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HEAD OFFICE, MONTREAL.

Capital Paid Up, \$8,000,000. Rest, \$3,000,000.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS—Andrew Allan, Esq., (of H. & A. Allan) President; Robert Anderson, Esq., Vice-President; Hector Mackenzie, Esq. (of J. G. Mackenzie & Co.); Jonathan Hodgson, Esq. (of Hodgson, Sumner & Co.); H. Montagu Allan, Esq. (of H. & A. Allan); John Cassils, Esq. (of Shaw Bros. & Cassils); J. P. Dawes, Esq. (of Dawes & Co., Lachine); T. H. Dunn, Esq., Quebec; Sir Joseph Hickson.

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NEW YORK AGENCY—52 William Street.

WINNIPEG BRANCH.

The position of this "bank as to amount of paid-up capital and surplus is the second in the Dominion.

Particular attention given to collections from and throughout the Dominion and the United States. Ample facilities; low rates; quick returns. Buy and sell Canadian and foreign exchange. Interest allowed at most favorable rates on Savings Bank Accounts and Deposit Receipts. Accounts of Merchants, Manufacturers, Corporations and Individuals received on favorable terms.

A General Banking Business Transacted.

ARTHUR WICKSON, MANAGER

IMPERIAL BANK OF CANADA

Capital authorized..... 2,000,000.00
Capital Paid up..... 1,984,525.00
Reserve..... 1,152,252.00

DIRECTORS:

H. S. Howland, President. T. R. Merritt Vice-Pres.
William Ramsay, Robert Jaffray, Hugh Ryan,
T. Sutherland Stayer, Hon. John Ferguson,
HEAD OFFICE, Wellington St., TORONTO.
D. R. Wilkie, Cashier. E. Hay, Inspector.

B. Jennings, Asst. Cashier. E. Hay, Inspector.

BRANCHES IN ONTARIO.

Essex..... C. White..... Manager
Fergus..... C. Forrest..... "
Galt..... C. C. Easton..... "
Ingersoll..... J. A. Richardson..... "
Niagara Falls..... J. A. Langmuir..... "
Port Colborne..... E. C. F. Wood..... "
Rat Portage..... W. A. Weir..... "
Sault Ste. Marie..... J. M. Wemyss..... "
St. Catharines..... C. M. Arnold..... "
St. Thomas..... M. A. Gilbert..... "
TORONTO—
Yonge & Queen Sts..... O. F. Rice..... "
Yonge & Bloor Sts..... C. H. S. Clarke..... "
Welland..... S. D. Raymond..... "
Woodstock..... S. B. Fuller..... "

BRANCHES IN THE NORTHWEST.

Winnipeg, Man..... C. S. Hoare, Manager.
Brandon, Man..... A. Jukes, "
Calgary, Alta..... M. Morris, "
Portage la Prairie, Man..... N. G. Leslie, "
Prince Albert, Sask..... J. E. Young, "
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Foreign Exchange bought and sold. Drafts issued payable at all points in the United States.

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CANADA—Bank of Montreal and Branches.
GREAT BRITAIN—Money may be deposited with Lloyd's Bank (Limited), 72 Lombard St., London, for transfer by letter or cable to any of the above branches.
UNITED STATES—New York, Bank of Montreal; Buffalo, Bank of Buffalo; Boston, National Bank of the Commonwealth; Chicago, First National Bank; Detroit, Detroit National Bank; Duluth, First National Bank; Philadelphia, Farmers' and Mechanics' National Bank; St. Paul, Second National Bank.
Agents in Canada for the CHEQUE BANK, (Limited).
Cheques issued to tourists and others, available in any part of the world.

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Western Loan and Trust Co., Ltd.

Executive Office: 94 St. Francois Xavier St.
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MANAGER.—W. BARCLAY STEPHENS, Esq.
INSPECTOR.—W. L. HOGG, Esq.
BANKERS.—The Merchants Bank of Canada, La Banque Du Peuple.
SOLICITORS.—Messrs. Greenshields & Greenshields.
Solicitors for Manitoba and Northwest Territories:
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INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER.

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Reserve Fund..... £275,000 "

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Head Office in Canada—St. James St., Montreal.

H. Stikeman, General Manager.

E. Stanger, Inspector.

BRANCHES IN CANADA:

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Brantford Kingston Paris Vancouver
Fredericton London Quebec Victoria
Halifax Montreal St. John
Winnipeg, Main Street—D. Simpson Manager.

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San Francisco, 124 Sanson St., H. M. I. McMichael, and J. C. Welsh.

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BANK OF OTTAWA

HEAD OFFICE, OTTAWA.

Capital Authorized & Subscribed, \$1,500,000.00
Capital Paid up..... 1,500,000.00
REST..... 925,000.00

DIRECTORS:

CHAS. MAGEE, President. GEO. HAY, Vice. President
Hon. Geo. Bryson, sr., Alex. Fraser, John Mather,
David MacLaren, Denis Murphy.

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Hawkesbury, Keewatin, Winnipeg.
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" CHICAGO—Bank of Montreal;
" ST. PAUL—Merchants National Bank;
" LONDON, Eng.—Alliance Bank.
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J. B. MONK, Manager.

The Western Canada Loan & Savings Co

CAPITAL, - - - \$1,500,000.00.
RESERVE FUND, - - \$850,000.00.

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BRANCH OFFICES: Winnipeg, - W. M. FISHER, Manager.

Moneys advanced upon Farm and City Properties, MORTGAGES, MUNICIPAL DEBENTURES & SCHOOL DEBENTURES purchased. Scrip held for use of Clients. Clients title deeds are not sent out of the Province but are lodged in the Company's vaults at Winnipeg, where they may be examined at all times. Agents at all principal points throughout the Province.
For further information write to the Manager of the Winnipeg Branch.

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The Canadian Bank of Commerce.

HEAD OFFICE - - TORONTO.

Paid-up Capital \$6,000,000
Rest..... 1,200,000

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JOHN I. DAVIDSON, Esq., Vice-President.

George Taylor, Esq. W. B. Hamilton, Esq.
Jas. Crathern, Esq. Matthew Leggat, Esq.
John Hoskin, Esq., Q.C., L.L.D. Robt. Kilgour, Esq.
B. E. WALKER, General Manager.
J. H. PLUMMER, Asst. Genl. Manager.

A. H. Ireland, Inspector G. de C. O'Grady, Asst. Inspectr
New York—Alex. Laird & Wm. Gray, Agents

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GREAT BRITAIN—The Bank of Scotland.
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AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND—Union Bank of Australia.
BRUSSELS, BELGIUM—J. Matthieu & Fils
NEW YORK—The Amer Exchange Nat'l, Bank of NY.
SAN FRANCISCO—The Bank of British Columbia.
CHICAGO—The Amer Exchange Nat'l Bk. of Chicago.
BRITISH COLUMBIA—The Bank of British Columbia.
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Travellers circular Letters of Credit issued for use in all parts of the world.

Winnipeg Branch.

A General Banking Business Transacted.

F. H. MATHEWSON, Manager.

UNION BANK OF CANADA.

HEAD OFFICE, - QUEBEC.

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Reserve Fund - - - 280,000

DIRECTORS:

ANDREW THOMSON, President. Hon. E. J. PRIOR, Vice-President.
John Breakey, D. C. Thomson, E. Giroux, E. J. Hale,
Jas. King, M.P.F.

E. E. WEBB, Gen. Mgr. J. G. BILLETT, Inspector

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Specifics.

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We also have in stock full Supply

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Butter Tubs!

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Improved Globe Wash Boards.

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First crop, Congous, all
Grades.

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If you want any goods made by
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WINNIPEG, Man. VANCOUVER, B.C.
Factory—MONTREAL.

The Commercial

A Journal of Commerce, Industry and Finance, especially 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.

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Fine Book and Job Printing Departments.

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Publisher.

The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much larger circulation among the business community of the country 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 a great majority of business men in the vast district described above, and 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, MARCH 18, 1895.

Manitoba.

Jas. Ovas advertises closing out his business at Brandon.

D. Craig has commenced business as shoemaker at Manitou.

Mr. Simpson, of Boissevain, is opening a general store at Crystal City.

A. Patterson & Co., Hotel, Virden, have dissolved partnership, Alex. Patterson continues.

Mr. Pickering, of Denison & Co., Minnedosa, has purchased the Commercial bank building there for \$2,500.

Capt. Robinson's cold storage fish warehouse at Salkirk, which was burned a few months ago, is being re-built.

W. Burton, merchant, Portage la Prairie has abandoned the project of moving to High Bluff, and will remain in Portage.

The firm of Gordon & Ironside is establishing an office at the C.P.R. stock yards in Winnipeg to facilitate the export cattle trade.

The creamery committee at Manitou are making good progress and expect to have everything ready to commence operations in the spring.

Hams, bacon, eggs and other provisions were stolen from the store of Coltart & Hendry, Winnipeg, one night last week, to the value of \$50.

The people of Arden district have decided to have a cheese factory. The affair will be carried on by the Arden Joint Stock Cheese Manufacturing Co.

Meikle & Coppinger, general merchants, of Morden, have adopted a new method of doing business. Their goods are all marked in two prices; one price for spot cash only, the other for trade or credit.

T. B. Escoff & Co. have appointed Hood Bros., Winnipeg, agents for the sale of "Grand Mogul" tea and "Lion Digestive" coffee for Manitoba and the Northwest territories.

The seneca root and fur business heretofore carried on by F. H. Lyon at 210 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, will be continued by F. V. Lyon. Lyon Sr. will devote himself to insurance and travel.

C. H. Wilson, furniture dealer, Winnipeg, will begin an auction sale of his large stock of furniture on March 18, continuing during the week. The object is to reduce stock and increase cash receipts.

A cheese factory is to be built five or six miles south of Wawanesa at Lloyd's lake. The capital stock of the company is to be 200 shares of \$10 each. The promoters of the scheme are now canvassing for subscribers.

Carruthers, dealer in hides, wool, etc., Winnipeg, has opened a branch at Brandon, Man., where he will buy hides, wool, seneca root, etc. Mr Carruthers shipped a full car, containing 28,000 pounds of seneca root, from Winnipeg to New York last week. He also purchased last week a car load of wool from the Rapid City woolen mills.

O. H. Pollard and Jas. Daniels who have for a number of years been connected with the job printing department of The Commercial office, have now assumed the entire management of this department of the business. The Commercial job department will hereafter be continued by The Commercial Printing Co Messrs. Pollard and Daniels are both highly skilled artisans in their respective lines, and under their control the mechanical department will no doubt give better satisfaction than ever before. Mr. Steen retains his interest in the department. The publishing department of this office is in no way affected by the change in the mechanical department.

Alberta.

Mr. Goddard, of Calgary, has secured a carload of cattle in the Prince Albert district.

The firm of Hull Bros. & Co. has decided to separate its Alberta interests from those in British Columbia, the firm being dissolved. W. R. Hull will take the Alberta branches, and J. R. Hull the British Columbia business.

Assiniboia.

The Canadian Pacific Railway section house at Regina was burned on March 8.

R. H. Williams has secured the contract for the erection of the main buildings of the Territorial fair at Regina, some twenty-one tenders were received for this work.

Reports from all sections, says the Moose Jaw Times are unanimous in reporting that the present winter has been a favorable one for stock. M. T. Bambridge, six miles south of Moose Jaw, has a drove of 600 sheep, a score or so of cattle and some horses. All are in prime order. He stables the cattle and has sheds for the sheep. Mr. Ferguson the meat man, states that many of Mr. Bambridge's sheep are quite fit for the butcher's stall. This gentleman has made an unqualified success of sheep raising. He brought a small stock from across the line some years ago. By careful breeding and attention he has succeeded in materially raising the standard of the flock.

Saskatchewan.

A pump factory is to be established in Prince Albert.

There is a prospect that the farmers of Collestone, Prince Albert district, will organize a joint stock company, and undertake the erection and operation of a creamery.

D. L. Shannon, who recently sold the machinery of his sawmill at Prince Albert to Smyth Bros., of Steep Creek, has purchased a 50-horse power engine and boiler, and a more extensive outfit of machinery, and is fitting up his mill to manufacture lumber, shingles and lath. The capacity of the new mill will be 20,000 feet of lumber, 20,000 shingles and 30,000 lath per day. About twenty men will be employed during the summer. The mill is expected to be in operation about April 1st.

John Paul, Gordon & Ironside's buyer at Prince Albert, has purchased during the winter about five car loads of cattle in the Prince Albert district. They will be shipped early in April. Over \$30,000 in cash was paid in 1895, by the firm of Gordon and Ironside to farmers in the district, for cattle purchased by the firm.

The town of Prince Albert has suffered the loss of no less than three grist mills by fire says the advocate. The Hudson's Bay Co's first mill was burned in 1831; Thos. McKay's mill at the West End during the same year, and last week's cremation of the Hudson's Bay Co's East End mill makes the third victim.

An order-in-council has been passed setting apart certain even numbered sections in the Prince Albert district for a Mennonite settlement. In his report recommending this reservation, the Minister of the Interior states that it has been represented to him on behalf of the Mennonite settlers in Manitoba that their two reserves in that province are now overcrowded, hence the desire to establish a new Mennonite settlement.

Northwest Ontario.

Dougald McMurphy, grocer, Rat Portage, has assigned

A new fish company has been organized to operate in the Lake of the Woods this season. It will be known as the Lake of the Woods Fish company. F. W. Colclough, is manager. The erection of an ice-house and fish-house will be started at once.

Lumber Trade News.

The Mississippi Valley Lumberman, published at Minneapolis, which represents the white pine lumber trade interests of Minnesota and Wisconsin, claims that the railways are discriminating in their freight rates against the white pine interest and in favor of the southern yellow pine. The yellow pine lumber is shipped north and meets the white pine which has been shipped south, in the central western states of Kansas, Nebraska and the region thereabouts. The Minneapolis paper claims that proportionately lower rates are given by the railways on the yellow pine lumber shipped north than are given on the white pine shipped south and southwest. On this account it is claimed that the yellow pine has made serious inroads into the white pine markets. The rate on white pine from Minneapolis to Omaha, Nebraska, is 17 cents, a distance of 325 miles, while the yellow pine is carried to Omaha, a distance of about 1,000 miles, for 22 cents. The rate from Minneapolis to Lincoln, Nebraska, is 20 cents for 100 pounds, as compared with a 22 cent rate on yellow pine bought more than double the distance from the south. Yellow pine is carried to Chicago for the same rate of 22 cents. The white pine people claim they should get a rate of 12 cents to Nebraska points.

