

BANK OF MONTREAL

ESTABLISHED 1817.

Capital Paid-up - \$12,000,000
Reserve Fund, - 6,000,000
Undivided Profits - 886,910

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OF CANADA.

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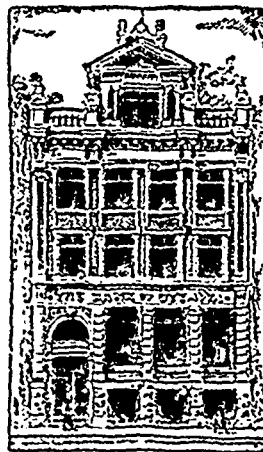
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Rest, \$1,126,000



Capital authorized, \$1,500,000
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INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER IN 1840.

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Assorting orders by letter for goods in our lines will receive prompt and careful attention.

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SCHOOL BOOKS
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Is complete to commence the New Year with.
Your orders will receive prompt attention.

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DOUBLE STRENGTH
GLASS

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Special Quotations for Car Lots from Stock
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For further particulars address the manager

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THE COMMERCIAL

A Journal of Commerce, Industry, Finance and Insurance, devoted to the interests of Western Canada, including that portion of Ontario west of Lake Superior, the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Territories.

Sixteenth Year of Publication

ISSUED EVERY MONDAY

SUBSCRIPTION, CANADA AND UNITED STATES, \$1.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE OR \$1.25 WHEN NOT SO PAID; OTHER COUNTRIES, \$2.50 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

Changes for advertisements should be in not later than Thursday Morning.

Office: 151 McDermot Street.

D. W. BUCHANAN,
Publisher.

The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much larger circulation among the business community of the vast region lying between Lake Superior and the Pacific Coast, than any other paper in Canada, daily or weekly. By a thorough system of personal solicitation, carried out annually, this journal has been placed upon the desks of the majority of business men in the district designated above, including Northwest Ontario, the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia, and the Territories of Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, JANUARY 1, 1895.

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH PROTECTION

Something seems to have gone wrong somewhere with the protective policy in the United States. After all the prosperity that was to follow the adoption of the new Dingley tariff, it seems strange to read about reductions being made in wages in the great manufacturing centres like Fall River, with talk of other cuts likely to follow. Better have a royal commission, or whatever they would call such an institution in the United States, to see what is the matter with protection. There certainly must be a screw loose somewhere about the machine.

TALKING NONSENSE

The ill-tempered and unreasonable article in the last Northwest Magazine, of St. Paul, Minnesota, upon the seal question, is quite unworthy of that publication. Usually this periodical has been fairly liberal in its treatment of questions relating to Canada. The publisher has devoted considerable attention in the past to Western Canada and has no doubt found the field here a profitable one wherein to operate. When the Northwest Magazine again sends a representative this way, with the object of working up business for the publication, and incidentally

saying something about our resources, it should be given a cool reception. We can stand fair criticism, but such rubbish as that talked by the journal in question upon the seal question, couched in such unnecessarily insulting language, should be resented by everyone who has any feeling of patriotism.

It would not be worth while attempting to refute the absurd arguments, or rather, statements, made by the Northwest Magazine regarding the ownership of the seals by the United States. Its article altogether was of the gutter-snipe order, such as might be expected from some fire-eating editor, whose principle aim in life was to inflame popular passions, create false impressions and perpetuate prejudice and hatred.

RECLAIMING SWAMP LANDS

It is good news to learn that the Manitoba Government is about to begin a vigorous move in the direction of reclaiming the swamp lands of Manitoba. Work was begun the past year at the large St. Andrew's marsh, north of Winnipeg, which was a very good start. Now we are told the large Boyne swamp, east of Carman, is to be reclaimed. The Elm Creek swamp, northwest of Carman, will also, it is said, be drained. There are other large swamps, particularly east of the Red river, which will no doubt be tackled in due time. It is well that the government recognizes the necessity of a comprehensive system of drainage for eastern Manitoba. There are large areas of the very richest land in the province that can be reclaimed and rendered suitable for cultivation by a proper system of drainage, while large tracts of land now occupied will be rendered more valuable and more easy of cultivation by the drains which will be constructed. The Winnipeg board of trade has in times past endeavored to have the question of drainage taken up more actively, and the steps now being taken will no doubt meet with general approval. There is no scarcity of land in Manitoba. At the same time the reclaiming of these lands will add to the prosperity and wealth of the country, by rendering large areas of land in accessible districts fit for cultivation. The expenditure in draining the lands will be repaid by the sale of the lands at the enhanced values which will attach to them after the improvements are completed.

CANADIAN FLOUR FOR JAPAN

It is reported from Ottawa, that the Canadian trade commissioner to Japan has succeeded in securing an order for

a couple of thousand half sacks of Canadian flour. The report further says that a profitable trade might be done with Japan in flour. The Commorelai is a little dubious as to the opening for Manitoba flour in Japan. Our millers are enterprising and they years ago investigated the prospects of doing a profitable trade with Japan and China. Occasional small shipments have been made to the trans-Pacific ports of the countries named, but the trade has never assumed any great importance. The conditions and prospects of the trade were thoroughly understood by our leading millers long before the Canadian government sent an agent to Japan.

The wheat and flour producing districts of the Pacific coast states, can under ordinary circumstances far outbid Manitoba, in competing for the Japan and China trade. Wheat is purchased from the farmers of Washington and Oregon states at lower prices than is paid in Manitoba, and it is turned into flour by mills at Portland and other coast points. Manitoba flour, which would be subject to a long railway haul to reach the Pacific, could not compete with the product of the Pacific coast mills, especially when it is considered that the raw material is usually purchased by Pacific coast millers at considerably lower prices than rule in Manitoba. While occasional lots of Manitoba flour may be worked for the China and Japan trade, we cannot see any reason to become enthusiastic over the prospects of that trade at present.

IMPERIAL POSTAGE RATES

The announcement that the Imperial government had requested the Canadian government to postpone the proposal to put a three-cent letter rate into effect, on letters for the United Kingdom and the colonies, has caused a good deal of comment at the expense of Postmaster-General Mulock. Some of the papers talk about Mr. Mulock having exceeded his authority, and of his having been "called down" by the imperial authorities. Mr. Mulock may have exceeded his authority, but he has exceeded it in a way which is likely to bring about the desired result. The way to secure important results is not to propose, but to act. This was shown by the result of the preferential tariff enactment. We might have gone on for years proposing preferential tariffs and requesting the imperial government to revise the obnoxious most favored nation treaties, as we have done in the past, without avail. When action was decided upon and the preferential tariff was passed, regardless of other circumstances, the desired result was quickly attained in the abrogation of the treaties.

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Losses settled equitably and paid from this office.*Mention The Commercial*

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By Wearing
KING'S SHOES
made with patent**Sleeper Canvas Insoles**

Something New, "Light" Flexible.

No Tacks. No Nails. Very Easy. No Squeak.

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exactly what they are. We can supply cheaper Oysters if
wanted, but we do not sell inferior stock under the name of
Selects.Everything in the Fish line in the market on hand. Haddies
arriving in car lots. Mailed orders filled promptly.**W. J. GUEST** 602 MAIN STREET
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Manufacturer and Jobber ofKeeps on hand a full stock of Overcoats
from a low-priced Raccoon Coat
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KID GLOVESTREFOUSSE GLOVES
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Dress Goods. Every line is a
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shown. All wool from 16 to 85c.
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Gloves; they are the best profit-
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Millinery**

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SAMPLES		BEFORE PLACING
FOR		ORDERS
SPRING		ELSEWHERE

◆◆◆◆

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TORONTO, ONTARIO**BARLEY****WANTED**Farmers and others having
choice Malting Barley would
do well to send us samples.
We are prepared to pay
highest cash price for good
quality.**EDWARD L. DREWRY.**
WINN EG, MAN.

While the establishment of a one-sided three cent letter rate has been postponed for the present, the result of the decision on the part of the Canadian government to make such a rate, will no doubt bear fruit in due time. It has forcibly brought the question of the desirability of a lower postage rate within the empire to the attention of the Imperial authorities. The mere proposal, coming from Canada, in the shape of a request for a conference to consider the matter, might have been quietly shelved; but when the Canadian government announced that a three cent rate would be put into effect, so far as letters sent out from Canada were concerned, it forced the matter upon the attention of the Imperial government in such a way that it is now tolerably certain that action will be taken to have a uniform and reciprocal reduction in the postage rates throughout the empire. A uniform low rate of postage throughout the empire would be another long stride in the direction of binding the empire together more closely. It would be a considerable factor in promoting trade within the empire, and this promotion of trade is really the foundation and basis of the Imperial idea. If the binding more closely together of the different divisions of the empire be not done on a commercial basis, it cannot be done successfully at all.

KEEWATIN

A COMMERCIAL MAN VISITS THIS LAKE OF THE WOODS TOWN

Keewatin is not the only town on the bench of the Lake of the Woods, but it is nevertheless a brisk, thriving little community, and is sharing in the general prosperity that has gradually come to the district, principally through the mining development which has reached that stage that it can no longer be classed as experimental. With a number of producing mines and many that will be producers as soon as arrangements are completed for treating the ores, the mining industry of the Lake of the Woods can justly claim to rank as one of the fixtures.

The town of Keewatin has long been the scene of considerable activity in the manufacture of lumber, the mills of the Keewatin Lumber Co., R. A. Mather, manager, having been established a good many years ago. The company cuts 8 or 10 million feet of lumber annually. Their large saw and planing mills afford employment to a considerable number of men. The mills are run by the magnificent water power owned by the company.

The water power privileges along the lake front here and made avail-

able by cutting short channels through a narrow peninsula to the Winnipeg river, are extremely valuable. Another saw mill, the old Dick & Banning property, was at one time operated here, but the amalgamation of the different firms that were merged in the Rat Portage Lumber Co., had the effect of closing the mill.

Another water power here is the one which furnishes motive power for the immense flouring mills of the Lake of the Woods Milling Co. This property lies between the two others mentioned and not many rods from the Dick & Banning property. A short channel cut through the solid granite carries the water from the lake to the mill and a fall of some 18 or 20 feet gives "head" enough for unlimited power. How this power is utilized in the big milling plant will be best described in a separate article, for which I will leave it.

This fall a new institution has been located at Keewatin, which will considerably increase the volume of business. This is the sampling house and reduction works of the Ottawa Gold Milling and Mining Co. This company, in which are interested a number of prominent and wealthy eastern Canadians, last spring purchased the Dick & Banning water power and mill-site and scarcely two months ago commenced the erection of an immense plant for the handling of every class of ore direct from the mines. The outlay from first to last will be in the neighborhood of \$200,000 and the plant will be the most perfect and complete that can be erected. The work of erecting the buildings is practically complete. There are two main buildings; the first is the sampler and storage elevator, the other the stamp mills proper. In the sampler the ore is received at the top from a skip or car run on a cable suspended between two great towers, one of which is on a pier out in the lake, the other behind the sampler. A man in the top of the second tower manipulates a set of levers by means of which the "skip" is run out to the other tower and back. It can also, by the same means, be lowered to the hold of a barge in the lake or to a car on the railway track of the C. P. R., which runs beneath. The ore when brought in is automatically dumped into a great hopper, whence it passes through crushing machines, until it is reduced about to the size of wheat. It passes through a chute and falls into the flaring rim of a large rotating pan, which automatically samples it, after which the ore passes into the automatic weighing apparatus, and is then elevated to a broad belt at the top of the storage elevator, which runs the length of the building, and carries it to any storage bin. Another carrying belt below the bins

carries the ore to the stamp mills, when it is to be reduced. The capacity of the storage elevator is 2,000 tons. The stamp mill is erected with the intention of increasing to 80 stamps, but at present only 20 stamps are being put in. The power is developed from two immense water wheels, and part of it will be used to generate electricity for lighting the works. All the machinery is of the latest pattern, and much of it has been made from special details and drawings made by Mr. Snyder, the manager. Early in the summer a small building was erected for office and laboratory. This is completely fitted up for assaying and this work is in charge of a well-qualified assayer. The manager, Mr. F. T. Snyder, is a mining engineer of wide experience and with a reputation of success as wide. When in operation the company will be ready to bring all ore by barge to the works and reduce it on customs basis, or buy it from the tests made, which are very exact in character. This institution is bound to be a great addition to Keewatin.

The nearness of Rat Portage, only four miles, and ease of communication, prevent many business men opening out. T. A. Shaw and S. Hunter have two good general stores. Mr. Shaw has just entered his, which occupies the ground floor and basement. Mr. Hunter's store has been built about a year. H. Burton has recently sold his butcher business to P. Gallagher & Sons, of Winnipeg. They have enlarged the storage capacity, built a freezer of latest design and put in a carload or more of dressed meat. They also brought in a car of poultry from the east, selling part of it in Rat Portage. With a complete stock of meat, fish and vegetables, the shop is an attractive place, and as well-found as any city store. Mr. Harry Reid is manager. B. Rochon is landlord of the only hotel, a comfortable, new house, overlooking the lake. The quiet of this place and the presence of all the conveniences and comforts of a large town, should ensure Mr. Rochon a large summer trade. Mr. Geo. Drenry, of Rat Portage, has a wholesale liquor store here, and there are besides a drug and book store, a barber shop, etc. The most historic business institution is the local branch of the Bank of Ottawa, which is the oldest established chartered bank west of the lakes to Winnipeg. Mr. H. Swan is manager.

The Christmas number of the Farmer's Advocate is enclosed in a handsome colored cover, and as a leading feature has illustrations of a number of comfortable farm houses in Manitoba. J. W. Bengough contributes a poem on the "Canady Farmer" with illustrations. Altogether it is an excellent edition of this popular farmer's paper.

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NOTES FROM A RAMBLING CORRESPONDENT

GLENBORO.

Glenboro became famous in the wheat blockade of 1897. There is little fear of that now, for she has six elevators of large capacity and a 150 barrel mill, owned by J. W. Coolhrane. The flour turned out by this mill is of excellent quality and there is a good demand for it. The total amount of wheat to be marketed at Glenboro will be much less than either the last two years, as high as 600,000 having been handled in a season. However the quantity is a fair average and as the market was lively this season wheat came from quite a distance. Considerable stock was handled at Glenboro this year, the Tiger Hills, to the south and the Assiniboine valley to the north being areas better suited for stock and mixed farming than for grain.

While most of the business men, merchants and others have fairly comfortable quarters, the business blocks are not as in some towns, the best buildings, many private residences being very handsome and modern looking structures. A good deal of attention has been paid to tree-planting, so that the town is fast losing the aspect always given by a prairie location. Among the good buildings may be mentioned the public school, a large and convenient institution.

Among business changes in the year are: Editor Lumby, who sold out his interest in the Gazette and is now, at Wabigoon, having been succeeded by Geo. Broadley, Logan & Co., bankers, are winding-up their affairs here owing to the Scaforth, Ont., failure; I. N. Mather now has R. S. Thomson's old-established furniture business; J. P. Shannon is a new hardware man; H. Holloway, a former Stonewall butcher, is now here. John R. Kelly and J. F. Fumerton & Co. are two general merchants with good stocks and flourishing trade. Almost the pioneer merchant is F. Frederickson, who has had a general store in the same stand for over 11 years. He is successful and prosperous, and well liked by the citizens generally. He has a big trade from his brethren of the Icelandic colony south and is a good example of what a thrifty Icelander can do in Canada. Among other old-time business men are A. Dolg, the hardware merchant, J. H. Smith, former manager for Logan & Co., now dealing in grain and real estate, F. W. Young, manager of the Union Bank, J. B. Mather, the leading lumber merchant. The Leland and Queen's, the former managed by Dennison & Co., are two good hotels, and many a travelling

man figures on spending Sunday at "Ab" Dennison's.

STOCKTON.

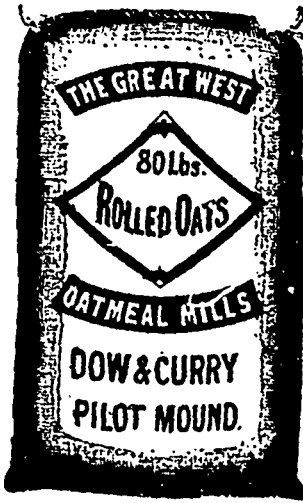
Ten miles west of Glenboro is Stockton, the delivery point for a considerable area of excellent wheat country, and the average condition of the farmers being exceedingly satisfactory. The settlement may be termed very prosperous, the good buildings erected on many farms being sufficient indication of the fact. The village is small, but several well established business men have a good trade. R. D. McLachlan is the pioneer merchant, and with him is associated his brother P. R. Their great popularity ensures them a large trade which they have long enjoyed. R. D. has just completed a very substantial residence. S. B. McLachlan has a good hardware store and is also a favorite with the people, J. R. Miller is the local butcher, doing a good stroke of business in cattle dealing also; W. Moon is the bouffice of the village tavern. There is also another good general store in the village and W. Abbott has a general implement business. The grain business is accommodated by two elevators, one owned by Mr. Alex. Reid, a gentleman who has long been in the grain trade. This year he is at the head of a new company, the Canada Northwest Elevator Company, Ltd., which has erected a number of elevators at different points. The amount of grain marketed this year at Stockton has been rather reduced by the fact that the Glenboro market has been very strong having had the effect of drawing considerable wheat from the neighborhood.

