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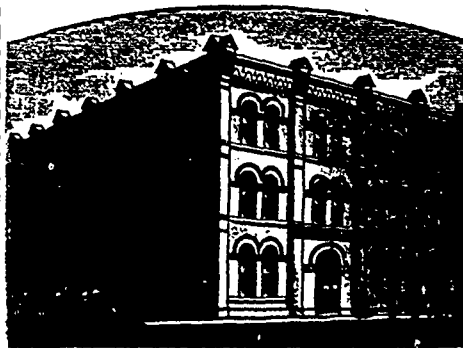
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The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much larger circulation among the business community of the country between Lake Superior and the Pacific Coast, than any other paper in Canada, daily or weekly. By a thorough system of personal solicitation, carried out annually, this journal has been placed upon the desk of the great majority of business men in the vast district designated above. The Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale, commission, and manufacturing houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, JANUARY 9, 1888.

JONATHAN DAKIN, watchmaker, Regina, is dead.

LETHBRIDGE is agitating for incorporation as a town.

Eggs bring 50c to \$1 a dozen at Edmonton, Alberta.

ISALAH McCOLL has opened a blacksmith shop at Prince Albert.

J. C. McCRAE, hotelkeeper, Medicine Hat, is offering his business for sale.

THOMAS CLARKE & Co., machinists, Brandon, are offering their business for sale.

THE stock of J. A. Wright, tailor, etc., Winnipeg, is offered for sale by tender.

THE Northwest Land Company are in arrears of taxes \$6,000 to the town of Calgary.

O. SCOTT, millinery, etc., Brandon, has assigned in trust to Thos. Bennie, Winnipeg.

McCAUGHEY & McNULTY, hotelkeepers, National Park, Banff, have dissolved partnership.

MOOSE meat from the Lake of the Woods found its way as far west as Calgary for Christmas display.

A. GOLDSMIDT, of Goldsmidt & Flindt, Binscarth, has bought out Mr. Flindt's interest and will continue in his own name.

MAROTTA & MUZZOCO, restaurant keepers, Winnipeg, have dissolved partnership. Business will be continued by G. Marrota.

An Ottawa despatch says: All claims against the Souris and Rocky Mountain and Northwest Central railways must be filed at once.

MARIE THERRIEN, doing business under the name and style of Courtois & Co., general storekeepers, Cypress River, has made an assignment to S. A. D. Bertrand.

F. W. JEMMETT, of the Wyndham House, Binscarth, has disposed of his business to O. D. Inman.

HENDERSON & BULL, of this city, have a consignment of 664 packages of tea about arriving from China.

SIBBALD & Co.'s new premises at Lothbridge are nearly completed and will be ready for occupation very shortly.

COOK & GORDON, boot and shoe makers, Winnipeg, have dissolved partnership. Alexander Gordon continues.

R. G. MACBETH has withdrawn from the law firm of MacBeth & Sutherland. Ross Sutherland will continue the business.

THE McLeod Gazette has issued a twelve-page paper replete with interesting news concerning the district in which it is published.

THE dimensions of G. F. & J. Galt's new wholesale grocery warehouse were inaccurately stated in last week's COMMERCIAL. The size of the building is 135 by 99 and with a total storage room of 50,000 feet.

A FIRE in Clement's Block damaged the building to the extent of about \$1,000. White & Manahan, clothing, and Forrest & Co., jewelers, received slight damage to their stocks from water. Covered by insurance.

NOTICE is given by the Northwest Central Railway in the Canada Gazette that all persons having claims against the railway for services must render a statement of their claims to Mr. Travers Lewis, at Ottawa, within forty days.

THE Mackenzie Hotel, Winnipeg, is about to be transformed from its present lodging house aspect to a first-class hotel, arrangements now being under way by Mr. Bennett, of the New Douglas, for a thorough renovation, to be completed May 1st.

— RIPSTEIN, of Winnipeg, got into the hands of the inland revenue officer at Lethbridge last week for peddling loose cigars, of which he could give no satisfactory account, and was taken before a magistrate on that charge, being contrary to the Inland Revenue Act, and was fined \$200. It is supposed they had been smuggled.

DR. ALLAN, of Fort McLeod, is authority for the statement that the loss to ranch cattle last winter was about 15 per cent. all round. The increase in cattle was 40 per cent. The quarantine on American cattle was proving a great boon to ranchmen in the Northwest, as it was shutting out American competition.

MILLER, MORSE & Co., hardware dealers, Winnipeg, have completed the fitting of their new warehouse on Princess Street for the accommodation of a strictly wholesale business. The building is three storey and basement; the front is of cut stone and white brick, with large plate glass windows, and is a handsome structure.

A GENTLEMAN from Ontario named Wright is about to engage in the white fish industry at Selkirk. Manitoba fisheries are becoming widely known for their excellent products, and shipments are being made to the United States in large quantities—sufficiently so to cause our American cousins to clamor for a duty on Canadian fresh fish.

MAYOR JONES was voted by the city council \$1,200 for his services during the past year.

WM. WHITEHEAD & Co., druggists, Winnipeg, are the first to occupy one of the fancy match-boxes lately erected on the corner of Main and William streets.

No train arrived from the east on Thursday on account of a collision east of Port Arthur, which resulted in the death of a couple of train hands. Trains arriving from the east are very irregular of late.

THE number of immigrants arrived in the Northwest in 1888 was 10,065, against 17,692 in 1887, an increase over the previous year of over 7,000. These figures do not include those arriving by Pullman car, navvies or settlers en route to the American territories.

THE Winnipeg Inland Revenue and Post Office Savings bank returns for December are as follows:

INLAND REVENUE.	
Spirits	\$11,520 86
Tobacco	3,821 60
Malt	966 03
Cigars	216 45
Petroleum inspection	18 00
Beer	4 40
Licenses	20 00
Total	\$15,557 34

SAVINGS BANK.

Deposits and withdrawals for the month:	
Deposits	\$25,327 00
Withdrawals	24,069 86

Deposits over withdrawals.... \$ 1,257 14

It is generally understood that the order of the Governor-General-in-Council changing the hard wheat standards will not apply to the crop of the present year, and will not go into force until just before the crop of 1888 begins to come to market. This will take away the possibility of interference with contracts now running, and will remove every vestige of just cause for complaint against the changes made.

A. F. EDEN, land commissioner of the M & N. W. Railway company, visited the different points along the line to meet the Reeves and councillors of the different districts. Mr. Eden has succeeded in interesting the representatives of the municipalities in the matter of immigration and arrangements were made to have as many as possible of the Reeves visit the east and meet those likely to move to this country. The land commissioner is also having maps prepared of each municipality along the Manitoba and Northwestern. When completed the maps will show all the vacant lands, free lands, cancelled lands, abandoned pre-emptions, lands in the hands of trust and loan companies to be sold, as well as all other lands for sale, so that no time will be lost in placing settlers on good farms. The maps will be in duplicate. One will remain in the commissioner's office at Winnipeg and the other will be placed in the hands of the clerk of the municipality which the map represents. The scheme is simple, well planned and is likely to prove most effective in settling the vacant lands of the country. There will also be one hundred thousand folders distributed in Canada and England.

GOODS SOLD TO THE
TRADE ONLY.



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DIRECT IMPORTERS

TEAS, SUGARS, WINES, LIQUORS and GENERAL GROCERIES

CORNER PRINCESS AND BANNATYNE STREETS, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

The *Call* of last Wednesday published a special cable stating, that the London *Miller*, the highest authority in Great Britain on grain and milling questions, advises British grain men and millers to purchase and ship Manitoba hard wheat direct from the Province, and says that the C. P. R. would aid in building up this direct traffic. The advice is a sound one, for so long as British purchasers work through eastern brokers, they must expect that the hard wheat of this Province and the Territories will go through some strange mixing processes while moving from the farmer's wagon to the Atlantic steamship's hold. We have a system of reliably grading here, and we wish British grain men would avail themselves of its advantages.

The election of Mr. E. F. Clarke to the Mayorship of Toronto is rather a staggering blow to the prohibition cause in Ontario. There may be some truth in the statement that the Orange vote of that city went pretty solid for Mr. Clarke irrespective of the liquor license question. But if that be the case it may be assumed with equal truth, that the Roman Catholic vote went equally solid against him. It is much to be regretted if either influence in any way affected the election, and it is just possible that the one power about neutralized the other in the contest, and license or prohibition was the real issue which decided the election. There is a lesson in this defeat, which prohibitionists would do well to study. Public opinion, like water, if forced by some artificial means above its level for a time, will undoubtedly recede once that artificial power gives way and the chances are that the reaction will for a time force it below its natural level. Then a community not educated up to a prohibition point may by surrounding circumstances make a sudden and erratic step in that direction only to recede as suddenly. Prohibitionists are people of extreme ideas, who will accept nothing as permanent short of this pet extreme, and it is not to be wondered at that they so often fail in securing any good results. By accepting the ideas of more moderate people they might assist much in restricting the liquor traffic and

abolishing its evils. On the principle of half in preference to no bread they could obviate many of these struggles which we see of fanatical prohibition on one side and defiant, if not lawless drunkenness on the other. But people of extreme ideas never will work upon practical principles, and prohibitionists who see only the evils of the liquor traffic, will not bear in mind that in handling it they are also handling a question of trade and revenue. Thus their efforts as well as their good intentions are so frequently wasted.

In a recent letter to the *Toronto Globe*, Mr. W. N. Fairbanks, of Emerson, exposes how the working of the Canadian Department of Customs is twisted and perverted so as to preserve the monopoly of the C. P. R., even to the extent of preventing the farmer's load of wheat from reaching an eastern market, by any other carrier. The following quotation from the letter in question shows the situation at Emerson:

"You are aware that the Northern Pacific Railway company have recently extended a branch of their line to this place, thus giving us another connecting line with Ontario. This should operate (through competition lowering the rate of freight) to raise the price of grain somewhat in this part of Southern Manitoba. A syndicate was accordingly formed to put up warehouses on the Canadian side of the line for the reception of wheat to be loaded on the cars of the Northern Pacific on the American side of the line, but operations were deferred until the Customs Department could be got to agree not to refuse the certificate (that it is Canadian grain) that must accompany the grain in order to its readmission free at the port of entry in Ontario to which it would be conveyed by the American cars. About three months have now elapsed and the Customs Department still neglect and refuse to instruct their collector at this port to issue the needed certificate, although offers have been made to pay for extra time of the Customs officials while engaged in overseeing the loading of cars."

Before Mr. Fairbanks gets through with the

Department of Customs at Ottawa he will find that the convenience of the citizen is about the last thing considered by that department, if indeed it ever receives consideration at all. For over a year the merchants of Winnipeg tried to get redress for the tyranny and annoyance they were subjected to by two officials, (one a son of the Minister of Customs) and although they fully substantiated the complaints they had made by evidence before a commission, the Department never condescended to make a report on the matter to the complainants, although one was promised and frequently asked for. Mr. Fairbanks will find every department at Ottawa slow in consideration of public convenience, and he might as well look for sanitary arrangements in a pig-pen, as look for such consideration from the Customs Department.

As the approaching assembling of the Local Legislature draws nigh the public interest in the probable outcome of the session deepens. What the policy of the Government will be, nobody seems to clearly understand, and Dr. Harrison and his colleagues will doubtless make use of the acknowledged right of a ministry to make known its policy only to the house to which it is responsible. The policy will doubtless depend much upon the success of their candidates in the constituencies of Assiniboia and St. Francis Xavier, and this is by no means assured. In the former the chances are decidedly in favor of the Opposition candidate, and in the latter the new Provincial Secretary Mr. Burke is by no means sure of re-election. The hitherto common belief that a constituency so overwhelmingly French Canadian in its composition as St. Francis Xavier is will go solidly in favor of a compatriot like Mr. Burke is beginning to give way, and people are opening their eyes to the fact that differences of language and race weigh lighter in Manitoba than anywhere else in the Dominion, and that a provincial rights party here is likely to embrace a large proportion of French as well as English speaking citizens. The coming election in St. Francis Xavier may furnish a strong proof of this fact.

But with both of these vacant seats carried by the Government, the position of the latter is by no means a solid one. Dr. Harrison cannot expect the most hearty support from Mr. Norquay, whom he has virtually crowded out of the Premier's seat, and the "old man" is not without friends in the Government following. The whole arrangement is believed to be a temporary one, and a very small hitch in affairs might array an opposition against the Government, which would make their tenure of office very temporary indeed. Besides the temper of the people of the province at the present time is not such as to be satisfied with anything like a temporary or time serving policy. Only a straight honest policy of provincial rights will satisfy them, and neither Dr. Harrison's previous record nor the circumstances in which he is now placed would indicate that he will honestly follow such a policy. Looking at the Government's position from any view point their prospect of holding in office is not very bright, and it may be, that before a Government able to master the situation can be had a general election is necessary, and that might,

and probably would make radical changes in the composition of the Legislature.