Fraudulent Assignments.

The legislature of New Brunswick has passed a bill regarding assignments and preferences. The object of this legislation is to prevent fraudulent assignments and to secure to all creditors equitable treatment in the distribution of estates. It provides that if any insolvent person, knowing his condition, gives a judgment to defraud any of his creditors, it can be voided. Even preferences to one creditor over the others are voidable, as are the transfers of goods, chattels property or securities. Gifts and conveyances are in the same position. Assignments for the benefit of creditors take precedence over all executions. The bill provides ample machinery it is said for the quick, cheap and easy carrying out of all its provisions.

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 ARE GENUINE "ROGERS" GOODS.

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Engines, Boilers, Steam Pumps,
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 Agents for North American Mill Building Co
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 Second Hand Machinery of Every Description
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WAVE WIRE
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BOLSTERS,
 Etc., Etc.

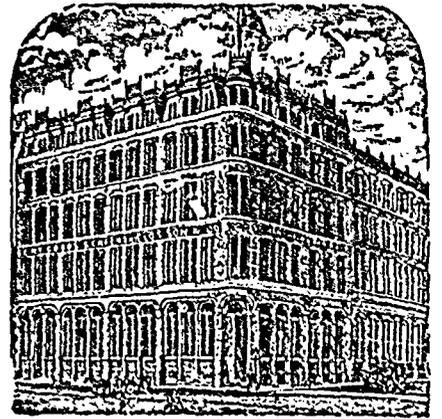


Shirts and Overalls a specialty.
 Prices Right.
 Standard Goods.
 Orders by Mail Promptly Attended to. We Guarantee Satisfaction.

EMERSON & HAGUE, Props. Box 306. Telephone 679,

S. Greenshields Son & Co.

MONTREAL AND VANCOUVER, B.C.



For Spring, 1895.

Our Travellers are now showing a full range of Imported and Domestic Samples. Extra value in Dress Goods, Beau De Sole, Gloves, Hosiery and Linens.

Canadian Goods . . .

See our samples of Grey and White Cottons before placing orders. Full range of Prints, Linens, etc. Full set of Samples with C. J. REDMOND, Room 18, McIntyre Block, Winnipeg.

McMASTER & CO.,

—WHOLESALE—

Woollens, Tailor's, Trimmings,
CARPETS,
 AND GENERAL DRY GOODS.
TORONTO, ONT.

REPRESENTED BY E. C. S. WETMORE.

JAS. McCREADY & CO.,

WHOLESALE

Boot and Shoe Manufacturers,
MONTREAL.

W. WILLIAMS, AGENT.

SAMPLE ROOM—Room M, McIntyre Block, MAIN STREET, WINNIPEG.

SEEDS

FULL STOCKS OF

NEW CROP

Field and Garden Seeds.

Just arrived fresh importation of **BROMUS INERMIS** (Austrian Brome Grass)
 Catalogues on application Correspondence invited
 All enquiries by mail or wire will receive prompt attention

The Steele, Briggs, Maroon SEED CO., LTD.

TORONTO, ONTARIO,

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, MARCH 18, 1895.

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

Though there have not perhaps been more than the usual number of visible business failures this season in the region commercially tributary to Winnipeg, there have been a very large number of private meetings of creditors, to consider the affairs of various retail traders. The large number of these meetings is to some extent due to the desire to obtain a close insight into the affairs of these merchants, before granting favors in the way of renewals and extensions. Another cause of this condition of affairs is the greater harmony which prevails among the local wholesale trade since the organization of the jobbers' union here. The jobbers are acting unitedly in these matters, and they are carrying out a policy which they consider to be in the interest of the entire trade. This plan will certainly bring better results for the retail as well as the wholesale trade, than could be secured were each jobber acting independently and in his own interest only.

While the number of actual assignments in trade here has not been such as to cause any alarm, these frequent meetings of creditors indicate that something is wrong. A trader who is paying 100 cents on the dollar and meeting his obligations promptly, would certainly not be called upon to place a statement of his affairs before a meeting of his creditors. Why then these meetings? The fact is, a large number of retail merchants throughout the country are not meeting their obligations promptly. This is the actual situation, and to those who have been familiar for years with the commercial conditions in this country, the statement will not cause any surprise. They will know that renewals of paper and extensions of time of payment have been common here since the commercial fabric of the country was established in its present form. Viewed in the light of past conditions here, it is not therefore a cause for alarm that many retail merchants are not able to meet their obligations promptly as they fall due.

At the present time an effort is being made to correct the evils of the commercial conditions in this country. These evils have existed for years, and in fact were introduced into our business fabric as a result of the "boom" conditions attending the early development of the country. Long and reckless credits and loose ideas of promptitude in meeting obligations are the principal evils we refer to. A vast improvement has been made in the situation during the past two years, in the matter of credit business, but there is room for improvement yet. These meetings of creditors in Winnipeg, as we have stated, indicate that obligations are not being met promptly by many retail merchants throughout the country, and the desire of the jobbers is to take concerted action in investigating the affairs of such retailers, discover the cause

of their slowness and try to apply a remedy.

In following up this plan systematically, it may be necessary to wind up a number of retail concerns, and where the decision is made to wind up a business, it will undoubtedly be a decision in the interest of all concerned. There is undoubtedly too much competition in the retail store trade at many points in this country, and in a number of cases this competition has been increased by parties who were lacking in capital, ability or experience, and whose chances for success were accordingly just about nil. The weeding out of such traders, along with the movement to restrict credit and improve the business situation, cannot but have good results.

The merchant who cannot meet his liabilities as they fall due is strictly speaking insolvent. This rule has never been applied in trade here, and it would not be advisable to apply such a rule too closely in ordinary mercantile business. Retail merchants who could show a reasonable surplus, have been in the habit of considering themselves perfectly solvent, even though they were obliged to ask for extensions of time to make payments. The latter idea has no doubt been carried too far as a result of the prevailing business conditions. The trader who cannot meet his obligations promptly, even though he have a large surplus in his business, should consider himself, if not actually insolvent, at least in a very dangerous position. If this latter view of the case were the popular idea among traders, there would no doubt be fewer occasions for holding meetings of creditors.

These investigations into the affairs of retail merchants who are not meeting their obligations promptly, as a rule show a considerable surplus of assets over liabilities. They also show that credit business is at the bottom of the difficulties of most of these merchants. In the great majority of cases the assets in the shape of book accounts are out of all proportion to the other items in the statements presented. In some cases the book accounts exceed the value of the stock-in-trade. In one case recently investigated, for instance, the book accounts, after deducting several thousand dollars of bad accounts, still aggregated over \$6,000, while the stock-in-trade amounted to something over \$5,000, and liabilities were about \$10,000. Here was a nominal surplus of \$1,000, but as book accounts are only worth 15 to 20 cents on the dollar in winding up an estate, there would be an actual deficit of between \$1,000 and \$5,000. This trader, however, had other assets, not of a strictly commercial nature, which gave him a nominal surplus of about \$15,000, and with care he will pull through all right. This man had good capital a few years ago, and his troubles were due to two causes, namely, credit business and outside investments. The book accounts are shown to be absurdly large in proportion to the other items, even after throwing out bad accounts.

In a number of cases outside investments, particularly in real estate, have placed retail merchants in such a position that they were obliged to throw themselves upon the leniency of their creditors, but in the majority of cases

credit business has been the cause. It is ridiculous to think of a merchant carrying on his books accounts aggregating a total almost equal to his stock-in-trade, much less to exceed the latter item. Such a condition is bound to bring a retailer to the humiliating position of a suppliant for mercy from his creditors.

While improvement has been made during the past two years in regard to credit business, it will be seen that there is great room for improvement yet. A large number of merchants throughout the country require to make a heavy reduction in the amounts carried on their books before they can be reasonably sure as to where they stand financially. The present movement on the part of jobbers to investigate the affairs of retailers who are slow in their payments, will no doubt have a good effect in spurring such merchants up to an effort to reduce their book accounts.

THE LUMBERMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

A few weeks ago The Commercial contained a report of the annual meeting in Winnipeg of the Western Retail Lumbermen's Association. This is an organization which has fallen in for a great deal of adverse criticism during the few years of its existence. Anything in the nature of a trade association is sure to meet with a great deal of adverse criticism from a certain class of persons, regardless of the aims, objects and practical workings of the association. If a few persons in any branch of trade meet together for the purpose of furthering their special trade interests, some one is sure to raise the cry of "combine," a word which is frequently used in a wrong sense, and there are always plenty of persons to take up the cry and use it as a cover to make false and malicious statements. The cry of combine has served to shield an unlimited amount of misrepresentation. There is quite a large class of persons in the towns as well as in the rural districts, who seem ready to believe any ridiculous stories which may be invented and related against an organization, when the word "combine" is applied thereto. They will not stop to consider the reasonableness of the statements, or whether or not the word has been properly applied. The very word "combine" is to many persons what a red rag is to a bull. They at once become excited and begin to rave, with really as little reason as would be found in the actions of a vicious bovine of the masculine persuasion under the conditions noted.

The word combine has been applied to the Lumbermen's Association, and, as might have been expected, the Association has fallen in for any amount of criticism, most of which has been made up of either entirely false or at least very misleading statements. The Commercial has been at some pains to look into the methods pursued by the lumbermen, and we cannot see where the public have suffered as a result of the working of the Association. On the contrary, the methods pursued have been such as to benefit the public at large, while at the same time work

ing to the advantage of the lumber trade.

It is true that the lumbermen have resorted to the wicked practice of trying to keep down ruinous competition. If it is any benefit to the public to have three lumber yards striving to exist where there is only a reasonable amount of business for one, then the lumbermen have done an injury to the public. Three men trying to carry on business where there was only sufficient trade to support one, would result, if persisted in, in perhaps three failures and a heavy loss to the creditors. Failures are damaging to the community in which they occur. One yard well stocked would serve the public better than three, at points where there was only sufficient business to support one. The one yard could afford to carry a better stock than the three could do and could meet the requirements of the public to better advantage.

The Association also endeavors to regulate prices, but exorbitant prices are not allowed. The margin of profit in the lumber trade is very small, averaging only about 18 per cent. This is smaller than almost any branch of business except the grain trade. "In no instance," said the president at the recent annual meeting, "has the price of lumber been advanced by the Association," but on the other hand prices have been reduced, as a result to a considerable extent of the workings of the Association. The reduction in freight rates, which enabled the dealers to reduce the price of lumber, was brought about to some extent at least through the efforts of the Association. The public are protected by the Association as the margin of profit allowed is very reasonable and the conditions prevent dealers from exceeding the regular prices or overcharging their customers for lumber.

As a result of the work of the Association the reckless credit system in the lumber trade has been remedied. The wholesale dealers sell on short dates and receive their pay more promptly. The curtailment of reckless competition and the more reckless credit evil has been a great benefit to the entire lumber trade. Wholesalers have not been making bad accounts, and as a result of the curtailment of the heavy losses which they were formerly meeting with, they have been enabled to reduce prices very materially to the retail dealers. In turn the retail dealers have been enabled to give the consumer cheaper lumber. A demoralized condition existing in any branch of trade is an injury to the community. It is also true that the improvement in the condition of the lumber trade in this country has been a benefit to the entire community. The curtailment of reckless competition, the correction of the credit evil, the prevention of failures and heavy financial losses through the better business methods introduced; the securing of more prompt payments; and lastly, the very material reductions made in prices of lumber to the consumer, are features which have been attained largely through the efforts of the Western Retail Lumbermen's Association.

The Shaft house of the Sultana mine, Lake of the Woods, was burned on March 11. A number of men in the mine were nearly suffocated, and one of the miners succumbed.

PUSHING A TRADE CENTRE.

It has been said that a town or city is judged by its newspapers. There is undoubtedly a great deal of truth in the saying. The newspaper presents a picture of the life of a community, and affords strangers by far the best means of forming an opinion of a place. If this is true of the newspaper, it is also true that the commercial importance of a city may be gauged by its trade papers. An important trade centre without a trade paper would be at a disadvantage. A good trade paper is the best advertisement a commercial community can have. It is continually doing missionary work in the interest of the centre its represents. It accomplishes in each issue the work of thousands of travellers. Every copy of a trade paper is like a visit of a commercial traveller; but whereas the traveller represents a single house, the commercial paper represents an entire community of business men. The trade paper can therefore only be compared in the work it accomplishes, to the sending out weekly or monthly, as the case may be, of thousands of travellers to advertise and work up business for a community of business interests.

The trade paper must be placed at the head of the list as a means of drawing trade to a city. It advertises a city; advertises its trade interests, individually and collectively. It is a constant reminder that such a trade centre has an existence, and the appearance of the paper, in its advertising as well as in its news columns, forms an index to the importance of the place and to the progressive or unprogressive nature of its business men, as the case may be. It is therefore the duty of the business men not only to advertise but to make their advertisements interesting and attractive, if they wish to show their city to good advantage as a trade centre. Advertisements should be changed frequently, and something should be said that will interest those whom it is intended to reach. What would be thought of a paper that would print the same matter, week after week in its reading columns? The same principle holds good, though to a less extent, in the advertising columns. The business men are therefore responsible to a considerable extent for the influence their trade paper has in bringing business to their city.

In every community there are some who never make use of their trade paper. At the same time these houses are benefitted by the trade paper, though they give nothing in return for such benefit as they may receive. The trade paper brings business to a town, and some of this business will fall to persons or houses who never gave any support to the trade paper. This however, is the rule everywhere, and we cannot expect that it will be different in Winnipeg.