Treesbank, west of Stockton, is a point that is rapidly increasing in amount of business being transacted, having in fact, only come into existence as a business place during the past year or two. Methven, near the crossing of the C. P. R. Glenboro branch and the N. P. & M. Morris & Brandon branch, has now only one general store, a hotel and livery stable and two elevators. The quantity of grain delivered here is small though the surrounding country is a good wheat area. The nearness of Wawanosa, Nesbitt and Rounthwaite cut off the territory very greatly. Nesbitt has two elevators, one of which is but recently built by the Northern Elevator Co., to replace one burnt early in the fall. This is a fairly good wheat market and has a good country to draw from, being a little less handicapped by other towns. J. Watson is in general business with a good stock having been established some time. J. C. Robinson of Wawanosa, now has a branch store here. The hotel is owned by Wm. Reynolds. Carroll is the station on the portion of the Glenboro & Sou-

ris, built five years ago when the C. P. R. extended the Glenboro line through to Souris and connected with Brandon & Souris branch. Carroll is rapidly growing and now has three elevators, the amount of grain to be marketed this year being not less than 100,000 bushels. Houses and shops, an hotel and other institutions are among the fixtures, though a second store with a good stock might do well.

SOURIS.

This is one of the few towns in the province that existed and flourished to any extent before the advent of the railroad and continued without change of location after that time. It is true the railway depot is quite a distance from the business portion of the town but the intervening space, an open plain, with southerly slope and admirably adapted for a building site, is rapidly filling up, and will in time prove none too large an area for this thriving town, even though there are two other districts, south of the business portion, one across the Souris river, the other across the historic Plum Creek, each of which is already considerably built upon and each well suited for residential wards. Between these and the business part of the town lies the park reserve, a great natural amphitheatre, in shape, half a mile across and sunk between abrupt banks which enclose it. Through this Plum Creek flows and joins the Souris river at the east side of the space. There are sufficient trees to furnish shade and great enough area to provide ample recreation grounds, so that when the town is ready to improve it, there will be no more attractive place in the province. There is not a more substantial growth in Manitoba than that of Souris in the past few years. Numerous handsome brick blocks, two, three or four stories high have been built, bus sses have been commenced and built up, and the citizens have built many large and comfortable residences, some of them with considerable architectural merit. The town has steadily grown and its people have prospered. The building of the Souris and Pipestone branches west did not affect Souris in the same way as other towns have been by railway extension for the reason that the trade diverted, had been little tributary to the town. Her tributary area has remained, and has been more closely settled every year, until now it is all under active development. Two years ago there were over 600,000 bushels of wheat marketed here. This year it will be under half a million. There are six elevators, and the mill of McCulloch & Herriot has a capacity of 160 bbls. daily. Their elevator and storage room alone is 90,000 bushels. While the Souris district has always



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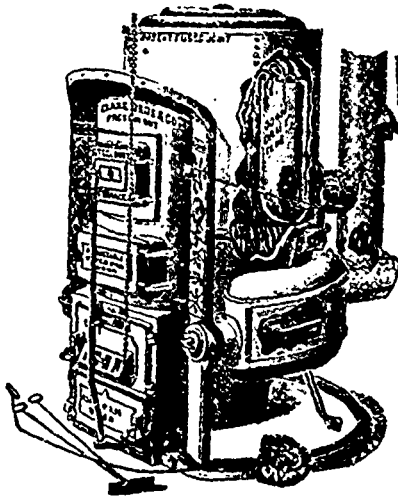


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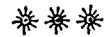
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Grain and all kinds of country produce handled

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- WOOL, TALLOW
- FURS and
- SENECA ROOT

234 King St., Winnipeg

Highest prices paid. Parties consigning to me
will be liberally dealt with and returns will be made
promptly.

been looked on as a wheat country, this year a creamery was established, mainly owing to the efforts of R. I. Crisp. It was operated by J. H. Hartney and R. McDowell, and the result was satisfactory for the first season. Souris is largely built up with red brick manufactured in Squire Sowden's brick yard. He has himself built two large blocks. He also built an elevator two seasons ago to increase the market, and this year he built a rink for the growing crowd of curlers, who could not all be accommodated in the first rink. The merchants of Souris change but little, apparently being satisfied with a good trade. John Dolmage is still there in the post office store, Crawford and Breakey now occupy the handsome new Hartney block, J. R. Stewart is next door to them. W. G. McLaren continues to increase his

Manitoba Farm Homes
Manitoba, as we have remarked before, is essentially a country of homes in the fullest sense of the word. Every farmer, or almost every farmer, is his own landlord. He owns the property whereon he resides and from which he makes his living. This gives the farmer a double incentive to improve the appearance of his surroundings, for in so doing he is improving the value of his own property. The number of fine farm homes in Manitoba is a sure indication of the prosperity which our farmers are enjoying. The Commercial has given a number of engravings showing farm scenes in Manitoba, which prove the prosperity of the country more clearly than could be done in whole pamphlets of immigration literature. This week we give another farm view, showing the residence and farm of George Motherall,

process of seedling and so many engaged in the business that competition speedily brought about a decided increase in the business in this class of goods.

Within the past four years great improvement has been made in seedling machines, and a number of handlers of raisins have made a special effort to secure the trade by putting out goods of the finest quality in most attractive package. Only a comparatively few of these concerns seem to have been successful so far, and they are now experiencing one of the results of their success in this direction by being compelled to stand suit for alleged infringement of what is claimed to be the original patents of seedling machines. These suits, no matter which way they are determined, it is claimed by seeders, will not in the least affect jobbing or retail



MANITOBA FARM HOMES

trade, his store in the Sowden block being now a hundred feet deep from front to back. Curry & Mitchell and Bambridge & Co., control the hardware trade. There are three drug stores, S. S. Smith, Dr. Hughes and Sherrin & Co. This fall Dr. Hughes has opened a bookstore and a jewelry store, having fitted up a building for them. J. Menurey has succeeded M. Isblister in the Crescent hotel, Jasper Nation still presides at the Transit house. R. McDowell has resumed the baking business in connection with his grocery. The Souris Plaindealer, the local paper, is now published by Barclay & Cook, T. Dickie, M. P. P., having retired. Their plant which was burned nearly two years ago, has been replaced with new type and machinery all through, and the young proprietors are prospering with the town.

of Manitou, in the southern part of this province.

Seeded Raisins

The trade in seeded California raisins, which is of comparatively recent growth, has become one of the most important features in the dried fruit market. More seeded goods are wanted this year than ever before and the trade in this description of the California fruit seems to be throwing the regular unseeded goods into the shade. About four years ago seeded raisins were first put on the market in a small way by one or two concerns but the quality of the goods did not seem to appeal to the majority of buyers, though the advantage of handling seeded raisins was at once recognized by the jobbers and the trade at large, with the result that such improvements were made in the

sellers of the goods of the seeders who have been or will be sued by the holders of the claimed original patents. At the most, the seeders who have been sued, assert that action can only be taken against themselves, and the jobbers and retailers who buy and sell the products of the alleged infringers cannot be disturbed or held accountable for so-called infringement of patent rights.

The growth of the trade in seeded raisins, it is reported, has been rapid in spite of the fact that at first it was difficult to educate buyers up to the idea that there was any advantage in handling these goods over the ordinary stock as it came from the packers. The improvement in processes and the employment of the best stock for seedling, together with the extraordinary efforts that have been put forth to popularize seeded raisins, have at last met with recognition, and trade

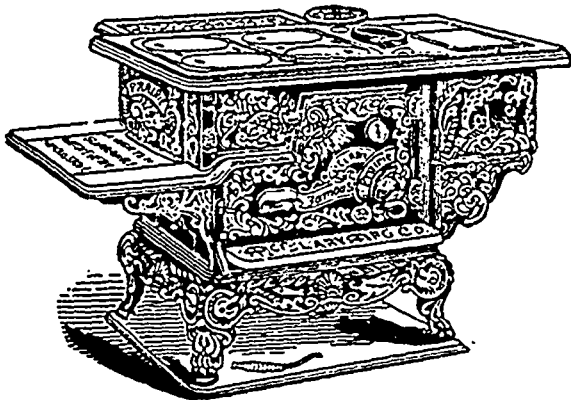
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2 SIZES—No. 9-23 and No. 9-25
2 STYLES—Square, and with Reservoir. High shelf can be attached to either style.

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WHOLESALE

Wines, Liquors and Cigars

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In these goods has developed in a remarkable degree during the past two years. Last year it was claimed fully 200 cars of seeded raisins were disposed of. This year the demand has been fully double that of last season. All seeders, it is reported, are far behind their orders, and are unable to get the goods out fast enough, though working night and day, to satisfy the requirements of consumption. In addition to the active home demand, it is reported that foreign buyers are beginning to show an interest, and already several cars have been purchased for shipment to the other side.

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, B. C., Dec. 27.

Merchants report that the Christmas trade in B. C. was better than it has been for the past five years. Money was plentiful; where it came from would be an interesting conjecture. Steady business growth would not make such a change in one year. Possibly it is some of the millions from the sale and operations of mines finding its way to the coast cities. Heretofore there has been systematic charity work during Christmas. This year it was not necessary.

This week there are further signs that we are on the eve of good times, which will pass into history as the boom of '98. Everyone is talking boom and this universal expression of confidence stimulates trade and is the best possible kind of advertisement. It inspires capital with confidence and the boom must come. It is often said here that Manitoba had two booms before it settled down to its steady advance to the solid, prosperous condition of to-day. B. C.'s second innings is due. The New York Engineering and Mining Journal, whose editorial comments are accepted as law by many, says that the Yukon mining boom has evidently collapsed. This time the New York Journal is in error. Boat loads are already commencing to go into the frozen north, and advance bookings indicate that there will be a bigger rush even than anticipated.

British Columbia Items.

E. Reinhard, M. D., has located at Armstrong.

Mrs. Castleton has opened in groceries at Vancouver.

Geo. E. Welsh, painter, has opened business at Kamloops.

J. A. Irving & Co., opened business in groceries at Nelson.

Rafel & Paul, brick manufacturers, Linderby, have dissolved.

V. C. Ratcliffe, grocer, has opened business at Stouan City.

W. A. Rose, fur, goods, etc., Chilliwack, has added groceries.

The Kootenay Wire Works Co. are reported sold out to S. D. Weaver.

J. Lukov, clothing and men's furnishings, Trail, has closed his branch at Sandon.

The business of M. Goudron, hardware, Vancouver, is advertised for sale.

Patmore & Peers, hotel, Vernon, have dissolved. F. W. Patmore continues.

C. B. Hume & Co., general store, Revelstoke, have closed their branch at Ferguson.

The following items are reported from Victoria: C. J. Kelley & Co., manufacturers and jobbers of clothing, are opening. O'Leary & Tribe, saloon, has dissolved. L. Gray, saloon, is dead. F. C. Davidge & Co., commission and shipping, will apply for incorporation.

Several carloads of turkeys, geese and ducks have abundantly supplied the market in British Columbia, but in spite of this stiff prices were maintained, the frozen birds dressed bringing fifteen cents a pound.

G. H. Hadwen, secretary of the British Columbia Dairymen's association, claims that the province is not treated right by the federal power, and he has asked that more instructors be sent among the farmers, and they be urged to take up the study of butter making. The Dominion department of agriculture has promised to send an expert to B. C.

The Revelstoke creamery report 10,000 pounds of butter sold for the year. Our creameries all report large increased sales, but they only supplied a fraction of the demand, and at present in Vancouver, only favored customers can get good butter retail under 40 cents. The fact that British Columbia cannot supply her own markets at all adequately with dairy produce is again receiving the attention of public spirited farmers.

A large number of fishermen are petitioning the minister of marine that he may not consider the proposal to prohibit sturgeon fishing in the lakes tributary to the Fraser. It is true that the sturgeon is being rapidly fished out on account of illegal gear being used. Those signing the petition undertake to do anything in their power to stop the fishing for sturgeon by hooks which are strung across the river so that sturgeons cannot get past as they always swim close to the bottom.

Grocery Trade Notes.

A Toronto report says: There is a firm feeling in the market for canned salmon owing to the talk of a combination among the packers. If the deal is successfully carried out the price will certainly advance, and one party said he would not be astonished to see an advance of 10c to 15c per case any day.

It is reported that the principal holders of currants have withdrawn from the market. The rise in Greece, which gave the impetus to the upward movement here, was due, it is reported, to the small stocks left there and a renewal of European inquiries. In this market stocks are said to be exceptionally low for the season. One element of strength enlarged upon by holders is the fact that all or nearly all of the off-grade stock received early in the season and which for a long time had a most depressing influence upon market values has gone into consumption.—New York Journal of Commerce.

A Montreal report says: Owing to scarcity of stocks in first and second

hands, 1897, crop of choice Barbadoes molasses has been advanced to 28c per gallon in large lots, and at any moment the guild prices may go to 30c; 27c was reduced for a quantity to-day. The market is likely to go over 30c.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says: A heavy demand has set in for gallon apples, and as the supply is very limited, prices have advanced 25c. Sales were made at \$2.50 per dozen, and later they could not be bought under \$2.75, with the probability of \$3.00 being made in the near future. There has been a considerable advance in the price of canned tomatoes, which have sold at \$1.10 delivered here from the canneries, several car loads having been placed at that price, and holders are now asking \$1.20 to \$1.25. Corn has also taken a jump up, sales having been made of round lots at the canneries west at 80c f.o.b. for Montreal account, and holders here now ask 90c to 95c. Peas are firm and higher, with sales at 90c to \$1. Salmon is also firm and advancing, owing to the fact that a combine has been formed to control prices on the coast and in England. The market is very strong for tomatoes and corn, owing to the reduced supplies caused by the large sales previously reported for British Columbia, Buffalo and San Francisco.

Leather

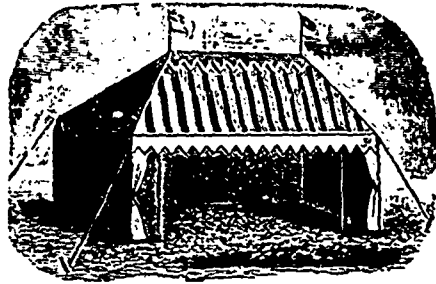
The improvement in the leather market reported in these columns for several weeks past has been emphasized by a further advance in the price of black leather, the sale of a lot of 1,000 sides of glove having just taken place at 11 1-2c, showing an advance of 1-2c over last week's sale. The sale is also reported of two tons of Nova Scotia split at 22c, the same description being placed three weeks ago at 19c, and we quote Ontario splits 22c to 24c. There are no Quebec splits in this market, and they are said to be so scarce in Quebec that one boot and shoe manufacturer had to discharge a number of hands on account of not being able to get the quantity of splits they wanted. Pebble is also firm at 12c to 15c. In sole leather the sale of 3,000 sides of No. 2 manufacturers was reported at 22c but some holders ask 22 1-2c for that class. There is a large business doing in Dongola and colored stock at firm price. Montreal prices are as follows: No. 2 manufacturers sole, 22c to 24c; jobbers' sole, 22c to 23c; slaughter sole, 25c to 27c; waxed upper 23c to 31c; grained do., 28c to 33c; buff 11c to 12c; splits 22c to 24c for Ontario, and 16c to 19c for Quebec; pebble 11 1-2c to 13c; glove 11 1-2c to 13 1-2c; Dongola 12c to 18c per foot; sheepskins 5c to 7c per foot; calfskins 18c to 20c per foot.—Trade Bulletin.

Boots and Shoes.

The activity noticed during the past few weeks in turning out spring orders was again noticeable this week, some of our large houses having worked full time, and the principal of one firm said he was obliged to work overtime. There will be a lull after this week, as a number of the Knights of St. Crispin are bound to have their holiday fun, and it will be fully a week or ten days before they will feel like returning to work. The year closes, however, with brighter prospects than for a number of years past. Remittances are exceptionally good, and buyers are operating with plenty of freedom.—Montreal Trade Bulletin.

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Manufacturers of
Tents, Awnings,
Paulins,
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Covers,
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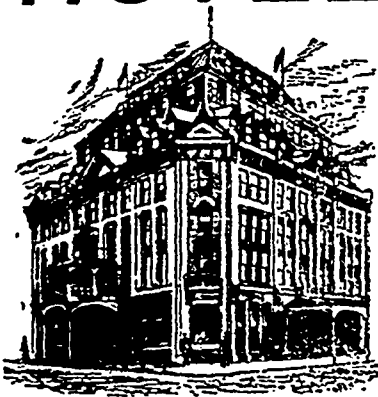


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Second to nothing in Canada.

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The finest the world can produce
Pure, fragrant, delicious
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I manufacture, stamp and lithograph all descriptions of Tin Boxes, Butter Cans, Lard Pails, Baking Powder, Tea, Coffee and Spice Cans, etc. Special quotations to large Fish Canneries, Tea Packers, etc.

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Also a Splendid
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Our Sleeping Bags are the Warmest
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Oak Lake

"Anchor Brand" Flours

FROM NO. 1 HARD WHEAT.

Bran, Shorts and all kinds of
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FINANCIAL

PRIVATE BANKS.