COMMENTING upon the deficiency in transportation now being experienced by the American milling industry the *Northwestern Miller* of Minneapolis of December 30th contains the following:

"The great bulk of the tonnage now coming to our ports is owned by foreigners, and they are naturally averse to the idea of having their countrymen increase the consumption of our products, hence they do not care if their lines are overtaken and our exporters are obliged to suffer from unreasonable and very unprofitable delays in transit. At this writing, what amounts to a practical blockade exists in our export flour trade. The clearances of flour from Boston last Friday were beyond anything in the history of the trade, being 80,000 sacks, while steamship and railroad men say that the bulk of the flour now on the docks in New York is sold and freight taken for export, but that there is not tonnage enough there to take it away. This is a very pleasant state of affairs for foreign millers to contemplate. Their capitalists have sense enough to know that no country can afford to hire its ships from the shrewd mariners of other climes, or to pay tribute to ocean transportation lines which have free access to its ports, but are owned by foreigners."

The *Miller* does not require to go back five years to find a time when ocean steamships carried wheat from this continent to Europe at nominal freight charge, and in some instances for nothing, while flour went at rates very little higher. The changed circumstances are a great inconvenience at present, but certainly no greater than we experience from our own railroads, and to assume that foreign ship-owners try to aggravate the inconvenience, in order to make profit for millers in their own countries, and lose money themselves, requires a big stretch of imagination. If ocean steamship companies generally are paying now, it is the first time for many years. Both the United States and Canada have for years by a tariff policy almost prohibitory in many of its details, been lessening the aggregate of freight from Europe to America, and steamship owners have had to depend mainly upon the freight from this side. A traffic which is one-sided never can expect the perfection in facilities, which a traffic both ways will bring out. A few years of the policy outlined in the last message of President Cleveland would do more than anything else to cure the evils complained of by the *Miller*, and it would cure in two ways, as it would enable ship builders and owners on this side to compete with European opposition, and the cry of foreign craft doing all the ocean carrying of this continent would become less urgent, and in time die away. Perhaps the *Miller* would prefer the sucking bottle policy of the United States Government subsidizing ocean craft enough to fill the wants of the millers. That policy however is on the wane we think.

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The Commercial

WINNIPEG, JANUARY 9, 1888.

THE NEW GRAIN STANDARDS.

The changing of the grades of wheat grown in Manitoba and the Northwest seems to have raised the ire of grain dealers generally in the east, and from the Montreal and Toronto Boards of Trade protests against the Department of Internal Revenue for its action in the matter have been made in strong terms. These protests draw their main strength from the fact of the changes in grades being made in the middle of a season, when many contracts for future delivery were running, and so far as the protests cling to this cause of complaint, they are not without foundation. To simply usher in a new system of inspection without in any way providing some special arrangements for the completion of business done upon the old standards would undoubtedly be the cause of great inconvenience to the grain trade both in the Northwest and the East, and would very likely create many misunderstandings and some entanglements between men whose business transactions have hitherto moved along smoothly. The course of the Department in suspending the operation of the Order-in-Council until the crop of 1887 has been exported, is a wise one. But there is no necessity for such a change going into force, without provision being made for respecting existing rights in contracts now running their course. The same Department at Ottawa has the power to make all such provisions necessary to guard all existing contracts, either by order of the Governor-General-in-Council, or by delegating to representatives of the different Boards of Trade the necessary power to make such temporary arrangements as the practical knowledge of such representatives would dictate. That work would have to be done, and done immediately, and would require careful handling by men of practical judgment and experience, but there is no reason for supposing, and especially without a trial, that the undertaking could not be accomplished so that no person would suffer.

Any difficulty that really exists at present in adopting the amended wheat grades has arisen from the astounding promptitude with which the Department of Inland Revenue complied with the request of the Winnipeg Board and the

Vice-President of the Canadian Pacific Railway Co. The grain men in this province who concurred in memorializing the Department for the desired changes, were about as much astounded as any others at the promptitude of the Department, and some of them are, doubtless, a little puzzled by it. They confidently expected that the grain shipping season would be about over before their request was acceded to, if it was at all, and that the change would be all arranged in time for the selection of standards from the crop of 1888, and not sooner.

But from the East there are complaints against the changes as unnecessary and uncalled for, which seem to us here as very unreasonable. The qualifications for No. 1 hard wheat in Canada, call for, by the new standard, a better grain than fills the same grade in Minnesota, Dakota or any other portion of this continent, while the grade of extra Manitoba hard, calls for a better wheat than our former No. 1 hard, so that the Inspection still leaves scope for the highest quality of Red Fyfe wheat to those who desire such. Had our eastern grain purchasers been paying a few cents a bushel more at Port Arthur for our No. 1 hard, than has been paid at Duluth for the Minnesota No. 1 hard, as they really should have, then their opposition to the lowering of the standard to near the Duluth level would be consistent and based upon justice. On the contrary No. 1 hard in Port Arthur, has since the close of lake navigation, kept steadily below the Duluth price from three to five cents a bushel. Railway monopoly aided them in thus bearing prices, and when Northwestern grain raisers and dealers have secured relief from a little of the pressure thus held upon them, protests from eastern grain men are at once made against the change which only deals out a fraction of justice to grain interests here.

The climax of hypocrisy is reached in the protest from Toronto. Three years ago, when special grades were made by law for the Red Fyfe wheat grown here, these Toronto grain men opposed bitterly the same, maintaining that such wheat was not one whit better than the spring wheat raised in Ontario. Now that a change of grades allows some eighteen per cent. more than formerly of an admixture in our hard wheat of the class of wheat raised in Ontario, the same men in Toronto are loudest in their protest against the change. It may be, however,

that these men are sincere in their protesting. That they have become true converts to a belief in the superiority of Manitoba hard wheat, and their violent protesting is only an illustration of the truth of the saying, that converts are always enthusiasts if not fanatics.

There has been another suggestion made on these Montreal and Toronto protests, namely, that the Boards there feel put out about never being consulted upon such a matter of importance. If it be a truth, that they never were consulted, then there are some sensible people around that Department of Inland Revenue at Ottawa, who consult only people who are interested in a matter of business. It would be a strange course of the Department to consult the Winnipeg Board about the grading of peas and rye, which are not raised here, but may yet be raised in abundance, and it seems to us a much stranger course to consult the Boards of eastern cities about the grading of a variety of wheat, which the law says must be raised in this country to entitle it to grade. If the Department has decided to consult in future only such portions of the Dominion as are interested in proposed legislation, and avoid the meddling of disinterested outsiders, then they have adopted a good sound principle of business. In Manitoba it will be welcomed, for in arranging the details of anything for this province from a liquor licensing Act down to a church tea meeting, all Canada has hitherto claimed the right to meddle and muddle.

COMMERCIAL INTERESTS OF THE EMPIRE.

Seldom has anything more opportune been said by a public man, than the utterance of the Honorable Joseph Chamberlain at the recent banquet of the Toronto Board of Trade, in response to the toast of the "Commercial interests of the Empire." We say his words were opportune, coming as they do at a time, when neither of the two great political parties of this Dominion favor a policy of free trade intercourse between the progressive nations of this world, but each has its own hobby based in some way or other upon the lowest instincts of national selfishness. The words of the great radical statesman while they carry a strong appeal to the ultra-protectionists of Canada, are also full of special import to that political party, which in former years stood by the principles of free trade, but has now bartered away that principle

for a hazy dream of a protective system, made only more dangerous to free trade interests, from the fact of its seeking a coalition of Canada and the United States within its scope.

Mr. Chamberlain in his speech displayed all the national pride of an Englishman, and a patriotism worthy of a true Briton. But he failed to utter a syllable in favor of national pride or patriotism finding a groove of national selfishness in which to flow. Great Britain's interests were not, in his mind, confined to the interests of a few islands in Western Europe, but embraced the Empire all over the world, and ran in unison with the interests of the United States and every progressive country in the New as well as the Old World. An Empire composed of numerous scattered states, each enforcing its own tariff, crotchets and petty selfishness in trade legislation, to the sapping of the very foundation of the whole found no more favor with Mr. Chamberlain, than did the proposal to link the most advanced colony of the Empire with an outside nation in buttressing a falling system of similar selfishness and cupidity in connection with commerce.

But Mr. Chamberlain's speech was not all confined to eulogizing the cosmopolitan freedom of the trade of Great Britain. It contained some valuable advice for Canadians specially. He said:—

"What Canada required was the development of her great, her illimitable resources and not a tariff which would shackle her agricultural industries. The first thought of Canada should be to get a population on the soil and to create consumers. Industries would spring up and prosper then whether there was a tariff or not. He was in favor of widest possible Commercial Union, not only with the United States but with the world—a truly unrestricted reciprocity. It was surely a restricted reciprocity which would make a people dependent for financial freedom on the Government of the United States, or, something which would be still more important, Canada's political freedom. When the slender tie that bound Canada with the mother country became burdensome to the former country, then it would be time enough for Britain to consider a measure of relief."

In giving such advice to Canadians, Mr. Chamberlain was well aware that by a tariff policy Canadian manufacturing industries had been nursed into existence, which to-day were, with a very few ex-

ceptions, powerless to compete in export markets, even when admitted free of tariff. That the very existence of these industries depended entirely upon their products being sold to Canadian consumers at bolstered prices. He was equally well aware, that the value of all such industries to the Dominion was a mere bagatelle, compared with the development of the practically unlimited agricultural resources of the country, and that every tariff prop under such industries was so much of a drag upon agricultural progress. He could learn from a glance at our exports for any year, that these were composed almost entirely of agricultural products, and that the bolstered manufacturer contributed practically nothing towards throwing the balance of trade with other countries in our favor, in short if he made inquiry into the matter at all he would see clearly that the protected manufacturing class were the drones of the Dominion, who had to be fed inside, but brought nothing from the outside to assist in their own support. Can we wonder then that Mr. Chamberlain reached the conclusion, that what Canada required was the development of her great illimitable resources, and not a tariff which would shackle her agricultural industries.

To the advocates of Commercial Union with the United States Mr. Chamberlain has stated in plain language, that in Great Britain the question of a complete severance of the slender tie, which binds the Dominion to the mother country will be considered in preference to the union they advocate. Annexation or complete independence he has stated are practically matters of choice for Canadians themselves, and with the choice he believes no British party will interfere. Mr. Chamberlain has thus brought the question of Commercial Union down to a practical basis, and has shown, that in advocating a trade policy for Canada, liberal and free from cupidity and selfishness, he advocates and predicts a policy for Great Britain equally unselfish as regards the political destiny of the Dominion. We regret that Mr. Chamberlain did not furnish for our tariff bolstered ultra-loyalists, an ultimatum such as he has for commercial unionists. Had he done so, we might be less bored in future, than we have been in the past with these hypocritical professions of loyalty to the British throne and Empire which tariff protected toryism has so incessantly paraded before the eyes of the gushing Britisher, and the still more brainless Yankophilist, if we may be permitted to coin a word for the occasion.

The words of Mr. Chamberlain, at the late festive gathering in Toronto, carry weight on account of their being the opinions of one of Great Britain's progressive statesmen; but to those who have read and studied the political history of that nation for the past fifty years, they carry

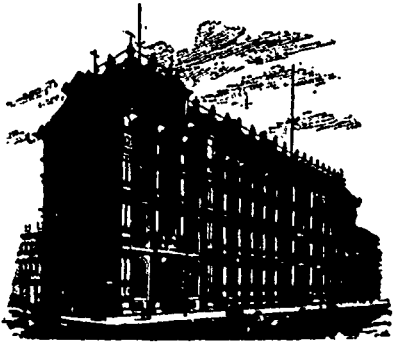
additional weight as embodying principles deep-rooted in the minds of the British people.

THE YEAR'S BALANCE.

As yet but few of our retail merchants have so far advanced with stock taking, as to reach a balance sheet, and know exactly the result of the year's business transactions. We have no reports of this kind from the country so far, but from what we can learn from city retailers the results promise to be only fairly satisfactory. Quite a number report an increase of business done, and none report any marked decrease from the figures of 1886. But the large majority report an aggregate about equal, or at best but little over that of the previous year. Taken altogether there is no great reason for jubilant feelings among our city retailers. During the spring and summer of last year, they passed through a time of financial scarcity during which they did not feel much inclined to push much of anything but a cash business, and that was hard to push. During the fall and winter they have done a good business generally, but the volume and aggregate have been much short of what the abundant crop of this year would lead them to expect, and with some there has been considerable disappointment at the results of the fall and winter trade.

Undoubtedly the retail trade of this city figures much smaller than it ought, and until a much larger proportion or the Manitoba crop is raised on the now vacant lands around the city its proportions cannot materially increase. Another adverse circumstance is a lack of manufacturing industries to create a consuming population in the city itself. If some successful move were made for the settling of the vacant lands around the city, we believe it would not only quickly relieve the first drawback, but would also give an incentive to manufacturing enterprise and greatly mitigate the second evil. Anyhow, it is certain that some great movement is necessary, or the volume of the city's retail trade must continue to be phenomenally light for its population.

Among our wholesale merchants generally the balance sheet for the past year has been struck, and while with many the aggregate turn-over shows a large increase, with none have the increase in profits been in proportion. Some houses actually report a heavier aggregate of sales and a smaller of nett profits, than in 1886. The year has certainly closed with wholesale trade in this city in a healthy state, and with prospects good for 1888. But few, if any, of our wholesalers have added materially to their wealth the past year. Goods have been sold on close margins, so keen has competition been, and the prospect is that in 1888 it will lose none of its fine edge. Taken collectively we believe our business men's balance sheets for 1887 will furnish cause for congratulation, but none for jubilation.