Besides keeping his advertising space fresh and attractive, the jobber can in other ways add to the value the trade paper will be to himself and the centre it represents as a whole. Jobbers can help to make their trade paper attractive by furnishing reliable market reports and interesting news items. It may be a little bother to you at times, when

busy, to revise a market list, but remember it is in your interest, and in the interest of the jobbing trade of the city, that these reports are prepared. Some jobbers appear to be afraid to quote prices, under the belief perhaps, that what they say may be reported to a competitor in the same line of trade. Such persons do not know the first principle of newspaper ethics, which effectually forbid the disclosing of any information in a private way. Anything reported to The Commercial will certainly not be repeated privately, or the source of such information made known. The market reports of a trade paper are one of its most valuable features. Those who refuse to give information or give misleading reports, not only injure the paper but also the community which the paper represents.

We would like the patrons of The Commercial to take the view that the paper is published in their interest, and that they are helping to advance the interests of this business community by assisting the publisher to turn out a creditable paper. They can give this assistance by keeping their advertising space attractive and by furnishing reliable market reports, and interesting news items. If you see a wrong quotation in the paper, let us know about it. If you have any news items which will be of interest to the trade, send it in, or telephone and we will call and get particulars. If there is any subject which you think should be dealt with editorially by this paper, do not be afraid to let us know about it. We are here to consider anything in the business interest of the community, and any pointers given with this object in view will be acceptable.

SETTLING OUR VACANT LANDS.

Encouraging progress is being made by the committee who are working in the interest of the settlement of the vacant lands in the organized municipalities in Manitoba. Several of the municipalities have replied favorably to the circulars sent out by the committee. It is now believed that sufficient land will be placed at the disposal of the committee on a basis which will warrant further action in the direction of forming a permanent organization to undertake the work of securing settlers for these vacant lands. Numbers of applications have been received from prospective settlers, but as yet the committee has not been able to undertake any practical work of locating settlers. Nothing can be done in locating settlers until a permanent organization has been formed, the work so far being only preliminary. The plan of carrying on the work could not be decided on until full information could be obtained regarding the basis on which land could be secured for settlers. As replies are now coming in from the municipalities which hold vacant land, the committee will in a few days be able to decide on plans for the future.

The E. B. Eddy Co. of Hull, is going into the paper bag business, and is putting in an extensive plant for that purpose. Eddy's bags will no doubt soon be found in every part of Canada. Kilgour Bros. Toronto, and the Lincoln Paper Co. of Merrittown have heretofore been the principal manufacturer.

James Hall & Co.

BROCKVILLE, ONT. WINNIPEG, MAN.

Manufacturers and Wholesale Dealers in

**Gloves, Mitts,
Moccasins,
Arctic Socks, &c.**

In addition to our regular line we have the exclusive control of the Celebrated Chester & Workers Suspenders for the Dominion. Neatest, Strongest and Best Suspender in the market at popular prices.

Customers may have sorting orders in any of our lines filled promptly from stock at our
Winnipeg Branch, 150 Princess St.

W. R. Johnston and Co.

(Late Livingston, Johnston & Co.)

WHOLESALE MANUFACTURERS

READY MADE

CLOTHING.

Cor. Bay & Front Sts, TORONTO.

Samples at McIntyre } REPRESENTATIVES
Block, Winnipeg } A. W. Lasher W. W. Armstrong.

AUSTIN & ROBERTSON,

WHOLESALE STATIONERS,

MONTREAL

Dealers in all Classes of

Writings and Printings,

Linens, Ledger and Bond Papers.

Quotations and Samples on Application.

Calder & Co.

EXCHANGE BROKERS

ACCOUNTANTS.

MANUFACTURERS' AND FINANCIAL AGENTS.

JASPER HOUSE BLOCK,

EDMONTON, - ALB.

Correspondence Solicited.

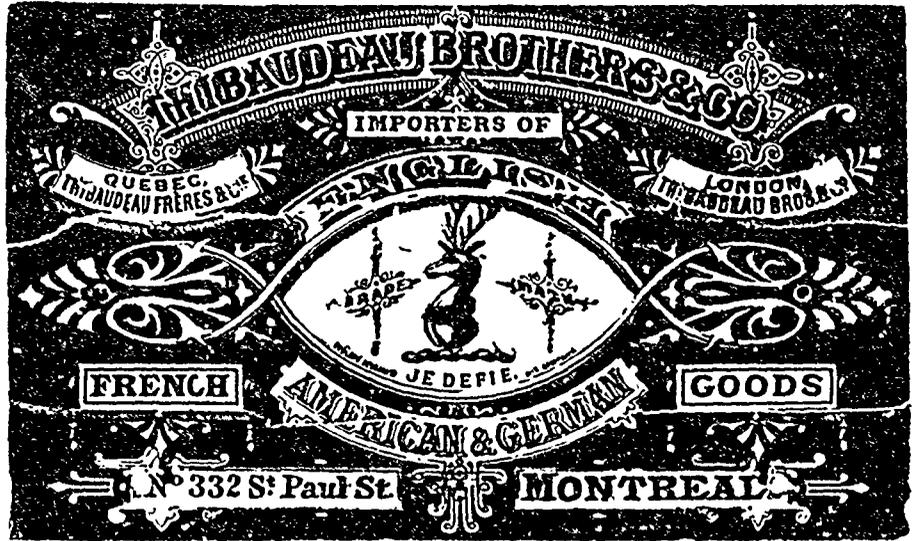
S. A. D. BERTRAND, OFFICIAL ASSIGNEE

For the province of Manitoba, under the recommendation of the Board of Trade of the city of Winnipeg. Insolvent and Trust Estates Managed with Promptness and Economy.

Special attention to Confidential Business Enquiries.

Corner 2nd. Avenue and 2nd St. North,
WINNIPEG, MAN.

"A-lad-din" Himself in all his wondrous wanderings never once gazed upon a greater dream of beauty than the interior of the Cars on the Much-Celebrated North-Western Line.



Matthews, Towers & Co.

—WHOLESALE—

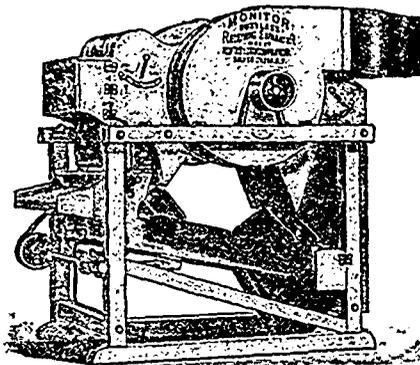
Men's Furnishings.

Stock Complete for
Spring 1895.

LATSET STYLES
AND VALUES.

Board of Trade Block, MONTREAL.

"MONITOR" Grain Cleaners.



Wheat Scouring, Polishing and Separating Machine.
Dustless Receiving and Elevator Separator.
Dustless Milling Separator.
Dustless Malt and Barley Separator.
Barley and Malt Scourer.
Oat Clipper and Scourer.

General Agents for Manitoba and Northwest Territories:

John McKechnie,

Send for Catalogue and Prices.

WINNIPEG

ENAMELLED WARE

Made in Canada.

We are pleased to advise that this new venture has been most successful, and we are turning out a ware—for the present a grey mottled and a white—equal to any ever placed on this market, whether English, German or American.

Inspection and Comparison Invited.

Our Travellers are Carrying Samples.

THE McCLARY MFG. CO.

London, Toronto, Montreal,
Vancouver and Winnipeg, Man.

Protect Yourself

...By getting our prices on....

- FURNITURE -

IRON BEDS, SCHOOL DESKS.

Always the Lowest Prices. Send for photo of our \$10 sideboard.

LESLIE BROS.
(Late of Scott & Leslie.)

The Low Priced Furniture house 208 MAIN & 203-205 FORT ST. WINNIPEG.

THE "EXCELSIOR" Fruit Cleaner

Controlled exclusively by J. W. Humble, Rat Portage, Ontario, for Manitoba, Northwest Territories and British Columbia. Buy the only satisfactory fruit cleaner on the market, you will save money thereby and give your customers entire satisfaction. The most useful machine yet invented in its line. Will clean

A BARREL OF CURRANTS IN AN HOUR.

Removes all sand, grit, stems and other matter, leaving the fruit absolutely clean. Cleans all other fruits equally quickly and thoroughly.

A. Y. HOOD,
Local Agent, 194 Market St., Winnipeg.

Enamelled Ware.

- GREY (CRESCENT STEEL,
- WHITE STEEL
- GALVANIZED WARE
- REPINNED WARE
- JAPANNED WARE
- PIECED TIN WARE

The Thos. Davidson Mfg. Co. Ltd.
MONTREAL.

Merrick, Anderson & Co. Agents,
Winnipeg.

AUDITING. DEBT COLLECTING.

Octavius Smith,
ACCOUNTANT AND AUDITOR
490 MAIN ST., - WINNIPEG.

Books kept and accounts sent out regularly. Neglected or unreliable books rectified, and accurate statements prepared.

HO! IMPROVED Compressed Mince Meat.

Put up in neat paper packages and packed (3) three doz. in a case. Price per gross net \$10. GUARANTEED STRICTLY PURE. HORSE RADISH—Put up in 16 oz. bottles 2 doz. in a case. Price per doz. \$2.50 Patronize home industry.

J. S. Carveth & Co., Winnipeg,
Preparers and Packers.

Hudson's Bay Company,

Fort Garry Mills, Winnipeg.

Registered Brands:

Hungarian and Strong Bakers Flour

Chopped Feed, Oats, Bran, Shorts, etc.

Sole agents in Manitoba, Northwest Territories and British Columbia for

MYERS ROYAL HORSE AND CATTLE SPICE

In use for a quarter of a century. For full particulars, circulars, &c., address Chas. H. Steele, Manager, Winnipeg.

NOW IN STORE A LARGE SUPPLY OF

ARGUIMBAU

THE FINEST

VALENCIA RAISINS

IN THE MARKET

Turner, MacKeand & Co.

WHOLESALE GROCERS, WINNIPEG.

Pure Highland Scotch Whiskies.

THE FAMOUS LAGAVULIN DISTILLERY, ISLAND OF ISLAY, SCOTLAND.

The Lagavulin Whisky is famous for its fine quality, being made from pure Scotch MALT ONLY, and has long been the favorite beverage of Sportsmen.

It contains no grain spirit, or other Whiskies one knows nothing of, and the most eminent Physicians of the day prescribe it where a stimulant is required.

ASK FOR THE LAGAVULIN.

MACKIE'S PURE OLD BLEND 10 YEARS OLD.

GOLD LABEL AS PATRONIZED BY ROYALTY AND THE LEADING PHYSICIANS.

Sold only in the Northwest by: A. M. AMBLARD, VELIN, CARRY & CO. G. F. & J. GALT. HUDSON'S BAY CO. RICHARD & Co.

W. J. GUEST,

—DEALER IN—

FISH, GAME, POULTRY and OYSTERS.

FINNAN HADDIES RECEIVED WEEKLY. Trade Orders Solicited. 602 MAIN STREET, - WINNIPEG.

WINNIPEG WANTS PRODUCE! We are always open for BUTTER AND EGGS.

At Highest Market Value. Write for full market Quotations to PARSONS PRODUCE COMPANY, WINNIPEG, MAN.

OAK TANNED "EXTRA" BRAND

BELTING

MONTREAL AND TORONTO.

THE J. C. McLAREN BELTING COMPANY.

THE BUSINESS SITUATION.

WINNIPEG, Saturday, March 16.

Though the weather has been cold for the season lately, there are signs of spring business. Implement dealers are displaying their wares, and a few plows, harrows and seeders are being enquired for. In the dry goods and clothing trade spring orders have now been mostly filled. The fur trade is waiting for the report of the London sales, which open next week. There is an increasing movement in hardware, paints, etc.

WINNIPEG MARKETS.

WINNIPEG, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, Mar. 16.

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

GROCERIES.—Sugars were a little higher in New York this week, but latest advices did not report any advance at refineries in this country, granulated sugar being quoted at 33c, and some large lots sold at 1-16c lower at the refineries, with second grade of granulated held at 31c. An advance later was thought probable. Willot & Gray's revised estimates of the cane crops are now 3,417,043 tons, against 3,507,631 tons last season. Taking Mr. Licht's latest reduced estimates of the beet crops, the total of cane and beet is 8,328,053 tons, against 7,402,913 tons last year, an excess of 925,141 tons. A moderate amount of this excess has already gone into increased consumption in Europe and into increased exports of refined sugars from the continent to the East Indies, but the total stocks in all countries still show a visible surplus of 593,110 tons to be disposed of before the next beet crop matures in October. Although the decline of prices is great, still the large oversupply must continue as a check to much if any advance, until it is definitely known what the sowings for the next beet crop are to be.

GREEN FRUITS.—California oranges are having a wider sale than usual this year owing to the destruction from frost in Florida and the damage to the Italian and Spanish orange crops from storms. At the Montreal Fruit Auction Co's rooms Montreal on Monday, the following prices were realized: Apples, \$2 to \$5 a barrel; lemons, \$1.50 to \$2; Valencia oranges, \$2.50 a box; Messina oranges, \$1.30 a box. The local market is about the same. Choice apples are scarce. Prices are as follows: California oranges seedlings, \$1 per box; California Navel oranges, \$1.50 per box; Messina lemons, \$5 to \$5.50 per box; apples \$1 to \$6 per barrel as to quality and condition; California Easter Beurre pears \$1.50 per box; bananas, when obtainable, \$3 to 4.50 per bunch; Malaga grapes, \$11.50 per large leg, Spanish onions, \$1 to \$1.25 per crate of 50 lbs. Layer figs, 10 lb boxes, 15c per pound. Sweet potatoes, \$5.50 per barrel. White comb honey, 22c a lb, new dates, 7 to 7½c a lb.