The Ontario government has for some time been receiving requests from financiers and business men on all sides for some manner of legislation controlling private banks. The companies' act has worked so well it is believed some kind of inspection of private banks might very well be attempted. As it is now there is no such supervision. A private banker makes no statement of any kind at any time, of any nature to any power. He may take security of any kind. His standing is never known and cannot by any means be ascertained. Frauds of exceptional nature have been perpetrated and nothing can be done to prevent it. There are more than a hundred of these institutions throughout the province and each one seems to be doing plenty of business. About once a year a bad failure is reported and many people are embarrassed. The great trouble will be the manner of inspection that can be made. The government is considering the matter, and though no action will be taken this session, yet it may not be many months before private banks will be regulated in some way.

FINANCIAL NOTES.

The Union Bank of Canada will on the beginning of the new year open a branch at Holland, Man.

John Hall, private banker, of Holland, has assigned. Liabilities estimated at about \$30,000 to \$35,000.

Mr. Leslie, manager of the Bank of Hamilton in Winnipeg, has had to go to Scotland for the benefit of his health.

The Imperial bank will open a branch in Montreal on January 2. Inspector Haigh will have charge of the office until a permanent manager is appointed.

A dividend of 20 cents has been paid to the local creditors of the Logan bank at Glenboro, Man. A further dividend of 15 cents is expected. The local claims against the bank amount to only about \$3,000.

S. H. Willis, secretary-treasurer of the W. C. Loan and Investment Co., has organized an advisory board at Minnedosa, with the following directors: Wm. Drummond, president; W. J. Roche, M. P., vice-president; W. H. Sparring, valuator; Thos. Logan, secretary-treasurer; J. P. Curran, solicitor; Thos. Boyd, G. O. Fuller, J. MacDonald, and H. N. Halpeny, directors.

Manitoba

John Wilson, lumber dealer, Rathwell has sold his business to S. Caswell.

W. B. Charlton, livery, Portage la Prairie, has sold out to Wilson Brothers.

E. Scarlett, of Dundas, Ont., has purchased the drug store and business of Dr. H. A. Wright, of Oak Lake.

Hess & Cochran, of Oak River, are building a new store, and hope to have it ready to move into early in January.

The stock of M. A. Kerouack, fancy goods, St. Boniface, has been sold to Mrs. B. Kerouack at 25c. on the dollar.

Angus McLeod has returned from the east and will again assume the management of the Albion hotel at Portage la Prairie.

Tenders have been called, to be in by January 5, for the grocery stock of Turner, Mackeand & Co., Winnipeg. Stock amounts to \$22,000.

The new hotel near the site of the old Queen's, at Shoal Lake, was opened last week to the travelling public, A. Brown being the lessee.

Scott & Chambers of Hamfota, purpose doubling their store accommodation in the spring, the present space being inadequate to the heavy stock they carry.

John Gillis' blacksmith shop at Glenboro was burnt on Sunday last. The tools and some winter vehicles were burnt. Small insurance on buildings only.

K. B. Riley, lately connected with the Sanford Manufacturing Co., Winnipeg, and brother of R. T. Riley, manager of the Winnipeg business of the same company, died on Monday last after a lingering illness.

The submerged tank at the Manitoba Northwestern railway station at Strathclair exploded recently, leaving it a total wreck. The company are erecting a temporary elevated tank until the demolished one can either be repaired or replaced. This was the first submerged tank established in Canada.

Alberta.

H. A. Brown, jeweller, Calgary, has sold out to S. C. Vick.

T. Cairns, of Edmonton, is evaporating potatoes for the Klondike trade. The potatoes are peeled and sliced and after being put through the evaporating process become as hard and dry as chips. On being put in water they recover their original size and consistency.

The following items are reported from Red Deer: The Lynn Bros. have rented McMurray's saw mill. Burch & Co. are extending their premises. J. Dawson is putting up a new building, in which he purposes carrying on a restaurant business. S. Wilson, of the Alberta hotel, is making an addition to the hotel.

Grain and Milling News.

It is alleged that 200,000 bushels of wheat remain in the hands of farmers at Indian Head, Assa.

The north end of Kidd's flour mill at Prince Albert, Sask., was burst out one day recently by the weight of wheat stored in the building. A report says that the mill is almost a complete wreck, and the north end will have to be entirely rebuilt.

The Montreal Gazette of Dec. 24, says: There was further enquiry from foreign buyers for Manitoba flour to-day and a sale of 1,500 sacks was made on London account for shipment via St. John. The demand locally continues good and millers report business fairly active at steady prices.

Parrish & Lindsay of Brandon, have retired from the Manitoba Grain Company, and resumed their former business, with the exception of wheat, which they are not handling this year having leased their elevators. They

will devote their attention exclusively to the coarse grain and produce trade with this province and British Columbia.

A number of specimens of different varieties of grain from the experimental farms of Canada have been received by the high commissioner in London, Eng. They have been distributed among the different agents of the Canadian government in the United Kingdom, and between 200 and 300 bottles are now on view at the Canadian Government Office in London.

Dry Goods Trade.

Bradstreet's says of the situation in the United States: The prospect is that wages will be reduced at the Fall River cotton mills, and it will not be surprising if such a movement will become general at most of the New England mills. At the low figures made for goods the tendency will be toward a better business, but it is going to be slow work to force up prices to any extent. Some good lines of coarse drills, and also heavy cottons, have been cleaned up at low figures, and the feeling is that the price of these goods has reached the low point.

The Lumber Trade.

About 1,500 feet of lumber was was stolen the other night from a building in course of erection in Winnipeg.

At a meeting of British Columbia lumbermen a resolution was passed that the Canadian government should place a duty on shingles and lumber unless the United States should place them on the free list.

From reports received at Seattle it is known that 159 Pacific coast shingle mills have shut down. These, together with saw mills cutting shingles, constitute 183 mills out of a total of 207 in the state of Washington.

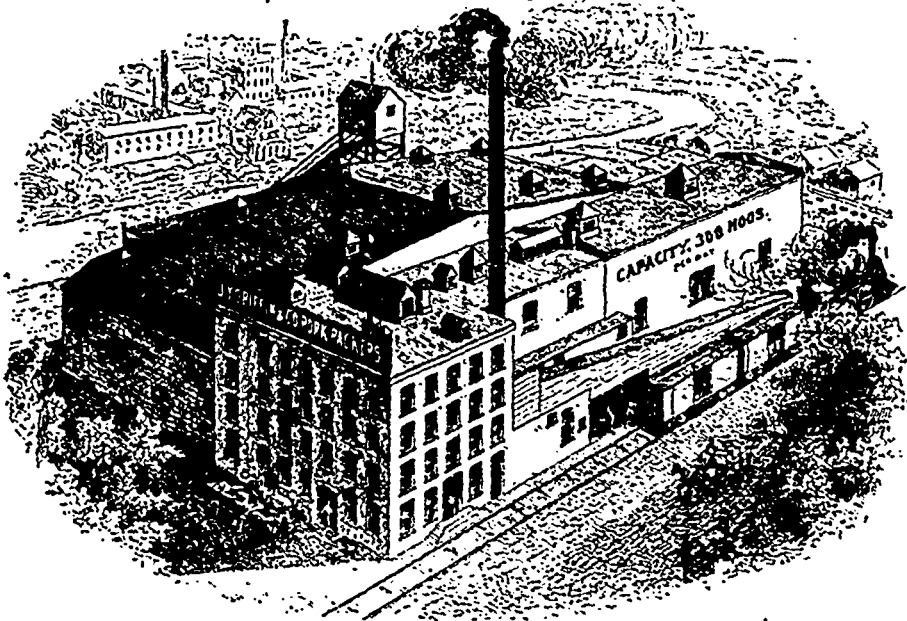
Custom's Dispute

Montreal, Dec. 26.—A difference of opinion has arisen between the customs authorities and the firm of Fitzgibbon, Schafheitlin & Co., importers of European fancy dry goods, etc., over certain clauses of the tariff. Fitzgibbon states that the customs authorities are acting on the affidavit of a discharged employee, that the firm entered goods valued at 30,000 marks or about \$7,500 under their proper value, but he strongly denies that there was any undervaluation. He says that he has deposited \$7,500 with the government as a guarantee and proposes to resist the claims. A commercial paper states that the undervaluation amounted to \$400,000 and that strong efforts are being made to secure a compromise. This, Fitzgibbon says, is untrue, and he has instructed his lawyers, Madore & Guerin, to enter an action for \$100,000 damages against the paper.

New Packing House

The Parsons Produce Co. have arranged to operate a packing house in the city of Vancouver, under the management of Mr. Glas Millne, and are now in the market for large supplies of dressed hogs.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR



We wish our customers (and other people's customers too) a **HAPPY** and **PROSPEROUS** **NEW YEAR**. We might just whisper that a good deal of prosperity in 1898 may be **WON** by consigning this year's Produce to

J. Y. GRIFFIN & CO., WINNIPEG.

PORK PACKERS AND COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

We're Getting Ready

The demand for **Alfred Dolge's Felt Shoes** for next year will be enormous. We're getting ready for it. We are also preparing a little surprise party in Moccasins and Arctic Sox. Just wait for us.



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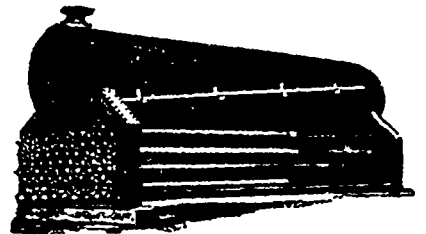
Boilers, Engines and Steam Pumps, Hoisting Engines and Centrifugal Pumps. Agents for Monarch Economic Boilers. Latest improved Flour Mill Machinery, Woodworking Machinery and Saw Mills, Ironworking Machinery and Tools, Dodge Wood Split Pulleys and Friction Clutches, Dodge system of Manilla Rope Drives, Electric Dynamos and Motors, Electrical Supplies and Incandescent Lamps, Electrical Repairs.

Large Stock of Second-hand Machinery on Hand

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Manufacturer of

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Blake's Challenge Stone Breaker, Heine Safety Steam Boilers.

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PARTNERS WANTED, ETC.

IN

THE COMMERCIAL

It Reaches the Trade

The Edmonton Route

Mrs. Frank Wishart, of Duluth, formerly of Winnipeg, has received two letters from Mr. Wishart, who is making his way to the Klondike via the Edmonton route. The first letter is as follows:

"Smith's Landing, Sept. 19.— Since writing a week ago from the other side of Lake Athabasca, we have managed to reach this point safely. The day after writing my last letter we tried to cross the lake to Fort Chipewayan, but owing to a big storm we were obliged to wait two days for favorable weather. The 15th we made the crossing and arrived at Fort Chipewayan safe and sound. It is very difficult without a guide to get on the lake. When we got to Chipewayan we found Foote, H. L. Belliveau and Hough. The other boat, which Knickerbocker, Esh and two Englishmen went on, got to the lake one day ahead of Foote's boat and they have not been heard of since. It is supposed they are lost. An Indian that came to Chipewayan a few days ago reported having seen a boat drifting before a heavy sea away down near the other end of the lake, almost 300 miles out of their course and in very dangerous water. We left Fort Chipewayan next morning early for this place, 102 miles distant. We made good time the 16th, but the next day there was such a strong head wind we could not leave camp, so we concluded not to try. The river is very large here, some places a mile wide, and it gets up quite a sea. Saturday morning the 18th, broke fine and we made good time and arrived here about sunset. Here we have a 16-mile portage to make. There are three cascades, where we will have to take our boat out of the water every time. We expect to get over it in three days, but I can't expect to reach Fort Smith, which is at the other end, before Thursday noon. The multitudes of geese and ducks from where I last wrote you are indescribable. They cannot be estimated in figures. Hundreds of thousands of acres are literally covered with them. I thought to-day I would take my shotgun and go back in the timber to get a few partridges. I had shot a couple and was going along quietly, when up jumped a monster lynx. Not having a rifle with me, I concluded I had enough partridge and made tracks for camp. I am still enjoying superb health, ready to eat any time of the day. I think its owing to my whiskers. They are getting so long now that I require plenty of grub to sustain them. From Fort Smith our next stop will be Fort Resolution, on Great Slave lake, about 20 miles from here. We have been very fortunate, and if we can get our boat through the rapids between Smith's landing and Fort Smith, we shall be all right. I don't know when you will get this, so tell all my friends that when I get in winter quarters I will write them all good long letters and give them some idea of this route. Anybody coming should have a guide all the way from the landing to Fort Providence. If we had done that we would have been across Great Slave lake now."

The next letter was written from Great Slave Lake Sept. 29. The writer says: "We arrived here about 11 a. m. The lake looms up before us, but the wind is so strong we thought best to wait until evening before crossing over the bay to Fort Resolution, which is a few miles away. Since my last letter we have passed Smith's

landing and Fort Smith. They are only 10 miles apart. From the landing down to Fort Smith is one continuation of rapids of the worst kind. We had to take our boats out of the water three times. The first portage we made we had to pack all our goods almost a mile, then take our boat out of the water and haul it the same distance. Then we loaded up again and went a few miles and repeated the dose, only instead we took about twice as much. After loading again we proceeded to what is called the Mountain portage. I don't think I shall ever forget it. It's like going from the Northern Pacific dock up the incline to the Pavilion, then down again the same distance. It took twenty-five men to get the boat over, or four days from Smith's Landing to Fort Smith. We left Fort Smith last Saturday noon, the 25th. From there here is 195 miles. The river has been fine all the way, not a rock to be seen. It's 108 miles across the lake to Fort Providence, where I will try to drop another letter for you. Or the last 200 miles we have seen any number of moose, bear, geese, ducks and fish. We live like princes, with enormous appetites. I never felt better in my life. I think I must weigh about twenty-five pounds more. Tell Mr. Schofield he could shoot game here to his heart's content. Fish like hocks without bait, and clubs are about as good as guns to kill ducks and geese. The weather here to-day on the shore of Great Slave Lake is immense. I am now lying stretched on the grass, writing this in my shirt sleeves. We have a little frost at night, but have not seen any ice yet. We may have to lie here a few days to cross the lake. We will cross on the western end, and then go down the Mackenzie river. I have not had a word of news since I left. We are pushing hard to get just as far as we can before it freezes up."

Trade Returns

Ottawa, Dec. 27.— Trade and navigation returns will shortly be published by the customs department. They will show that on the whole the fiscal year, 1896-7, was one of activity in Canadian trade. Our imports remained about stationary and the revenue was slightly less than for the previous year. There was a satisfactory expansion of export.

The total imports entered for consumption were \$11,294,021, as against \$11,587,480 in the preceding year. The duty collected amounted to \$19,891,977, as against \$20,219,037, a decrease of \$327,040. The export amounted to \$128,959,838, an increase of \$17,581,086. The average rate of duty is 17.8 per cent. on the total imports for consumption, and 30 per cent on the dutiable imports, which is about the same proportion as last year.

Great Britain still remains Canada's best customer, but the preferential tariff has not brought about an increase of British imports. The growth of imports from the United States has been considerable, but the volume of imports from Great Britain was depressed woefully. During the year there were exported to the States, Canadian products to the value of \$43,991,485, as against \$34,460,428 in 1895-6. Great Britain took of our exports \$69,533,852, yet our imports from the old country were about \$29,412,188, a decrease of \$3,567,554, as compared with the previous year,

while from the States we imported to the value of \$61,649,041, an increase of \$8,075,023 over our imports of United States products of the year before. Upon the total imports of British goods, there was collected duty to the amount of \$6,205,367, an average rate of 21 per cent.; upon the total imports from the States the sum of \$8,147,075, an average rate of but 13 per cent., was collected.

The Public Accounts

Ottawa, Dec. 24.—The public accounts for the year ending June 30, 1897, have been issued. The receipts were \$37,829,778 and expenditures \$38,349,759, leaving a deficit of \$519,981. The expenditure on capital account was \$3,505,821. Of this amount \$2,539,206 was expended on railways and canals, as follows: Intercolonial, \$149,112; Annapolis and Digby, \$41,457; Lachine canal, \$282,052; Ottawa river works, \$1,908; Rideau canal, \$10,702; St. Lawrence river canal, \$1,355,523; Sault Ste. Marie canal, \$209,561; Trent canal, \$166,577; Welland canal, \$2,284. There was expended on public works \$129,237, distributed as follows: River St. Lawrence, \$109,308; Collingwood harbor, \$3; Rainy River, \$5,205; Port Arthur harbor, \$9,096; Nanaimo harbor, \$7,625. The Canadian Pacific railway was paid \$14,054. Subsidies amounting to \$416,955 were paid to the following railways, Atlantic and Northwestern, \$186,600; Canadian Pacific, \$52,000; Cape de la Madeleine, \$7,424; Gulf Shore, \$23,635; Irondale, Bancroft and Ottawa, \$48,000; Lake Temiscamingue, \$6,476; Lotbiniere and Megantic, \$22,400; Montreal and Ottawa, \$32,000; Ontario, Belmont and Northern, \$0,723; United Counties, \$2,700. The amount at the credit of depositors in the saving banks at the close of the year was \$48,934,975, an increase over the previous year of \$2,135,657. Dominion notes circulation increased by \$1,945,881. The net debt was increased by \$3,041,163 and amount to \$261,528,596 at the end of the year.

The average of interest on the gross debt was 3.20 per cent. against 3.23 per cent., whilst the net rate was 2.76 per cent. against 2.80 per cent. in the previous years.

Holiday Reminders

A handsome calendar has been received from D. K. McLaren, mill furnisher, Montreal.

