisions were rather quiet. Pork was firmer at the opening, but later prices went back to the commencement. Closing prices were:

	April.	May.
Wheat	\$0.78	79 1/2
Corn	36 1/2	37 1/2
Oats	28 1/2	29 1/2
Pork	9.15-20	9.15-17 1/2
Lard	5.90	5.90

On Tuesday wheat opened about 1/2c higher, with June at 81 1/2c and soon declined 1/2c. The

decline brought forward good buying orders, and as the offerings grew smaller prices became firmer, going up to the opening. Cables reported steady foreign markets, but were not relied on to any extent. Foreign selling orders were displayed freely and had a quieting influence upon the market. Corn was fairly active in a speculative way, without special features. Oats were unchanged. Provisions were dull and easier. Closing prices were:

	April.	May.
Wheat	\$0.79	\$0.80
Corn	36 1/2	37 1/2
Oats	28 1/2	29 1/2
Pork	9.12 1/2	9.12 1/2
Lard	5.90	5.90

Wheat opened stronger on Wednesday and about 1/2c higher than the close of the previous day, advancing a trifle above the opening figure. The market then eased off and sold down slowly about 1/2c. Telegrams announcing a more serious situation in Europe over the Grecian affair commenced to come in later on, and scalpers began buying eagerly. May advanced 1 1/2c and June advanced to 83c. Trading on the upward scale was heavy. Agents for New York houses were heavy buyers, and other domestic markets were generally strong. Corn advanced 1/2c in sympathy with wheat but settled back before the close. Oats were also more active, but in a less degree than corn. Pork was weak owing to heavy receipts of hogs and prices broke to \$8.95 for May, recovering something before the close. In the afternoon wheat was again strong and higher, closing at the top. May advanced 1/2c and June 1/2c to 82 1/2-83c. Corn and provisions were also slightly higher. Closing prices were:

	April.	May.
Wheat	\$0.80 1/2	\$0.81 1/2
Corn	36 1/2	38 1/2
Oats	29 1/2	30 1/2
Pork	9.05	9.05
Lard	5.90	5.90

On Thursday there was a fairly active business in the wheat market, but the feeling was nervous and prices irregular. Fluctuations, however, were not great, and confined within a range of about 1c. Cables reported firmer British markets, and American spring was quoted 6d to 1s higher, but nevertheless the feeling here was generally weak. The market opened lower, May selling at 80 1/2c, and advancing to 80 1/2c. News of the increasing range of the strike had a depressing effect and prices receded to 79 1/2c for May. On a denial of a portion of the news regarding the strikes, a portion of the loss was recovered. Corn was only in moderate trading request, and closed easier. Oats steady and firm. Provisions were neglected and a shade lower. Closing prices were:

	April.	May.
Wheat	79	80 1/2
Corn	36 1/2	37 1/2
Oats	29 1/2	30 1/2
Pork	8.97 1/2	9.00
Lard	5.90	5.90

On Friday there was no session of the board owing to the day being Good Friday.

On Saturday the wheat market was quieter and easier, with prices closing lower and at the

bottom figures for the day. Sales of June were made at from 81 1/2 to 82 1/2c, closing at the bottom. Pork and lard were quiet, and without material change in prices. June pork closed at \$9.07 1/2 to \$9.12 1/2, and June lard at \$5.92 1/2 to \$5.95. Closing quotations were:

	April.	May.
Wheat	\$0.79	79 1/2
Corn	—	—
Oats	—	—
Pork	8.95	9.02 1/2
Lard	5.90	5.90

TORONTO.

STOCKS.