FISH.—Manitoba round (not gutted) frozen fish are offering lower, as the season for handling this class of fish is getting advanced. Finnan haddies have been sold as low as \$1.50 per box, owing, it is said, to the consignment of lots to parties here who have sold at low prices. Oysters are back at the old prices again. The season of Lent makes a better demand for fish. We quote: British Columbia salmon, 14c lb; British Columbia halibut, 14c, Fresh mackerel, 12½c lb.; cod, 7c; haddock, 8, smelts, 12½c; sea herring, 35c dozen; Lake Superior herring, 25c doz; Lake Superior trout, 9c, whitefish, round (not gutted) 3½ to 4c; whitefish slit, 5c; pickerel, 2½ to 3c; pike 1 to 2c. perch, 2c; smoked whitefish, 8c lb;

smoked goldeyes, 30 to 35c dozen; red herring 20c box; finnan haddies, 6 to 6½ lb; Oysters, \$2 for standards and \$2.25 for selects, per gallon. Shell oysters, \$7.50 per barrel; cans, selects, 38c; cans, standards, 45c each; dry cod, 7c lb; boneless cod, 7 to 7½c; boneless fish 6c.

LUMBER.—The new list of lumber prices from the Winnipeg yards has been issued by the dealers. As stated a couple of weeks ago, the discount has been increased to 10 per cent instead of 5 per cent as formerly. This amounts to quite a reduction, averaging about \$1 per thousand feet on ordinary lumber and over \$2 reduction on high grades. The only changes in quotations, as compared with the list last fall are, \$1 advance on 6 inch spruce shiplap to \$19 and B.C. clear fir is quoted at \$10 per M instead of \$9 as in the old list.

WOOD FUEL. Cordwood is perhaps a trifle firmer, and as soon as the roads break up an advance in prices is expected. Some shippers are holding out for \$1 for tamarac wood on track here and they say they will not sell any lower. They are not selling any at this price. Tamarac is to be had at \$3.25 to \$3.60 per cord on track here as to quality, good quality is held about \$3.50 to \$3.60, pine about \$3.00 to \$3.25 per cord. Oak brings about the same as tamarac, and extra good oak goes a little better sometimes. Poplar ranges about \$2 to \$2.25 per cord on track here.

HARDWARE, PAINTS, OILS &c.—Eastern advices report weakness in prices of metals, cut prices being reported in several lines. British pig iron appears to have been driven almost completely out of Eastern Canada markets by Nova Scotia and United States pig iron. Bar iron, tin plates, Canada plates, tin, spelter, galvanized iron are all reported easier at Montreal, and lower prices being accepted there. It is also reported from Montreal that the recent agreement to sell cut nails at \$2.10 has already been broken, orders having been taken at \$2 nett, it is alleged. The tack agreement is also reported to have been upset, one firm having withdrawn, and prices are now said to be lower. Manila and sisal rope are ½c lower east. Turpentine holds firm at the recent advance. In oils petroleum is strong, another ½c advance being reported in Canadian refined petroleum. Quite an increase in activity at the Ontario oil centres is reported, in consequence of the recent advance in crude petroleum. Glass has taken a firmer turn.

GRAIN AND PRODUCE.

WHEAT.—This has been quite a strong week in wheat and prices have pulled up considerably in United States markets. On Monday the visible supply statement showed a decrease of 1,041,000 bushels in wheat stocks at principal points in the United States and Canada east of the Rocky Mountains, making the total supply at such points amount to 76,721,000 bushels, as compared with 75,569,000 bushels a year ago, 79,083,000 bushels two years ago and 41,556,000 bushels three years ago. Breadstuffs on ocean passage increased 1,440,000 bushels, due to larger exports from the United States. The United States government crop report issued on Monday afternoon makes the amount of wheat in farmer's hands only 75,000,000 bushels, or 39,000,000 bushels less than a year ago. These estimates of wheat in farmers' hands we must say are mere guesses, and very little confidence can be placed in them. At the same time the belief seems general that farmers in the United States are sold out more closely than usual. The report helped to "boom" the markets at any rate, and as a consequence prices made a big spurt on Tuesday. Free selling broke prices on Wednesday, but the bulls were on top again on Thursday and prices were nearly maintained on Friday,

though the market was irregular, with weak spots and liberal selling. Firm cables sustained the market.

Exports of whole t. flour included as wheat, from both countries of the United States, this week amount to 2,791,000 bushels, compared with 3,272,000 bushels last week, 3,253,000 bushels in the week a year ago, 2,885,000 two years ago and 3,318,000 in the week three years ago.

WHEAT LOCALLY.—The local market is very flat. In fact there is nothing doing. Those who control the limited available stocks are not offering and there are no buyers looking for stuff. We quote about 65c for No 1 hard, May delivery, Fort William, but this figure is nominal. The little wheat being marketed by farmers in Manitoba country markets, is taken by millers, at an average price of about 50c per bushel. Country millers have very little wheat on hand, the bulk of the stuff being held by the two large milling concerns. As a consequence the mills will not do much grinding the coming summer. As farmers will soon be starting their spring work, country markets will soon be closed up, and the few remaining buyers will be taken off about the first of April. According to a grain circular one load of Manitoba wheat sold in New York on the basis of 9½c over May option, f.o.b. afloat. Mail advices from London reports sales of parcels No. 1 hard Manitoba wheat at 23s 9d per quarter afloat. Freight engagements of wheat from Duluth to Kingston are reported at 3½c, which is a low rate, 4½c being the rate last spring. Stocks of wheat in store at Fort William on March 11 were 910,836 bushels and a year ago were 2,115,023. Receipts last week were 25,218 and shipments 3,859 bushels. Stocks at Fort William the corresponding week a year ago increased 41,259 bushels.

FLOUR.—A better demand is reported from the East for Manitoba flour. Prices here are steady and unchanged. Sales by millers are made at \$1.85 for patents and \$1.55 for strong barrels per sack of 98 lbs., delivered to city retail dealers, with a discount of 5c per sack for cash in 30 days. Sales of country mills are made at about 10c under quotations on track here. A sale of 1,000 sacks of Manitoba patent from stocks in store at Montreal was reported on Tuesday at an advance of 6d, for export to Copenhagen by way of New York.

MILLSTUFFS.—Prices are steady. The quotation is \$12 for bran and \$13 for shorts, per ton with small quantities held at \$1 per ton more. Manitoba bran is selling in Montreal at \$18 per ton, a further advance of \$1 there.

GROUND FEED.—Prices are firm. Prices range from \$18 to \$20 per ton, as to quantity and quality, for ground oats and barley feed.

OATMEAL.—Rolled oatmeal is unchanged at \$1.90 to \$2 per sack of 30 pounds, in broken lots to retail dealers, as to quality. Standard and granulated meal, \$2.15 in small lots, per sack of 100 lbs. for best grades. Oatmeal has been advancing in Ontario lately, in sympathy with the higher price for oats there. Rolled oats have sold there at \$1.90 to \$2 per bag.

OATS.—Are much the same, though the holders are talking firmer. The bulk of farmers loads are taken at 29c per bushel of 34 pounds, though 30c is paid for a few. There is some demand for choice clean samples for seed, and one car was reported sold at 32c. Car lots are held at 29c on track here for feed grade and up to 30 to 31c for milling o.a.s. A few cars have been going east, as the recent advances there will permit of all-rail shipments of Manitoba oats on a small margin. About 41 to 42c per bushel was quoted at Montreal this week, which shows a further advance there.

Barley.—There has been very little done in barley this week; 35c per bushels of 48 pounds has been paid for some farmers' loads of very poor feed quality and a good sample suitable for seed or malting would command 40c.

OIL CAKE.—Ground oil cake meal is quoted at \$21 per ton in sacks, with small lots at \$25.

BUTTER.—It is tiresome writing about butter, the market is in such a wretched condition. There is so little selling by jobbers and commission men, that it is almost useless to quote prices. There is so little business doing, that it is almost misleading to quote prices at all. No one can furnish any cheerful information about butter, and other markets are no better than here. Considerable Manitoba butter is held at Montreal or other Eastern points, where it appears to be as slow sale as here. One Winnipeg dealer is said to have over 40,000 pounds at Montreal, and nearly half as much here. Another local dealer who has a car at an eastern point was offered 6c for it, but this was held summer butter of inferior quality. The buying of new winter creamery by the Dominion government to export is not helping the markets any for other grades, as held dairy and oven held creamery are very flat East, at low prices, held dairy being quoted at 6 to 8c and only 10c for the best held dairy in eastern Canada markets. A lot of butter brought into Winnipeg by a country merchant was reported sold at 6c and that principally in trade. Another car lot was reported being made up here this week to be sent east. Butter has been sent in here from the country to put up at auction in single packages, and this helps to demoralize the market. There seems to be a good deal held in the country yet. One dealer reports having received ten letters in one day from country merchants, wanting to dispose of butter. Farmers are bringing in a good deal of butter and supplying city grocers, who pay about 15c in trade for good new butter. Some creamery bricks have sold at 17 to 18c. We quote dairy at 10 to 11c as to quality, for one or a few tubs.

EGGS.—The local egg market has been about as badly demoralized as butter. Owing to the mild weather and large receipts of fresh eggs in the early part of the winter, holders of limed eggs became alarmed and tried to push them off by cutting prices. The season has therefore been unprofitable one for packers of limed eggs. A good many were sent out to the coast, and the markets there were overstocked as a consequence. Prices have been very irregular. We have heard of lots of limed eggs selling here as low as 5c per dozen, but probably not of good quality. Receipts of fresh are on the increase and prices have dropped 2 to 1c this week, being offered at 16c yesterday, with a prospect of going lower, in fact, it is said 15c has been accepted. A few days earlier really good fresh stock sold as high as 20c per dozen. Limed are pretty well cleaned out here now. The "boom" in eggs in the United States has collapsed and eastern markets are lower and declining.

Cured Meats.—Prices have a firmer feeling, but there is not much doing. Smoked Meats are quoted: Hams, assorted sizes, 10 1/2c; breakfast bacon, bellies, 10 1/2; do backs 10c; picnic hams, 9c; short spiced rolls, 8c; long rolls, 8 1/2c; shoulders, 8 1/2c; smoked jowls, 5 1/2c. Dry salt meats are quoted: Long clear bacon, 7 1/2c; shoulders, 7 1/2c; backs, 8 1/2c; barrel pork, uess pork, \$11.00; fancy mess, \$11.50; rolled shoulders, \$15 per barrel, pork sundries; fresh sausage, 7c; bologna sausage, 7c; German sausage, 7c; ham, chicken and tongue sausage, 10c per package; pickled hocks, 2c; pickled tongues, 5c.

LARD.—We quote: Pure, \$1.75 to \$1.80 for 20 pound pails, and \$1.50 for 50-lb pails; compound at \$1.65 per 20-lb pail; compound in 3, and 5 pound tins, \$6 per case of 60 lb. Pure leaf lard in 3, 5 and 10 pound tins, quoted at \$5.50 per case of 60 pounds, tines 8 1/4 to 8 1/2 pound.

POULTRY.—Chickens are usually offered at 5 to 6c ducks at 8c, geese 8c and turkeys at 10. Demand dull.

DRESSED MEATS.—A few weeks ago mutton firmed up and there was some fear of a scarcity, but there is abundance now and prices are easy. A few loads were received, and as the demand is slow the city has all the stock wanted. It is said most dealers have enough mutton on hand to last them until about the first of June, and they will carry it in cold storage. Hogs were a little firmer on some days and up to 1 1/4c was paid for a few hogs from farmers' sleighs, but \$1.25 to \$1.35 per cwt. has been the usual price. A good many car lots of hogs have been shipped to Eastern Canada this winter, several going this week, while quite a quantity has gone to British Columbia. One firm reports shipping 13 car loads of dressed hogs East. Frozen beef is slow sale now, and 4c per lb seems to be about the best price for choice, and 3 to 3 1/2c for fair to good. Fresh killed unfrozen beef is going at 5 to 5 1/2c as to quality and perhaps 6c is obtained for a little of the choicest. We quote mutton at 7 to 8c and slow sale, a load of hogs and beef was being made up to ship to British Columbia this week.

HIDES.—The market is irregular. Dealers claim prices are too high for frozen hides, prices having been worked up beyond a fair basis by keen competition. There are very few hides coming in. We quote: Winnipeg inspection 3 1/2c for No. 1 cows, 2 1/2c for No. 2, and 1 1/2c for No. 3, and 4 1/2c for No. 1 heavy steers, and 3 1/2c for No. 2 Steers; branded hides grade No. 2, when not otherwise damaged to reduce them to No. 3. Green frozen hides as they run about 3 1/2c. We quote: Calf, 8 to 15 lb skins, 4 to 5c per lb. Kips 2 1/2 to 3c. Sheep and lamb skins, 35 to 45c each, as to size, etc. Tallow, 4 1/2 to 5c rendered and 2 to 3c rough.

SENECA ROOT.—Dull and nominal at 18 to 20c.

VEGETABLES.—Prices are as follows: Potatoes, 40c per bushel. Some have been bought as low as 35c. Onions, 3c per lb; cabbage, 3c per lb. for good to 2c for poor stock. celery, 25 to 50c per dozen as to quality, which varies widely. Carrots, 50c per bushel; beets, 30 to 40c per bushel; turnips; 20 to 25c per bushel; parsnips, 2c per lb.

HAY.—Loose hay is selling on the street at about \$3 to \$3.50 per ton. Baled is held at about \$1 to \$5 per ton on track, but sells at \$1 generally.

Live Stock. The main feature in live stock is the firmer market for hogs, and we quote prices 1/4c higher at 1c for good packing hogs, off cars here. In sheep nothing is doing and there is no demand, as there is enough mutton held in cold storage to supply the trade for a couple of months or more. Some sheep have been bought for future delivery at about 1c per lb. Cattle are unchanged and not many wanted. We quote 2 1/2 to 3c for butchers cattle here. Gordon & Ironsides are getting up another train load of Manitoba cattle to be shipped east for export about Wednesday. Sheep have been offered to ship here from Ontario, but there will undoubtedly be plenty of sheep here for all requirements, without bringing in any from the east.

At Toronto on March 12 hogs were firmer, cattle in better demand and sheep rather easier. Prices were: choice butchers' cattle, 3 1/2 to 3 3/4c, fairly good sold at 3c and common

2 1/4 to 2 3/4c. Export sheep, 3 to 3 1/2c; lamb, 1 to 5c for export and 2 to 3 1/2c for common. Hogs, long lean \$1.95 to \$1.40; heavy fat \$1 to \$1.25; stores and light \$3.75 to \$4; stags, \$2.50 to \$2.75.