Holiday numbers gotten up by Northwestern Miller Minneapolis, have always been high-class productions. The 1897 holiday edition has set a standard of excellence, hard for even the Northwestern Miller to improve upon. No holiday number issued in America can compare with it as an example of all that is best in the art of printing. The literary matter too, is of superior order. There are a number of appropriate stories written for the number. Illustrated articles on British Corn and Flour Trade as relations, the British National Association of Bakers and Confectioners, The Bread of Paris are an interesting feature. Newcastle, England, is described and illustrated. A review of milling interests for the year in America assists in making up the letter press of a faultless edition. Among many artistic advertisements in the number is one of our own Ogilvie Milling Company.



SECURITY MUST BE ABSOLUTE.

We are frequently asked why our persistent opposition to the insurance conducted by fraternal societies. Let us say here that there is no material work in which man can engage of greater importance than providing for his family or his old age, and in no way can this better be accomplished than by life insurance properly effected. This is one business above all others in which he cannot afford to speculate. He must realize upon this fund to a certainty. Hence the necessity of securing a policy where the security is absolute. We think that no business man will deny that this is good advice, and in order to secure this the premiums paid must bear some definite relation to the sum assured. There is no such thing as "bargain day" insurance. Hence this journal will continue to oppose all insurance schemes unsupported by substantial assets, no matter how beautiful they may appear on paper or what illustrious titles their officers may wear, if they are deficient in that all-important element—security. It is already fairly well known (and it shall be our duty to further disseminate the knowledge) that the various societies which parade before the public are fairly well equipped along the former lines, but, unfortunately for their policyholders, sadly in need of a reserve fund properly invested. We have been told that their reserve fund was in the members' pockets, but the many wrecks of societies, even in Ontario, and the thousands of members who in many instances have paid in for upwards of 20 years, and who are now incapacitated from obtaining reliable insurance through age or disability, fully demonstrate the fallacy of such contentions. The same and many other insurance justify the course The Economist is pursuing.—Economist.

INSURANCE ITEMS.

D. H. Cooper, of the Imperial Life, left on Thursday for Toronto.

D. McDonald, of the Confederation Life Co., Winnipeg, left last week for the Pacific coast.

Manager Correll, of the Equitable Life company, Winnipeg, left on Wednesday for Calgary.

An insurance exchange says that it is always a good plan to give a man a few facts to think about, before you try to get a definite proposition from him.

An application will be made to parliament upon behalf of The Manufacturers' Guarantee and Accident Insurance company, for an act to change the name of the company to The Guarantee and Accident Insurance Company of Canada.

Extreme Rivalry

A correspondent sends the following: With the opening of the new hotel at the south end of the town of Minnedosa, the old feeling of rivalry between the north and south ends has been revived and seems to be stronger than ever.

We are informed that some commercial men have been given to understand that unless they stop at the new house they need not expect orders, and it is just possible that the railway company may be petitioned to move the depot from the north to the south end, seeing that all the stores are there.

If the old house, which has been comfortable quarters for the traveling public since the Brunswick was burned down, has to be taboed in this way, the north-enders will have to bestir themselves and build a store town of their own. Factionism is only good when pushed in this way, and who knows but that the outcome may be a duplicate of the Twin Cities south of us.

If it is a good thing—push it along. There are other towns besides Minnedosa troubled with factionism, and it is no uncommon thing for a commercial to be asked by the merchant which house he puts up at, and if it should happen to be the "other" one, he soon finds there is no chance for business. Travellers are thus saddled with one more worry, but then, as a lady (?) remarked the other day on a car, discussing the late tragic death at the General hospital, he was "only a commercial traveller."

The Travellers' Annual

The members of the Northwest Travellers' association held open house at the Hotel Manitoba, on Tuesday night, the occasion being the annual ball and conversation of the association, which has become the principal fixture of the holiday season in Winnipeg. To those who have enjoyed these events before it was not surprising that the 1897 anniversary was a successful affair in every particular. It could not be otherwise under the auspices of that fraternity, who are never content with half measures. The programme rendered by some of Winnipeg's leading musical talent, was in itself, a rare treat. The dining-room of the great hotel was specially fitted and decorated for this part of the evening's entertainment. Dancing followed in the ball room, and an excellent supper was served in another room at midnight. The mounted policeman of our western trade know how to entertain their friends and enjoy themselves when off duty.

The Edmonton Route

Mr. Thos. Anderson, of Edmonton, who was in the city this week, is a firm believer in the Edmonton route to the Klondike. "There is," said Mr. Anderson, "no question in the world about the Edmonton route being the best. Why, you can get a provision by it at one-tenth of the cost necessitated by any other route. In summer time you can make the trip from Edmonton to Dawson City in 10 days, and the present facilities will also be improved by the wagon road the Northwest assembly is constructing, which this year will be completed to Los or Slave Lake."

"Reports of gold having been found at Peace River had reached Edmonton before I left. A man named Plon took out a party of four and the claim he is working is said to be turning out \$100 a day. That country, if it turns out as rich as is believed will be an attractive one, compared with the Yukon, as the climate is as mild there as it is here and you can get in or out whenever you please."

From the Klondyke

Vancouver, Dec. 27.—The steamer Tees, which arrived to-night from Skaguay, brought down five Klondikers, Richard Shaw, of Victoria, who left Dawson on Nov. 16, and three other Victorians, and T. Hanbury, of Seattle, who started on their long tramp on October 27. The party leaving on the latter date ran out of grub at Fort Selkirk and had to beg their way along, getting food at the different camps, or when it was not to be had, living on anything they could shoot. Shaw came out by dog trail, not leaving Dawson until the ice formed.

He passed fifty-one men along the river bound out. They are all coming along with just enough food to last them. At Stewart river were forty-three outfits bound for Dawson frozen in. Two of the three rafts of beef which were on the bars just above Dawson were carried down the river past the town by floating ice.

On the night of November 15 Jim Carey's saloon at Dawson was robbed of \$20,000. Ed. Lord, Martin, and two other men were arrested. At Fort Selkirk a man named Keeler was robbed of \$8,000, and Ed. Jackson was arrested.

A report received Dawson of a rich strike made on "43 below" on Hunter creek; dirt went \$3 to the pan and there was five feet of gravel. Dominion Creek is also turning out well.

United States citizens complain bitterly of having to pay duty on their outfits at Tagish Lake.

J. W. McKay, who left Dawson on November 19, reached Skaguay before the Tees left. It is said he brought out \$75,000 in dust, and money he made in different speculation. Shaw says none of the men on the trail will get down until the ice goes out in the spring. Just before he left claim owners had reduced wages, from \$15 to \$10 and men were going on strike.

Wild Dogs

There are very extensive forests in the Turtle Mountains, and as is the case everywhere in the bush of Manitoba the woods swarm with rabbits. Owls, eagles, foxes, wolves and lynx subsist chiefly by catching the much pursued night wanderers of solitary places. In the great woods of the Turtle Mountains a number of dogs that once belonged to the half-breed population have become quite wild and live by catching and devouring rabbits. In the first instance the dogs were collies and as they have been some years in the woods they are increasing in numbers and are wonderfully fleet as well as wild and watchful. They protect themselves from the cold by burrowing in the ground just as wolves do, generally selecting a situation that is sheltered by brushwood and fallen timber. Settlers are in the habit of capturing the young puppies when a den can be found. The pups are quite easily tamed and prove superior dogs as they are possessed of amazing swiftness, energy and intelligence and are very obedient and self-reliant.—Western Prairie.

A very handsome calendar has been received from the Equitable Life Insurance Co.

Reduced Freight Rates

The reduction in west-bound freight rates, as provided for in the Crow's Nest agreement, goes into force on January 1, 1898. Clause D of the Crow's Nest agreement act reads as follows:

That a reduction shall be made in the general rates and tolls of the company as now charged, or as contained in its present freight tariff, which eye rates are now lower for our goods or otherwise, upon the classes of merchandise hereinafter mentioned, west-bound from and including Fort William and all points west of Fort William on the company's main line, or on any line of railway throughout Canada owned or leased by or operated on account of the company, whether shipment be by the all rail line or by lake and rail, such reduction to be to the extent of the following percentages, respectively, namely: upon all green and fresh fruits, 33 1-3 per cent; coal oil, 20 per cent; cordage and bind or twine, 10 per cent; agricultural implements of all kinds, set up or in parts, 10 per cent; iron, including bar, band, Canadian plates, galvanized sheet, pipe, pipe-fittings, nails, spikes and horse-shoes, 10 per cent; all kinds of wire, 10 per cent; paper for building and roofing purpose, 10 per cent; roofing felt, box and packing, 10 per cent; live stock, 10 per cent; wooden ware, 10 per cent; household furniture, 10 per cent; and no higher rates than such reduced rates or tolls shall be hereafter charged by the company upon any such merchandise which shall be carried by the company between the points aforesaid, such reductions

Business at Toronto

Special to The Commercial. Toronto, Dec. 31.—All reports coming in here from country centres represent the holiday trade of the past two weeks as the best experienced for many years. The enormous export movement in wheat and coarse grains and the free deliveries by the farmers, largely increased the purchasing power of this important class of the population and trade in many departments has enormously benefited. The retailers are, already, sending in liberal payments on goods ordered before Christmas and it is expected the placing of orders for the spring will be larger than for years. The markets here this week have been almost devoid of features. Wools are dull but steady. Hides are scarcer and firm. Most of the city warehouses report business this month better than last year. Many orders were received from the west for the holiday trade but it is being found here more every year, as it is at other large eastern centres, that each season Manitoba is getting more independent of the eastern markets in many lines that in previous years had to be obtained from this city or in Montreal.

There have been fewer failures in Ontario the past ten days and what there were concerned mostly small traders. Toronto firms were not badly hit by the Winnipeg failure, a statement in connection with which was published in the papers on Tuesday. Montreal houses lost more than Toronto

There was a strong feeling in the market for dressed hogs at Montreal on Dec. 28, and prices advanced 25c per 100 lbs., due to the fact that receipts continue small. Some sales of car lots have been made at \$5.85 per 100 lbs. and up to \$6.25 to \$6.50.

IT REACHES THE TRADE



Advertise Businesses for Sale; Stocks of Goods for Sale; Situations Vacant or Wanted in Business Establishment, etc., in



THE COMMERCIAL

The only Journal that reaches the trade of Western Canada from Lake Superior to the Pacific.....

* *

Special Low Rates for Situations Wanted or Vacant

ROLLER MILL

FOR SALE OR RENT in South-western Manitoba. In good wheat section. Wood can be bought at mill. For terms apply to

J. D.,

Care Commercial, Winnipeg.

WANTED

AGENTS: In every district on the continent to take orders for high-grade Canadian-grown Nursery Stock and Seeds. Largest and most complete assortment in the trade. Fast selling specialties; superb samples furnished free; correspondence in any language. These positions are money makers and territory should be secured at once for the season by all hustlers looking for a good thing. Our salary or commission offers will interest anyone not earning \$100.00 per year. Get in communication with our nearest office.

An opportunity to represent a well-established house. Ability more important than experience.

LUKE BROTHERS COMPANY,

International Nurseries, Chicago, Ill. Montreal, Que. Rochester, N.Y.



SEALED TENDERS addressed to the undersigned and endorsed "Tender for Heating Apparatus," will be received until Monday, January 24th, 1898, for the construction of a heating apparatus in the public building at Portage la Prairie, Man.

Plans and specifications can be seen and form of tender and all necessary information obtained at the post office, Portage la Prairie, at this department and at the office of D. Smith, clerk of works, Winnipeg, Man.

Persons are notified that tenders will not be considered unless made on the printed form supplied and signed with their actual signatures.

Each tender must be accompanied by an accepted bank cheque, made payable to the order of the Honorable the Minister of Public Works, equal to five per cent. of the amount of the tender, which will be forfeited if the party declines to enter into a contract when called upon to do so, or if he fails to complete the work contracted for. If the tender be not accepted the cheque will be returned.

The department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender.

By order,

E. F. E. ROY,

Secretary.

Department of Public Works, Ottawa, Dec. 22nd, 1897.

Newspapers inserting this advertisement without authority from the department will not be paid for it.

The W. J. Boyd Candy Company

Desire to inform the trade that they have entered the field as manufacturers of

Pure High-Class CONFECTIONERY

Dealers in CHRISTIE, BROWN & CO'S Unequalled BISCUITS and respectfully solicit a share of the business.

FACTORY AND OFFICE

262 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg

PARTNER WANTED

Partner, with moderate capital, to take an interest in an old established Grain and Milling business. Apply to

E. A. C.,

Care The Commercial, Winnipeg

GENERAL STORE BUSINESS

Stock of General Merchandise for sale. Store and fixtures to rent. For particulars apply to

M. H. RITCHIE,

Poplar Point, Man.

AGENTS Sell "KLONDIKE GOLD FIELDS" like a whirlwind Prospectus 25 cents, worth \$1. Big pay. Capital unnecessary.

BRADLEY-GARRESTON COMPANY, Limited, TORONTO

If You Are Energetic and Strong

If you are above foolish prejudice against canvassing for a good book, write and get my proposition. The information will cost nothing.

I have put hundreds of men in the way of making money, some of whom are now rich.

I can do good things for you, if you are honorable and will work hard.

T. S. LINSKOTT, Toronto.

WANTED

Industrious Men of Character

THE LINSKOTT COMPANY TORONTO

CARBIDE OF CALCIUM

MAKE YOUR OWN GAS

100 lb. tins, \$4.50 Large Quantities Write for Prices

R. A. WYLLIE, Western Agt., Western Canada Bk., Winnipeg, Man.

Statistical Wheat Reports.

WHEAT IN CANADA

Stocks of Wheat in Canada at principal points of accumulation are reported as follows:

Montreal	102,000
Toronto	43,000
Kingston	Elevator burned
Winnipeg	391,000
Manitoba elevators	2,915,000
Fort William, Port Arthur and Keewatin	1,012,000

Total December 1' 4,468,000

BRADSTREET'S REPORT OF STOCKS.

Total stocks in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains as reported by Bradstreet's on Dec. 18, were 51,448,000 bushels.

Total stocks in the United States and Canada a year ago were 73,478,000 bushels, according to Bradstreet's report.

Pacific coast wheat stocks on December 1 were 6,944,000 bushels, compared with 6,548,000 bushels a year ago.

THE VISIBLE SUPPLY.

The Chicago visible supply statement of stocks in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains for the week ended Dec. 25, was 36,616,000 bushels, being an increase of 1,051,000 bushels for the week. A year ago the visible supply was 54,443,000 bushels, two years ago 69,958,000 bushels, three years ago 88,561,000 bushels, four years ago 80,228,000 bushels.

WHEAT STOCKS AT U.S. POINTS.

Chicago	6,338,000 bushels
Duluth	1,242,000 "
Minneapolis	11,352,000 "
New York	4,394,000 "
Buffalo	2,512,000 "

STOCK OF OATS AND CORN.

The visible supply of oats in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains is 12,772,000 bushels, compared with 11,359,000 bushels a year ago. The visible supply of corn is 38,150,000 bushels, compared with 17,460,000 bushels a year ago, according to the Chicago statement.

WORLD'S WHEAT STOCKS.

Stocks of wheat in the United States, Canada, in Europe and afloat for Europe, on December 1, for a series of years, were as follows, Bradstreet's report: December 1, 1897, 129,603,000; December 1, 1896, 148,468,000; December 1, 1895, 164,348,000; December 1, 1894, 184,610,000; December 1, 1893, 190,366,000; December 1, 1892, 175,814,258; December 1, 1891, 157,748,775; December 1, 1890, 107,669,274; December 1, 1889, 117,255,000.

CROP MOVEMENT.

The following table gives the receipts of wheat at the four principal United States spring wheat markets from the beginning of the crop year, August 1, 1897, to date, compared with the same period of last year:

	This Crop	Last Crop
Minneapolis	45,718,160	38,325,600
Milwaukee	5,391,705	5,159,110
Duluth	30,813,077	31,151,513
Chicago	24,080,500	12,984,807
Total	106,003,442	87,621,030

The following table gives the receipts of wheat at the four principal United

States winter wheat markets from the beginning of the crop movement, July 1, 1897, to date, compared with the same period of last year:

	This Crop	Last Crop
Toledo	8,738,067	5,993,668
St. Louis	9,576,756	9,404,208
Detroit	3,050,548	2,674,500
Kansas City	22,456,750	5,248,200
Total	44,430,121	23,320,480

Winnipeg Raw Fur Prices.

Prices as to size and color, for prime skins. Skins taken out of season range much lower:

Badger	\$.05 @	\$.50
Bear, black	5.00 @	25.00
Bear, brown	4.00 @	20.00
Bear, yearlings	2.00 @	8.00
Bear, grizzly	5.00 @	16.00
Beaver, large	5.00 @	6.50
" medium	3.00 @	4.00
" small	1.50 @	2.25
" subs	.50 @	1.00
" castors, per lb.	2.50 @	5.50
Fisher, dark	6.00 @	9.00
Fisher, pale	3.00 @	5.00
Fox, cross dark, large	5.00 @	15.00
" cross pale	2.50 @	5.00
" kitt	.10 @	.50
" red	1.00 @	1.60
" silver dark	40.00 @	75.00
" peale	25.00 @	60.00
Lynx, large	1.50 @	2.00
" medium	1.00 @	1.25
" small	.50 @	.75
Marten, dark	2.50 @	5.00
" pale or brown	1.50 @	4.00
" light pale	1.00 @	2.25
Mink, dark	1.00 @	1.50
Mink, pale	.75 @	1.25
Musquash, winter	.04 @	.10
" fall	.04 @	.07
Otter, dark	6.00 @	10.00
Otter, pale	5.00 @	8.00
Skunk	.25 @	.50
Wolf, timber	1.00 @	1.50
" prairie	.10 @	.75
Wolverine	1.00 @	3.50

Winnipeg Prices a Year Ago.