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Wishart Block, Market St. East,

WHOLESALE GROCERS

AND DEALERS IN

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GASOLINE, AXLE GREASE, CANDLES and all
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KIRKPATRICK & COOKSON

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Commission Merchants,

FLOUR, GRAIN, BUTTER, &c.

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Fine Ales, Extra Porter
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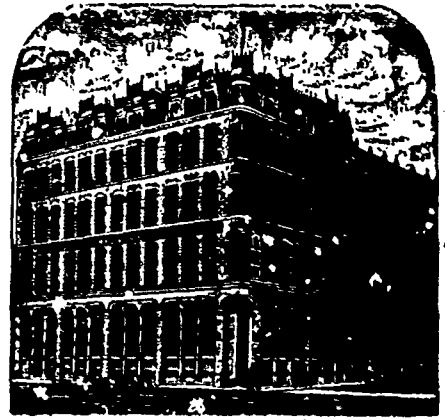
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W. WILLIAMS, AGENT.

PATERSON, KISSOCK & CO.,

Importers of

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'Metals, Window Glass, Paints & Oils, etc.

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WAREHOUSES, SAMPLE ROOMS AND OFFICES:

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Complete Set of Samples with

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A. RAMSAY & SON

37 to 41 Recollet St., Montreal,

Manufacturers of

Ready Mixed Paints, White and Colored Paints,
Varnishes, etc. Importers of PLATE GLASS and
Belgian Window Glass.

Wholesale Agents for the Dominion for Winsor and New-
ton's Artists' Materials.

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

So far as local affairs are concerned the financial feeling has been a quiet one during the week, and even the advent of the fourth made no extra stir at the banks. The aggregate of paper falling due that day was not heavy, and so far as can be learned payments have been met fairly well generally, and in some instances exceptionally well. The volume of commercial paper going to discount, has been light for the opening week of a month, and altogether there seems to have been a tinge of the holiday feeling still lingering around financial affairs. The grain movement being light, funds for that purpose were not in as heavy demand as during December, so that on the whole, the strain on the banks from local sources was comparatively light. The announcement of the failure of W. J. McMaster & Co., of Toronto, will doubtless cause another tightening tug upon the strings of the money bags, but with a freer movement of crop to market, and a few hundred more freight cars at the disposal of the C. P. R. management, a few weeks would put this province beyond being materially affected by the eastern monetary stringency, and would assist in easing matters there also. In mortgage loans, matters have been almost as quiet as in trade affairs. Payments of interest have been coming in steadily, although a little slower than they came a few weeks ago, but there has been very little call for new loans. Road travel being so difficult has, no doubt, assisted in producing this quiet feeling, but is not wholly responsible for it. There is no change to report in the interest rate, and in discount rates there has been no change either.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

The past week has been a very slow one in wholesale circles, and it seemed as if there was no disposition to do business in most lines. Of course the lines which were active owing to the holiday trade up to near Christmas have been flat as a plate ever since, and destitute of even that slow life which was felt in more staple branches. In no season lines has there been any signs of activity, and only from travelers who are selling spring goods from samples has there been any encouraging news. Many retailers who persistently refused to purchase from spring samples before the close of the year, are now open to do business in that way, and during the present month a good volume of orders from such may be looked for. All demands for goods for building or out-door contracting are now silenced and even in the most staple lines of every-day consumption, a dullness has been maintained. Altogether the deadest kind of an after holiday feeling was general, which even the fourth coming around did not seem to disturb, and which was relieved only by the work of stock-taking and balancing up for the year, in which quite a number of wholesalers were engaged.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

No sorting trade reported and orders for spring goods only beginning to come in again. Collections are reported fairly good.

CANNED GOODS.

Business slow and quotations to some extent

nominal and as follow: Tomatoes, \$3.25; peas, \$3.25 to \$3.45; beans, \$2.75 to \$3.00; corn, \$3.25 to \$3.40; peaches, (Canadian) \$7.00 to \$8.00; apples, \$3.25 to \$3.50; pears, \$3.25 to \$3.50; plums, \$4.50 to \$5.00; strawberries \$5.25; raspberries, \$4.75 to \$5.25; peaches (California) \$3.50; pears, \$3.00; Plums, \$7.50; apricots, \$3.00.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

Business is almost at a standstill so far as sales are concerned, while collections have been coming in rather lazily. No material improvement is looked for during this month.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

Business is slow and featureless, with no changes in prices reported. Quotations are: Howard's quinine, 75 to 90c; German quinine, 65 to 75c; morphia, \$2.75 to \$3.25; iodide of potassium, 65 to 75c; bromide of potassium, 65 to 75c; American camphor, 40 to 45c; English camphor, 45 to 50c; glycerine, 30 to 40c; tartaric acid, 70 to 75c; cream of tartar, 35 to 40c; bleaching powder, per keg, \$3 to \$10; bicarb soda, \$4.50 to \$5; sal soda, \$2.25 to \$2.50; chlorate of potash, 25 to 30c; alum, \$4 to \$5.00; copperas, \$3 to \$3.25; sulphur flour, \$4.50 to \$5.00; sulphur, roll, \$4.50 to \$5.25; American blue vitrol, 6 to 8c.

DRY GOODS AND CLOTHING.

All hope of any further trade in winter sorts in either of these branches is past for a season, but travelers on the road are once more beginning to send in orders from spring patterns. With most houses stock-taking has been completed and balancing for the year has been going on. Reports on collections and payments of paper due on the fourth, which did not reach a heavy aggregate, vary from fairly good to very good.

FRUITS—GREEN, VEGETABLES, ETC.

Business has been dead since the holidays. No new varieties are reported on the market, and no changes in prices except in apples, which are somewhat higher. Quotations are: Apples, cooking \$4.00 to \$4.50; fancy eating, \$4.50 to \$5; snows, \$5.75 to \$6; oranges, rassets, \$6 to \$6.50; bright to fancy, \$6.50 to \$7.50; Malaga grapes, \$8.25 to \$8.50 per keg. California pears, \$4.50 to \$5; cranberries, bell and cherry, \$10 to \$10.50; bell and bugle, \$11; Cape Cod, \$12.50 per bbl; lemons, \$7 to \$7.50.

FRUITS—DRIED, AND NUTS.

Sales have dropped to a very quiet state since the holidays. Quotations remain unchanged and as follows: Dates, 10c per pound, in 50-lb. boxes; Valencia raisins, \$2.50 to \$2.65 per box; Morandi's Valencias, \$2.75 to \$3.00 per box; Malagas, London layers, \$3.50; Black Crown, \$5.25; Eleme figs, in different sized boxes, 18c per lb.; Spanish onions, \$7.5 per crate. Walnuts, 18c per lb.; peanuts, raw, 15c; roasted, 17c; almonds, 20c; pecans, 17c.

FISH AND OYSTERS.

White fish are more plentiful and are quoted at 7c; fresh cod, 8c; fresh haddock, 9c; finnan haddies, 11c; Oysters, selects, \$2.10, and standards, \$1.90, per gallon.

PROVISIONS.

Business has been very quiet all week, with no new feature in connection. Collections are reported a little slow since the year opened.

Sugars have gone up a quarter of a cent and are likely to go further. No other changes in prices are reported, Prices are: Sugars—raw, 7c; yellow, 7½ to 8c; granulated, 8½ to 9c; lumps, 9½ to 10c. Coffees—Rios, from 24 to 28c; Java, 25 to 30c; Old Government 33 to 34c; Mochas, 32 to 35c. Teas, Japan Now season's 23 to 40c; Congous, 22 to 60c; Indian teas, 35 to 60c; young hyson, 26 to 50c. Syrups, corn, \$2.25 to \$2.60; sugar cane, \$2.50 to \$2.75; T. and B. tobacco, 56c per pound; P. of W., butts 47c; P. of W. saddies, 48c; Honeysuckle, 7s, 55c; Brier, 7s, 55c; Laurel Bright Navy, 3s, 57c; Index d. thick Solace, 6s, 48c; Brunette Solace, 12s, 48c.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

In heavy lines business is dead, and in shelf goods it is very quiet. A sharp advance is reported in tin plates, ingot tin and tin goods generally, which are the only changes to note. Quotations are almost nominal and as follows: Cut nails, 10d and larger \$3.75; I. C. tin plates, \$8 to \$6.25; I. C. tin plates, double, \$12.00 to \$12.50; Canada plates, \$4.00 to \$4.25; sheet iron, \$3.75 to \$5.50, according to grade; iron pipe, 35 to 40 per cent off list prices; ingot tin, 42c per lb., according to quality; bar iron, \$3.00 to \$3.50 per 100 lbs.; shot, 6 to 6½c per lb.; tarred felt, \$2.75 to \$2.95 per 100 lbs.; barbed wire, 6½ to 7c. The sales in shelf hardware show a falling off in volume since our last report. Collections are reported fair to good.

HIDES.

Business a little slow, and prices inclined to be weak. Prices are: Winnipeg inspection, No. 1, 5c; No. 2, 4c; bulls, 3c; calf, fine-haired real veal, 6 to 11 pound skins, No. 1, 7c; No. 2, 5c; sheep pelts, 25 to 50c. Frozen lots of hides are taken at 3½ to 4c all around; tallow, scarcely saleable at any price.

LEATHER AND FINDINGS.

Business about as quiet as possible, and no new feature to report. Quotations are as follows: Spanish sole, 28 to 31c; slaughter sole, 30 to 32c; French calf, first choice \$1.25 to \$1.50; Canadian calf, 90c to \$1.00; French kip, \$1 to \$1.10; B Z kip, 85 to 90c; Bourdon kip, 75c; slaughter kip, 55 to 65c; No 1, wax upper, 45 to 50c; grain upper, 55c; harness leather, 31 to 34c for plump stock. American oak sole, 45 to 60c; buffe, 17 to 22c a-foot; cordovan, 23 to 25c; pebble, 21 to 23c; colored linings, 12c.

PAINTS, OILS AND COLORS.

Business is down to the lowest possible ebb, so far as sales are concerned. Quotations are practically nominal. Prices are: Turpentine, 80c in five-gallon cans, or 75c in barrels; harness oil \$1.25; neatfoot oil, \$1.50; linseed oil, raw, 70c per gallon; boiled, 73c in barrels or 5c advance in five-gallon lots; seal oil, steam refined, \$1; castor, 12½c per lb.; lard, No. 1, \$1.25 per gal.; olive, oil, pure, \$1.50; union salad, \$1.25; machine oils, black-25 to 40c; oleine, 40; fine qualities, 50 to 75c. Coal oils, silver star, 25c; water white, 23c. American oils, Eocene, 34c; water white, 31c; sunlight, 27c. Calcined plaster, \$4.25 per barrel; Portland cement, \$5 to \$5.50; white lead, genuine, \$7.25; No. 1 \$6.75; No. 2 \$6.25; window glass, first break, \$2.25.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

The after-holiday business is about over, and

business is very flat indeed, with very little prospect of improvement. Prices are as follows: Canadian rye whiskey, five year old, \$2.40; seven year old, \$3; old rye, \$1.75; Jules Robin brandy, \$4.50; Bisquet DeBouche & Co., 4.50; Martell, vintage 1885, \$6.50, vintage, 1880, \$7.50; Hennessy, \$6.50 to \$7.50 for vintage 1885 to 1880; DeKuyper gin, \$3.50; Port wine, \$2.50 and upwards; Sherry \$2.50 and upwards; Jamaica rum, \$4.00 to \$4.50; DeKuyper red gin, \$11.50 per case; DeKuyper green gin, \$6.50 per case; Tom Gin, \$9.00 to \$10.00; Martel and Hennessy's brandy, one star, \$14 per case of 12 bottles; v. o., \$19 v. s. o. p., \$22.

THE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

WHEAT.

The lull after the holiday time, and circumstances have combined to make the movement during the week very light, perhaps the lightest of any week since the close of October. Heavy drifting snow all over the province has made roads hard traveling or rather hauling very difficult, and shortened receipts all round. The fact that the C.P.R. has for weeks been overtaxed to handle the volume of export has no doubt made farmers careless about hauling to market unless compelled, as at many points the block might stop buying at any moment. This has been fortunate for the C.P.R. management as the heavy snow and drifting has been a source of great trouble to them, and although they still contrive to keep the line open through to Port Arthur in a kind of a manner, traffic from the west to that point has been badly impeded, and a blizzard would doubtless block it for days. Another matter which checked up export shipments was the uncertainty about when the new hard wheat standards would go into force. On Thursday it became known that they would not be in force until next year, and business has since settled down. There has been quite a little life in wheat on the Winnipeg Exchange during the week, although fluctuations have kept within a small limit. Still there was a desire manifested more than once in the direction of bullishness. Wheat started in on Tuesday at 55c for No. 1 hard, and on Wednesday sold up to 59c, and was held for a time at 59½c. On Thursday the feeling eased off and the same grade was quoted at 58c, which might be taken as the value for the balance of the week. No. 2 hard and No. 1 Northern had a range from 55 to 56c, and quite a number of sales were made of the latter grade. Very little was done in the lower grades, although a few cars were sold by sample ungraded, and one sound but inferior lot was offered on Thursday at 50c.