Chicago Board of Trade Prices.

Wheat was irregular on Monday, opening with some show of strength, but the prevailing sentiment was bearish. May wheat ranged between 54 1/2 and 55 1/2c, closing about 1/2c lower than Saturday. Closing prices were:

	Mar.	May.	July.
Wheat	52 1/2	51 1/2	55 1/2
Corn	41 1/2-3/4	40 1/2-3/4	45 1/2
Oats	—	29 1/2-3/4	27 1/2
Mess Pork ..	—	11 17 1/2	—
Lard	—	6 77 1/2	—
Short Ribs ..	—	5 77 1/2	—

The United States government report of wheat in farmers' hands was the feature of the market on Tuesday, and it led to a sharp advance. May wheat opened sharply higher at about 56 1/2c, and ranged between 56 1/2 and 57 1/2c. The highest point reached was almost 3c above yesterdays close. Cash wheat was firm and 1 to 1 1/2c higher. Corn was also firm on the government report of stocks in farmers' hands. Closing prices were:

	Mar.	May.	July.
Wheat	51 1/2	56 1/2	57 1/2
Corn	45 1/2	46 1/2	46 1/2
Oats	—	29 1/2	28 1/2
Mess Pork ..	—	11 50	—
Lard	—	6 72 1/2	6 67 1/2
Short Ribs ..	—	5 72 1/2	5 55

On Wednesday the wheat bulls got a black eye. There was a show of strength, but though crop news was favorable to the bulls, the sentiment was against them. Under heavy selling prices declined heavily. May wheat declined to 56c, closing a shade better. Cash wheat was 1/2c lower. Oats were lower. Closing prices were:

	Mar.	May.	June	July.
Wheat ..	51 1/2	56 1/2	—	57
Corn	41 1/2-3/4	45 1/2-3/4	—	45 1/2
Oats	—	29 1/2	29 1/2	27 1/2
Mess Pork ..	—	11 72 1/2	—	11 55
Lard	—	6 80	—	6 92 1/2
Short Ribs ..	—	5 80	—	5 92 1/2

Oil Thursday wheat was strong. May wheat ranged between 56 and 57 1/2c, closing near the top. Closing prices were:

	Mar.	May.	June.	July.	Sept
Wheat ...	55 1/2	57 1/2	—	58 1/2	—
Corn	44 1/2	46 1/2	—	46 1/2	—
Oats	—	29 1/2	—	28 1/2	—
Mess Pork ..	—	12 12 1/2	—	12 25	—
Lard	—	6 90	—	7 02 1/2	—
Short Ribs ..	—	5 95	—	6 07 1/2	—

On Friday wheat was irregular. Cables were strong and the undertone was firm, but free selling produced weak spots. May wheat opened 57 1/2c and ranged between 57 1/2 and 58c. Cash wheat was 1/2c higher. Closing prices were:

	Mar.	May.	June	July
Wheat	55 1/2	57 1/2	—	58
Corn	44 1/2-3/4	46 1/2	—	46 1/2
Oats	—	29 1/2	—	28 1/2
Mess Pork ..	—	11 97 1/2	—	12 10
Lard	—	6 90	—	7 02 1/2
Short Ribs ..	—	5 95	—	6 07 1/2

On Saturday, March 16, May wheat opened at 56 1/2c and touched 57 1/2c during the session. Closing prices were:

	Mar.	May.	July.
Wheat	55	56 1/2-3/4	57
Corn	44 1/2	46 1/2	45
Oats	28 1/2	29 1/2	28 1/2
Mess Pork ..	—	12 00	—
Lard	—	—	—
Short Ribs ..	—	—	—

A week ago May wheat closed at 57c.

Minneapolis Wheat.

No. 1 Northern wheat closed on Saturday at 60c for March delivery, May at 59½c to 60c and July at 60½c. A week ago March wheat closed at 58½c, and May at 58½c.

New York Wheat.

On Saturday, March 16, May wheat closed at 62c and July at 62½c. A week ago wheat closed at 59½c for May and 60c for July.

Duluth Wheat Market.

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

Monday—March, 60½; May, 61; July, 61.
 Tuesday—March, 61½; May, 62; July, 62½.
 Wednesday—March, 61; May, 61½; July, 62½.
 Thursday—March, 62; May, 62½; July, 63½.
 Friday—March, 62; May, 62½; July, 63½.
 Saturday—March, 61½; May, 62½; July, 63½.

A week ago prices closed at 59½c for March and 60½c for May. A year ago May wheat closed at 60½c, and two years ago at 63½c. No. 1 hard is quoted at 1c over No. 1 northern. No. 2 northern 3c lower than No. 1 northern for cash wheat.

Toronto Grain and Produce Market.

Wheat.—is firmer; holders outside are all firm and are generally asking 60c for red and white. Cars of red and white sold on the Northern to-day at 60c, and the same was freely bid for more, with 61c asked. Manitoba wheat is firm. Cars of No. 1 hard sold grinding in transit Sarnia to-day at 82c. There was none offering on spot North Bay but sellers were asking 82c for cars to arrive there.

Flour.—The stocks are light but that fact does not improve prices and the demand is slow. Cars of straight roller sold to-day at \$2.70 and patents at \$2.80 on the Grand Trunk railway west.

Millfeed.—Is in active demand but the supply is as light as ever. The local mills are getting \$18. for bran on the cars here. Shorts sold. Toronto freights, at \$18.

Barley.—Firm at 52c to 53c for No. 1 and 46c to 47c for No. 2 outside. Cars of feed are quoted at 44c to 45c outside.

Oats.—Firm; cars of white sold west to-day at 34½ and 35c.

Oatmeal.—Some dealers here are asking more money for cars at \$1.

Butter.—Large rolls are steady at 13c to 15c; dairy tubs are slow at 13c to 14c for the best and 7c for low grade. Creamery is unchanged at 22c for rolls and 20 to 21c for fresh-made tubs.

Eggs.—The receipts of new laid are more liberal and the market is easier at 15 to 16. Lined quoted at 15c.

Dressed Hogs.—There is a good demand from local packers and the market is firm at \$5.75 to \$5.90 for cars of choice.

Hides.—Owing to the firmness in Chicago and other western centres prices of green hides have been advanced 4c per lb. No. 1 green are now quoted at 4½c, and heavy steer hides of 60 lbs and over at 5c. Cured are rather firmer, but no buyers. No. 1 quoted at 5 to 5½c. Calf and sheepskins are unchanged. No. 1 calf, green, are quoted at 6c, and No. 2 at 4c; offerings very quiet. Sheepskins unchanged 65c.

Wool.—Stocks of fleeco wool are practically exhausted. Prices are unchanged. Quotations are:—Fleece, combing, 19 to 20c, and clothing 21 to 23c; supers 20 to 21c; extra supers, 21 to 22c; pickings 9 to 10c.—Toronto, March 12.

For the year 1891 the net earnings of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company were \$31,451, as against \$11,575 for 1890.

Live Stock Markets.

The cables on March 11 state that there was no change in the Liverpool and London live stock market prices being unchanged all round.

	Liverpool.	London.
Finest steers	11c	12c
Good to Choice	10½	11½c
Poor to medium	9c	10½c
Inferior and bulls	7 to 8½c	8½ to 9½
Best sheep	13	13
Secondary	11 to 12	11 to 12
Merinoes	10½ to 11½	9 to 11½
Inferior and rams	8 to 9½	8 to 9½

The Montreal Gazette of March 12 says: "There has been considerable business done in live stock during the past few days. The demand for stall fed cattle through the country from shippers has been good, and some large lines have been bought up at prices ranging from 4c to 4½c per lb., which figures, it is stated, show an advance of ½c per lb. over what was paid this time last year, and this is, no doubt, due to the fact that the supply of choice stock in the country is short fully 25 per cent. as compared with previous years. The bulk of the purchases that have been made are for May and June shipment. There was also some business done on spot yesterday for export account, which is the first since the close of navigation. Gordon & Ironsides, bought forty head of choice steers at 4c to 4½c per lb. The above firm are making their first shipment of 800 head of Manitoba cattle on the steamship Nutimidian, which sails from Halifax this week.

At the Montreal stock yards at Point St. Charles on March 11, the demand was slow and business in consequence was quiet, only a few small lots changing hands at prices ranging from 2½ to 3½c per lb live weight. The supply of sheep and lambs was small, for which there was a good inquiry, and the market was cleaned up at 3½ to 4c per lb live weight. The receipts of hogs are commencing to increase, there being about 500 offered to-day. The demand was good, consequently prices were fairly well maintained, sales being made at 4½c per lb live weight.

British Grain Trade.

The Mark Lane Express, of March 4, in its weekly review of the British grain trade says: English wheats have advanced 5d. Foreign wheats have been firm, Oregon fetching 25s and California 23c. Barley and oats are held for an advance. To-day values have been supported. American flours generally have advanced 3d and oats 6d.

Winnipeg Wheat Inspection.

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

Grade.	Feb. 9	Feb. 16	Feb. 23	Mar. 2	Mar. 11
Extra Manitoba hard	0	0	1	1	2
No. 1 hard	43	26	41	39	48
No. 2 hard	0	0	0	2	0
No. 1 Northern	1	2	1	1	4
No. 2 Northern	0	0	0	0	0
No. 1 white sufe	0	0	0	0	1
No. 2 white sufe	0	0	0	0	0
No. 1 Spring	0	0	0	0	0
No. 1 rejected	0	4	6	5	3
No. 2 Rejected	0	2	2	4	5
No Grade	1	0	0	0	0
Total	51	34	54	52	61
Same week last year.	55	35	42	59	56

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

Winnipeg Clearing House.

Clearings for the week ending March 11 were \$653,379, balances, \$120,497. For the previous week clearings were \$762,026. For the corresponding week of last year clearings were \$832,892.

Following are the returns of other Canadian clearing houses for the weeks ended on the dates given:

	Clearings.	
	Mar. 7.	Feb. 28.
Montreal	\$10,035,592	\$8,818,378
Toronto	5,550,139	4,661,130
Halifax	1,142,521	963,539
Winnipeg	762,026	659,396
Hamilton	721,915	474,136
Total	\$18,215,163	\$15,579,579

Minnesota's Wheat Crop

The Minneapolis Market Record gives the following statistical statement of the wheat crop of the state of Minnesota for a series of years:

Year.	Acres sown.	Bushels produced.	Yield per acre.
1868	858,316	15,382,022	17.91
1869	937,029	16,587,621	17.70
1870	1,019,741	15,372,911	15.07
1871	1,098,578	13,467,300	12.28
1872	1,267,309	22,059,275	17.40
1873	1,518,713	26,402,485	17.41
1874	1,681,830	23,938,172	16.03
1875	1,764,109	30,079,309	17.05
1876	1,939,172	17,961,632	9.61
1877	1,829,167	30,693,969	16.79
1878	2,365,775	29,481,503	12.50
1879	2,762,521	31,218,631	11.30
1880	2,931,812	39,309,068	13.30
1881	2,881,160	32,917,370	11.42
1882	2,329,969	32,176,258	13.81
1883	2,507,209	36,012,672	14.37
1884	3,109,874	50,475,017	16.23
1885	3,013,683	41,253,888	13.55
1886	3,319,701	52,492,523	15.80
1887	3,053,987	39,070,159	12.70
1888	2,921,437	46,660,583	15.90
1889	2,736,519	42,331,570	15.30
1890	3,078,787	40,298,132	13.00
1891	2,939,318	53,207,022	18.10
1892	3,212,239	38,382,474	11.80
1893	2,858,813	30,588,441	10.70

Produce for British Columbia.

The Parsons Produce Co., Winnipeg, has shipped this winter to British Columbia the following quantities of produce: Poultry, 75,000 pounds, dressed hogs, 93,000 pounds; dressed beef, 62,000 pounds; dairy butter, 36,000 pounds. This was all Manitoba produce with the exception of the poultry, part of which was procured in Ontario. The shipments of this one firm will help to show the value of the British Columbia markets to Manitoba. Other shippers are constantly sending stuff to British Columbia, including butter, cheese, eggs, dressed and cured meats, flour, grains, etc.

The Petrolia Topic says: "Again it is our pleasant duty to record a further advance in the price of crude. The demand has been very steady and firm for several months, with a constantly rising price. Last week Petrolia crude was worth \$1.21, but the price soon rose, and during this week a good deal of oil has been sold at \$1.25, and Oil Springs at \$1.27. Preparations for commencing drilling are being made and everybody is looking forward to a very busy summer, which is badly needed to offset the long depression we have suffered from. A good deal of drilling is going on now."

The Wheat Movement.

The following statement shows the weekly receipts of Manitoba wheat at and shipments from Fort William and Port Arthur (our Lake Superior ports) for this crop to date, given in bushels.

Week.	Receipts.	Shipments.
Sept. 1	212,688	174,751
" 8	121,099	277,377
" 15	224,285	168,481
" 22	393,158	153,984
" 29	727,817	752,197
Oct. 6	808,767	448,843
" 13	1,018,702	1,007,383
" 20	991,574	851,773
" 27	893,850	890,672
Nov. 3	810,094	894,030
" 10	717,696	1,021,222
" 17	538,206	636,556
" 24	757,614	1,111,180
Dec. 1	392,190	717,699
" 8	145,338	70,000
" 15	73,030	1,323
" 22	89,337	1,114
" 29	82,038	none
Jan. 5	38,746	none
" 12	34,791	1,194
" 19	61,868	3,540
" 26	30,778	18,267
Feb. 2	5,681	13,541
" 9	21,357	8,901
" 16	16,015	13,620
" 23	none	none
Mar. 4	"	"
" 11	25,248	3,859

Total Bushels 9,231,977 9,211,507

Stocks on hand at the lake ports on March 11 were 910,836 bushels as compared with 2,115,023 bushels a year ago. Shipments from lake ports previous to December 8 were by water, since that date by rail East.