Following were Winnipeg prices this week last year:

Wheat—No. 1 hard, afloat Fort William, 79c; No. 2 hard, 2½c under No. 1.

Flour—Local price per sack: Patent, \$2.30@2.45, Bakers, \$2.10@2.25.

Bran—Per ton, \$6.

Shorts—Per ton, \$8.

Oats—Per bushel, car lots on track, Winnipeg, 22@25c.

Barley—Feed, 20 @ 24c; Malting, 25@28c per bushel.

Flax Seed—Price to farmers at country points, 45@50c per bushel.

Butter—Dairy, round lots, 14c; creamery jobbing, 22@23c.

Cheese—Dealers selling at 8½@9½c.

Eggs—Dealers were paying 20c net for fresh, and selling limed at 17c.

Beef—City dressed, 4½ @ 5½c; country beef, 3@4c.

Mutton—5@5½c; lamb, 5½@6c.

Hogs—Dressed, 4 @ 4½c.

Cattle—Ordinary butchers, 2½@3c.

Hogs—Live, off cars, 3½c for best bacon.

Sheep—2½@3c off cars. Lambs, 3c.

Hides—Green frozen, 5c.

Seneca Root—Dry, 20c.

Poultry—Chickens, 6@7c per pound; turkeys, 9@10c per lb.

Potatoes—25c per bushel.

Hay—\$5.00 for baled on track.

British Columbia Markets.

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

BY WIRE TO THE COMMERCIAL.

Vancouver, December 31, 1897.

Butter—Manitoba dairy 19@20c; Manitoba creamery 23½@25c. per lb.

Eggs—Eastern eggs, 18½@19c. per doz. Local, 40c.

Cheese—Manitoba 11½@12½c. per lb.

Cured Meats—Hams 12½c; breakfast bacon 13½c; backs 12c; long clear 9½c; short rolls 10c; smoked sides 11c; Lard is held at the following figures: Tins 9½c per lb, in pails and tubs 9c lb.

Fish—Flounders 3c; smelts 5c; sea bass 4c; black cod 5c; rock cod 4c; red cod 4c; tommy cod 5c; herring 4c; frozen salmon 6c lb; whitening 5c; soles 6c; smoked halibut 16c; kippered cod 7c; sturgeon 6c; smoked salmon 10c; finnan haddie 15c; kippered herring 9c; Columbia river oolochaus 7c lb.; fresh halibut, 6c.

Vegetables—Potatoes \$12@14 per ton ashcroft \$10.50; California onions 2c lb; onions 1½c lb; cabbage 1½c lb; carrots turnips and beets \$10.00 a ton.

Green Fruits—California lemons \$4.00; apples, 75c@81.25; bananas, 1.75@2.00; Japan oranges, 40@50c.

Meal—National mills rolled oats, 90 lb sacks, \$2.75; 2 45 pounds sacks \$2.80; 4 22½ pound sacks \$2.90; 10 7 sacks, \$2.00 Oatmeal 10 10's, \$3.25; 2 50's, \$3.00. Off grades, 90 lbs, \$2.50 per sack.

Flour—Delivered B. C. points—Manitoba patent per barrel \$6.25; strong bakers \$6.00; Oregon, jobbers price \$6.00.

Grain—Oats, \$18@20 per ton; wheat, \$25@26 per ton; barley, \$26 per ton.

Ground Feed—National mills chop, \$23.00@24.00 per ton; ground barley, \$24 @ 26 ton; shorts \$23 ton; bran \$20; oil cake meal, \$35 ton; F.O.B. Vancouver including duty paid on imported stuff.

Hay—\$14.00 per ton.

Dressed Meats—Beef \$5.75 @ \$6.25; mutton 7½@8c; Australian mutton, 7c; pork 6@7½c; veal 6@8c lb.

Live Stock—Steers, grass feed \$3.25 @ \$3.50 per 100 lbs; sheep, \$3.75 @ \$4.00 per 100 lbs; hogs, \$5.00@5.25 per 100 lbs; cows \$2.75@3.00 per 100 lbs live weight.

Poultry—Chickens \$4.50@5.00 a doz. hens, \$4.50 doz.; ducks, \$4.50 doz.; turkeys, \$25.00 a doz.

Game—Venison, 4c lb; grouse, 60c brace; mallard, 30c brace.

Evaporated Fruits—Apricots, 11c per lb; peaches 9c; plums, 9@10c; prunes, French 5@7½c; loose muscatel raisins, 6c; London layer raisins \$1.90 box; Italian prunes, 8@8½c lb.

Nuts—Almonds, 13c; filberts, 12½c; peanuts, 10c; Brazil, 12½c; walnut, 13c lb.

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

Syrups—30 gallon barrels, 1½c pound; 10 gallon kegs, 2½c; 5 gallon kegs \$1.50 each; 1 gallon tins, \$4 case of 10; ½ gallon tins, \$4.75 case of 20.

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

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

Winnipeg, Friday Afternoon, Dec. 31.

Business has been very quiet with wholesale houses this week, the usual holiday conditions prevailing. Some houses are taking stock to fill in the usual dull period at this time of year. The fuel trade is quiet, owing to mild weather. In lumber and building material there is nothing in the way of new business doing, but a good trade is expected later on and the season is likely to open early. Several new business blocks for the city are reported for construction in the spring. The reduced freight rates, agreed upon as a part of the Crow's Nest railway act, go into force on January 1, 1898. See report in another column. Bank clearings at Winnipeg continue to show a considerable gain over the corresponding periods of previous years.

WINNIPEG MARKETS

Winnipeg, Friday Afternoon, Dec. 31.

FISH.

Fresh cod and fresh Lake Superior herrings were the new lines in the market this week. Extra select oysters are out of the market, but counts will soon be in. Offerings of frozen Manitoba lake fish are very limited so far this year.

FUEL.

The demand for coal, speaking generally, has been limited by mild weather, though at the moment the weather is colder again. Regarding Souris coal, however, the demand continues very large. The consumption of this native coal has largely increased this season and the mines have been behind with their orders ever since cold weather set in. The increased demand for the Souris coal is at the expense of wood fuel as well as for other coals. In cordwood fuel, offerings are liberal and the tendency of prices is easy, the demand being curtailed by mild weather and increased use of soft coal in place of wood fuel. A New York report says: "The anthracite coal trade continues to suffer from the lack of cold weather and the over production of coal that has been forced on to the market in the past two or three months, and it is hardly likely that any relief will be given the trade for some time, even considering that the various carrying interests have arrived at some understanding relative to the regulation of the trade and the rigid curtailment of the output, which is to be the basis of operations for 1898."

GROCERIES.

The market is very quiet, and there is little to report. The feeling is firm in regard to sugars and a higher tendency is noticeable, in sympathy with the recent advances east. Canned goods are also firm, in sympathy with eastern advices.

HARDWARE AND PAINTS.

Locally the situation is very quiet and uninteresting. This is the quietest season of the year in these branches. It is understood that orders have been placed for liberal supplies of barb wire with United States dealers,

which will come in after the first of January, as barb wire will be on the free list after that date. There is practically no barb wire in this market at present. It is reported that United States manufacturers have withdrawn quotations on barb wire, owing to the formation of a combination or consolidation of manufacturers in this line, which is now being formed.

GREEN FRUITS.

The holiday trade is now over. Some few express orders were sent out, but after this week there will be very little doing for some time. When holiday stocks begin to run low, toward the end of January, dealers expect there will be sufficient business to warrant the sending out of heated cars again. The reports of damage from frost to the orange crop in California, was denied, and the situation, in view of the adverse reports, is therefore uncertain. Stocks of California goods now in are good quality and free from damage, and as they are good keeping quality for a couple of months, it is safe enough to buy now, and thus take advantage of any possibility of frost damage. Stocks of winter pears are low and what are offered are now on the ripe side and only safe to handle by express. Malaga grapes have been reduced 50c per keg. This is the only change in prices this week. Prices are as follows: Mexican oranges, \$1.50 to \$5; navel oranges \$1.50 to \$5; bananas, per bunch, \$3 to \$3.50; California lemons, \$4.50 to \$5.00 a box; Washington and Oregon pears, \$2 to \$2.25 per box; apples, Ontario stock, \$4 to \$4.75 per barrel; southern apples, \$4 to \$4.25 per bbl.; Cape Cod cranberries \$7.50 to \$8 per barrel; sweet potatoes \$5.25 per barrel; Malaga grapes, \$7.50 per keg for medium, and \$8 for heavy weights; Ontario black walnuts, 8c lb; cocoanuts, \$1 per dozen; Sicily filberts, large 11c to 12c per lb; Grenoble walnuts, 13c; figs, fancy elemes, \$1.40 to \$1.50 per 10 lb box, 30 lb boxes 16c; 50 lb. boxes, 17c per lb.; dates 7 1/2c per pound; imported celery 50 to 60c per doz.

LUMBER.

It is expected that a new price list will be used early in January to cover Winnipeg prices, owing to the advance in British Columbia lumber. The new British Columbia price list shows an advance of \$2.00 per M. on flooring, \$2.50 on ceiling, \$2 on cedar dimension, \$2.50 on casings, and 25 cents on shingles, etc. There is no advance on cedar siding, which is one of the principal lines of British Columbia lumber handled here. It is uncertain whether or not there will be any advances in white pine, though the feeling is firm and manufacturers claim they are selling below a fair margin of profit.

RAW FURS.

Offerings of raw furs are moderate. See prices in another column. Reports from the United States speak of an improved demand for furs from manufacturers.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

Wheat—The markets have been easier this week, though that is perhaps a natural condition of the holiday season. It is a long time since the wheat markets have been so completely under control of speculative and manipulative influences as they are at present, and the markets are very likely to remain in the control

of cliques of speculators until a new American crop begins to come in. It is, therefore, very uncertain as to what the future may be and wide fluctuations are likely to occur.

Locally the situation has been quiet. Farmers have not been marketing much and the quantity of wheat held in first hand is a matter of considerable speculation. The millers have been free buyers for what is offering, at prices above a shipping or holding basis, for export trade. As high as \$9 1/2c was paid early in the week, or equal to this price afloat Fort William, for No. 1 hard, but yesterday the feeling was easier, with 89c asked and 88c bid. In Manitoba country markets, 70 to 78c about covered the range of prices paid to farmers, according to freight rates, etc.

FLOUR—No change has occurred in the flour market here. We quote patents \$2.55 per sack of 98 lbs.; Strong Bakers, \$2.35; second bakers, \$1.90, and XXXX \$1.45. Prices to local dealers here less 5c per sack for net cash.

MILLFEED—Ton lots are held at \$10 for brun and \$12 for shorts, and \$1 per ton less in large lots. The demand is good at firm prices.

GROUND FEED.—Pure grain feed is quoted at \$20 to \$22 for oats and burley, the outside price for rolled oat feed. Anything under \$20 per ton is inferior mixed mill feed. Corn feed is quoted at \$16 to \$17 per ton. Oil cake \$20 per ton.

CEREALS.—Manitoba millers are turning out a very limited quantity of meal, owing to the high price of oats and the discriminating duty against home milling. The market is mainly supplied with meal imported from the south. We quote rolled oatmeal at \$1.80 per sack.

OATS.—Quotations held at about 35c to 37c, as to quality. The street price to farmers here is 34 to 35c as to quality. In Manitoba country markets 28c to 30c per bushel has been paid to farmers. One car No. 1 white sold here at 38c. The demand is limited, owing to the large consumption of corn for feed purposes, and farmers are marketing nearly enough to supply the demand. Quite a quantity have been delivered at the oatmeal mill here by farmers at 35c per bushel of 34 pounds. More corn than oats is being used here for feed purposes.

CORN—Corn is in good demand. It is costing between 1 and 2c higher here, owing to the advance south. We quote 38c per bushel of 56 pounds in car lots on track as to grade.

BARLEY—Nominal, in the absence of offerings. We quote 35 to 38c for feed and 38c to 42c for malting, per bushel of 48 pounds.

FLAX SEED—Nominal at 60c to farmers in country markets.

BUTTER—Creamery, quiet. We quote dealers' selling price at 21 to 23c as to quality and quantity.

Butter—Dairy—Offerings are fairly liberal for the season. The market is quiet. Dealers quote 14 to 15 1/2c for round lots of country dairy. The outside quotation for late made dairy could only be realized for choice lots; and held goods are quoted at 13 to 14c, the latter being the very outside for well kept lots of hold goods.

CHEESE—Dealers quote 10 1/2 to 11c.

EGGS—Dealers are paying 18c net for receipts of fresh and selling at 20c. Lined are offering at 16 to 17c.

POULTRY—Dealers are paying from 7 to 7 1-2c per lb. for chickens, 10c for native turkeys, and for geese and ducks 8 to 8 1-2c per lb. The feeling is much firmer for turkeys, as stocks are not large, and they cannot be replaced now owing to a scarcity exist. Last week jobbers were selling box lots of Ontario turkeys as low as 11c, which represents about cost to lay down here, but some of them would now like to have the stock back again. They are now quoted in a jobbing way at 12 1-2 to 13c, and scarce.

LARD AND CURED MEATS—See quotations on another page.

GAME—Dealers are paying 5c each for rabbits. Jack rabbits quoted at 40c per pair.

DRESSED MEATS—From 4 to 4 1-2c has been paid for country beef freely, and 5 to 5 1-2c for good city dressed meat. Fresh unfrozen beef is held at 6c. Choice dressed hogs have held at 6c, and heavy weights and less desirable hogs at 5 1-4 to 5 3-1c, as to quality. Mutton is steady at 5c to 6c and lamb at 5 to 7c. The demand for frozen beef to ship eastward to the Ontario lumber camps is very limited this year. Lumber men appear to be getting their supplies east this season, where it can be purchased to as good advantage as here on the present basis of prices.

HIDES—United States advices report green salted hides 1-4c lower and calf skins 1 1-2c lower. The decision that calf and kip under 25 pounds are skins and not hides, and therefore entitled to go into the United States free of duty, under the Dingley tariff act, is the cause of the drop in calfskins. Skins are free of duty, but there was a question as to whether calfskins should be classed as hides or skins. Skins won, hence the drop in prices. The local situation is about the same. We quote: Butcher hides, 7 to 7 1-4c for good lots, or 7c for No. 1 and 6c for No. 2. Green frozen hides 6 1-2c; bulls, oxen, stags and brands, 4 1-2 to 6c; kip hides, 6 to 7c; calf, 8 to 9c per lb.; sheep pelts will average 40 to 60c each; horse hides, 75c to \$1.75 each; colts, 25c each.

WOOL—We quote 8 to 10c here for unwashed fleece, nominal.

TALLOW—Quoted at 3 1-2 cts. for No. 1 and 2 to 2 1-2c for other grades as to quality.

SENECA ROOT—Quoted at 18 to 20c.

VEGETABLES—Carrots are scarce and higher, and cabbage are higher. Prices are: Potatoes, 35 to 40c per bushel; carrots, 90c to \$1 per bush; cauliflower, 2 to 2 1-2c per lb; imported 3c; celery 40 to 60c per doz bunches; cabbage \$4 to \$5 per 100; beets, 30 to 40c per bushel; turnips, 15 to 20c per bushel; parsnips, 1 1-2 to 2c per lb.

HAY—The market is firm. Baled held at \$6.50 for cars on track here, or about \$5.50 to \$6.00 per ton at points of shipment.

LIVE STOCK.

The market for cattle and sheep is nominal. Butchers have heavy stocks of meat on hand, and there is no demand for further supplies at present, nor will there be for some weeks. Good butchers' cattle are nominal at 2 3-4 to 3c and sheep at 2 1-2 to 3c, but prices will probably be higher by the time supplies are wanted.

HOGS—The usual demand from packers keeps up some movement in hogs and car lots are arriving to about meet requirements. We quote choice bacon hogs weighing 150 to 250 lbs. at \$4.50 per 100 lbs.; 250 to 300 lbs., \$4.00; heavy hogs, over 300 lbs., \$3 to \$3.50, as to quality, live weight,

En Route to Yukon.

Commissioner's Office, Freeman's Point, Yukon, N. W. T., Nov. 22.—Two men left the big Salmon river, twelve miles west of here, yesterday, and it is quite possible they may carry out very exaggerated reports of the ice jam we encountered here. It is true we had a terrible experience. Bowles, Weinburg and Freeman, who were freighting for us, lost their boat and all it contained, and our party also lost one boat. Our greatest regret is that poor Freeman lost his life. We are all well, in excellent health, and with the supplies behind us will be in first class shape until spring, when more supplies can be sent in.