FLOUR.

The local demand has been steady but quiet, while there has been quite a falling off in shipments to the east, owing to unfavorable markets there. There has been a lull in shipments to the Pacific coast also, and that demand has been filled mainly by mills in the western portion of the province and in the territories. Prices in ton lots are: Patent, \$2.15; strong bakers, \$1.90; XXXX, \$1.40; superfine, \$1.20.

MILKSTUFFS.

There has been a lively shipping demand,

and prices have held firm and steady. Bran in car lots held at \$10.50 to \$11, and shorts \$12 to \$12.50.

OATS.

For good milling oats 30c was a steady offer during most of the week with 29c for good feed. At some points outside buyers got wrangling, and at one or two places fancy prices were paid.

BARLEY

Car lots of No. 3 were offered on change near the close of the week at 35c with one rather good car held at 38c. No sales of higher grades were reported. On the street feed lots were bought at 27 to 32c.

OATMEAL.

With the advances in the price of oats, oatmeal has also gone up somewhat. During the last four days of the week Standard held steady at \$2.50 and Granulated at \$2.55 per 100 lbs.

EGGS.

Prime pickled are quoted at 24 to 25c, and genuine fresh are scarcely to be had and are sold at fancy prices.

BUTTER.

Round lots from the country have found some difficulty in disposal, except where they were choice. There is much more medium on hand than there is a prospect of selling for some time to come, but choice lots are taken freely when offered, and only for these and good medium is there any actual demand. The best lots bring 17 to 18c, and only choice the latter figure. Good mediums will sell at 15c and in rare instances at 16c. Lower grades are not wanted.

CHEESE.

Still held at 13c, but sales are confined to odd lots of a few boxes.

LARD.

The local article is held at \$2.30 for 20 lb pails of choice, with imported quoted from 5 to 10c lower.

CURED MEATS.

Prices hold steady and as yet the local curers have not appeared in the market but are expected to before the close of the current week. Local dry salt is held at 11c and imported at 11½c, with smoked about one cent higher. Eastern rolls are offered at 12½c and Chicago are held at 13 to 13½c. Eastern hams are quoted at 14c and Chicago at 15 to 15½c. Breakfast bacon sells at 13½ to 14c. In the course of another week local curers will have their smoked meats on the market. Barrel pork is slow in sale and quoted at \$19.

DRESSED MEATS.

Beef is on the rise and wholesalers are asking 6c and getting it in some instances. Mutton is scarce and held firm at 10c. Dressed hogs are a little more plentiful and quoted at \$7 to \$7.25, holders being unwilling to sell even at the latter figure.

POULTRY.

Chickens are quoted at 7c; turkeys at 11 to 12½c. No geese or ducks offered. The demand all round is light.

What May We Expect!

In a summary of 100 townships, in the neighborhood of Brandon, there were about 83,000 acres under cultivation in 1887, or about 33 per cent. of 250,000 acres, comprised in the above area. The yield is given as follows: Wheat, 61,000 acres, averaging 32 bushels to the acre, making a total of 1,888,000 bushels. Oats, 17,000 acres, at 42 bushels per acre, gives 714,000 bushels. Barley, 220,000 acres, at 32 bushels per acre, 66,000 bushels. Peas, 50 acres, 15 bushels per acre, 750 bushels. Flax, a trifling amount grown. Potatoes, turnips and field roots, about 2,000 acres, at 200 bushels per acre, 400,000 bushels. Hay, about 20,000 tons. Our export of wheat was placed at 10,000,000

bushels, but with a few counties like this, we cannot even make an estimate anywhere approaching what the total crop will be.

CAPTAIN CLARKE, the representative of the Canadian Government at the Liverpool and Saitairé exhibitions of 1887, leaves for Canada to-day (Dec. 22).—*Canadian Gazette*.

A PUBLIC meeting was held at Birtle last week, when strong resolutions were passed re the grain blockade. There is no doubt that when the roads get clear somewhat from the effects of the late snow storm, there will be a universal blockade throughout all outside points.

THE assignment of the well known house of W. J. McMaster & Co., wholesale dry goods, Toronto, is to be regretted. The direct liabilities of the house are placed at \$160,000, and the indirect fully \$200,000. Bank of Montreal stock dropped three points on the announcement of the failure, they being the bankers of the house. A statement of assets and liabilities will be immediately presented.

ASSIGNMENTS continue to roll up from Toronto. R. J. Hovenden, house and sign painter, has gone under to liabilities of \$16,000 due the Central Bank.

THE tax sale of land in Rapid City amounts to \$3,000.

LEACH BROS., of Oak Lake, are contemplating buying the mill at Shoal Lake.

A PARTY of five hundred Belgians are expected to arrive in Manitoba about March 15th.

THE stock of J. A. Wright, tailor, Winnipeg, is offered for sale by tender and amounts to about \$8,000.

EIGHT cars of wheat are among the wreck at the Mink trestle, 185 miles east of Port Arthur, on the main line of the C. P. R.

THE Dominion Government are going to preserve the herd of wood buffalo in the Northwest Territories, which are said to number 250.

THE subscribers to the fund for contesting the Scarth election have \$560 to divide of the \$1,200 subscribed. Mr. Watson is the disburser.

THE Saskatchewan Hotel, at Minnedosa, R. Simpson, proprietor, was burned on the morning of the 31st ult. The building was insured for \$2,000. The contents of the house were saved.

H. S. WESBROOK

MANUFACTURERS' AGENT
and General Wholesale Dealer in

CUTTERS,
PLEASURE and }
FAMILY

SLEIGHS

Binding Twine, Wagons, Carriages, Phaetons,
Buggies, Buckboards, Carts, Plows, Har-
rows, Hay Presses, Engines and Threshers.

Sole Agent for
McCormick Harvesting Machine Co., J. L. Case Threshing
Machine Co., Bain Wagon Co., and John Campbell.
Commissions executed. Correspondence solicited.

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66 Princess St., Market Square, Winnipeg, Man.

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WHOLESALE DRY GOODS,
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Samples and Prices of Goods adapted to the Northwest Trade furnished on application.

Cosmopolitan Hotel,
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Headquarters for commercial travellers and tourists. Good sample rooms and clean and comfortable sleeping apartments.
 HUGH DEMPSEY, Proprietor.

WINNIEPeg FURNITURE AND UNDERTAKING HOUSE
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 FURNITURE WHOLESALE AND RETAIL
 Coffins and Caskets of every description in Stock. A great variety of Trimmings. Undertaking a specialty. Undertakers furnished on reasonable terms. Telephone.
 M. HUGHES & CO.

Toronto Preserving House
 PACKERS AND PRESERVERS OF
FRUITS VEGETABLES

Jams, Jellies & Fruit Butters.
 TOMATOES A SPECIALTY.
 W. A. SNYDER & CO., - PROPRIETORS
 Awarded Silver and Bronze Medals at the Toronto Industrial Exhibition.
 Factory: 121 & 123 Front Street East
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ASK YOUR WHOLESALER FOR OUR GOODS.

J. H. ASHDOWN,
 Wholesale Dealer & Importer of all kinds of
Shelf and Heavy Hardware,
 STOVES AND TINWARE,
 PAINTS, OILS AND GLASS,
RAILROAD and MILL SUPPLIES,

The Trade furnished with our Illustrated Catalogue on application.

Corner Main and Bannatyne Streets,
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DICK, BANNING & CO
 MANUFACTURERS OF
Lumber, Shingles and Lath,
 DOORS AND SASH.

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

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 WHOLESALE

CLOTHING

NEW FIRM, NEW GOODS.
 208 and 210
 MCGILL STREET, **MONTREAL**

COCHRANE, CASSILS & CO.
Wholesale Boots and Shoes

Cor. Craig & St. Francis Xavier Sts.,
 MONTREAL.
 Samples with W. B. McArthur,
 Donaldson's Block, WINNIPEG.

Mitchell Drug Company
WHOLESALE DRUGS,
 17 Owen Street, - - WINNIPEG.
 A Full Assortment of Drugs, Patent Medicines and Sundries at Lowest Prices.
 CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED.

LIVINGSTON, JOHNSTON & CO.,
 WHOLESALE
Manufacturers of Clothing
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TORONTO.

GURNEY & WARE,
SCALES

Manufacturers of
 Platform Scales—all sizes.
 Millers and Grain Scales.
 Hopper Scales—40 to 600 bush
 Hay, Coal and Stock Scales.
 Grocers, Counter and Union Scales.
 Warehouse Trucks.

The E. & C. GURNEY CO., Rupert St., Winnipeg

BOECKH'S
STANDARD
BRUSHES.

Quality and Size Guaranteed.
 For Sale by all Leading Houses.

JAMES WHITHAM. A. A. AYER, Special Partner
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Manufacturers of & Wholesale Dealers in
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 43, 45 and 47 St. MAURICE STREET,
 Near McGill Street,
MONTREAL.
 Represented by J. M. MACDONALD,
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JAMES O'BRIEN & CO.,
Manufacturers of Clothing

—AND—
 Importers of GENTS' FURNISHINGS,
 HATS, CAPS AND FUR GOODS, GLOVES
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OGILVIE MILLING CO.

Mill at Point Douglas.
 Capacity - - - 750 Barrels per day.
 OFFICE: - - - Corner King and
 Alexander Streets, Winnipeg.
 A Full Stock of Patent Hungarian, Strong Bakers' and Spring Extra Flour; Oatmeal, Pot and Pearl Barley, Graham Flour, Cracked Wheat, Bran, Shortst, Ground Feed, Oats, Barley.
 Wheat buyers at all C.P.R. Shipping Stations

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 Rest, - - - - - 125,000.
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 Importers and Wholesale Dealers in
Wines, Spirits and Cigars
 365 MAIN STREET,
 WINNIPEG.

EASTERN MARKETS.

CHICAGO.

The business done during the week has been light in volume and on the first two days were phenomenally so. In wheat and other grains the fluctuations of the week have been within a very small limit, and in provisions matters were much the same. Pork and lard were inclined to be weak, although the bears seemed not to pull as strongly as they might, although both commodities suffered a decline. Altogether it seemed as if operators had not recovered from the holiday rest, and were not inclined to go into business seriously.

There being no board meeting on Monday, on Tuesday the market presented a playful feature and at the close quotations were as follows:

	Jan.	Feb.
Wheat	77½	78½
Corn	49½	49½
Oats	31½	31½
Pork	15.25	15.35
Lard	7.85	7.90
Short Ribs		

On Wednesday the opening was featureless all round, but later there was a weaker feeling and a trifling decline in all products. Closing figures were:

	Jan.	Feb.
Wheat	77½	78½
Corn	49½	49½
Oats	31½	31½
Pork	15.10	
Lard	7.72½	7.75
Short Ribs		

On Thursday wheat recovered some of its strength and closed firmer, but pork and lard remained weak. Closing quotations were:

	Jan.	Feb.
Wheat	77½	78½
Corn	49½	49½
Oats		31½
Pork	15.05	15.15
Lard	7.62½	7.65
Short Ribs		

On Friday wheat held moderately firm, while pork weakened and declined a little. Lard was steady. Closing quotations were:

	Jan.	Feb.
Wheat	77½	78½
Corn	49½	49½
Oats		
Pork	14.90	15.00
Lard	7.60	7.62½
Short Ribs		

On Saturday wheat opened weak and declined a point or two. Pork was also weak and shaky. Lard was steady. Closing quotations were:

	Jan.	Feb.
Wheat	77½	78½
Corn	49	49½
Oats		
Pork	14.97½	15.05
Lard	7.62½	7.62½
Short Ribs		

MINNEAPOLIS.

Severe snow storms has caused a sudden and heavy decrease in receipts, and created a strong and active local market; mills, although having ample supplies of wheat, find it difficult to secure enough for daily consumption, owing to poor facilities of the railroads in moving it through the yards. The following were the closing quotations of January 4:—

	Jan.	Feb.	On track.
No. 1 hard	77½	79½	79½
No. 1 northern	75½	77½	77½
No. 2	73½	75	75½

The high price of wheat has compelled millers to hold on to flour and the market has been squeezed of the little life held before the advance in wheat. There is a fair export inquiry, but prices are unsatisfactory. Prices were: patents, \$4.35 to \$4.50; straights, \$4 to 4.25; first bakers', \$3.50 to \$3.75; second bakers', \$3. to \$3.30; best low grades, \$1.85 to \$2, in bags; red dog, \$1.40 to \$1.60, in bags,—*Northwestern Miller.*

DULUTH WHEAT MARKET.

Stocks in store the first of last week were 6,578,527 bushels, an increase over the previous week of 411,921 bushels. The following closing quotations for No. 1 hard on each day of the week, will show the state of the market:

	Cash	Jan.	May.
Monday			
Tuesday		77½	83½
Wednesday	78	78½	84½
Thursday	78	78	81
Friday		78	83½
Saturday		77½	77½

MONTREAL MARKETS.

In wheat there has been literally nothing doing beyond the call for supplies for local mills. Prices are nominal and quotations scarcely asked for. Manitoba No. 1 hard would be worth 37c and other grades in proportion, but the uncertainty about the change of standards checked any business in Northwestern wheat that might have been done.