Interesting Legal Decisions

MARTIN VS. NORTHERN PACIFIC EXPRESS COMPANY.—This action was brought to recover a sum of \$2,000 sent by plaintiffs to their agent, Story, at Wawanesa in September last, which package mysteriously disappeared and no trace could be found of it. Two strangers were seen in the neighborhood and it is supposed they carried it off. The express company rely on the defence that their delivery book in which receipts were taken for all packages delivered, contains a receipt for the identical package in question in the handwriting of Story, but the plaintiffs assert that the custom was that the receipt book was signed before actual delivery took place, and that this was done in the present instance. It appears that the money was sent from Winnipeg on a Friday and arrived at Wawanesa on the next day, Saturday. That morning Story, plaintiff's agent, called at the express office to pay some charges due and to get the money; he paid the charges but went away without taking the package, which he asserts he forgot to take. He did not trouble about it till later as he thought it was safe in the agents hands, but when he went to get it the agent told him the package had been put out on the counter when the receipt was given and he had not seen it since. The question was who was to bear the loss. The express company claimed they were not liable, as they had the receipts signed by the plaintiff's agent but plaintiffs relied upon the custom that receipts were signed before delivery and still held defendants liable. In delivering judgment His Lordship stated that he saw no reason why he should not give full credit to the evidence of both Story and Cornell, the station agent at Wawanesa, the two witnesses who were immediately concerned with the missing package. He found that Story, notwithstanding that he had signed a receipt for the money did not in fact receive

it, and had never received it. He must hold that the defendants did not deliver the money to Story. There was not a physical transfer or a delivery from hand to hand, and if Story's attention was not drawn to the fact that the package had been placed on the table before him, as the evidence showed, and he did not know it was there, it could not be said that it had been placed in his possession or power. No importance should be attached to the fact that defendants had Story's receipt for the money. A receipt of this kind may always be contradicted or explained. Verdict entered for the plaintiff's for \$2,045, being amount claimed, and interest.

AN application was made to the chief justice in the case of Edmunds vs. O'Brien, for an order to release the defendant, who is now confined in the Brandon jail, from custody. O'Brien, who is an Englishman, purchased from the plaintiff a livery stable in Brandon, Man., for \$10,000, time being given for the payment of the amount. Before the payments fell due the plaintiff alleges that O'Brien was talking about leaving for the old country as soon as certain funds of his arrived. On the strength of these statements Edmunds had a capias issued against him, and under it O'Brien was placed in the Brandon jail, the ground for having him so detained being that he intended, as he had said in certain places, running away, leaving the debt for the stable deal unpaid. The application for release was supported by affidavits which set up that at the time the statements, which are not denied, as to "skipping out," were made the prisoner was under the influence of liquor, and it is denied that he ever had, or has now, any intention of defrauding his creditors. On the other hand, it is contended that O'Brien is unable to liquidate his lawful debts, and that if he is released he will carry out his threat and leave the country without paying them. Then, to meet this, and further strengthen his previous statement of no intent to run away, it is shown that O'Brien a short time ago purchased a dwelling in which to reside. After considering all the facts of the case his lordship comes to the conclusion that they are not such as would warrant him in making the order asked for, and as a result O'Brien must continue in close custody.

LIFE INSURANCE NOT TRANSFERABLE BY WILL.—Chief Justice Armour has just rendered a decision in re Grant, which will be of interest to the fathers of families and those who have to do with life insurance. It construes the amendments to the act securing to wives and children benefit of life insurance by virtue of which a man may declare by an instrument in writing any insurance policy to be for the benefit of his wife and children, and such policy shall be deemed a trust and shall not be under the control of the husband or creditors. The act and amendment provide that he may by instrument in writing alter and vary the apportionment as between wife and children. Chief Justice Armour's decision makes a distinction between the words "instrument in writing" and "will" in the amendments to Sec. 6 of R.S.O. 136, and holds in effect that a man who has duly declared a life insurance policy to be for the benefit of his wife alone cannot by his will deprive the wife of this benefit and transfer it to his children. He can, however, do so during his life by an instrument in writing attached to or endorsed or identifying the policy by its number, transfer the benefit from the wife alone to the children alone or vice versa, or vary the apportionment the wife and children are to receive. In the present case the wife, who is the widow of George R. Grant, a commercial traveller, did not claim the whole of the insurance money, but a share in it along with the children. The Chief Justice, however, went further and decided that she was entitled to the whole of

the money, as her husband could not by will substitute the children for his wife as beneficiaries after having first declared the policy to be for the wife's sole benefit.

Grain and Milling Matters.

The mill committee at Elkhorn, Man., intend to form a joint stock company and erect a mill next summer. Mr. Rowland, of Oak Lake, will undertake the management.

About 200,000 bushels of grain were marketed at Strathclair, Man., during the past season and there are over 20,000 bushels still in farmers' hands.

The Hudson's Bay company will replace their flour mill at Prince Albert, burned recently.

The Lake of the Woods milling company received a despatch from Boston recently, stating that the steamship Venetian, which sailed from the above port on Saturday, had sunk and part of her cargo was 2,000 sacks of flour supplied by the above firm, which were a total loss. The despatch duplicated the order for 2,000 sacks to be shipped on another steamer.

All the recent reports from the Argentine tend to confirm the estimates of only about 40,000,000 bush. for export from the new crop now harvested. So far fifty to sixty steamers with a carrying capacity of 5,600,000 bush. to 6,400,000 bush. have been chartered to load during February and March.

The United States department of agriculture estimates the amount of wheat in farmers hands at 75,000,000 bushels or 16.3 per cent. of the last crop, and is 39,000,000 bushels less than last March. The explanation for this in a large measure is to be found in the fact that large quantities have been fed to hogs and other stock. Returns from North and South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas indicate unprecedented exhaustion of last year's crops, correspondents in many counties reporting not enough on hand for spring seed and necessary food supply.

The latest reports from South Australia are that the outturn of the wheat crop is proving very poor, the result being 4½ bush. per acre the total crop 7,500,000 bushels against 12,000,000 bush. last year. In Victoria the crop is put at 12½ million bush. against 14 millions last year. The available surplus in all Australia for export will therefore be reduced to about 5,000,000 bush. for Europe, against 10,000,000 bush. last year.

The stocks of flour in Montreal, says the Trade Bulletin are lower than ever before known in the history of the trade, being reduced to 20,607 bbls. against 62,518 bbls. at the corresponding time last year, which shows a decrease of about 42,000 bbls. Out of the present stock of flour held, there is probably not more than 12,000 or 14,000 bbls. sound, showing to what unusually low proportions supplies in store here have dwindled. So that if prices once took a decisive turn, and induced a general demand, there would not be sufficient stocks in public warehouses to last more than a few days or a week at the most.

One of the Winnipeg daily papers has been asserting in its market reports for several week's back that there was not wheat enough left in Manitoba for seed for the farmers. Still the farmers have been selling a little wheat all the time at some points, and will probably have enough for seed when the time comes, though every year there are some farmers who sell themselves short of seed requirements.

For the year the working of the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake and Saskatchewan Railway Company resulted in a profit of \$872, as against a loss of \$14,753 for 1893.

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Manitoba Spring Trade, 1895.

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We are offering Substantial Reductions in Prices, and liberal terms as an inducement to dealers to send in their orders for any part of our stock, which we are anxious to close out as soon as possible. We will be glad to quote prices and discounts on application. To those who have already been supplied with stock lists we would suggest an EARLY selection, as orders are coming in fast and in a short time many lines will be cleared out.

We still have a Large Assortment of Dry Paints, Mixed Paints, Varnishes, Japans, Paint Brushes, Varnish Brushes, Horse Brushes, Household Brushes, etc. Glass, Tinware, Japannedware, etc., also Artists' Material.

(NOTE.—The agency of Clare Bros and Company, of Preston, Ont., for Stoves, Furnaces, Holloware, etc., will be continued by Mr. Horace Wilson at the above address until further notice.)

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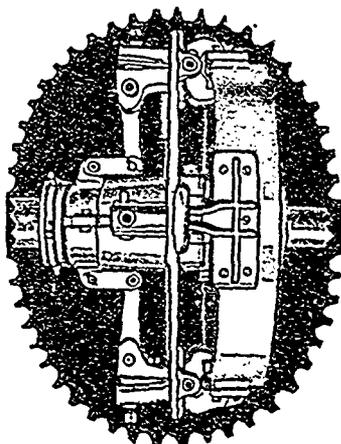
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WINNIPEG, Oct. 5th, 1893.
Messrs. Ogilvie Milling Co.,

GENTLEMEN:—I have great pleasure in giving you my opinion of the two grades of flour, Patent and Bakers, you are now manufacturing. It excels all other flours that I have ever used, and makes more bread per barrel, and gives me splendid satisfaction in my business, and I am very glad to express my opinion after a number of years experience in flour. Yours is certainly the best I have ever used. H. LISTER, Baker.

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BRITISH COLUMBIA BUSINESS REVIEW

Vancouver, March 12, 1895.

The trade of a new country is keenly sensitive to outside influences, there are certain indications which suggest a revival in those industries on which we depend for our commercial existence; it is said that British Columbia is yearly increasing in favor with English financiers; the beautiful summer weather has made us hopeful; the winter's resolutions formed during the rainy season are already put to the test; outside work has commenced in earnest; there are very few idle men and money is considerably easier. At the present time there are a great many better class dwellings and business blocks going up in Vancouver indicative of the confidence in the future of the Terminal city. Agents say that there is more movement in real estate than for two years past; the records of the sales in the local press prove this statement to be correct. The property purchased, however, is not for speculation, but chiefly homes and business property. There is quite a revival in the lumber trade, the Hastings mill, Vancouver, and the Brunette mills, Westminster, having all the orders they can conveniently attend. In mining circles there is great activity. Most sensational stories are coming in from Trail Creek, B. C., where rich placer mines have been discovered; in a months time the population is said to have increased from 100 to 3,000; most of the population are enduring considerable hardship, sleeping under bushes and in the open, few tents being available. The greatest interest here, however, is centred in the Horsefly and Cariboo mines in Golden Cariboo; practical miners are being employed at \$3.50 a day and board, and as several hundred men are to be engaged it will be a good thing for the province. It is predicted that should the expectations of the stock holders of these mines be only partially realized, times will be good in British Columbia, for great things have been promised and the capitalists of Europe and America are watching the results with interest. British Columbia's business machine is straining and grinding in every part, it wants lubricating very badly; if we can show the moneyed men of the world that under high pressure we can wash untold wealth out of the ground, they may condescend to supply the lubricant; but it is plain that no other branch of industry will tempt them at present. Everything depends on our mines; should they turn out well confidence will be stimulated, every other industry will revive and swell the tide of prosperity which will sweep over the province. It is difficult to convey the proper impression of the state of trade in British Columbia to outsiders; should a detailed and accurate account be given, it would more than likely convey an entirely different impression to the reader than that which was intended, or that was warranted by the state of business. If the report was wholly unfavorable, through some particularly severe spasm of hard times, which shocks every branch of trade and causes gloomy forebodings and which are very often promptly conveyed to correspondents by wholesale firms, then manufacturers and shippers to the south and east might be

Every Mackintosh

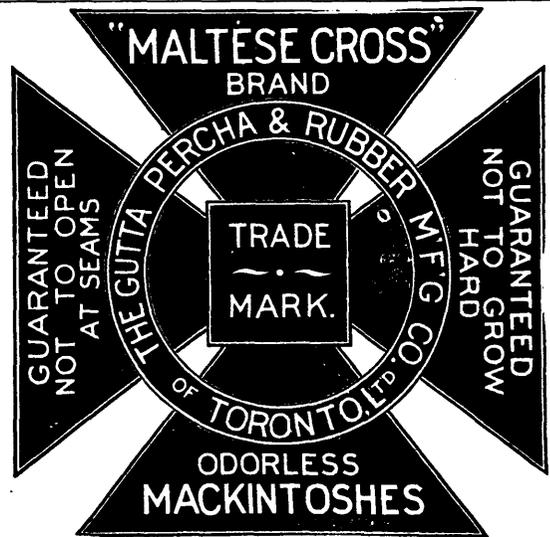
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unnecessarily alarmed while if a particularly favorable account were given and numerous business failures and the the stringent money situation slurred over, a different and just as injurious impression might be conveyed. Brief reviews have been general in their nature and the idea has been to suggest the situation in most general terms and leave the intelligent reader to do the rest. This being the only safe course to pursue.

British Columbia Markets.

Vancouver, March 9, 1895.

Butter.—Manitoba dairy butter, 14 to 16c; Manitoba creamery, 22 to 25c; Eastern creamery, 23c to 25; Canadian cheese, 13; Manitoba cheese 13.

Cured Meats.—Hams 12c; breakfast bacon, 12c; backs, 10½c; long clear, 8½c; short rolls, 10c; smoked sides, 10c. Lard is held at the following figures: tins 11½c per pound; in pails and tubs, 11c; mess pork, \$17; short cut, \$18.00.

Fish.—Prices are: Flounders, 3c; smelt, 6c; sea bass, 4; black cod, 5c; rock cod, 4c; red cod, 4c; tommy cod, 4c; herring, 4c; halibut, 5c; whiting, 6c; soles, 6c; crabs, 60c doz.; smoked salmon, 12c; steel head salmon, 3c; spring salmon, 10c; pike, 10c; pickerel, 12c; smoked halibut, 10c; blasters, 10c; kippered cod, 9c; sturgeon, 4c; kippered herring, 10c; finnan haddie, 8½c; Manitoba whitefish, 12c.

Vegetables.—Potatoes, \$14 to \$16 per ton; Ashcroft potatoes, \$18 to \$20; American burbanks, \$16; onions silver skins, 1½ to 2c; cabbage, 2c; carrots, turnips and beets, ¼ to 1c a lb.

Eggs.—Fresh local, 18 to 20c; eastern 10 to 15c.

Fruits.—Lemons, California, \$3.75 to \$4.00 native apples, \$1.00; California oranges, naval, \$3.25 to \$3.75; seedlings, 2.25 to \$2.50; California apples, \$1.50

Nuts.—Almonds, 16c; filberts, 14c; peanuts, 10c; Brazil, 13c; walnuts, 15c.