The stock market has experienced another quiet week and transactions have been on a limited scale. In leading bank stocks there has been but slight changes in quotations, Dominion alone showing a variation of over a fraction. Northwest Land sold at 72 1/2c and 72 3/4c. C.P.R. stocks were offered at 64 1/2c, with 63c highest bid on Wednesday. Closing bids on Wednesday's April 14th and 21st, were as follows:

	April 14.	April 21.
Montreal	208 1/2	208 1/2
Ontario	115	115
Toronto	198	198
Merchants'	123	123 1/2
Commerce	121 1/2	121
Imperial	134 1/2	134 1/2
Federal	111	111 1/2
Dominion	213	210
Standard	123 1/2	123
Hamilton	136	135
Northwest Land	69 1/2	72 1/2
C.P.R. Bonds	104	104 1/2
do Stocks	66	63

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

The grain market here has yet shown no signs of shaking off the lethargy which has prevailed for so many weeks. The quiet feeling has continued unabated, both in the amount of offerings and in the disinclination to purchase during the unsettled condition of other markets. The grain now in store will probably be held for the lower freight rates to come in force on May 1. The opening of navigation on the lakes has led to the shipment of a considerable quantity of barley to U. S. ports, but has had no effect on other grains.

WHEAT.

Notwithstanding the general dulness of the situation, values have been well maintained. Offerings have continued very light, and owing to this stocks have not materially increased. It is thought that a demand for local milling purposes must soon set in to such an extent as will visibly effect the market. No. 2 red sold at 84c, No. 2 spring also brought 84c.

FLOUR.

Very little flour has changed hands during the week, and hardly enough upon which to base quotations. Sales were made on a basis of \$3.65 for superior extra, and \$3.55 for extra.

OATS.

Offerings have come to hand more liberally, but prices have held steady. Prices have ranged at from 35 1/2c to 36c. Manitoba oats have been offered at 40c.

BARLEY.

The movement has about ceased in this grain and the season for barley is now considered over. Some Manitoba, slightly better than No. 3 sold at 59c. No sales in other grades.

PEAS.

Dull and unchanged at 59 to 60c.

POTATOES.

Offerings in car lots have been made more freely and have sold easier. Early Rose brought 50c, and some white varieties 65c.

APPLES.

Quiet and unchanged at about \$1.50 in car lots.

EGGS.

Prices have held comparatively steady, though offerings have been abundant. The demand has been good and prices inclined to be easier. Large lots sold at 12c and in smaller quantities at 12½c.

BUTTER.

Receipts have at last commenced to increase, and during the week have been fairly up to the demand. This has caused an easier feeling, and prices have tended downward. The bulk of the receipts have been in new rolls, and a few new tubs, all of which have been taken readily at about 20 to 22c. Some choice old also sold at about 20c. In medium grades scarcely anything has been doing, no shipping demand having been heard from. A few tubs of inferior sold at 6 to 7c.

CHEESE.

Stocks have continued light and prices remain firm. Fine still brings 9½ to 10c in small lots. New has been offered at 10c.

PORK.

Quiet and steady at the old price of \$13.50 to \$14.00.

BACON.

Quiet and with holders not disposed to press sales. A lot of 100 sides of long clear sold at 7c. Tons and cases brought 7½ to 7¾c. Smoked Cumberland sold at 7¾ to 8c. Short rolls at 8½ to 9c, and bellies 10 to 10½c.

HAMS.

Small lots of smoked have sold at the unchanged price of 11c in small lots and in large lots at 10 to 10½c.

LARD.

The movement has been confined to pails which have sold at 8¾c for large and 9c for small. Tinnets have sold the same as large pails.

HOGS.

Receipts have been very large, for the demand at this season, and prices have declined. Quotations now rule at from \$5.75 to \$6.00.

Movements of Business Men.

Geo. Galt, of G. F. & J. Galt, is on a trip east.

Major Walsh, of the Northwestern Fuel Co., has returned from the east.

Jas. H. Ashdown, vice-president of the board of trade, has been called away to California, owing to the illness of a brother.

Kenneth McKenzie, president of the board of trade, left for London, Ont., last week. Dime rumor says this trip is one of more than ordinary importance, and that before Mr. McKenzie returns a very interesting ceremony will be performed which it is hoped will add much to his enjoyment of life.

Recent Legal Decisions.