FLOUR.

The market has been very quiet even for a holiday time, and there is no prospect of an immediate improvement. Manitoba strong bakers' was quoted from \$4.20 to \$4.30, but the quotations were purely nominal.

In butter and cheese the market has been dull and undecided, and it would be almost impossible to furnish reliable quotations.

MONTREAL STOCK MARKET.

The following quotations on Friday, Jan. 6th as compared with prices on the same day of the previous week, will indicate the course of the stock market:

	Dec. 30.		Jan. 6th	
	Offered.	Bid.	Offered.	Bid.
Montreal	216½	215½	217	216½
Ontario	114		115	110
Toronto	200	190	198½	192½
Merchants	121½	120	123½	122
Dominion				
Commerce	111½	111½	112	111½
Imperial				
Federal				
Molson's	140		140	132½
Union, ex. div.			95	80½
N. W. Land Co.	63	40		52
C. P. R.	62	61½	62½	62

Two hundred pounds of tobacco and a number of cigars were seized in this city last week by the inland revenue officer. The seizure was made on account of the goods having been exposed for sale out of their original packages.

The various provincial papers have been vying with each other to see who could turn out the most desreputable looking sheet as the first effort of the new year. It would be a difficult task to say which excelled, for they all can be simply called execrable.

CANADIAN SECURITIES IN ENGLAND.

The *Canadian Gazette* gives the following quotations of leading Canadian securities in the London market:

	Price.	Rise.	Fall.
Canada 4 per cents, 1860	107xd		
Ditto 3½ per cents	102		
Ditto 4 per cents, 1886	107xd		
British Columbia 4½ per cents	100		
Manitoba 5 per cents	108		
Quebec 5 per cents, 1883	114		
Winnipeg 5 per cents	106		
Canadian Pacific shares (N. Y. register)	62½		
Ditto shares (London register)	61		
Ditto mortgage bonds	105½		
Grand Trunk ordinary stock	12		
Ditto first preference	75½		
Bank of B. C. fully-paid shares	30		
Ditto £10 paid	15½		
Bank of B. N. A.	70		
Manitoba Mortgage	102		
Trust and Loan of Canada, £5 paid	5		
Canada North-West Land	2½		
Hudson's Bay	22½		

The board of arbitrators are now appointed to settle up the R. R. V. R. contract.

The location of the industrial farm in the proximity of Winnipeg, is said to have been decided upon.

The New York coffee market has had a scare and prices are on the drop, a cable reporting the visible supply as being considerably on the increase.

In all probability a parcel post system will soon be inaugurated between Canada and the United States, the Postmaster General, of both countries, having favorable ideas in the matter.

A SENATORIAL committee is about to be appointed to elicit more information regarding the Mackenzie river, which empties into the Arctic Ocean and is navigable for a craft drawing seven feet to a point near its mouth—a distance of 1,400 miles.

ANOTHER exploitatory expedition to the Hudson's Bay is contemplated by the Dominion Government, with more modern facilities than used in the last expedition. A special steamer will be procured, and a successful voyage is anticipated. The Hudson's Bay route will ere long be an accomplished fact.

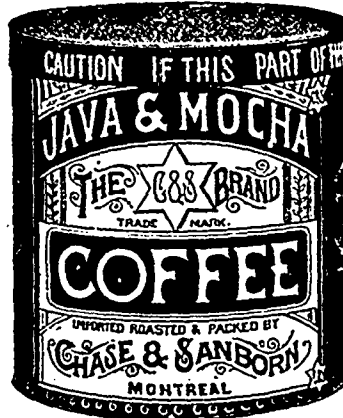
The Provincial Government received their half-yearly subsidy the other day from the Federal authorities, amounting to \$256,000. The Merchants' Bank absorbed \$200,000 of this amount, and considerable scratching will be indulged in to tide over the next few months.

The opening of the Soo road gives Minneapolis another competing route to the seaboard. The first through train from Montreal passed over the bridge Jan. 5, with a party of railroad magnates. One hundred cars of flour from Minneapolis to Boston from Pillsbury mills, was the contents of the first freight.

The reported appointment of Senator Schultz to the Lieutenant-Governorship of Manitoba was somewhat premature, no official notice whatever having been intimated. No doubt the appointment of the gentleman named will be made and would be a graceful acknowledgement of his services in this country. The rumor has already brought forth the approval of all sections and will be a satisfactory preferment. The appointment of Joe Royal, M.P., to the Governorship of the Territories is also of the same shady nature, and are probably only feelers thrown out from the Ottawa hot-bed; whose habit of dangling the bait is well known.

THE BEST

A Brand of Coffee which represents a perfect blending of strength and flavor. Always packed in 2 lbs. air tight cans; no charge for cans; 15 cans in a case.



A perfect blend of Private Plantation Java and Pure Arabia Mocha. Imported, Roasted, and packed by
Chase & Sanborn,
MONTREAL.

COFFEE.

DOLL
W. F.
WHOLESALE JEWELER.

Watches, Diamonds, Clocks, Spectacles,
Gold-headed Canes, Silver-plate, Watch
Material, Tools, etc., etc.

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The Palace Hotel of the Northwest, Ontario.
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First class Sample Room. Terms Reasonable.

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Commission Merchants.
AND EXPORTERS OF
GRAIN & PRODUCE.

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WOLSELEY, ASSINIBOIA,
E. A. BANBURY, PROPRIETOR.

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THE LEADING COMMERCIAL HOUSE.
Free Sample Rooms for Travellers. Opposite
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QU'APPELLE, ASSINIBOIA
G. S. DAVIDSON, PROP.

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Large Sample Rooms Free.

**The Fensom
Elevator
Works,**

Manufacturers of Hydraulic,
Steam and Hand Power Passenger
and Goods Elevators,
**34, 36 and 38 Duke Street
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McCLARY MANFG CO.
OF LONDON, TORONTO, MONTREAL, WINNIPEG,
AND LONDON, ENG.

Manufacturers of
McCLARY'S "FAMOUS" STOVES,

Stamped and Piced Tinware, Japanned Ware,
Stove Boards, etc., and Dealers in Granite Ironware, and
Tinsmiths' Metals and Supplies.

WHOLESALE ONLY.

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Show Rooms and Offices,
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J. W. DRISCOLL, Manager

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TEAS,

EAST and WEST INDIA PRODUCE

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WARWICK & SONS,
Manufacturing Stationers, Publishers, Book-sellers, Printers, Bookbinders, etc.
Printers & Binders to the Ontario Government.
TORONTO, ONT.

Bindery furnished with the latest and best machinery and appliances for turning out first-class work. WRITE FOR ESTIMATES.

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64 to 68 KING STREET EAST,
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SPECIALTIES.

Account Books Paper—all kinds
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Printers' supplies

FOR \$10.00

Dealers in nearly every branch of trade can profitably handle a few cigars. In order to introduce my goods for the fall trade, I will make the following special offer, good for three months from August 1.—I will send for \$10, seven half boxes all different brands handsomely put up in boxes. These cigars are selected from my choicest brands, made from the finest leaf tobacco, and guaranteed superior to the ordinary imported 10 cent cigars. Mail orders forwarded promptly.

THOS. G. FLEETON,
MANUFACTURER OF FINE CIGARS,
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PRODUCE AND COMMISSION

MERCHANT,

Vancouver, B.C.

MANITOBA PRODUCE a Specialty.

Consignments Received in All Lines.
Correspondence solicited.

J. C. DEVLIN, FLOUR

MILSTUFFS, GRAIN,

Farm Produce & Commission Merchant.

Correspondence Solicited.

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Samuel Gray,

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SASH, DOORS, BLINDS

Mouldings, Stairs, Handrails, Newels
Baulsters, etc.

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Having made arrangements with the C.P.R. I am prepared to furnish the trade with the above mentioned articles manufactured from the very best seasoned dry cedar and white pine. All work guaranteed. Correspondence solicited. P.O. Box 39, Victoria, B.C.

British Columbia Soap Works,

Manufacturers of a full line of

LAUNDRY SOAP

Consisting in part of Yellow Soap, Brown Soap
Red, White and Blue Mottled Soaps,
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Washing Powders, and their **Shaving Soap**

FULLY EQUAL TO ANY IN USE.

PENDRAY & CO. VICTORIA, B.C.

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Dealers in—

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Representing D. Richards, Manufacturer of Laundry and Toilet Soaps, Woodstock, Ontario; Jas. Hall & Co. manufacturers and dealers in Gloves, Mitts and Moccasins, Brockville, Ontario.

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LELAND HOUSE, VANCOUVER,

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The leading commercial hotel of the city. Directly above the C.P.R. Station and Steamboat wharf. All modern improvements. Sample rooms for travellers.

J. E. INSLEY, Mgr. WM. PROUT, Prop.

THE DRIARD,

VICTORIA, B.C.

The only strictly first-class hotel
in the province.

British Columbia

Total fire losses in Victoria for 1887, were \$47,400.

The new brick blocks in New Westminster are all occupied.

M. Shakespeare, M. P., has been appointed postmaster at Victoria.

The Kamloops Inland Sentinel, in its issue of Dec. 31st, gives interesting articles on the mining industries of British Columbia.

M. Stello, hotelkeeper, Vancouver, has sold out to J. Prince.

The retail lumber dealers of Vancouver will in future, sell for cash only.

Building improvements in Victoria during 1887, amounted to \$315,800.

Fire insurance rates will be made higher in New Westminster after January 1st.

E. Cosgrove, hotelkeeper, Vancouver, is out of business, and succeeded by Murray & Hume.

The Fraser is running very low and considerable difficulty is experienced to reach Chilliwack.

The Thompson River bridge, at Kamloops, B. C., was completed last week, and is now open for traffic.

J. W. Harris has bought out Carleton's interest in the general store of Carleton & Harris, of Port Hammond.

The last issue of the Victoria Weekly Times was an excellent number, brim full of information regarding the province.

Two hundred thousand dollars has been expended in municipal improvements in Vancouver during the past year.

A valuable quartz ledge has been discovered at Harrison Hot Springs of about 18 inches, well defined, and rich in silver ore.

J. G. McDonald, who absconded from Vancouver, is reported to have taken with him the sum of \$10,000 of his creditors money.

The value of gold dust shipped to San Francisco by Victoria banking institutions during 1887, was \$578,924, as compared with \$753,043 last year.

The Nicola Milling Company, of Nicola, B. C., composed of Messrs. H. Woodward, Edwin Caswell, Lewis Marks, and J. J. Rutledge, have dissolved partnership.

Turkeys were imported in a live state from the Sound and dressed at Victoria. The supply at the Sound became exhausted and shipping back became profitable.

S. J. Cohe, formerly of Winnipeg, now at Victoria, was brought before the magistrate of that place for selling watches and jewelry by auction. Judgment was reserved.

Latest advices from Granite Creek report mining to be flourishing. The Gladstone Company are taking out from \$600 to \$700 per week, employing from fifteen to twenty men and running day and night.

Seattle was the scene of a severe conflagration on Dec. 30th, destroying the new mill of the Mechanics Mill Company and the building of the Puget Sound Hide Co., the Seattle Boiler Works being also badly damaged. The total loss will aggregate \$40,000.

Victorians are exercised over the S. S. Batavia not calling at that port, but after taking on the pilot, proceeded direct to Vancouver. Customs regulations are the source of difficulty and the captain of the vessel consider it paramount to the agreement of the company with the city.

The customs house officials have seized a sheep ranche on Cadboro Bay, B. C., on suspicion of smuggling their stock. Mr. Wilson deposited a sum sufficient to cover the value of the seizure, but has subsequently acknowledged the offence. Smuggling of stock prevails along the northern coast from the San Juan Islands

A fire at Donald did damage to the extent of \$1,000. A restaurant owned by W. H. Lilly, and occupied by Harris, was burned, also Brown's shoe store.

The number of cases of salmon packed by Ewen & Co., and Bon Accord Fishery, on the Fraser River, last season, were: For the former, 22,819 cases, and the latter, 15,508 cases. The output of these canneries is handled by Robert Ward & Co., of Victoria, and was through an error, previously placed at 13,000 cases.

The steamship Batavia arrived at Victoria, from China and Japan, on Tuesday, Dec. 27th, with a full cargo and a number of passengers, including 20 Chinese. Her cargo consists of 118 chests of opium, 105 packages of silk, 14,530 packages of tea, 9,300 packages general merchandise consigned to New York, Montreal and other eastern points.

Vancouver now has 13½ miles of graded streets, 5½ miles planked, and 1 mile gravelled, and 18½ miles of broad, plank side-walks. An idea of the amount of timber used can be given by saying that if the plank were laid end to end there would be sufficient to build a single broad walk over four hundred miles in length. The board of work's report shows the expenditure up to date on completed street contracts, foots up to the large amount of \$110,478.50. This, however, does not include gravelling, cost of tanks and public buildings.

A Victoria despatch says: Charles Spring, owner of one of the sealing schooners seized in 1887, has been notified that the American Government has ordered the release of the Carolina, Onward and Thornton, with all their tackle as they now lie at Ounalaska. The owners here state that they will not take the schooners unless delivered in the same condition as when seized and the value of the skins. It would be impossible to proceed to Ounalaska unless at greater cost than the schooners are worth. The equivalent of the value of the vessels and their catch to be paid by the American Government will probably be the final result.