Flour.—The Ogilvie Milling Co. and Keewatin Milling Co. quote in car load lots at Victoria and Vancouver: Patent, per bbl., \$4.40; strong bakers, \$4.20; Oregon, \$3.75; Oak Lake patent, \$4.15; strong bakers, \$4.00.

Meal.—Oatmeal—National mills, Victoria, at Victoria, 90-lb sacks, \$3.15. Cornmeal, per 98-lb, sacks, \$2.15; Manitoba 80-lb sacks, \$2.90.

Grain.—Manitoba oats, per ton, \$31.65; Edmonton district oats, \$27.65; local oats \$25; Washington State wheat, \$20.00 do, oats \$29.00, f.o.b. Vancouver, duty paid.

Ground Feed.—Manitoba chop feed, \$28 per ton; chop barley, \$28; United States, chop, \$21 ton; ground wheat, \$20.00 ton;

ground barley, \$20.00 ton; shorts, \$19 ton; bran \$17 ton; oil cake meal, \$39 ton; F.O.B Vancouver, duty paid.

Dressed Meats.—Beef, 8c; mutton, 8½c; pork, 6½ to 8c; veal, 8 to 10c.

Live Stock.—Calves, 6 to 7c; steers, 3½ to 4c; sheep, 3½ to 4c; hogs, 5½ to 6c.

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

Syrups—30 gallon barrels, 2½c per pound; 10 gallon kegs, 2½c; 5 gallon kegs, \$2 each; 1 gallon tins, \$4.25 per case of 10; ½ gallon tins, \$5.75 per case of 20.

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

Financial and Insurance Notes.

The London Life Insurance Company has opened an office in Winnipeg.

The Band of British North America has declared a dividend of 4½ per cent for the year, as compared with 7½ per cent last year.

The Quebec loan sold by the provincial government in France in September last at 77 has since been disposed of in the English market by the French bankers at 85½, which means a profit for them of \$8.50 on each bond, or a total profit of \$467,500. Not a bad transaction this for the French bankers.

Gerald F. Brophy, manager at Winnipeg, of the Equitable Life Assurance Society, has been appointed to the important agency department of Oregon, Idaho and British Columbia, with headquarters at Portland, Oregon. Mr. Brophy will leave in a few weeks for his new home. C. E. White, cashier here, will take charge of the Winnipeg agency temporarily on Mr. Brophy's departure.

Hon. Mr. Cameron has introduced a bill in the Manitoba legislature to amend the life insurance act. He explained that the object was to make the policies of all persons resident in Manitoba payable in this province, so that the companies would be suable here, whether the policies are payable here or not.

Probably—No other railway in the Northwest has been more prompt to adopt every invention which promised to add to the convenience and comfort of its patrons, than The North-Western Line. A journey over this route, especially between Minneapolis, St. Paul and Chicago, has become a pleasure, and is entirely free from the annoyances and discomforts so long inseparably connected with journeys by rail.—The Argus, Fargo, N.D.

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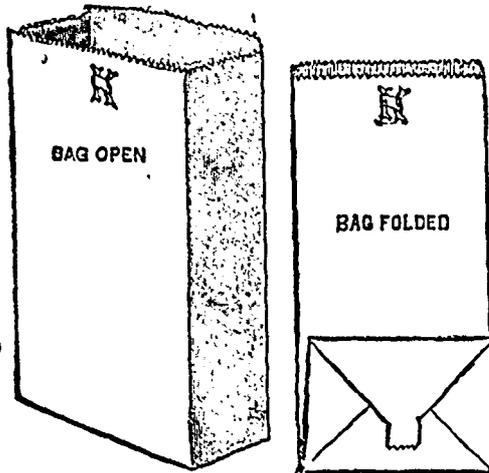
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Unite the wise traveler to
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Montreal Grain and Produce Markets.

Flour.—There is no change in prices here either as regards straight rollers or strong bakers. We hear of a sale of 1,000 bbls of straight rollers made at a low f.o.b. price at the mill West of Toronto for lower Ports account, said to be equal to \$2.80 here. A lot of straight roller bags sold at \$1.42½ and another lot at \$1.40. Patent spring, \$3.65 to \$3.90; Winter Patent, \$3.15 to \$3.50; Straight roller, \$2.85 to \$3.00; Extra, \$2.60 to \$2.70; Superfine, \$2.35 to \$2.40; City Strong Bakers \$3.65 to \$3.75; Manitoba Bakers, \$3.40 to \$3.75; Ontario bags—extra, \$1.30 to \$1.35; Straight Rollers, bags, \$1.45 to \$1.50.

Oatmeal.—The market remains firm at the advance quoted last week; car lots of rolled being quoted at \$1.85 and \$1.90 on track. Higher prices are looked for, as the advance in oatmeal has not followed to the full extent of the advance in oats. Rolled and granulated \$1.00 to \$1.05; standard \$3.90 to \$3.95. In bags, granulated and rolled are quoted at \$1.95 to \$2.00, and standard \$1.85 to \$1.95. Pot barley \$3.75 in bbls. and \$1.75 in bags, and split peas \$3.50 to \$3.60.

Bran.—There is very little bran to be had, and it could not be laid down here from Ontario at under \$18.50, and we quote \$18.50 to \$19 per ton. Shorts are firm at \$18 to \$19.

Oats.—There is a fair demand for oats on local account with sales of No. 2 white at 10½ to 40½ in store.

Barley.—The market is steady for malting barley at 57c to 60c for No. 1 and at 50c for feed barley. Sales have been made in the West for the United States at 51 to 52c.

Seeds.—A fair business is in progress, and we quote Canadian timothy steady at \$3.25 to \$3.50 per bushel. Red clover steady at 10½ to 12c. Alsika 11c to 12c. and mammoth clover 11½ to 12½c.

Pork, Lard, etc.—In lard there is little or no change, last sales of car lots being reported at \$1.32½ for compound in pails up to \$1.40 for smaller lots. The English trade continues to take a fair quantity of hams and bacon. Canada short cut pork, per bbl \$14.50 to \$15.50; Extra plate beef per bbl. \$10.50 to \$11; Hams, per lb. 9 to 10c., Lard pure in pails, per lb. 8½ to 9c; Lard compound, in pails, per lb. 6½ to 7c; Bacon, per lb. 10 to 11c; Shoulders, per lb. 8 to 8½c.

Dressed Hogs.—Light butchers' hogs have

sold \$5.70 to \$5.75 in car lots. Receipts during the past week were 1,097 head, against 1,653 head last week.

Butter.—There is a good local demand for fro-h winter made creamery, sales of which have been made at 21c to 21½c as to quality. Other kinds of creamery have sold all the way from 11c up to 19c as to quality. There is a good deal of stale creamery to work off yet. Eastern Townships dairy has sold at 11c up to 17c as to quality, and Western dairy is difficult to sell by the straight lot, although selected tubs are selling at 11c. Sales of poor western are reported at 7c to 9c and good to fine 10c to 12c.

Cheese.—The market is quiet and steady, with a few lots selling all the time at 9c to 9½c for und. rgrades, and at 9½c to 9¾c for fine to finest. A lot of November colored sold at about 9c. and a lot of finest September brought 9¾c.

Eggs.—Since our last there has been a firm market, with Montreal limed selling up to 21c, and now laid up to 30c; but an easier feeling has set in, and 18c is about the top price for limed and 22c for new laid, although some are offering to sell at 17c for limed and 20c for fresh.

Apples.—There is a little better feeling in apples this week, but the trade is purely local, and sales have been made at \$3 to \$1.50 per barrel, while some fancy stocks have sold as high as \$5.00 per barrel. Dried Apples—Stocks are very light, and under a fair demand sales have been made at 5c to 5½c per lb. Evaporated Apples. Evaporated apples are only in moderate demand at 6½c to 7c per lb.

Hides.—Prices keep firm, last sales to tanners being reported at 6c to 6½c for No. 1 light. A large proportion of the receipts are grubby, upon which butchers have to accept 1c per lb. less. For calfskins dealers pay 5c. We quote prices here as follows: Light hides, 5c for No. 1, 4c for No. 2, and 3c for No. 3; to tanners 6c for No. 1. Heavy hides are quoted at 5½ to 6½c; calfskins 5c, lambskins 6c.—Trade Bulletin, March, 8.

Cattle Exports via the States.

An Ottawa telegram says: "The cattle shippers of Montreal have for two years urged the Ottawa government to negotiate with Washington for a relaxation of the prohibition of importation of Canadian cattle, so as to permit cattle to go to Europe via United States ports. The Canadian railway companies, particularly the Grand Trunk, have secured this concession from Washington without the intervention of Ottawa authorities so as to permit shipment via Portland."

Comparative Flour Prices.

The comparative average price of patent and bakers' flour, at Minneapolis, for the past 13 years, shows the following:

Year.	Average price.	
	Patents.	Bakers'.
1882.....	\$7.95	\$6.12½
1883.....	6.75	5.00
1884.....	5.35	3.90
1885.....	4.91	3.51
1886.....	4.37	3.29
1887.....	4.26	3.35
1888.....	4.87	3.50
1889.....	5.27	3.39½
1890.....	4.96	3.73
1891.....	5.05	4.00
1892.....	4.31½	3.27
1893.....	3.75½	2.32
1894.....	3.60	2.05

The above figures show a decline from an average price of \$7.95 for patents, in 1882, to \$3.60 in 1891 and in bakers' from \$6.12½, in 1882, to \$2.05 in 1891. This decline was checked in the summer of 1883 by crop damage. In 1887 the average price for patents was \$1.26 and for bakers' 3.35, showing a decline of some \$3.00 a barrel. These low prices continued into the summer of 1888, when, just before harvest, there occurred great crop damage and prices took a sharp advance for the remainder of the year, bringing the average price of patents for the year up to \$1.87 and for bakers' \$3.50. These relatively higher averages continued for three years after 1888, patents advancing most. In 1891 came the big crop, and prices of flour again began the descent, which continued to the close of 1891. The first half of 1891 gave such high prices that the decline, when the big crop became apparent, was not rapid enough to place that year among the low ones.

The relative prices of bakers' and patents during this period of 13 years varied widely. In 1882 the average difference was \$1.72½; in 1884 it was \$1.45; in 1886 \$1.08; in 1887 91c; in 1888 \$1.37; in 1889 \$1.57½; in 1890 \$1.23; in 1891 90c; in 1892 \$1.01½; in 1893 \$1.43½, in 1894 \$1.55. An advance in one is not always accompanied by an advance in the other.—Minneapolis Market Record.

FARM FOR SALE.

Farm in the Winnipeg district for sale on very easy terms, or will exchange for live stock or city or suburban property; also a farm to rent. Apply to D. W. Buchanan, Commercial Office, Winnipeg.

Communications.

A Gopher Remedy.

A correspondent sends the following: "As the gopher plague seems to be spreading to all parts of the country it is about time to call a halt, and to take active measures against this small pest. Here is a remedy which I have never known to fail—it is 'the dead medicine.'

Take a small tin can—an empty condensed milk can is about the right thing—and fill it about half full of warm grease, then add two tablespoonfuls of white sugar and stir until it is dissolved, then add, while the grease is still warm, one half bottle (50 grains by weight) of pure strychnine and keep stirring until the grease is cold and has congealed. The cooling process may be hastened by placing the can on ice or partly immersed in cold water.

The grease should be about one-third tallow and two-thirds lard—this is about the right proportion.

Now take the can of prepared grease and place it on the prairie where gophers are plentiful and it won't be long till the gophers, who are very fond of grease and sugar, come around and help themselves. As soon as they begin to feel sick they will crowd to the nearest hole and die. The destruction is simply terrible.

The cans should be occasionally moved around on to new ground. Ten cans should be enough for a quarter section of land.

Many people will object to using strychnine in this wholesale manner thinking that it would be dangerous to stock, etc. Well, stock can easily be kept away from wheat fields, but there is no danger, however, to stock. Cats and dogs should be locked up during the poisoning season.

The best time to poison gophers is when they first come out in the spring; they can then literally be exterminated.

In mixing the medicine one-half the quantity of strychnine given above may be used, but it is not so deadly."

Freight Service on Deloraine Branch.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE COMMERCIAL:

SIR:—The present freight train service on the Deloraine branch is certainly not calculated to be in the interest of the merchants, settlers and public generally or if so intended falls very far short of the mark.

There are no regular freight trains. Sometimes we get one train per week, sometimes not as often. But the worst phase of the matter is we can never tell when we will get a freight. Hence merchants and others desiring to have goods come over the road or to ship goods cannot tell when they can count on a freight. If they order goods expecting to receive the same in reasonable time, their order may be a day later in reaching the shipper than it should to catch the first freight which will cause a delay of from ten days to two weeks in getting goods a fraction over one hundred miles.

Surely this is a most unjust state of affairs. If the traffic will not admit of more than one freight train per week why not let us have a scheduled train once a week. Shippers can then govern themselves accordingly, and as traffic is so very light there cannot be any urgent demand for running the only freight we do get on Sundays as has lately been done.

Trusting those interested and particularly the Winnipeg board of trade will take the matter up with the railway authorities.

MERCHANT.

An Eastern exchange says: "Winnipeg has sent a carload of butter to England as an experiment. If it is Mennonite butter it will create a sensation in England."

For The Grocery and Produce Trade.

The "boom" in eggs in the United States has flattened out, and prices in Eastern Canada markets, which were very high in consequence of the demand from the States, are now lower. Prices dropped 6 to 8c per dozen in one day at New York, Buffalo and other points, owing to large receipts from the south-west.

Canadian refined petroleum has made another advance of 4c. a gallon in the east. This is the second marked increase in price within a few weeks. Crude oil is scarce in the United States and Canada and refined oils are being forced up.