INSURANCE POLICY—ALTERATION AT REQUEST OF HOLDER—A policy of insurance on a boat was issued to the agent of the mortgagees of the boat on account of one Martin and others as owners. Subsequently, at the solicitations

of another agent of the mortgagees, the names of Martin and the others were erased, and that of one Garvey inserted as owner. The New York Court of Appeals held (Martin et al. vs. Tradesman's Insurance Company) that such alteration was not a tortious act on the part of the insurance company, and did not constitute a conversion of the policy, and that the plaintiffs suffered no damage from the act complained of.

SURETYSHIP—AUGMENTATION OF RISK.—A bond was given to the Exchange Bank of Canada for the faithful performance by one Craig of his duties "as an employee of the bank." The bond was given on the occasion of the appointment of Craig as cashier, but the particular nature of the employment was not mentioned in the bond. Subsequently Craig was made successively managing director and president, and finally became a defaulter. The defalcation occurred after Craig's promotion. It appeared that as president he had absolute control of the cash and books. The bank sued the surety on the bond; he defended on the ground that the risk had been augmented. The Superior Court of the Province of Quebec, sitting at Montreal, held, Exchange Bank of Canada vs. Gault, that the risk had been augmented, and the bond invalidated.

CONTRACT—WORK DONE IN BUILDING DESTROYED BY FIRE.—A firm of builders made a contract to furnish and put in a building by a certain date certain fixtures. Some alterations were made in the work by agreement after the contract was entered into. After the date agreed on, but before the completion of the work, the building was accidentally destroyed by fire. The supreme Court of Missouri held (Hayes et al. vs. Second Baptist Church) that the contractors were entitled to recover for work done and materials in the building at the time of the fire. The court said: "In the case at bar the fixtures were, it is true, to be put in place and completed to the satisfaction of the building committee, and to be paid for only when completed; but the contract is based on the assumption that the employer would have the edifice erected and ready to receive the work. All this was a condition precedent to the performance of the contract by the contractor. The implied contract on the part of the employer was to have and keep the building ready to receive the fixtures and keep them therein for such length of time as would reasonably be required to put them in place. The agreement to do this is as much a part of the contract as if expressed therein in terms.—*Bradwell's*."

Manitoba Barley.

The *Trade Bulletin*, of Montreal, thus refers to Manitoba barley: As regards its malting qualities, Manitoban barley has proved a decided success, it having recently been put to a practical test in this city, resulting in the production of a very good description of malt, which can be sold at 86c per bushel of 35 lbs in bond. It is claimed to be equal to malt made from Montreal barley, and it can be sold at a very reasonable price.

IS IT BLACKMAIL?

To the Editor of the Commercial:

DEAR SIR,—In the fall of 1883 we ordered some millinery from a wholesale millinery house in Toronto. On arrival of the goods we found three dozen hats which were not ordered. We immediately notified the house and were instructed to hold goods for the present as the cost of returning them would be too great in proportion to their value. At the time of settling for the goods ordered we informed them we would do so and if able to dispose of all or any would remit proceeds. We heard nothing further in the matter until March 1885 when a draft was presented from this Toronto house for \$25.66 which we refused to accept. To their inquiry regarding our refusal of this draft we reminded them of the conditions on which we held those goods and were instructed to return them immediately. The goods were shipped accordingly and a statement, shipping bill and payment for five hats which we had sold mailed which they duly acknowledged. About the same time we had notice from Messrs Archibald, Howell, Hough & Campbell that this account was in their hands for collection and would issue writ if not paid immediately but on our explaining the circumstances which we then supposed to be an oversight to Messrs Archibald, Howell, Hough & Campbell they decided that any proceedings would only be incurring costs for their clients and allowed the matter to drop. This we supposed to be the end until about a month ago when we had notice from the Merchants Union Law and Collection Association that if our overdue account was not arranged with the Toronto House within ten days it would be placed in their hands for settlement. To this we paid no attention believing that if any steps were taken it would be the usual course, when we would be prepared to stand them suit, but a few days ago we received the following notice:—You will please call upon or remit to Toronto and settle your account otherwise we will be obliged to put your name in our monthly report in order that other merchants may be protected—Yours Respectfully, signed Merchants Union Law & Collection Association—if paid at once \$25.66. Now what is to be inferred from the above? If their case was good why not place it in court and we are pretty sure the sheriff would realize \$25.66 and costs out of our stock, but if as is clearly shown there is no foundation for this claim, can it be considered anything more or less than a species of blackmail, which might be successful with some of their lady customers or parties who depend on such institutions for their credit, but fortunately not being placed in that position our only object in making this matter public is that others may not allow themselves to be imposed upon in the manner thus attempted.