The *Inland Sentinel*, of Kamloops, says: "Unless the Canadian Pacific Railway Company reduce their high freight rates the trade of the Lower Kootenay country will remain tributary to the United States, and even the business of the upper part of the district will return to that channel. The experiment made this last year of bringing in goods from Golden station, on the C. P. R., proved a failure as the old way of packing from Sandpoint, Idaho, on the Northern Pacific, was the cheapest. With a United States steamer on the Upper Kootenay river to connect with that portion of the water-way in that country—the whole Kootenay trade will be taken from Canada for ever, if a reduction is not made in the high rates on the C. P. R."

Times: The Nanaimo Water Works Company have announced the approaching completion of the water service for the black-diamond city, and water was to have been turned into the mains from Chase river for the first time this (Thursday) afternoon. The water is taken from the river and brought by pipes for a distance of over three miles into the city. Two large dams have been erected at the source,

thus forming two extensive reservoirs in which millions of gallons of water can be accumulated. The mains follow nearly the course of the old Harwood road and enter the city at Hospital hill; from there they are carried down Franklin street to Wallace street and then along the different streets of the city. The vertical pressure will be considerably over 200 feet, thus insuring a supply to all points of the city as well as an available pressure for fire purposes.

D. Oppenheimer, chairman of the finance committee of the Vancouver city council, has presented his annual report. It shows;—

The total receipts from various sources for the current year up to the 1st of December, were.....	\$203,253.09
Total expenditure.....	170,770.43
Balance in Bank B. C.....	\$32,483.26

Out of this balance about \$22,000 will be required for running expenses for December and work under contract, and available for contingent fund say \$8,000, and the \$5,000 unpaid taxes, making a total of \$13,000 available for next year.

The assessment roll for 1887 was:	
\$2,739,806 at 1½ per cent.....	\$33,703.00
Taxes collected.....	\$27,342.61
Five per cent. rebate if paid on or before Aug. 1st, 1887.....	1,309.26
Unpaid taxes to be collected.....	\$ 5,111.13

Of the receipts, \$156,752, were proceeds of debentures, and \$12,000 from licenses. The principal items of expenditure were: Board of works, \$53,836; fire, water and light, \$7,635; salaries, \$9,859; interest, \$6,869; sewerage construction, \$13,997; notes paid off, \$7,412; sinking fund, \$2,619; debentures paid off, \$56,769.

Opium Smuggling.

Special Customs Agent Wolff, who visited Victoria last July in the hope of being able to discover many more nests in connection with the customs business in this province, according to an Ottawa dispatch by way of Chicago, has stated in the capital that in the course of his investigations here he had learned that enormous quantities of opium were being smuggled into the United States at that and other points in the Dominion. He got into the confidence of several Chinamen purposely to report to the American authorities how the business was being carried on, which information he has communicated to the customs officials on the other side of the line, where, he states, the revenue of the country is being defrauded to an almost incredible extent. According to Mr. Wolff's story large quantities of manufactured opium are being sent east over the Canadian Pacific from Victoria, whence it makes its way into the United States and various points along the St. Lawrence. There are now eleven factories refining crude opium in Victoria, says Mr. Wolff, any one of which is sufficient to supply the local demand of the Chinese in that province. The production of the other ten, as a matter of course, finds its way into the United States. In British Columbia a large business is done in smuggling articles from Cadboro Bay to San Juan Island, where it is held until placed on board sloops or small steamers and taken to Seattle, Port Townsend and Tacoma. Considerable quantities are also finding their way in lumber-laden vessels into San Francisco from Victoria.—*Victoria Times*.

Lumber Cuttings.

James Drake, of Selkirk, is moving his saw mill from that town to Broken Head River, on Lake Winnipeg, where he purposes the manufacture of oak timber, the demand for that class of lumber being good.

Of the great raft venture, the *New York Press* says: "It is the largest and most dangerous waif that the waves have ever borne, and mariners, particularly those engaged in the coasting trade, have reason to fe the monster. It is 580 feet in length, is sixty-five feet in width on the water line, and is 38 feet high. Dark almost as the sea green itself, with no masts to be seen by day, or light to be exhibited by night, it travels on stealthily, with a velocity each moment almost increased by the surging of the rear portions of the timbers. No more dangerous impediment to navigation has been on the coast or ocean for years, and has been a fortunate matter that the history of the raft ends with the failure of the venture, the practicability of which it sought to illustrate. It was built at a little place called Joggins, in Nova Scotia, for Mr. James D. Leary, of New York City, and by its failure to reach port safely that gentleman estimates his actual loss at \$35,000, and his prospective one at \$75,000. It had almost reached the harbor of New York when, on Sunday morning, December 18th, in a fearful storm, the 15-inch towing cable parted, the tug was compelled to put into port and the raft drifted out to sea. It is probable that it will break up. An immense cable core runs through the heart of the raft, to which at intervals of every 18 inches two and a half inch chains encircle it and are 'swifted' tightly by hydraulic pressure, and everybody knows the tenacity with which wreckage holds together. Should the chain swifters part, however, the presence of 27,000 large logs, 70 feet in length and from 14 to 24 inches at the butt, floating loosely on the ocean would probably be so fraught with danger to navigation as would the raft in its entirety. Viewed from all points, the raft adrift is exceedingly dangerous, and it would be a relief to the seafaring public if it should be recovered and brought into some port."

Canadian Lumber Dues.

The lumber interests of Ontario are much exercised over the coming into operation this winter of increased duties on lumber cut on government lands. At present the duties are 75c per thousand feet Crown dues and \$2 per square mile ground rent. The new duties coming into effect this winter call for Crown dues of \$1 per thousand feet and \$3 per square mile ground rent. An association has been formed by the lumbermen, and a deputation from it called upon the Premier of Ontario, Mr. Mowat, and Mr. Pardee, Commissioner of Crown Lands, and respectfully protested against the imposition of higher duties. Among the points made by the lumbermen of interest to Americans was the fact that southern yellow pine and poplar were each year coming into increasing competition with Canadian lumber. The Premier in reply said it was out of the power of the government at present to guarantee the permanent prices. The fact that previous changes in duties had only been made at long intervals, he thought was a fair guarantee that the present duties would not be changed in a hurry.—*Bradstreet's*.

Our Pacific Province.

VICTORIA INDUSTRIES—CONTINUED.

Last week some of the leading industries of Victoria, including iron works, boots and shoes, furniture and soap manufactures, were briefly dealt with. This week the same line will be followed, commencing with

LUMBER, AND SASH AND DOOR

manufacture. There are several establishments engaged in manufacturing sash and doors, etc., but only one saw mill is conducted on any considerable scale. The Rock Bay saw mill, the name by which it was known, is owned and operated by W. P. Sayward, and was established in 1858. The present mill was built in 1878, Mr. Sayward having a mill previous to that time some twenty miles from Victoria. The mill has a capacity of 6,000,000 feet annually, and is run principally for the city trade. The logs are brought from along the coast for a distance of 150 miles.

The Chemainus saw mill; Croft & Angus, proprietors, have a branch lumber yard at Victoria. The latter is the largest mill on Vancouver island, and though not a Victoria industry, may be referred to here. This mill is located at Horse Shoe Bay, on the Island railway, sixty miles from Victoria, and has been established about fifty years. It came into the hands of the present proprietors about four years ago, when it was enlarged and new machinery put in. The capacity is now about 30,000,000 feet yearly. There are also shingle and lath mills in connection, with a capacity the former of 40,000 and the latter of 20,000 daily. Manufacturing is done both for export and Provincial trade. The timber for the Island railway was cut largely by this mill. H. A. Harrison is the general agent for the mill. The other new mills on Vancouver Island are: One at Nanaimo, the northern terminus of the Island railway; Haslem & Lees, proprietors; capacity about 5,000,000 feet annually. One at Comox, 180 miles north of Victoria, on the east coast; this is a small local mill; Urquhart Bros. are proprietors. There is a mill at Cowichan, which has been idle for two years. It is owned by Wm. Sutton, of Walkerville, Ontario, and has a capacity of 15,000,000 or 20,000,000 feet annually. The first mill erected on Vancouver Island was built by the Hudson's Bay Co.

So much for the lumbering interest of the Island generally. We will now return to Victoria and consider the sash and door industry. Samuel Gray is the proprietor of one of the establishments in this line, and manufactures sash, doors, mantels, mouldings, hand-rails, newel posts, and a great variety of articles in wood. A general wholesale trade is done in the lines mentioned. Office fittings and planing are also done. Mr Gray is the patentee and manufacturer of the improved, self-supporting geometrical stairs, a unique contrivance for saving room. This is a stair, elevator, light shaft and ventilator all combined. Quite a business has been done in supplying this stair to parties in the States. Mr. Gray is now turning his attention to the Territories and Manitoba, and he hopes to introduce his goods in this direction, especially in sash, doors, etc., manufactured

from the celebrated woods of Vancouver Island.

The Queen City Planing Mills are owned by Johnson, Walker & Flett. Everything is done in wood manufactures, including sash, doors, blinds, frames, brackets, etc. A small saw mill is also run in connection, used only for cutting lumber for the sash and door factory. The business has been established four years. The premises are on quite an extensive scale, the main building being 57x100 feet, two storeys, exclusive of saw mill, engine and boiler house, dry kilns, etc.

Muirhead & Mann, manufacturers of sash, doors, mouldings, etc., have been established since 1870, and do a large wholesale business in all sorts of wood manufactures usually turned out from an establishment of the kind.

C. C. Hayward is the owner of a sash and door factory, with a saw mill in connection. The size of the factory is 75x30 feet and the mill 45x30 feet, and a warehouse 40x30 feet, all two storeys high. He also carries on an undertaking business, and both manufactures and imports goods in the latter line.

Smith & Clarke, contractors and ship joiners, also have a planing mill and sash and door factory, manufacturing principally for use on their own contracts.

Among the industries of Victoria is a piano-forte manufactory, carried on by Goodwin & Jordan, established three years. Pianos are manufactured throughout at the establishment. The establishment of organ manufacturing is also contemplated.

CLOTHING MANUFACTURE.

T. B. Pearson & Co. are manufacturers of demin and duck clothing, overalls, etc., cottonade goods, tweed pants, shirts of all kinds, underclothing and men's general furnishing goods. About twenty-five men are usually employed. new and more commodious apartments have just been secured on Yates street, and it is expected that the staff employed will be increased to forty men. This is one of the industries which promises to increase in importance. The material used is imported direct from the factories.

THE VICTORIA RICE MILLS

Have been established in the city about two years, and is a branch of the Mount Royal Milling and Manufacturing Co., of Montreal. The establishment of this industry in Victoria is due to the fact that the coast has a Chinese population, the Celestials being the principal customers of the establishment. The rice is imported in the "puddy" state, that is in the natural state, when it is enclosed in a husk, something similar to oats or barley. The first process which it is put through is that of removing the husk, or chaff. When this is done there remains another coating, similar to the bran of wheat, which is taken off by another process, when it becomes the rice of commerce. A portion is ground for rice flour. Rice which becomes broken during the process of removing the husk and inner coating, is shipped to San Francisco where it is used in the manufacture of lager beer. To show the peculiarity of the Chinese population, it may be stated that the mats in which the prepared rice is put up for sale, are imported from Hong Kong, China, the Chinese having scruples about buying unless

put up in this way. Even the cord with which the mats are tied is imported from China. The Siwashas, as the Indians of British Columbia are called, are also large consumers of rice.

CIGAR MANUFACTURING

Is carried on to a considerable extent at Victoria, there being five factories in this line all employing white labor. Cigars are also manufactured to some extent by the Chinese. About forty to fifty men are employed in the five factories mentioned. Formerly this was quite a flourishing industry, but latterly eastern competition has been very severely felt, the country now being flooded with eastern goods. The home-manufactured cigars are all high class goods, it being found impossible to turn out medium and common cigars in competition with the product of cheap eastern labor. The goods range in price from \$40 to \$100 per thousand. The people of Victoria have been educated to appreciate a choice cigar, and the demand is very largely for the very best qualities. The leaf is imported from San Francisco, New York and Montreal principally.

Insurance Briefs.

The average term of exemption from destruction by fire of the theatres in Europe is twenty-two and a half years; in the United States it is ten years.

The life insurance agents of New York City are making an effort to weed out the dead-beats from the list of solicitors. One of the heaviest loads that both life and fire insurance has to carry is the dead-beats who manage to get fastened on as solicitors. The man who can discover a way to rid the business of them can fairly claim to be a public benefactor. Intelligent and honorable solicitors, both in life and fire, are a benefit to the business, and the more of them the better, but the fellows who have proven themselves unfitted for any business in which they have engaged in the past and who have no motive or pride in the business beyond the occasional commission they get as a charity, degrade the business and lessen public respect for those legitimately engaged in it.

The Making of Gold Lace.