Major Walsh has already sent forward men to the Little Salmon river, twenty-three miles below here, where they will build a post, and as soon as we have constructed sufficient toboggans we shall all move forward on foot. Capt. Norwood, with six men, is moving back to the various posts we established as we came through, and which are all more than supplied, and with the two men—Bowles and Weinburg—added to our strength we shall number eleven. It is quite likely part of our party will be left at the Little Salmon river, and Major Walsh and myself, with several of our Indians, will push ahead. We shall reach Selkirk by the first of the year, and will probably push on to Dawson later. At any rate we shall reach Selkirk, our destination in the first instance.

One of the two men going out had come from Dawson, leaving there in October. He reported that there was a scarcity of provisions at that place, and that the gold commissioner, Mr. Fawcett, had put up posters on Oct. 1 warning people without provisions for the winter to make their way to Fort Yukon, 350 miles down the river, as there was a shortage of food. He said that flour was selling at \$100 a sack or \$2 a pound. There will undoubtedly be much distress in Dawson this winter, with no hope of relief from the south. It is utterly impossible for us to render any relief. Even if we had the supplies it would be impossible for us to reach Dawson with them, having no means of transportation. From Talya to this point the people we passed as we came along were all supplied with provisions to last until the opening of navigation in the spring, and many of them had a year's supply. I may say here also that Major Walsh has established a line of posts from Talya to the Little Salmon river, which will enable us to send a courier out with no further stretches than from thirty to thirty-five miles a day, an easy day's journey in ordinary circumstances.

THE ESCAPE FROM THE ICE.

We haven't had a pleasure trip thus far by any means, and both Bliss and I have sat for eight hours at a stretch pulling an oar with a temperature ranging from 20 to 30 degrees below zero. Bliss' boat was lost in the ice jam, but about three miles down, after the jam broke, his and my boats being swept close to shore, Joe Crow, one of our Indians, who had followed them, managed to secure my boat.

The ice jam we encountered here was something awful. The more I think of it the more marvelous seems our escape. The three men who lost their boat here had been from July to October getting their goods over the White pass, and in a moment they lost everything but the clothes on their

backs, and one man, J. J. Freeman, lost his life. Major Walsh has named this camp Freeman's Point, in memory of the poor fellow.

The thermometer is ranging from 20 to 45 degrees below zero now all the time and the sun is only with us about five hours a day and growing less. We have already had it 52 below zero, and though one does not feel it to be so cold, one is in danger of being frozen without knowing it. In spite of the enormous difficulties I have no doubt we shall be in Selkirk by the new year and a short time later at Dawson City. We shall soon have a complete line of posts established from Talya to Selkirk, and a mail service which at once be established. We shall also be in readiness for the rush of people in the spring, and the organization of the administration of affairs in this district will be almost as complete as our provincial governments. The one difficulty here is transportation. With the establishment of posts all along the line, as we are doing as we go along, communication will be complete.

Vancouver, Dec. 28.—L. Vachon, of Sumas, has just returned from the Hootalinqua river and gives details of the loss of boats and the drowning of one man of the party headed by Major Walsh, Canadian administrator of Yukon. This event occurred on the Yukon river about the middle of November. There was considerable "shoal" ice at the time and a jam occurred at a spot where the river narrowed. When they sighted the jam the occupants of the first boat endeavored to make the shore, but the current carried the boat under the ice and came up on the other side of the jam, though the contents were lost. Two of the occupants saved themselves by slipping snowshoes on their hands and clambering on the ice. The third occupant, named Freeman, was drowned. The occupants of the second boat escaped, but its contents were all lost.

C. P. R. STATEMENT.

Montreal, Dec. 28.—November 1897. C.P.R. gross earnings, \$2,540,451; working expenses, \$1,350,718; net profits, \$1,189,738. In November 1896 the net profits were \$862,148, and for the eleven months ending the 30th of November 1897, the figures are as follows: Gross earnings, \$21,726,792; working expenses, \$12,476,471; net profits, \$9,250,321. For eleven months ending the 30th November 1896, there was a net profit of \$7,183,149. The increase in net profits over the same period last year is therefore for November \$327,584, and from January 1st to November 30th, \$2,067,172.

Pittsburg, Dec. 23.—It is learned that the American Window Glass company, which controls the output of the window glass plants of the country, will issue a price list January 1, which will advance the prices in proportion to the increase of wages recently granted to the workers. This means an advance of about 15 per cent. over prices existing before the lock-out began.

The proprietors of the Winnipeg business college have sent out a very convenient diary for 1898, one of which has been received by The Commercial. The circular accompanying the gift says: "The patronage received by this institution from the business public exceeded our expectations during 1897, and we feel better prepared than ever before to advance the best interests of business education in the west during 1898."

WINNIPEG PRICES CURRENT

GROCERIES

Prices to retail dealers for ordinary lots, with usual discounts for cash or large lots.

Canned Goods

	Per case	Per doz.
Apples, 38, 2 doz.	2 25	2 50
Apples, preserved, 38, 2 doz.	3 35	3 50
Apples, gallons (per doz.)	3 00	3 25
Blackberries, 28, 2 doz.	3 45	3 50
Blueberries, 28, 2 doz.	4 50	4 75
Beans, 28, 2 doz.	1 50	2 00
Corn, 28, 2 doz.	1 60	1 75
Cherries, red, pitted, 28, 2 doz.	4 75	5 00
Pears, Marrowfat, 28, 2 doz.	1 90	2 00
Pears, sifted, 28, 2 doz.	2 00	2 25
Pears, Bartlett, 28, 2 doz.	3 50	3 75
Pears, California, 28, 2 doz.	4 75	5 00
Pears, Bartlett, 38, 2 doz.	5 50	6 00
Pineapple, 28, 2 doz.	4 50	5 00
Pineapple, imported, 28, 2 doz.	5 00	6 00
Peaches, 28, 2 doz.	3 50	4 00
Peaches, California, 28, 2 doz.	4 75	5 00
Peaches, Canadian, 38, 2 doz.	5 00	5 50
Plums, 28, 2 doz.	3 50	4 00
Plums, California, 28, 2 doz.	4 50	5 00
Pumpkins, 38, 2 doz.	2 25	2 50
Raspberries, 28, 2 doz.	3 00	3 25
Strawberries, 28, 2 doz.	3 50	3 75
Tomatoes, 38, 2 doz.	3 25	3 50
Salmon, tals, 18, 4 doz.	4 50	5 00
Salmon, Cohoes tals, 18, 4 doz.	2 50	3 00
Sardines, domestic 1/8s	06	08
Sardines, imported, 1/8s	09	15
Sardines, imported, 1/2s	13	25
Sardines, imp. 1/2s, boneless	20	35
Sardines, Dom., mustard 1/8s	10	12
Imported Fresh Herring, 18, 1 doz.	1 75	2 00
Imp. Kipper Herring, 18, 1 doz.	2 00	2 25
Imp. Herrings, Tom. Sauce 18, 1 doz.	2 00	2 25
Imp. Anch. Sauce 18, 1 doz.	2 00	2 25
Imp. Shrimp Sauce 18, 1 doz.	2 00	2 25

Canned Meats

	Per case	Per doz.
Corn Beef, 18, 2 doz.	3 00	3 25
Corn Beef, 24, 1 doz.	4 75	5 00
Lunch Tongue, 18, 2 doz.	6 50	7 00
Lunch Tongue, 24, 1 doz.	6 25	6 50
Brawn, 28, 1 doz.	2 50	2 75
Pigs Feet, 18, 2 doz.	6 00	6 50
Roast Beef, 28, 1 doz.	2 75	3 00
Chicken, Duck or Turkey, 18, 2 doz.	5 00	5 00
Potted Ham, 1/8s	75	
Deviled Ham, 1/8s	75	
Potted Tongue, 1/8s	75	
Potted Ham, 1/2s	75	
Deviled Ham, 1/2s	75	
Potted Tongue, 1/2s	75	

Coffee

Green Rio	Per pound.	12 15
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Cereals

	Per sack	Per 50
Split Peas, sack 98	2 25	2 50
Pot Barley, sack 98	2 00	2 25
Pearl Barley, sack 98	4 00	4 50
Rolled Oats, sack 80	1 80	2 00
Standard Oatmeal, sack 98	2 10	2 20
Granulated Oatmeal, sack 98	2 10	2 20
Heans (per bushel)	1 25	1 30
Cornmeal, sack 98	1 45	1 55
Cornmeal, 1/2 sac 49 (per 1/2 sac)	75	80
Rice, B.	Per pound	4 5c
Rice, Japan	5 c	
Sago	4 c	
Tapioca	4 c	

Cigarettes

	Per M
Old Judge	\$8 90
Athlete	8 90
Sweet Caporal	8 90
Sweet Sixteen	5 70
Derby	6 60

Cured Fish

Codfish, whole cases, 100 lbs.	6 00
Codfish, boneless per lb	04 08
Codfish, Pure per lb	07 05
Herrings, in kegs	3 50 3 75

Dried Fruits

Currents, Prov'l Barrels	06 6 1/2
Currents, Prov'l 1/4 Barrels	06 1/2 6 1/4
Currents, Prov'l Cases	07 7 1/2
Currents, Vostizza Cases	07 1/2 8
Currents, Filitria, bbls	06 1/2 7
Currents, Filitria, cases	07 7 1/2
Dates, Cases	06 07
Figs, Eleme, about 10 lb box	13 1/2 15
Figs, Cooking, Sax.	05 1/2 06
Prunes, Bosnia, Cases	08 09
Prunes, French, Cases	06 07
Sultana Raisins	10 12

Dried Fruits

	Per pound
Raisins, Val., box of 25 lbs	70 25
Italians, Val. Layers, per box	2 50
Loose Muscatels, 3 crown	06 1/2 07
Loose Muscatels, 2 crown	07 1/2 08
Loose Muscatels, 4 crown	08 1/2 09
London Layer, 20 lb Boxes	1 90 2 00
Apples, Dried	05 07
Evap. Apples, finest quality	11 12

California Evaporated Fruits

Peaches, peeled	18 20
Peaches, unpeeled	11 13
Pears	11 13
Apricots, 2 doz	11 13
Pitted Plums	11 13
Prunes, 100 to 120	6 1/2 6
Prunes, 90 to 100	7 1/2 7 1/2
Prunes, 80 to 90	7 1/2 7 1/2
Prunes, 70 to 80	7 1/2 7 1/2
Prunes, 60 to 70	8 1/2 8 1/2
Prunes, 40 to 50	10 11

Matches

	Per case
Telegraph	\$3 60
Telephone	3 40
Tiger	3 25

Nuts

	Per pound
Brazils	12 1/2 15
Paragonia Almonds	13 15
Peanuts, roasted	13 15
Peanuts, green	10 12
Grenoble Walnuts	15 15
French Walnuts	13 15
Sicily Filberts	11 15
Shelled Almonds	25 30

Syrup

Extra Bright, per lb.	3 1/2c	4c
Medium, per lb	3c	3 1/2c
Maple, case 1 doz. 1/2 gal. tins	\$7 00	
Molasses, per gal.	35c	45c

Sugar

Extra Standard Granulated	4 1/2c	4 1/2c
German Granulated	4 1/2c	4 1/2c
Extra Ground	6 c	6 1/2c
Powdered	6 c	6 1/2c
Bright Yellow Sugar	4 1/2c	4 1/2c
Maple Sugar	13 1/2c	14c

Salt

	Per barrel	Per sack
Rock Salt	1 1/2c	1 1/2c
Common, fine	1 90	2 00
Common, coarse	1 90	2 00
Dairy, 100-3	3 25	3 50
Dairy, 60-5	3 15	3 30
Dairy, white duck sack	00 50	
Common, fine jute sack	00 45	

Spices

Assorted Herbs, 1/2 lb tins	75 90
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Allspice

Allspice, whole	18 20
Allspice, pure ground	18 20
Allspice, compound	15 20
Cassia, whole	18 20
Cassia, pure ground	20 25
Cassia, compound	13 18
Cloves, whole	18 25
Cloves, pure ground	25 30
Cloves, compound	18 20
Pepper, black, whole	10 15
Pepper, black, pure ground	13 15
Pepper, black, compound	10 13
Pepper, white, whole	20 25
Pepper, white, pure ground	25 35
Pepper, white, compound	18 20
Pepper, Cayenne	30 35
Ginger, whole, Jamaica	25 30
Ginger, whole, Cochin	20 25
Ginger, pure ground	25 30
Ginger, compound	15 25
Nutmegs, (per pound)	60 1 00
Mace (per pound)	1 00 1 25

Teas

	Per pound
China Blacks—	
Choice	35 40
Medium	25 35
Common	13 20
Indian and Ceylon—	
Choice	35 40
Medium	25 32
Common	22 28
Young Hysons—	
Choice	35 45
Medium	28 35
Common	22 30
Japan—	
Finest May Picking	35 40
Choice	30 35
Fine	25 30
Good Medium	20 25
Common	15 20

Tobacco

	Per pound
T. & B., 38, 48, and 98 Cuds	00 76
Lily, 38, Cuds	00 61
Crestant, 38, Cuds	00 60
T. & B. Black Cheewing, 50r16s	00 64
T. & B. Mahogany Cheewing	00 64
8r or 16r	00 64
T. & B. 12 pkg. cut	00 91
T. & B. 1-5 pkg. cut	00 91
T. & B. in pouches, 1-4	00 91
T. & B. in 1-5 tins	00 99
T. & B. in 1/2 tins	00 91
Orinoco, 1-12 pkg	00 87
Orinoco, 1-5 tins	00 85
Orinoco, 1/2 tins	00 86
Tuckett's Cherub Cigarette	00 87
1-12	00 87
Brier, 75, Cuds	00 86
Derby, 38, Cuds	00 68
Derby, 75, Cuds	00 68
P. & W. Cheewing, Cuds	00 68
P. & W. Cheewing, Butts	00 68

Wooden Ware

	Per doz.
Pails, 2 hoop clear	1 50 1 60
Pails, wire hoop	2 25 2 40
Pails, Star fibre	1 00
Tubs, No. 0 common	9 50 10 50
Tubs, No. 1 common	8 50 9 00
Tubs, No. 2 common	6 50 7 00
Tubs, No. 3 common	5 50 6 00
Tubs, nests (3)	1 65 1 75
Tubs, wire hoop (3)	2 25 2 40
Tubs, fibre, No. 0	16 50
Tubs, fibre, No. 1	14 50
Tubs, fibre, No. 2	12 50
Tubs, fibre, No. 3	10 50
Tubs, fibre, (3)	3 20
Butter Tubs, wire hoop (2)	50 55
Butter Tubs, wire hoop (3)	75 80

CURED MEATS AND LARD

Lard, pure, 20 lb pails	\$1 60
Lard, pure, 50 lb pails	4 00
Lard, pure, in 3, 5 and 10 lb tins, per case of 60 lbs	7 1/2 7 1/2
Lard, Tierces, per lb	7 1/2 7 1/2
Smoked Meats	per lb.
Hams	11 1/2 12
Breakfast bacon, bellies	11 1/2 12
Breakfast bacon, backs	10 10 1/2
Spiced rolls	5 8 1/2
Shoulders	5 8 1/2
Long Clear	8 1/2 9
Dry Salt Meats	
Long clear bacon	7 1/2 8
Boneless Shoulders	7 1/2 8
Backs	5 1/2 9
Imported Short Clear	7 1/2
Barrel Pork	per barrel
Heavy mess	14 50 15 00
Short cut	16 00 16 50
Meat Sundries	
Fresh pork sausage, lb	7
Bologna sausage, lb	5
Ham, chicken and tongue, doz	\$1 20
Pickled hocks, per lb	03
Pickled tongues	05
Pickled pigs feet, pail	1 40
Sausage casings, lb	20 25

FRESH FISH, OYSTERS

Whitefish, lb	5 1/2
Pickarel, lb	04
Trout, lb	09
Lake Superior Herring, doz.	20
Pike, lb	02
Salmon, lb	12
B.C. halibut, lb	10
Sinlets, lb	05
Cod, lb	05
Finland haddock, lb	7 1/2
Smoked hockeyes, doz	30
Oysters, standards, gal	1 80 2 00
Oysters, selects, gal	2 00 3 20
Oysters, shell, barrels	7 50 7 75
Salt Whitefish, per 1/2 bbl	6 50
Salt Trout, per 1/2 bbl	7 50

DRUGS

Following are prices for parcel lots with usual reductions for broken packages.

Alum, lb	3 1/2 4 1/2
Alcohol, gal.	5 50 5 75
Bleaching Powder, lb	06 08
Bluestone, lb	06 07
Horax	11 13
Bomide Potash	05 05
Camphor	65 75
Camphor, ounces	50 90
Carbolic Acid	40 60
Castor Oil	15 17
Chlorate Potash	25 30
Citric Acid	55 65
Copperas	03 1/2 04
Cocaine, oz	4 50 5 00
Cream Tartar, lb	30 35
Cloves	20 25
Epsom Salts	03 1/2 04
Extract Logwood, hulk	14 18
Extract Logwood, boxes	18 20
German Quinine	35 45
Glycerine, lb	30 35
Ginger, Jamaica	30 35
Ginger, African	20 25
Howard's Quinine, oz.	45 55
Iodine	5 00 5 50
Insect Powder	35 40
Morphia, lb	2 10 2 25
Opium	4 50 5 00
Oil, olive	1 45 1 60
Oil, U.S. Salad	1 25 1 40
Oil, lemon, super	2 75 3 25
Oil, peppermint	4 00 4 50
Oil, cod liver, gal.	1 50 2 00
Oxalic Acid	14 16
Potash Iodide	3 75 4 00
Paris Green, lb.	18 20
Salt petre	10 12
Sal Rochelle	30 35
Shellac	35 40
Sulphur Flowers	3 1/2 05
Sulphur Roll, keg	3 1/2 05
Soda Bicarh,	

Winnipeg Hardware and Metal Prices.