Yours truly,

D. GILLES & Co.
Mianedosa.

Low Freight Rates.

The Chicago railroads have apparently reconciled themselves to the inevitable, and are now doing freight business at rates which are not as remunerative as of yore. In fact, if the statements of some of their managers are to be believed, they are merely earning the cost of handling and transporting, so that if there is to be any profit in the business, it must come from the passenger earnings. If the eastern trunk lines put rates down proportionately, the result ought to appear speedily in the shape of a heavy movement, particularly of grain, although the low prices prevailing do not seem to be so all tempting to foreigners, who are still taking our wheat and flour very sparingly. The reduction of rates without friction between the vari-

ous lines is one of the best signs of the times, in the railroad line. It is such action which will postpone what many believe to be inevitable—a federal railroad commission. But while these powerful northwestern lines are trying to harmonize all differences after having put rates very low, the transcontinental lines are on the opposite track, and their long and bitter war is hastening the day, if it must come, when congress will be compelled to take in hand the regulation of the country's railroads.—*Northwestern Miller, Minneapolis.*

The C.P.R. Loan.

There is after all an afterclap in connection with the loan to the Canadian Pacific Railway company. On the repayment of \$19,150,700, the amount actually advanced by the government, the balance of \$9,880,912 is to be settled by what is practically a purchase from the company of land at the rate of \$1.50 an acre. The result of the bonus by the government to the company then will be that about two thirds of the total amount will be repaid in cash and the balance in land, for which the government has no immediate use. Our conviction was always strong that the whole amount would never be paid in cash, and we are not disappointed. That the lands may be worth the money at which they are rated at would be difficult to deny, but it would have been more satisfactory if the government had not been asked to take truck in payment. But on the whole, we shall get out of this loan business quite as well as could have been expected, though not so well as could have been desired. On condition of settling the old loans, in this way, authority is asked to issue bonds on the Algoma Branch for the purpose of extending the road as far as Sault Ste. Marie. The government having agreed to both proposals, parliament is asked to give its consent in the form of ratification.—*Monetary Times.*

The World's Seven Wonders.

The hanging gardens at Babylon were 75 feet high, built on seven tiers of arches, one over the other. The top was covered with earth, in which flowers and even large trees had been planted. Water was supplied by aqueducts from the river Euphrates.

The Pharos at Alexandria, erected by the architect Sostratus, under the reign of Ptolemy Philadelphus, B. C. 332, was the first lighthouse on record, and, according to Josephus, the light could be seen for fully forty English miles. Wood fires were used instead of lamps.

The Olympian Zeus, a statue of Jupiter at Olympia, the work of Phidias, 55 feet in height, was made of ivory and gold. It represented the father of gods, seated on a throne.

The temple of Diana at Ephesus will be remembered by all Bible readers. It was 425 feet long, 225 feet broad, and supported by 127 columns of Parian marble, each 60 feet high.

The Colossus of Rhodes was an enormous brass statue of the sun god, Apollo. It rested over the entrance of the harbor, all ships passing between its brazen legs. It was built 280 years before Christ, and thrown down by an earthquake.

The next one also shared the same fate. The Mausoleum was a magnificent tomb, erected by Artemissia, to bury her husband, Mausolus, King of Caria. It stood for many centuries, and its foundation could still be traced in 1856.

The pyramids of Egypt are the most wonderful of all the seven wonders, and so well known that we can in our brief space add nothing of interest.

The *Portage la Prairie Reporter* after a brief existence has ceased publication, the business having been absorbed by the *Tribune-Review*. The *Reporter* was a sickly sheet and will not be missed from the list of Northwestern journals.