The past few days has witnessed quite an advance in the price of hogs, says the Toronto Canadian Grocer. This bullish tendency is due to the fact that earlier in the season the hog crop of Canada was a great deal over-estimated. Besides this the export trade to Great Britain this winter has been extraordinarily large, stocks having been pretty well cleared up to supply the demand. Now the run of hogs is over and packers find that there are practically no hogs in the country, which is an unusual state of affairs at this time of the year. No wonder then that prices have gone up rapidly, and that the prospects are that they will continue to climb the pole.

Holders of dairy butter are threatened with heavy losses, says the Montreal Trade Bulletin. A lot of 600 packages of Manitoba butter has just been received at Montreal which is offered at 7c per lb. In the Perth and Renfrew districts, where it was said no dairy butter was held of any consequence, holders are offering it by the car load. The same thing has occurred in the dairy sections west of Toronto, car lots being offered on this market by different western shippers for sale, while others have written to parties here to know if they will handle it. Good, well kept western dairy is selling here in jobbing lots at 10c, while poorer grades have sold at 7c to 8c. These prices mean severe losses to owners. A lot of Manitoba roll butter has also been received at Montreal in big dry goods boxes, weighing 250 to 300 pounds each.

The English correspondent of the Montreal Trade Bulletin says: "A patent is said to have been taken out for a method of preserving butter, which enables it to be shipped from the Antipodes without refrigerator accommodation, and one ton shipped from Victoria has been already consigned to a firm in London who report in excellent condition. This shows a saving of \$9 a ton in freight and freezing charges,—truly a big thing for Australians, if it be true. But if it is good for them it is good for Canadians. A preservative was first used in this trade, but it was so much objected to by the trade and such an outcry raised, that it had to be abandoned. If this is the same sort of thing, it is no good."

Money has been lost this season by holders of cheese as well as butter. Last fall buyers were paying 9 1/2 to 10c in Ontario for cheese, at the factories. Now they cannot sell for more than they paid last fall, which means a loss of the carrying charges and expenses of handling, equal to at least 1c per pound.

The Pillow and Hersey Manufacturing Co. of Montreal, held their annual meeting recently, the president occupying the chair. The report of the past year's operations was submitted to the meeting, and, being found satisfactory, was unanimously adopted. The new board of directors is composed of the following gentlemen: J. A. Pillow, President; John R. Hersey, vice-president; John McDonald, C. R. Hosmer and A. H. Hersey.

Irrigation in Dakota.

A bill has been introduced into the South Dakota legislature granting to counties the right to issue bonds for the purpose of constructing irrigation canals. It is proposed to empower counties to issue bonds for this purpose in amounts not exceeding 15 per cent of their assessed valuation. This is a most practical solution of this perplexing problem. The expense of constructing such works is too heavy to be borne by individuals, the consequence being that the control of the irrigation works, which are now regarded as essential to the prosperity of the state, must fall to some division of the local government or pass into the hands of a corporation organized for that purpose. The latter alternative is to be avoided if possible, for the good of the country. Such irrigation companies as are now in operation have been almost uniformly profitable to those operating them, and the extra expense connected with the maintenance of such companies would be saved to the consumers by county ownership. The example of south Dakota could be followed by Nebraska and Kansas, with advantage to those states. —Minneapolis Farm Implements

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Sailing every Saturday.

Saloon fares, \$50 to \$70, according to steamer and accommodation. Return \$100 to \$150. Intermediate rates outward, \$30. Prepaid \$25. Steerage, \$12.50, Return, \$27.50.

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

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The undersigned has a fine stock of SEED and FEED on hand; the best the country can produce.

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also Seed Barley.

Samples forwarded upon request. Shipping a specialty.

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ON VERY REASONABLE TERMS, A

Magnificent Farm

Of rich black soil, situated on Lulu Island, North Arm Fraser River, B. C. being composed of west halves of lots 12 and 13 and part of 1, Block 1 North, Range 7 West, 100 acres more or less, over one-half under good cultivation, mostly in meadow, the balance having been plowed once or twice and yielding abundance of grass for stock; has a very large barn, house and orchard of good bearing trees, all well fenced with stakes and boards; all well diked and ditched and about two thirds well drained; it is six or seven miles from the city of Vancouver; good roads, with stages to and from Vancouver daily; the river at the door teems with salmon, and has excellent shooting for ducks, geese and snipe; also pheasants in the near future; good school and churches nearby; climate lovely and scenery simply charming. We particularly wish to sell out, but failing which, shall leave to party with sufficient capital to stock and work the place properly.

For further particulars apply to J. H. TODD & SON, owners, Victoria, B. C. or to Messrs. Rand Bros., Vancouver.

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Fur Trade News.

The Leipzig correspondent of the Fur Trade Review writes as follows on February 11: "Since the date of writing our letter for the February issue of The Review we have had a very low temperature and much snow throughout all Europe and also the northern parts of Africa. Leipzig fur merchants who visited the London sales returned home the latter part of January, but the goods which they purchased are only beginning to arrive. The large firms who sell London goods with a certain advance on the original cost are experiencing a good request for such original lots of marten and mink, and we feel confident that we shall have a fair business in both articles this spring. The Burmah mantle trade has given some supplementary orders for mink and some racoon has been purchased by customers in the province to meet the new demand resulting from the severe weather. The new supplies of spring musquash will probably meet with a good demand; seal colored musquash has of late found a better sale than previous to Christmas; some demand has been shown for the mink-tail colored musquash; musquash linings have sold more slowly. Very few transactions are noted in American opossum, but an improvement in the article is expected at the Easter Fair. There has been an improved demand for nutria and fresh imports of raw skins have been quickly purchased by our dealers. The really good skins are very scarce this year and there has been a very active request for small dressed skins since the first of January. Australian opossum is cheap in general; considerable parcels of raw skins were taken for Russia; dressed skins for Austria. Dyed wallabies, black and brown, meet with continual favor; wombats sell slowly now. In Russian furs, white fox skins that have arrived since the beginning of the year, sold quickly but high prices. Black Persian lambs have been purchased in large parcels for furrers of southern France and parcels of raw skins have been taken by Canadians. Broad-tails are offered only in small quantities and have been purchased to some extent for France and the United States. There has been some active speculation in Astrakhan lambs, but high prices, though no one seems to understand why the article should be dearer than heretofore. Americans purchased carefully and complain very much of the new rates. This article would probably not be so high and firm if it were not for the fact that about 50,000 skins had been lost through the wreck of the Elbe. As usual, gray krimmer has been purchased for Canada and owners have asked high prices. Some transactions in squirrel linings of German manufacture have been noted. In white hares trade has been fairly good, various old stocks having been sold out. Ermine is now offered at rather more moderate prices than one year ago, but transactions have not been important of late. White and black dyed Thibet has found a ready sale. Some parcels of Russian marmot have been purchased for black dyeing, but business in this article is not as active as previous to Christmas."

The correspondent of the Fur Trade Review at Victoria, B.C., writes as follows on Feb. 7: "The sealing fleet, with the exception of two schooners, have sailed for the future scene of their operations, but with an outlook before them entirely different from that of past seasons. Fifty-two vessels have sailed, and exactly one-half of the fleet, twenty-six vessels, have cleared for Japanese seas, leaving the rest to hunt off British Columbia and Pacific coast waters. On the latter half of the fleet 178 whites and 602 Indians are employed, whilst in the Japanese fleet out of 605 hunters aboard only 100 are Indians. The number of Indians on the coast vessels is due to the fact that spearing only will be allowed under the international regulations,

but in some cases entire white crews have been engaged to use the spear. Of course, on vessels where the gun will be allowed, white hunters receive the preference. Seal are reported to be very plentiful on the coast, but even this does not dispel the gloom under which the present season opens. Last year hunters in many cases received \$4.50 per skin, and in no instance did they get less than \$3. Owing to the small prices realized in London at the autumn sales owners absolutely refused to offer a fixed price to their hunters this season, and after two months' haggling and grumbling the best the latter could get was the one-fifth lay and a \$50 advance. Taking \$9 as a high average price last season, 1895 hunters will not get over \$1.80 per skin, and probably not more than \$1.50. Boat pullers' and boat steers' wages have correspondingly decreased, and had not times been so unprecedentedly hard on the coast it would have been impossible to man the fleet. To most of the men it was practically take what you can get and go to sea or starve. Many of the best hunters who, in past seasons have made from \$2,000 to \$2,500 and saved their money have quit the business for the present and will not again try their luck afloat unless times improve and wages advance perceptibly. In several instances owners even at the present reduced rate of wages could see no possible profit in a venture and have leased their schooners to the captains upon a similar "lay" agreement rather than incur the expense of outfitting. The entire season's catch of the Victoria fleet could have been contracted for at \$9 a skin, but though a rumor was current for some time that Liebes & Co., had offered to take the catch at \$12 per skin, the report had no foundation in fact, and none of the big dealers appeared ambitious for a speculation in the 1895 take even at the lower figure quoted."

Montreal Hardware and Paint Prices.

The heavy iron and metal market continues dull, despite the continued decline in values and buyers strictly adhere to purchases for immediate wants. Further shading has transpired in many of the leading lines, no doubt in the hope of inducing a more active demand. From the outside there is little to note of interest, though if the troubles in the coal mine region are serious it may affect American values and exercise some influence on our prices, especially as spring is opening up. Pig iron is dull, and sellers are willing to shade to induce business. Round lots of Nova Scotia pig have been placed at \$16.50 to \$16.75 as a range on it. Nothing is doing in Scotch pig either for import or from store here, but Summerlee and equal brands can be quoted at \$20.50 to 21, and Carnbroe and Eglinton \$19 and \$19.50 respectively. Easiness is the rule in bar iron, though we quote \$1.60 car lots can easily be had for less money. Holders of tin plates show a disposition to realize, and as a result sales have transpired of round lots at 10c less than a week ago, and we quote cokes, \$2.50 to \$2.75. Charcoal are unchanged at \$3.25 to \$3.75 as to grade. Terne plates are quiet and unchanged at \$5.75 to \$6. Prices have been shaded 5c on round lots of Canada plates, which we quote \$1.95 to \$2.05 as to quantity. Sheet iron is quiet and steady on the basis of \$2.15 to \$2.30 for No. 28 gauge. Round lots of tin have been placed pretty low, 14c being spoken of, but we quote 16c for ordinary quantities. Lead is unchanged at \$2.90 to \$3. Spelter has been reduced 25c during the past eight days and we quote \$4 to \$4.25. There is no change in zinc sheets, which we quote at \$1.50 to \$1.75. Antimony is the same, 9c to 10c. Hoops and bands quiet at \$1.80 to \$1.85 for domestic and \$2.00 to \$2.15 for imported. In galvanized iron import orders for spring delivery have been accepted under a basis of 4c for No. 28, Queen's head, and we

quote 4c to 4½c, with Morewood 5½c to 5½c. There is a fair demand for tinned sheets at steady prices. No. 24, 5½c to 5½c, and No. 26, 6c to 6½c, with the usual extras. It is understood that jobbers have been shading prices on cut nails, orders having been filled at the net figure \$2 for jobbing lots. Makers on their part state that the list is being adhered to, viz: \$2.10 with the rebates of 5c and 10c, according to quantity.

Cement and Naval Stores.—We quote: English brands cement at \$2.05 to \$2.15, and Belgium at \$1.90 to \$2 per cask. A fair jobbing trade has been accomplished in fire-bricks, the demand being good for small lots at prices ranging from \$15 to \$22 per 1,000 as to brand. Turpentine is firmly held at the recent advance. The impression here among holders is that the values will steadily go up until the new crop commences to come in. We quote: Turpentine, 49 to 50; rosins, \$2.50 to \$5, as to brand; coal tar, \$3.25 to \$3.75; cotton waste, 4c to 5½c for colored and 6½ to 8c for white; oakum, 4c to 6c, and cotton oakum, 9c to 11c. Cordage, Sisal, at 6½c to 6c for 7-16 and upwards, and 14c to 15c for deep sea line. Pure manilla, 9½c for 7-16 and upwards and 9½c for smaller sizes.

The petroleum market for Canadian refiners continues strong and a further advance of ½c per gallon has taken place, which is due to the fact that Canadian crude is scarce on account of the recent heavy frost, which froze all the pipes of the wells up. The demand on spot for both Canadian and American continues good and an active business is doing. We quote: Canadian refined at 12½c in shed in Montreal for round lots, and 13½c to 14c for smaller quantities, with a discount of 2 per cent. for cash. American petroleum is quoted at 16c in car lots and 17c for smaller quantities.

Paints, Oils and Lead.—There is considerable cutting going on in the price of glass and a reduction in consequence has to be recorded. In cod oil the feeling has been stronger and prices have advanced 2½c per gallon, recent sales having taken place at 37½c to 42½c, as to quantity. Seal oil is unchanged at 40c to 45c, as to quality. Castor oil is steady at the recent decline, viz., 5½c to 6½c. We quote: Choice brands white lead Government standard \$4.75; No. 1, \$4.50; No. 2, \$4.25; No. 3, \$4.00; No. 4, \$3.75; dry white lead, 4½c; red lead, pure, 3½c to 4c; do. No. 1, 4c; zinc, white, pure, \$7.25; glass, \$1.15 to \$1.20 first break; \$1.25 to \$1.30 second break per 50 feet; \$2.70 to \$2.80 for third break per 100 feet; linseed oil, round lots, raw, 56c to 57c; boiled, 59c to 60c; putty in bulk, \$1.85.—Gazette, March 8.

Where Ontario Wheat has Gone.

The scarcity of wheat in Ontario has undoubtedly been partly caused by farmers feeding it pretty extensively to their live stock, instances being reported to us within the past few days, in which two growers of wheat West of Toronto fed to their hogs and cattle 4,000 and 2,000 bushels respectively rather than accept the low prices ruling. One of these rural denizens was in the city last week with a car of horses, and he stated that for the last two years he has not sold a bushel of wheat, as he could realize almost double the price by putting it into pork and beef. This may account for the difficulty millers in the West have found of late in securing their usual deliveries of wheat. Still, it is hard to estimate the amount of stocks in farmers' hands.—Montreal Trade Bulletin.

The New York Shipping and Commercial List and Price Current is the oldest commercial paper in America. It was established in 1795 and has therefore attained the age of a centenarian.