One of the most singular mechanical operations imaginable is the making of gold wire for what is known as gold lace. The refiner first prepares a solid rod of silver about an inch in thickness: he beats this rod, applies upon the surface a sheet of gold leaf, burnishes this down, and so on, until the gold is one hundredth part to thickness of the silver. The rod is then subjected to a train of processes which brings it down to the state of fine wire, when it is passed through holes in a steel plate lessening step by step in diameter. The gold never deserts the silver, but adheres closely to it and shares all its mutations; it is one-hundredth part the thickness of the silver at the beginning, and it maintains the same ratio to the end. As to the thinness to which the gold-coated rod of silver can be brought, the limit depends on the delicacy of human skill. It has been calculated however, that the gold actually placed on the very finest silver wire for gold lace is not more than one-third of one-millionth of an inch in thickness, that is, not above one-tenth the thickness of ordinary gold leaf.

The Business Outlook.

Since the recent collapse of the Central Bank there has been a general overhauling of accounts all along the line. Men who were thought to be secure have succumbed under the stringency of the times, and the general curtailing of discounts to the weaker houses has told severely during the last few weeks. There is no disguising the fact that we are face to face with a quiet trade, and that present operations are confined to strictly legitimate business. No encouragement is, or will likely be, given by the banks to new business for some months to come, unless it be of the most justifiable character. The pressure felt so keenly in many quarters just now is undoubtedly the result of overtrading. The last few years has witnessed a great deal of inflation in many trades and especially so in the dry goods, aided and unfortunately encouraged by the too lavish credit of the banks. In other years whatever of hardship and suffering has been felt from a speculative trade in the common necessities of life, has been traceable in a great measure to the reckless manner in which some bank managers distributed the sinews of war. A significant feature of the import trade of the present day is the easy credit allowed by British houses, as compared with the caution exhibited by American exporters. Americans have shown much discrimination of late years in granting credit to our importers, and the result is that when any large house falls to the ground, the proportion of American credit represented is somewhat small, while the British houses figure very prominently. The reason for this is not far to seek, and may be attributed to the prevailing practice of shorter credits which is always extending in the United States. Many of their banks are operated by men who own about half the capital, which naturally promotes greater caution in their dealings. We sometimes flatter ourselves that our banks are richer and stronger than those of our neighbors, but it may be questioned whether the American custom which makes it possible for the president, manager and cashier to own a very large proportion of the stock, is not in itself a very strong guarantee of good management.

Retailers, whether in town or country, will consult their own best interests by confining their purchases to actual needs. We learn, on very reliable authority, that houses in the dry goods trade are selling spring goods on four months' credit, dating from delivery in January or February. Surely we have had enough of this policy, and merchants should sternly refuse to accept offers of this kind. Let us bid good bye to this kind of stuffing of country stores. The caution displayed by the majority of retailers is highly commendable, and if persisted in, will effectually check the disastrous practice of over importations which are generally believed to have caused much of the mischief from which we now suffer.

It is also asserted that some wholesalers are discouraging cash payments to save the discounts. A preference for paper at the present time is certainly not wise, and will not assist in reducing the country trade to that stable and easy condition which the best men have been striving after.

From present appearances money will likely be tight for the needy and struggling, and the wisdom of all who have in the past leaned too much on bank succour may be severely tested. From now until spring merchants must be content with less business and smaller earnings; if, in the meantime they can readjust matters they will pass through the ordeal wiser and stronger men.—*Toronto Merchant.*

Grain and Milling News.

McBean Bros., of Winnipeg, have leased the warehouses on Mark's wharf, Port Arthur, for grain storage.

The Minneapolis *Northwestern Miller* has fairly excelled itself this year in producing a special Christmas number. The number is one which should be in the library of every miller on the continent. It contains a vast amount of information which will be found most useful as a reference all the year round. The *Northwestern Miller* is already at the head of the list of milling journals of America, if not of the world.

One of the first effects of the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway has evidently been to stimulate the millers of the Dominion to enterprise in the Far East. Already we hear of cargoes of choice flour milled from Manitoba hard Fyfe wheat, being forwarded to the seaboard and shipped to China and Japan, and larger consignments are spoken of as likely to follow. No doubt the Dominion millers will find a certain amount of custom in the treaty ports of both China and Japan among the European residents, but we fear it will be long before the forty millions of Japan and the hundreds of millions of China will consume much fine wheaten flour.—*London, England, Miller.*

The following is the resolution passed by the grain section of the Toronto board of trade, regarding the change in the Manitoba wheat standards: "That whereas an order-in-council has been passed changing the grades of Manitoba wheat, which will disarrange and cause endless trouble in carrying out contracts already entered into for future delivery on the basis of present grades, as well as necessitating the withdrawal of all samples now in the hands of foreign buyers and the furnishing of new standards, thereby, causing great delay and cessation of business operations; therefore be it resolved, that this board desires to express its strong disapprobation at the changing of grain standards by the Governor-in-Council without consulting the commercial interests of the country through their various channels; and would therefore move that the council of this board of trade take such action in the matter as they may deem best to obtain if possible the rescinding of the order in council until such time as all interested are consulted and their views ascertained." The flour section of the board passed the following: Resolved—"That whereas an order-in-council has been passed amending the standard of Manitoba wheat, and which is fraught with most pressing import to all millers and flour dealers, any change at this time, when the grades are fixed, approved and known, is undesirable and likely to obstruct business, and also involve in litigation all contracts of sale fixed and still to be executed." Resolved—"That this section deprecates the fact that

any change in existing standards of grain is not possible, not coming through the regular constituted board of grain examiners, who should be, in our opinion, the only authority by which a change in the existing standard of grain is possible."

Russian Wheat.

Bulletin No. 2 has been issued from the Central Experimental Farm, at Ottawa. With reference to the Russian wheat which was distributed last spring to parties in the West, the Bulletin says: "A copy of the following circular was sent with each sample of the Russian wheat: DEAR SIR,—There has been sent to you this day by mail from the Central Experimental Farm, a sample bag of spring wheat, which has been obtained under instruction of the Minister of Agriculture, from one of the Northern Provinces of Russia. This wheat has been ripened above latitude 56, more than 600 miles further north than the city of Ottawa, where the summer season is very short; hence it is expected that it will ripen in Canada earlier than any of the varieties now in cultivation. You will oblige by testing this wheat and return at the close of the season to the Central Experimental Farm, Department of Agriculture Ottawa, by mail, in bags herewith sent, a sample of the same as grown on your land, also state the character of the soil on which it was grown, the date of sowing, the time of ripening and the yield, with any other remarks relating to it which you may believe to be of importance. Tested at the seed house at the Experimental Farm, both in the soil and in the seed tester, this grain has produced a vigorous growth, 98 per cent. germination promptly.

WM. SAUNDERS, Director.

Only part of the returns have as yet been received, but as far as they have come in, they show a most gratifying success, establishing the fact that this wheat will ripen in Manitoba and the Northwest from ten to fifteen days earlier than Red Fyfe, a gain which past experience would lead us to believe would be sufficient to secure this most important crop from all danger of frost. The shipment from Russia was not received until the seeding season in the Northwest was nearly over hence the wheat could not be sown early enough to give it a favorable chance; on this account it will require the experience of another year to establish with accuracy its period of ripening. This subject if of such vast importance to the future of the country that no pains will be spared in the endeavor to ascertain the true bearing of all the facts. Samples of this wheat as grown in the several Provinces are being submitted to eminent experts for their opinion as to its quality, it is also undergoing careful chemical analysis with other wheats for comparison, and if practicable a portion will be ground into flour and its value in bread making tested; a special bulletin on the subject will be issued as soon as all the desired information is available.

In the meantime the interest awakened in the Northwest is very great, and so large a number of applications have been sent in for samples for spring planting, that a second consignment has been ordered from Riga, which supplemented by what has been grown here will it is hoped, be sufficient to introduce this wheat into almost every locality and prepare the way for its general cultivation within two or three years.

Western Trade Notes.

Another locomotive has been added to the rolling stock of the Galt railway. The new engine, which will be known as "The Eight Spot," possesses larger driving wheels and is said to be more powerful than any other engine on the road.

The bark Malay cleared from Chemainus, B. C., a few days ago for San Francisco. She carried 204 tons of coal from Wellington, 186,000 feet of lumber, 48,150 pickets, 19,800 laths, 221 piles and 11 cords of wood from the Chemainus saw mills of Croft & Angus.

Toronto *Monetary Times*: Manitoba butter is in demand at Vancouver but as dealers in Winnipeg are holding it at very high prices, merchants and commission men will probably be inclined to look elsewhere for supplies. Enquiries have been sent to Montreal, and already Eastern Townships butter is in that market.

Toronto *Mail*: Manitoba grass fed beef was a feature of the Toronto Christmas market. The cattle, of which one car load was sent from Winnipeg, arrived in such good condition that Mr. John Hallam, referring to them in a letter to Winnipeg, says: "If this lot be a fair sample of the beef raised in Manitoba and the Northwest our Ontario farmers will need to look to their laurels."

A despatch from Sault Ste. Marie, dated Dec. 31st, says: The first train crossed the international bridge at 16.45 to-day. The train consisted of C.P.R. engine 209 and four cars with the following personages aboard: G. H. Massey, Geo. Cox, Jas. Moffatt, Thos. Henderson, K. J. Chaddock, T. R. Harvey, press representatives and others. Great interest was manifested in the event, which will open the route via the Soo to the great west. The train was given a grand send-off from the Canadian Sault, and met with an enthusiastic reception on reaching the American Sault. Regular through trains will commence running on Tuesday. Arrangements are completed for a grand railway jubilee here on January 18th. One hundred cars of flour from Washburn, Minneapolis, will be the first consignment of through freight, arriving here Tuesday. The Soo and C.P.R. lines are going to put immense yards in at both Saults. Real estate has advanced twenty per cent. this month, and spring will see a boom far surpassing last year's.

Dry Goods and Fashion Notes.

A prominent English cotton broker says that England's most formidable rival in the cotton manufacturing trade is not America, but India.

Some recent reports stated that the bustle was about to go. But it has not gone, and the Paris fashion plates show dress improvers of as large dimension, or larger, than before.

The Warehouseman and Drapers' Trade Journal says millions of little humming birds and the pretty neck feathers of the merle are now being prepared in Paris for the spring millinery trade. Manufacturers of flowers, too are becoming jubilant, because of the growing demand for flowers and foliage, which, we are informed, are chiefly facsimiles of the smallest and neatest kinds. The trade in larger feathers and birds has had its day.

The Warehouseman and Draper points out, as a result of increasing competition among London wholesale houses, that terms of credit are relaxing, thereby encouraging a class of tradesmen "who are exceedingly willing to trade at the expense of other people." The rule used to be a month's credit, and a discount of 2½ per cent. for cash before the end of the month. Now 2½ is allowed for two months, and 3½ for prompt payment. Too easy credit is a great evil in the dry goods trade of Canada, but while it is growing in a conservative country like England, how is it to be stopped in Canada.

The manufacture of catalonnes, or home-made carpets, is an industry of considerable extent in Quebec, but hitherto there has existed in the province no factory for making carpets for the trade. The first industry of this kind has been started this year by Mr. Oct. Ouelette, woolen manufacturer at Plessisville de Somerset. Mr. Ouelette has three or four looms working on woolen ingrain carpets, and the first products of the mill shown us are certainly very creditable in design and quality. We wish the new industry every success.—*Canadian Journal of Fabrics*.

It is expected that next summer will be a muslin season. Muslin and lawn goods in all colors are being extensively made now by European manufacturers. They are being made in stripes, and figures and flowers, colored or otherwise. Some kinds imitate the gloss of silk, and other, have metal effect.

The Hudson's Bay Route.

THE Manchester (England) *Courier* lately devoted a lengthy article to the Hudson's Bay route. The *Courier* concludes from a full investigation of evidence before it, that the route is one which would be most beneficial to the western portion of Canada, and that its desirability is unquestioned. The *Courier* further commends the matter to the attention of British capitalists; and then concludes as follows: "But the general feeling it is believed will be that with the Canadian Pacific railway running from ocean to ocean, the country can very well rest on its oars for a few years without in any way interfering with or postponing the fulfillment of the destiny awaiting it in the future." If the writer for the *Courier* were here on the spot, and fully acquainted with existing circumstances and the requirements of the country, the sentence quoted above would not have occurred. At the distance of a few thousand miles it is difficult to imagine that the Great West is already in actual need of a second outlet for its products, when it is considered that it is but a few years since the country was first opened up to settlement by the railway outlet which it now possesses. Nevertheless it is true that the C.P.R. has already clearly demonstrated its inability to handle the rapidly increasing traffic of the country. This year there has been almost a complete blockade, and the country has suffered most severely from the inability of the railways to handle the great press of traffic. At the present rate of development, the country will soon be in a sad plight indeed, unless

additional outlets for exports are provided. A week or so ago THE COMMERCIAL said:

"The rapid increase in the traffic of the West, has demonstrated undisputably that this country must have an additional outlet, if our exports are to find a market in anything like reasonable time, if indeed at all. The C.P.R. has already exhibited its inability to handle the traffic of the country. Notwithstanding the most superhuman efforts, the freight blockade has been steadily growing, until on Saturday of last week, it is estimated that over four hundred cars were wanted for wheat alone in the province, which could not be furnished. The elevator accommodation of the country is filled up, and miles of grain sacks, five or six tiers deep, are piled up in the open air along the railways, waiting to be moved. A soft spell of weather would mean the loss of many thousands of dollars in grain so exposed." If the *Courier* will consider these facts, it will certainly withdraw its statement to the effect that the "country can afford to rest on its oars for a few years." If the Hudson's Bay railway were being pushed forward as rapidly as possible, it could not be completed and the route thoroughly established any too soon for the requirements of the country. To "rest on our oars" is most dangerous advice in the present juncture.