Tin—Lamb and Flagg, 56 and 28 lb ingots, per lb 19@20c.

Tin Plates—Charcoal plates, I C, 10 x 14, 12 x 12 and 14 x 20, \$1.50@4.75; I X, same size box, \$5.75@8; I C, charcoal, 20 x 28, 112 sheets to box, \$8.50@9; I X, box, 20 x 28, 112 sheets, \$10.50@11.

Terne Plates—I C, 20 x 28, \$3.50@9. Iron and Steel—Bar iron, 100 lbs., base price, \$2.10 band iron, 100 lbs., \$2.05@2.75; Swedish iron, 100 lbs, \$5.25@6; sleigh shoe steel, 2.75@3; best cast tool steel, lb, 9@11c; imitation-Russian sheet, 7@8c; genuine Russian sheet, lb., 12@13c.

Sheet Iron—10 to 20 guage, \$3; 22 to 24 and 26 guage, \$3 25; 28 guage \$3.50

Canada Plates—Garth and Blains, 3.00@3.15.

Galvanized Iron—American, 20 guage, \$3.75; 22 and 24 guage, \$4; 26 guage, \$4.25; 28 guage, \$4.50 100 lbs.

Iron pipe is quoted as follows per 100 feet: 1/2 inch, \$2.50; 3/8 inch, \$2.75; 1/2 inch, \$3; 3/4 inch, \$4; 1 inch, \$5; 1 1/2 inch, \$7; 2 inch, \$8.50; 2 1/2 inch, \$11.50.

Lead—Pig, per lb., 4 1/2 to 5c.

Sheet Zinc—In casks, \$6.00 lb., broken lots \$6.50.

Solder—Half and half (guar) per lb., 14@16c.

Ammunition—Cartridges—Rim fire pistol, American discount 40 per cent; rim fire cartridges, Dominion, 50 and 5; rim fire military, American, net list; central fire pistol and rifle, American, 12 per cent.; central fire cartridge, Dominion, 30 per cent, shot shells, 12 guage, \$6@7.50; shot, Canadian, soft, 6c; shot, Canadian, chilled, 6 1/2c. Robin Hood powder, 17 lb kegs, \$10; 1/2 kegs, 4 1/2 lbs, \$3; Canister, 9 oz., 60c. Loaded, 12 guage, soft shot, \$18 per 1,000. No. 10 guage, \$20.70 per 1,000.

Dupont Powder—Dupont Rifle FFg, 25-lb keg, \$5.00, 12 1/2 lb keg, \$2.75, cases of 4 6 1/2 lb kegs, \$6.60, cases of 24 1 lb canisters, \$8.50, cases of 48 1/2 lb canisters, \$9.25; Dupont Rifle FFFg, 25 lb keg, \$5.25, 12 1/2 lb keg, \$3.00, cases of 4 6 1/2 lb kegs, \$7.00, cases of 24 1 lb canisters, \$9.00, cases of 48 1/2 lb canisters, \$9.75; Dominion Rifle, 25 lb keg, \$5.75, 12 1/2 lb keg, \$3, cases of 4 6 1/2 lb kegs, \$7, cases of 24 1 lb canisters, \$11, cases of 48 1/2 lb canisters, \$12; Sea Shooting Fg, 25 lb keg, \$6; Manitoba Sporting, 25 lb keg, \$8.00, 12 1/2 lb keg, \$4.25, cases of 4 6 1/2 lb kegs, \$9.00; cases of 24 1 lb canisters, \$13.00; Eagle Ducking, 25 lb keg, \$11.00, 12 1/2 lb keg, \$5.75, cases of 4 6 1/2 lb kegs, \$12.00; Crystal Grain, cases of 4 6 1/2 lb kegs, \$14.00, cases of 24 1 lb canisters, \$17; Blasting, 25 lb keg, \$3.00. Dupont Smokeless powder, 12 1/2 lbs, \$22.00, 6 1/2 lbs, \$11.25, 3 1/2 lbs, \$5.75, 1/2 canisters, \$1.00.

Wire—Galvanized barb wire, \$2.70@2.75 100 lbs.; Plain wire and staples, \$2.85@2.90.

Rope—Sisal, lb., 7c base; manilla, lb., 8 1/2c base; cotton, 1/2 to 1 inch and larger, 16c lb.

Axes—Per box, \$6@9.

Nails—Cut, keg, base price, \$2.50 for 20 to 60d., with new classification of extras; common steel wire nails, 4 1/2@6 inch, \$2.65 per keg, with usual extras for smaller sizes

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

Horseshoes—Iron shoes, \$4.15; steel hoes, \$4.40; Snow shoe, \$4.40 per keg.

Winnipeg Prices of Paints, Oils, Glass, etc.

Following are close jobbing prices, as to quantity:

White Lead—Pure, \$6.25 100 lbs. Prepared Paints—Pure liquid colors, gallon \$1.15@1.25.

Dry Colors—White lead, pound, 7c; red lead, kegs, 5 1/2c; yellow ochre in barrel lots, 2 1/2c; less than barrels, 3c; golden ochre, barrels, 3 1/2c; less than barrels, 4c; Venetian, red, barrels, 3c; less than barrels, 3 1/2c; American vermilion, 15c; English vermilion, \$1 per lb., Paris green, 18@19c; Canadian metallic oxides, barrel lots, 2 1/2c; less than barrel lots, 3c; English purple oxides, 100 lb. kegs, 4c; less than kegs, 4 1/2c lb.

Varnishes—No. 1 furniture, per gallon, \$1; extra furniture, \$1.35; pale oak, \$1.50; elastic oak, \$1.75; No. 1 carriage, \$1.50@1.75; hard oil finish, \$1.50@2; brown Japan, \$1; house painters' gold-size Japan, \$1.50; coach painters' do., \$2@2.25; No. 1 orange shellac, \$2; pure orange shellac, \$2.50.

Sundries—Gluc, S. S., in sheets, lb 12 1/2@15c; glue, white, for kalsomining, 16@25c. Stove gasoline, case, \$4; benzine, case, \$4. Axle grease, imperial, case, \$2.50; Fraser's axle grease, case, \$3.75; Diamond axle grease, \$2.25 case. Coal tar, barrel, \$7. Portland cement, barrel, \$4@4.25; plaster, barrel \$3.25; plasterers' hair, P. P., 90c bale. Putty, in bladders, barrel lots, 2 1/2c lb., do., in 100 lb kegs, 2 1/2c, do., less than barrels, lb, 3c. Alabastine, cases of 20 pkgs., \$6.50@7.50 as to color.

Window Glass—First break is quoted at \$1.80 per box of 50 feet and \$2.05 for second break.

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

Turpentine—Pure spirits in barrels, 60c; less than barrels, gallon, 63c. An additional charge for packages for small quantities.

Oils—Range about as follows: Black oils, 25@30c gallon; clear machine oils, 33@40c; cylinder oil, 50@75c, as to quality; castor oil, 11c per lb; tanners' or harness oil, 65c; neatsfoot oil, \$1; steam refined seal oil, 85c; pure winter bleached sperm oil, \$2 gallon.

Refined Petroleum—Prices here are as follows: Silver star, 18 1/2c; crescent, 22 1/2c; oleophene, 23 1/2c in barrels. Car lots, 1c gallon less. United States oils in barrels are quoted at 27c for eocene and 24c for sunlight.

Winnipeg Lumber Prices.

These prices are retail quotations at Winnipeg, such as contractors and others buy at. The mills quote delivered prices at various points.

Dimension and Timber—No. 1, 2x4 to 2x12, 12, 14 and 16 ft, \$18.50, 18 ft, \$19.50, 20 ft, \$20.50, 22 ft, \$21.50, 24 ft, \$22.50; 3x6 to 3x12, 4x4 to 4x12, 6x6 to 6x12 and 8x8, 12, 14 and 16 ft, \$20.00, 18 ft, \$21.00, 20 ft, \$22.00, 22 ft, \$23.00, 24 ft, \$24.00; 8x10 to 12x12, 12, 14 and 16 ft, \$22.00, 18 ft, \$23.00, 20 ft, \$24.00, 22 ft, \$25.00, 24 ft, \$26.00; 2x4, 10 ft, \$20.50; 2x6 to 2x12, 10 ft, \$18.00. No. 2 dimension, \$1.50 less than No. 1. Dimension, 26, 28 and 30 ft, \$26.00. Timber, 26, 28 and 30 ft, \$28.00. \$1.00 per M advance on each inch over 12 inch in depth and width. Tamarac dimension same price as pine. Spruce dimension at \$2.00 per M less than pine. Cull plank, all widths at \$12.00 per M. B. C. fir dimension up to 32 feet at \$30.00 per M., 32 to 40 feet, \$33.00, 40 to 60 feet \$36.00. \$1.00

per M extra for each 2 in. over 12 in. in width or depth.

Boards—1st common, red pine, \$25.00, 2nd common, \$18.00, 3rd common, \$16.00; No. 1 cull, \$12.00, No. 2 cull, \$8.00; spruce, \$16.00. \$1.00 per M extra for stock boards, \$2.00 per M less for 10 ft. and under. No. 1 box, 14 in. and up, \$30.00, No. 2 box boards, 14 in. and up, \$20.00. Extra dressing \$1.50 per M.

Siding, Flooring and Ceiling—2nd, 4, 5 and 6 inch, white pine, \$30.00; 3rd, 4, 5 and 6 inch white pine, \$28.00; 1st and 2nd, 4, 5 and 6 inch red pine, \$30.00; 3rd, 4, 5 and 6 inch red pine, \$25.00; 4th, 4, 5 and 6 inch, red and white, \$20.00; B.C. No. 1 fir, \$32.00; B.C. No. 2 fir, \$29.00; B.C. No. 3 fir, \$26.00; B.C. spruce, \$32.00; 4, 5 and 6 inch spruce, native, \$20.00; 8 and 10 inch pine, \$23.00; No. 1 cedar siding and ceiling, \$36.00; No. 2 cedar siding and ceiling, \$30.00; 1/2 inch cedar or fir siding and ceiling, \$26.00. \$1.00 per M advance for dressing both sides.

Bevel Siding—No. 1 white pine, \$26.00; No. 2 red and white, \$23.00.

Shiplap—Pine, 6 inch, \$18.00, 8 and 10 inch, \$20.00; Spruce, 8 and 10 inch, \$19.00, 6 inch, \$18.00; cull shiplap, \$16.00.

Shingles—B. C. cedar, per M, No. 1, \$2.50, No. 2, \$2.00; B.C. cedar dimension shingles, \$4.00; B.C. cedar dimension band sawed, \$5.00; No. 1 pine, per M, \$2.50, No. 2, \$2.00, No. 3, \$1.75.

Lath—Pine lath, per M, \$3.00.

Finishings—1 1/2, 1 1/4 and 2 inch—White pine, 1st and 2nd clear, \$65.00, 3rd clear, \$55.00, selects, \$45.00, shops, \$36.00; red pine, clear, \$40.00, selects, \$32.00; B.C. cedar clear, \$55.00; B.C. fir clear and stepping, \$45.00; \$5.00 per M advance on 2 1/2 inch and thicker. One inch—White pine, 1st and 2nd clear, \$60.00, 3rd clear, \$48.00, selects, No. 1, \$38.00, selects, No. 2 (extra 1st com) \$30.00; red pine, clear, \$40.00, selects, \$30.00; B.C. cedar, clear, \$55.00.

Oak—Red and White—1/2 sawed, \$85.00; 1st and 2nd, 55.00 to \$65.00; common, \$40.00.

Mouldings and Base—Parting strips, 100 feet lineal, 60c; lattice, 1x1 1/2, 100 feet lineal, 75c, 1x1 1/4, 100 feet lineal, 85c; window and door stop, 1 1/2 inch lineal, \$1 25, ditto, 2 inch lineal, \$1.50; 1/2 round and 3/4 cove, 75c; 1 1/2 round mould, \$1.50; 2 round mould, \$1.75; 2 1/2 round mould, \$2.00; 3 round mould, \$2.25; 3 1/2 round mould, \$2.50; 4 round mould, \$2.75; 4 1/2 round mould, \$3.00; 5 round mould, \$3.25; 6 round mould, \$4.00; 5 round window stool, 1 1/2, \$4.50; 6 round window stool, 1 1/2, \$5.25; 4 round casings, \$2.50; 5 round casings, \$2.75; 6 round casings, \$3.25; 8 round base, \$4.50; 10 round base, \$5.50; 12 round base, \$7.00; hand rail, 2x4, \$5.00; wainscot cap, 2 1/2 inch, \$2.35, 3 inch, \$2.75; paper mould, 75c. Moulding made from 1 1/2 stock add 25 per cent; 1 1/2 add 50 per cent. Hardwood mouldings or mouldings to detail at special prices. All shop work at special net prices.

THE TARIFF

Every new subscriber to THE COMMERCIAL, sending not less than \$1.00 in advance, for 6 months subscription, will receive a free copy of the NEW CANADIAN TARIFF, in handy pamphlet form. A pamphlet of about 30 pages. Exact official copy complete. A useful reference for every business man.

MONTREAL GRAIN AND PRODUCE.
Special to The Commercial.

Montreal, Dec. 31.
Business has been quiet, and there is very little change from a week ago. Oats sold higher early in the week, but close the same as last week. Dressed hogs have advanced 1-4c.
Oats—No. 2 white in car lots on local account 27c.
Flour—Manitoba strong bakers, \$4.90 to \$5.00; Manitoba patents, \$5.40.
Millfeed—Manitoba bran, including sacks, \$11.50 per ton. Shorts, \$12.50.
Oatmeal—Rolled oats, \$1.65 to \$1.70, per bag.

Hides—9 1-2c for No. 1.
Eggs—Candied, 16 to 18c; new in'd, 21 to 22c.
Butter—Dairy, 15 to 16c.
Butter—Creamery, 18 1-2 to 19 1-2c.
Cheese—3 1-4 to 3 3-4c.
Dressed hogs—\$6 to \$6.25 per 100 pounds.
Dressed beef—Front quarters, 3 to 4c; hinds, 5 1-2 to 7c.
Dressed mutton—Lamb, 6 1-2 to 7c, mutton, 5 to 6c.

MONTREAL LIVE STOCK PRICES.
Special to The Commercial.

Montreal, Dec. 31.
The live stock market has been dull and demand slow for cattle, with the outside range 1-4c lower. Hogs are in demand at 1-4c higher.
Cattle—Choice, 4 1-4 to 4 1-2c, fair to good 3 to 4c.
Sheep—3 to 3 3-4c per lb.
Hogs—5 to 5 1-4c.

MONTREAL HARDWARE MARKET.
Special to The Commercial.

Montreal, Dec. 31.
The market for staple lines holds very steady, though there will likely be some changes when the spring movement begins. The feeling is one of firmness.
White lead, government standard, \$5.37 1-2c; No. 1, \$5; dry white lead in kegs, 5c; red lead in kegs, 4 3-4c; linseed oil, raw, 43c, boiled 46c; turpentine, 48 to 49c; bar iron, \$...5 to \$1.45; tin plates, cokes, \$2.75 to \$2.90; I. C. charcoal, \$3.25 to \$3.75; Canada plates, \$2.10 to \$2.15; tern plates, \$5.95 to \$6.25; galvanized iron, 4 1-4 to 4 3-4c; lead, \$3.75 to \$4; iron pipe, \$3.90 to \$4; putty in bulk, \$1.50; in bladders, \$1.05c; ingot tin, 15 1-2 to 16c.

MONTREAL GROCERY MARKET.
Special to The Commercial.

Montreal, Dec. 31.
There has been a very strong tone in several staple lines. Molasses has continued its upward movement and prices are 1c higher again this week, with a probability of a further advance. Domestic canned goods are very firm. Tomatoes have made a very sharp advance, as will be seen by the quotations below, and corn and peas are also much higher, \$1 being asked by some holders.
Quotations are: Granulated sugar, 4 1-4c in lots of over 250 barrels, and 4 3-8c for 100 bbl. lots, at the refineries; yellows, 3 1-4 to 3 7-8c. Molasses, 27 to 29c. Syrups, 13 1-4 to 2 1-2c as to quality. Valencia raisins from 4 3-4 to 5 1-2c. Valencia layers 6 1-2c. Currants, 5 1-8 to 6 1-2c, as to brand. Coffee, Rio, 8 1-2 to 1c Mocha and Java 20 to 24c.
Canned goods.—Tomatoes, \$1.20 to \$1.25; corn, 90c to \$1; peas, 90c to \$1.

TORONTO WHOLESALE TRADE.
Special to The Commercial.

Toronto, Dec. 31.
Wools are quiet and stocks small. Prices firm. Ontario woolen mills are working day and night on blankets. There are good orders for heavy hosiery and mitts for the Klondike trade. Groceries are active, and good orders from the west. All refined sugars advanced 1-8c this week. Tomatoes are ten cents higher at \$1.10. Currants, provincial, vostizilas, and patras 1-2c higher. Drugs active. Quinine likely to advance to \$5 and \$6.50. Creosote twenty per cent higher.