The Calgary Lumber Co. is completing arrangements for a large output of lumber this summer, and in about two weeks will be in a position to ship constantly to Calgary at the rate of about seventy five thousand feet per week. The mill is built at Proctorville, about two miles west of Cochrane station, on the C. P. Ry., and is fitted up with the latest improvements.

The Drummer's Hardships.

The varied and active existence of the commercial traveler admits of no monotony; and very little romance. It is stern, uncompromising reality—a ceaseless round of go and come. An ever-changing kaleidoscopic life is led by the vast array (numbering as it does into the hundreds of thousands). Their peculiarities are marked so that it is an easy matter to distinguish them from those following other walks of life. At the railroad depot, on the cars and in the hotels they are at home; and to their credit it can be said that those unaccustomed to this kind of life, receive at the hands of the commercial traveler the courteous treatment that would be extended in a well-regulated home to one unaccustomed to the ways of that home. There are times when the C. T. can enjoy life and take in the beauties of nature to an unlimited degree; it is "with the flowers that bloom in the spring."

To say there is much comfort or pleasure in it when the mercury is down in the thirties, would be sarcasm, and the unfortunate victim that, through force of circumstances, is compelled to go forth, grip in hand, to defend his family, will have to brace up against about four months of this kind of weather on the prairies of the great Northwest, and round up with the blows and snows of March, of which Helen Hunt, in her exuberance of spirits, is inspired to say:

Ah! March! We know thou art
Kind-hearted, spite of ugly looks and threats,
And, out of sight, art nursing April's violets

This burst of sentiment once awakened in our manly bosom an unconquerable desire to hunt up the gentle and lamented Helen and implore her to—

Come, oh! come with me,
For a ride on the vast prairie.

to roam awhile o'er the "big domain" and form a more intimate acquaintance with the "kind-hearted" winds of March. Now Tennyson, he writes kind o' sensible like; he probably struck a genuine blizzard and could appreciate it, for he agonizes in this vein:

All in the wild March morning I heard the angels call.

I don't doubt it in the least. If he stayed out long enough, I am quite sure he did, and he would't have been here to tell of it. If you wanted to be wafted to the habitation of angels, just brace yourself up against a thoroughbred March wind, and I will guarantee you will get there. No one but a commercial traveler has ever escaped, and the reason of this is they are so sharp they split the wind.—*Minneapolis Tribune.*

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The South More Prosperous than the North.

It is self evident that the industrial advance of the South during the last few years has been marvelous, and there is every indication that it is a thoroughly healthy and permanent growth. It is no sudden matter, but rather only the beginning of the wonderful advancement the South is about to make in adding to its own and the nation's wealth. A surplus of a full hundred millions this year will fit it for more than doubling that surplus next year, and the next decade will witness the South closely pressing the North in every channel available for industry. The South will largely multiply its demand for iron and coal from its own mines and furnaces; and the day is close at hand when its cotton will be all spun and mainly woven by its water power and its labor. And when furnaces and cotton mills dot the South wherever needed, every form of diversified industry will follow. It is fairly probable that the next decade will present a more prosperous industry in the South than the North. There are many natural causes which contribute to that result, and the Southern people are now, for the first time, prepared to utilize their great advantages.

Oranges in Palestine.

Orange culture, according to the British Consul at Jerusalem, flourishes in the Holy Land. The trees flourish best near the seacoast. There are in Jaffa alone 500 different gardens, containing no less than 800,000 trees. Of these gardens 150 are ranked as first class, the balance being second and third in rank. The cost of irrigation and other expenses are reckoned in first class gardens one-fifth, and sometimes the value of the crop, and in the inferior gardens about one-third to one half. The trees do not suffer from any noxious insects, fungus growth or diseases of any kind, and both climate and soil are admirably adapted to produce healthy trees. The ground between the trees is cultivated and interspersed with palm trees, bananas, apple, etc. The average cost to the producer of 1,000 oranges is \$5, and the capital invested in orange culture is expected to return 12 to 15 per cent. The 1,000 oranges is reckoned at 1,500, so that after sorting there will be 1,000 quite fit for exportation. The chief markets are London and Odessa. Besides there is an inferior orange grown for home consumption, cultivated direct from the seed.



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