TORONTO GRAIN AND PRODUCE MARKETS.
Special to The Commercial.

Toronto, Dec. 31.
Weather soft and unfavorable for business. Grain deliveries are increasing in the country. Oats are dearer. No. 2 white sold at 25c for car lots at country points. Peas 1c higher at 36c. Ontario wheat steady at 82 1-2c. Manitoba wheat in better demand and firmer at \$1.04, grinding in transit, and \$1.03 North Bay. Manitoba flour in active demand. Patent, \$5.45; strong bakers, \$4.95. Eggs, fresh gathered, 25c. dozen. Hhd stock, 18c.

MINNEAPOLIS MARKETS.

Flour is quoted 10 to 20c lower. Corn 1-2c higher; oats 1 to 1 1-4c higher; feed barley 1-2c higher; butter 1 to 2c lower; poultry lower for turkeys and geese.
Flour—Prices in barrels: First patents \$5 to \$5.15, second patents, \$4.80 to \$4.95.
Millfeed—Shorts in bulk, \$7.75 to \$8; bran in bulk, \$7.50 to \$7.75; corn feed, \$10.00 to \$11.00 per ton.
Corn—Quoted 25c to 25 1-4c for No. 4, 25 1-2c for No. 3, 25 3-4c for No. 3 yellow per bushel of 56 pounds.
Oats—Held at 23 1-4 to 23 3-8c for No. 3 white, and 23 to 23 1-4c for No. 3 per bushel of 32 lbs.
Barley—Feed quoted at 23 1-2c to 24c.
Flax seed—\$1.17 1-2 for No. 1 per bushel.
Eggs—16c for strictly fresh, including cases; cold storage 10 to 14c.
Cheese—Choice to fancy, 9 to 10c; fair to good, 7 1-2 to 8c.
Butter—Creamery 19 to 20 1-2, seconds, 16 to 17c; dairy, 12 to 18c.
Dressed meats—Mutton, 4 to 6 1-2c; lambs, 5 to 8c; hogs, 3 1-4 to 3 1-2c for heavy and 4c for medium and light.
Potatoes—Car lots, mixed, 38 to 40c; choice, named varieties, 43 to 50c.
Poultry—Chickens 5 to 6c; old fowl 4 to 5c; turkeys 6 to 8 1-2c; ducks 7 to 8c; geese 6 to 7c.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

London, Dec. 27.—The trade in cattle was fair, but the tendency was weaker and prices show a decline of 1-4c since the day week, choice States cattle selling at 11 1-4c. Argentine cattle steady at 10c and sheep at 10 1-2c. No Canadian offered.
The Montreal Gazette says: "There is no demand whatever in this market for export stock and the bulk of the shipments going forward by way of St. John, N. B., and Portland, are United States cattle."
At the East End abattoir market Montreal, on Dec. 27, the market was quiet. Prices were maintained. A few extra choice beefs sold at 4 1-2c; choice at 4 1-4c; good at 3 1-2c to 4c; fair at 3c to 3 1-4c, and common at 2

1-4c to 2 3-4c per lb, live weight. Sheep ruled firm; lambs at 3 1-4c to 3 3-4c, and sheep at 4 1-4c to 4 3-4c per pound.

LIVERPOOL MARKETS.
Liverpool, Dec. 30.—The grain and provisions exchange will be closed on Saturday, Jan. 1, 12.30 p.m.—Wheat—Spot quiet; No. 1 California 8s 3d to 8s 4d. Corn—Spot firm. Bacon—Long clears 35 to 38 lbs., 28s 6d. Lard—Prime western 24s 6d.
Close—Corn—Futures steady. Jan. 3s 2 3-8d; Feb. 3s 2 1-2d.

BANK STATEMENT.

London, Dec. 30.—The weekly statement of the Bank of England shows the following changes, compared with the previous account: Total reserve decreased £13,000; circulation decreased £200,000; bullion decreased £329,890; other securities increased £3,093,000; public deposits increased £2,400; notes reserve decreased £100,000. Government securities were unchanged. The proportion of the Bank of England's reserve to liability, which last week was 42.97 per cent, is now 40.01 per cent. The bank's rate of discount remains unchanged at 3 per cent.

NEW YORK MONEY.

New York, Dec. 30.—3 p. m.—Money on call firm at 3 1-2 to 4 per cent. Prime mercantile paper 3 1-2 to 4 3-4 per cent. Sterling exchange strong with actual business in banker's bills at \$1.84 3-4 to \$1.85 for demand and at \$1.82 to 1-4 for 60 days. Posted rates, \$1.82 1-2 to 3 and \$1.85 1-2 to 6. Commercial bills \$1.81. Bar silver 57 3-8c. Mexican dollars 46 1-4c. Government bonds strong.

BRITISH STOCKS.

London, Dec. 30.—4 p. m.—Consols for money 112 15-16; do. for the account 113. Canadian Pacific 83 5-8; bar silver strong, 26 5-8; money 2 3-4 to 3 1-4 per cent. Rate of discount in open market, both short and three months bills, 3 per cent.

EUROPEAN CROPS.

London, Dec. 20.—The Mark Lane Express reviewing crop prospects says: "The English wheat fields have a satisfactory appearance and the French now regarded as favorable, but it is doubted if the acreage will be as large as a year ago. The Italian acreage will probably be increased, as the whole autumn has been favorable to sowings. News from Russia varies. Mildness reported in the Black sea district, but snow in the greater portion of the empire. The stocks awaiting export in Russian ports amount to 1,562,000 quarters, against 2,552,000 quarters a year ago, suggesting that the recent Russian shipments were heavier than the reserves justified."

MONTREAL STOCKS.

Montreal, Dec. 30.—Commercial Cable 178; Canadian Pacific in London, 83 1-2.

CLEARING HOUSE RETURNS.

Clearings.	Balances.
Week ending Dec. 30, 1897	\$1,816,204 \$337,537
Week ending Dec. 30, 1896	1,353,819 272,376
Week ending Dec. 30, 1895	1,250,537 334,960

NORTHWEST ONTARIO.

Taylor & McKay are opening a restaurant at Rat Portage.

Mr. Merrick, of Merrick, Anderson & Co., Winnipeg, has returned from a business trip to the Territories.

Chicago Board of Trade Prices

Prices are quoted per bushel of 60 pounds for wheat, bushel of 56 pounds of corn, bushel of 32 pounds of oats, per barrel for mess pork, and per 100 pounds for lard and short rib bacon; flax seed per bushel of 56 pounds.

Chicago, Dec. 27.—The leading futures closed as follows:

Wheat—Dec. 98 1-2; Jan. 94 1-2; May 94.

Corn—Dec. 27; Jan. 27 1-2; May 30 1-2.

Oats—Dec. 22 7-8; May 23 3-1.

Mess pork — Dec. \$7.70; Jan. \$8.72 1-2; May \$8.92 1-2.

Lard—Dec. \$4.45; Jan. \$4.55; May \$4.72 1-2.

Short ribs—Dec. and Jan. \$4.40; May \$4.55.

Chicago, Dec. 28.—The leading futures closed as follows:

Wheat, Dec. 99 1-2c; Jan. 94 3-4c; May 94 1-4c.

Corn, Dec. 27 3-8c; Jan. 27 3-8c; May 30 1-2c; July 31 1-8c.

Oats, Dec. 22c; May, 24c.

Mess pork, Dec. \$7.70; Jan. \$8.50; May \$8.87 1-2.

Lard, Dec. \$4.42 1-2; Jan. \$4.53; May \$4.70.

Short ribs, Dec. \$4.35; Jan. \$4.37 1-2; May \$4.52 1-2.

Chicago, Dec. 29.—The leading futures closed as follows:

Wheat, Dec. 96 1-2c; Jan. 92c; May 92 3-4c.

Corn, Dec. 27 1-4c; Jan. 27 1-4c; May 29 2-4c; July 30 3-4c to 7-8c.

Oats, Dec. 23c; May, 23 7-8c to 24c.

Pork—Jan. \$8.80; May, \$9.02 1-2.

Lard, Jan. \$4.62 1-2; May, \$4.77 1-2.

Ribs, Jan. \$4.40; May, \$4.55.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—The leading futures closed as follows:

Wheat, Dec. 94 1-4; Jan. 92 1-4c; May 92 1-8c to 1-4c.

Corn, No. 2, Dec. 27c; Jan. 27 1-8c; May 29 5-8c; July 30 3-4c.

Oats, Dec. 22 1-2c; May, 22 5-8c.

Mess pork, Jan. \$8.77 1-2; May, \$8.97 1-2.

Lard, Jan. \$4.62 1-2; May, \$4.77 1-2.

Short ribs, Jan. \$4.40; May, \$4.55.

On Friday, Dec. 31, May wheat opened at 92 3-4c and ranged from 92 1-4 to 93 1-4c. Closing prices were:

Wheat—Dec. 95c, May 92 5-8c, July 84c.

Corn—Dec. 26 3-4c, May 29 5-8c.

Oats—Dec. 22 3-5c, May 23 5-8c.

Pork—Dec. \$7.97 1-2, Jan. \$8.97 1-2.

Lard—Jan. \$4.72 1-2c.

Ribs—Jan. \$4.52 1-2.

Flax seed—Cash \$1.22; May \$1.21 3-4.

A week ago May wheat closed at 94 1-4c.

A year ago May wheat closed at 83 1-4c; two years ago at 60c, and three years ago at 57 5-8c.

New York Wheat.

New York, Dec. 27.—Wheat—Receipts 239,575 bushels; exports 99,890 bushels; sales 85,000 bushels futures; spot easy; No. 2 red \$1.02 1-8 f.o.b. afloat No. 1 Northern Duluth \$1.04 5-8 f.o.b. afloat; No. 1 hard Manitoba \$1.01 5-8 f.o.b. afloat; No. 1 Northern New York \$1.03 3-8 f.o.b. afloat. Options opened firm on European war rumors, but turned weak under general local unloading, and after a dull unsatisfactory session closed 1-8 to 3-8c net lower. No. 2 red Jan. opened 99 1-2 to \$1, closed 99 1-2; Feb. opened 99 3-4 to \$1.00 3-8, closed 99 7-8; May opened 94 7-9 to 95 1-3, closed 95 1-9; July closed 88 3-4; Dec. opened \$1.01 to \$1.01 9-16, closed \$1.01 1-4.

New York, Dec. 28.—Wheat receipts, 149,879 bushels; exports, 223,752 bushels; sales, 1,455,000 bushels; 10,000 spot. Spot firm. No. 2 red, \$1.02 1-4 f.o.b. afloat;

No. 1 Northern, Duluth, \$1.04 3-4 f.o.b. afloat; No. 1 hard, Manitoba, \$1.04 3-4 f.o.b. afloat; No. 1 Northern, New York, \$1.03 1-2 f.o.b. afloat. Options opened firm on cables, broke sharply under liquidation, bearish Argentine news and disappointing late foreign markets, but finally rallied on active covering and strengthened coarse grain markets, closing 1-8 to 1-2 net higher. No. 2 red, Jan. 99 1-4c to 5-8c, closed 99 5-8c; Feb. 99 1-2c to \$1, closed \$1; May, 94 5-8c to 95 3-8c, closed 95 1-4c; July, 88 1-4c to 3-4c, closed 88 3-4c; Dec., \$1.01 1-4 to \$1.01 7-8c, closed \$1.01 3-4.

New York, Dec. 29.—Wheat receipts, 214,000 bushels; exports, 208,481 bus.; sales, 1,650,000 bushels futures; 56,000 bushels spot. Spot weak; No. 2 red, \$1.00 7-8 f.o.b. afloat; No. 1 Northern, Duluth, \$1.03 3-8 f.o.b. afloat; No. 1 hard, Manitoba, \$1.03 3-8 f.o.b. afloat; No. 1 Northern, New York, \$1.02 1-8. Options opened easy under disappointing cables, rallied on covering, fair clearances and strength of coarse grain markets, but collapsed near the close under heavy liquidations at Chicago, closing 2-4c to 13-8c lower. No. 2 red, Jan. 98 1-2c to 99 3-4c, closed 98 1-2c; Feb. 98 3-4c to 99 3-4c, closed 98 3-4c; March, 99c to \$1, closed 99c; May, 93 11-16c to 95 3-16c, closed 93 7-8c; July, 87 1-2c to 88 3-8c, closed 87 5-8c; Dec., \$1.01 to \$1.01 3-4c, closed \$1.01.

New York, Dec. 30.—Wheat receipts, 135,050 bushels; exports, 91,751 bus.; sales, 2,215,000 bushels futures; 80,000 spot. Spot weak; No. 2 red, \$1.00 1-2 f.o.b. afloat; No. 1 hard, Manitoba, \$1.03 f.o.b. afloat; No. 1 Northern, \$1.01 3-4. Options opened easy, declined under the liquidation, large Northwest receipts and poor support, rallied later on heavy clearances, but broke a second time under renewed liquidation and closed 1-4 to 1 cent lower: No. 2 red, Jan. 98 1-4c to 98 5-8c; closed, 98 1-4c; Feb. closed 98 1-4c, March, 97 7-8c to 98 1-8c, closed 98; May, 93c to 93 15-16c, closed 93 1-2; July, 87 1-8c to 87 5-8c, closed 87 3-8c; Dec., \$1 to \$1.01, closed \$1.

On Friday, December 31, wheat closed at \$1 for December, and 94 1-4c for May option. A week ago May wheat closed at 95 3-8c.

DULUTH WHEAT MARKET.

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

Monday—Dec. 93 1-4c, May 92 3-8c.

Tuesday—Dec. 93 1-4c, May 92 1-2c.

Wednesday—Dec. 92c, May 91 1-8c.

Thursday—Dec. 90c, May 90 1-2c.

Friday—Dec. 90 1-2c, May 91 1-8c.

Saturday—Holiday.

Cash No. 1 hard closed on Saturday at 90c, and cash No. 1 Northern at 83 1-2c.

Last week May option closed at 92 1-2c.

A year ago May option closed at 87c and two years ago at 58c, three years ago May option closed at 62c and four years ago at 63 7-8c.

FRIDAY'S MARKETS.

Special to The Commercial.

Mullins & Wilson wire The Commercial the following reports of prices realized at the semi-weekly live stock market at Toronto, on Friday, December 31.

Toronto, Dec. 31. Fourteen carloads were offered today, including 945 hogs and 133 sheep and lambs.

Cattle—Export cattle brought 33-4 to 4 1-4c. Butchers cattle, 23-4 to 3 1-2c. Fat bulls, 3 to 3 1-2c; stockers, 2 3-4 to 3 1-4c; feeders, 3 to 3 1-2c, stock bulls, 2 to 2 1-2c.

Sheep—Export sheep, 3 to 3 1-2c per lb.; bucks, 2 1-2c; lambs, 4 1-2 to 4 7-8c.

Hogs—Hogs, best bacon, 4 7-8c lb; thick fat, 4 1-4c, and light fat, 4 1-4c per lb., weighed off cars.

MINNEAPOLIS WHEAT.

On Friday, December 31, No. 1 Northern wheat closed at 89c for December and 89 3-4c for May option. A week ago May wheat closed at 91c.

MOVEMENTS OF MEN OF BUSINESS.

J. Roberts, manager of the Blue Ribbon Manufacturing Co., Winnipeg, left last week on a trip to the coast.

D. Ross, the Whittemouth lumberman, was in the city last week.

Mr. Persé and family, of Tees & Péro, Winnipeg, returned from the south this week.

W. S. Crowe, of H. A. Nelson & Sons Co., Toronto and Montreal, has arrived in Winnipeg on a western trip.

S. R. Parsons, of Toronto, formerly of Parson, Bell & Co., Winnipeg, is renewing old acquaintances here.

Oats advanced 1-4c at Montreal on Dec. 27, with sales at 27 to 27 1-4c.

Crawford & Co., general store, have sold out to W. M. Crawford.

Victoria, Dec. 30.—Hon. Edgar Dewdney, of the Klondike Mining, Trading and Transportation corporation, goes to Wrangell by the City of Topeka tomorrow morning to secure terminal facilities for his company for winter transportation on the Stikine-Teslin route.

York, Eng., Dec. 30.—A largely attended meeting of the members of the Employers' Federation today unanimously passed a resolution endorsing the action of its representatives at the recent conference with the delegates of the striking engineers, reiterating the opinion that it is impossible to shorten the hours of labor, maintaining that the proposed arrangements of the works in no way interfere with proper functions of trades unionism and acknowledging the receipt of the engineers' vote. The employers' committee will write to the engineers' committee that "The truce is therefore ended."

Mr. R. E. Gosnell, librarian and secretary of the bureau of statistics of British Columbia, Victoria, B. C., has just issued what is perhaps the most complete work of the kind ever published in Canada. It is "The British Columbia and the Canadian Yukon Year Book for 1897." The work is up to date in every respect, contains over 500 pages, including eighty pages of representative illustrations, a series of especially engraved maps, eight lithographic diagrams illustrating the progress of British Columbia. There is also a special chapter on the Klondike and the Canadian Yukon, with latest and best maps yet issued, showing the several routes, including the Edmonton. The edition is limited to 5000 copies, about one-half of which have been sold in advance by Mr. Gosnell.

M. TRESTER

GENERAL.

COMMISSION MERCHANT & CONSIGNEE

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