Paraguay.

The signing of a treaty, containing the most favored nation clause, between Germany and the South American Republic of Paraguay is drawing the attention of German merchants to the great advance which has lately taken place in the economical relations of this industrious people. The annual import and export trade of Paraguay is now valued at about 6,000,000 mks. The principal articles of import are woven goods, especially cotton fabrics, sugar, flour, wine and beer, iron ware, shoe ware, hardware, drugs, dyes and hats, while in the export trade the so-called "Paraguay tea," or mate, tobacco, oranges, orange leaves, orange leaf essence, palm oil, building wood, railway sleepers, and raw and dressed cattle hides are of importance. Germany dominates the Paraguayan market in toys, sewing machines, pianos, and beer, and supplies a large portion of the demand for writing materials, account books, hardware, handkerchiefs, cotton and linen fabrics, iron and shoe ware and railway plant.—*Kuhlow's German Trade Review*.

FOLLOWING is a statement showing the value of goods exported, imported and entered for consumption, with duty collected, at Winnipeg during the month of December, 1887, compared with the same month, 1886:

Description.	Value 1886.	Value 1887.
Goods exported....	\$ 91,387 00	\$ 65,874 00
Goods imported, dutiable.....	\$ 95,141 00	\$ 72,014 00
Goods imported, free	23,695 00	43,523 00
Total imported.	\$118,836 00	\$115,537 00
Goods entered for consumption—		
Dutiable.....	\$ 96,865 00	\$ 76,471 00
Free.....	23,695 00	43,523 00
Total entered for consumption..	\$120,560 00	\$119,994 00
Duty collected.....	\$30,470 96	\$22,107 05

Business East.**ONTARIO.**

D. Hicks, grocer, Cornell, has sold out.
 Jas. Moss, shoes, Napseo, has assigned.
 N. J. Frawley, grocer, Orillia, has assigned.
 Wm. Edwards, hotelkeeper, Orillia, is dead.
 Jos. Guitard, hotelkeeper, Mildmay, is dead.
 Daniel Poole, hotelkeeper, Ancaster, has sold out.
 Wm. Gould, butcher, etc., Embro, has assigned.
 Geo. Mann, Li-Quor Tea Co., Toronto, has assigned.
 J. H. Samo, furniture dealer, Toronto, has assigned.
 Wm. G. Brunning, hotelkeeper, Prescott, has assigned.
 G. L. Williams, dealer in shoes, Galt, has assigned.
 Mrs. Sainsbury, second-hand clothing, London, is dead.
 John G. Hilborn, grocer, etc., Maidstone, has assigned.
 F. R. & D. Collins, dry goods, Kincardine, has assigned.
 J. D. Coulter, tailor, Toronto,—a meeting of creditors held.
 Frank Ellis, wagon manufacturer, Meaford, has sold out.
 Daniels & Wilson, hotelkeepers, Hamilton, have sold out.
 Mrs. Cameron, hotelkeeper, Sault St. Marie, was burned out.
 L. F. Rapley, dealer in flour and feed, Strathroy, has assigned.
 Moses Gingrich, general storekeeper, Rossville, has assigned.
 J. B. Crane, builder, St. Thomas, compromising at 25c in the \$.
 Lovell & Miller, cigar manufacturers, Hamilton, are dissolving.
 Thos. Marren, general storekeeper, Moonstone, has sold out.
 T. L. Lindop, grocer and liquor dealer, St. Thomas, has sold out.
 J. Z. Beandry, harness manufacturer, Vankleek Hill, has assigned.
 Neol & Chevrier, dealer in clothing, Ottawa, are offering to compromise.
 S. Thompson & Co., harness, Bowmanville, are succeeded by Mason & Dale.
 Perkins Bros, machinists, Ottawa, have dissolved; G. W. Perkins continues.
 R. Dunn & Sons, windmill manufacturers, Arkona, style now the Comet Windmill Co.
 The following were burned out at Bradford:
 W. Poyser, boots and shoes; L. Clement, physician; John Stibbs, provisions; John Wilson, grocer; J. McFarlane, billiards.

QUEBEC.

W. & D. Tardiff, grocers, Montreal, have dissolved.
 Didier-Dionne, dealer in dry goods, Quebec, has assigned.
 Fournier & Co., general storekeepers, Magog, have assigned.
 Geo. T. Slater, wholesale boots and shoes, Montreal, is dead.
 Gagnon, St. Pierre & Co., dry goods, Montreal, have dissolved.
 T. Taylor, dealer in dry goods, Quebec, is asking an extension.

Philias Auger, grocer, Montreal, has assigned.
 Z. Bouregard, general storekeeper, St. Guillaume, has assigned.
 L. P. Guilmetto, general storekeeper, St. Jerome, has assigned.
 Jos. Dore, general storekeeper, L'Ange Gardien, is compromising.
 M. J. Warren & Co., manufacturers of patent specialties, Montreal, have dissolved.
 M. Berthiaume & Co., general storekeepers, St. Marthe,—demand of assignment made.

NOVA SCOTIA.

John Cody, livery, Amherst, has sold out.
 W. R. G. McLeod, grocer, Halifax, has assigned.
 Hill & O'Brien, livery, Halifax, have dissolved.
 Taylor, Christie & Co., grocers, Halifax, have assigned.
 Murray & McMillan, victuallers, New Glasgow, have dissolved.
 Abraham Rodenhiser, hotelkeeper, Bridgewater, has assigned.
 J. L. Lawley, carriages, Jacksonville, is out of business and away.
 Benjamin & Marks, general storekeepers, Brookfield, have assigned.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

Peter Gavin, saw mill, Coleman, has assigned.
 Chas. Moody, woollens, Yarmouth, has assigned.
 Connolly Bros., grocers, Charlottetown, have dissolved.
 Clark & Robblee, general storekeepers, Summerside; estate sold.

What Push Can Accomplish.

The first experience of a millionaire merchant of Philadelphia on his arrival in this country aptly illustrates what push can accomplish. When he stepped ashore from the sailing vessel, he said, "I was without money or friends. I spoke to a man on the wharf, and asked him what to do. He replied, "Work, young man. Have you any motto?" "No," I said; "what do you mean?" He said, "Every man must have a motto. Now, think of one. Go out and hunt for work."

"I started, thinking of a motto. As I walked along the street I saw painted on a door the word 'Push.' I said, That shall be my motto. I did push at that door, and entered an office. I was asked what I wanted. I said, Work; and the word on your door gave me not only a motto, but confidence."

"My manner pleased the man. He asked me many questions, all of which were answered promptly. He said at last, "I want a boy of 'push,' and as you have adopted that for your motto I will try you."

"He did. My success followed, and the motto that made my fortune will make that of others."

The word is old, short and crisp, but it expresses everything, and has carved out fortune and fame for hundreds of thousands of poor and obscure boys.—*Dry Goods Chronicle.*

Nova Scotia turkey is the latest article on the market. It is boneless codfish put up neatly in wooden boxes.

Beer.

Since the order by the Inland Revenue Department against the brewing of beer in the Northwest there has been considerable public and private discussion as to the merits or demerits of the order and also of the beer. Very many things regarding Northwest beer are taken for granted or stated as if granted, depending rather upon the stand taken by the person arguing than upon the facts regarding the beer. As its contribution to the discussion the *Bull 'in* has taken means to find out as exactly as may be just what Northwest beer is and how it is made, so that there will be some definite ground to go upon in discussing the advantages or disadvantages of permitting or prohibiting its manufacture and sale. It is generally alluded to as "hop" beer, which it is taken for granted is a light and not necessarily unwholesome or intoxicating article. Such was the beer that was first brewed in the Northwest when the prohibitory law was more strictly enforced than it has of late years. The receipt for its manufacture is as follows: To 4 lbs. of pressed hops take 40 gallons of water. Boil the hops in the water for two hours. Strain the water off the hops into a barrel and add 20 lbs. of sugar. Let the liquor cool to blood heat and add a quart of hop yeast. Let it work for twelve hours. Run it into kegs and use in 24 hours. Such liquor will keep about two weeks or even longer by adding a little sugar. This liquor had the merit, if not drugged, as of course it frequently was, of being comparatively harmless, but it had the disadvantage of a not very pleasant taste and of requiring a very large quantity to make drunk come. Since the laxity in the enforcement of the law has become particularly marked it has been replaced almost entirely by the following receipt: Put into a vat 40 lbs. crushed barley and pour over it 40 gallons of water at blood heat. Let it soak for six hours. Take four pounds of pressed hops and boil for two hours in 10 gallons of water. Draw the water off the barley and strain it and the water of the hops into a barrel together, and add 20 lbs. of sugar with a quart of hop yeast. Allow to work for twelve hours. Then draw off into kegs and let stand 24 hours when it is fit for use. If placed in tight kegs it will remain good for two weeks or longer if sugar is added, but if bottled tightly will keep as long as required. This beer is intoxicating and by increasing the proportion of barley, sugar and hops can be made as intoxicating as may be desired, even without drugs. The difference between Canadian strong beer and this brand of the Northwest article is that malt, which is sprouted barley, instead of merely crushed barley is used in the former, and only about half as much barley and little or no sugar is required to give equal strength.—*Edmonton Bulletin.*

The C.P.R. are making futile efforts to relieve the strain upon their rolling stock by the erection of a mammoth shed at Fort William, alongside the elevator, which is calculated to hold in the neighborhood of 500,000 bushels. The material used in the construction will be utilized in the erection of another elevator in the fall months. An old mill west of Fort William has also been leased for storing purposes.

Cutting by Western Houses.

Incontrovertible facts have recently borne out in every particular the charges we made against certain dry goods houses in Toronto and other western points, for the frightful manner in which they have undersold the legitimate trade, for the purpose of "raising the wind." Not only have Toronto houses been cutting prices on their own ground, but they have at last "bearded the lion in his den," by offering to sell goods in Montreal below what our local houses are selling. We are aware of an instance in which a line of gingham, originally costing 10c. here and shipped to a western firm, found its way back to this city, where it was recently disposed of at 5c., or at a loss of 50 per cent. upon cost. When goods are offered at such fearful "cuts" below cost, they are simply sold by weak firms in order to obtain ready funds that they may extend their lease of a rotten and bankrupt existence. The *Trade Bulletin* was the first to ventilate this ruinous cutting business amongst western houses, and before any of the late failures in Toronto, London, Dover, etc., had taken place, we predicted the trouble in unmistakably bold terms, and we still maintain that the end of it has not yet been seen.—*Montreal Trade Bulletin.*

Something About Furs.

The fur trade of Canada is a most important interest, whether we consider it from the point of view of the powerful and wealthy Hudson's Bay Company, the many merchants who trade in and cure peltries, or the vast number of individual trappers who depend altogether or to a considerable extent upon the capture of fur-bearing animals for their means of maintenance.

We have just received from W. Macnaughton's Coy's, New York Agents of the Honorable the Hudson's Bay Company, their circular for January which, as it contains a considerable amount of valuable information, we review at length. In the first place we are informed that the prospects point clearly to good business and it is therefore advisable to forward furs to market as early as possible, in order to profit by any favorable circumstances that may arise. Particular stress is laid upon the advisability of furs being assorted and graded before being sent to market, as not only does the presence of inferior skins among those of better quality, diminish the attractiveness of the latter, but renders them liable to be depreciated in value by the purchaser. Moreover to realize the best results, assorted furs should be graded down according to their sizes as well as to the quality of their fur. No. 1 for instance is described as a flesh colored pelt, or one that looks like fresh sound raw meat, has a long, heavy fur, abundant, thick and compact, which when blown in-to separates down to the pelt and looks even, fine and like silk. In a word this goes to make up what is termed prime fur. Furs that have imperfections, such as inferior color, or are old, neglected and in poor condition, have been improperly handled or are suspicious appearing are graded down one, two or three grades and put in that grade to which their condition makes them nearest in value.

As to the taking of furs, it should not be forgotten that, as the cold increases, their quality improves, and after three or four weeks of steady cold weather the quality of fur is at it,

best and then has the least top hair. When furs are improperly handled they will always bring a poor sale, while old furs of any kind are sure to be faded and, on being dressed, are without life or lustre, and frequently prove to have been more or less moth damaged. Mid-winter caught furs have the best color, as the sun is not warm enough or strong enough to fade them while alive and running; but as soon as the mild days of early spring sets in they begin to lose color and the fur begins to shed or fall out. The clearness, cleanness and lustre of a skin add materially to its value. Trappers, no matter upon what pretext, should avoid taking furs until the animals have had at least a fair chance of making growth, too early or too late furs being not only a disgrace to trappers and collectors, but, as we have frequently pointed out, a wasteful and worthless slaughter. One point to bear in mind is that fully grown fur costs no more to dress and manufacture than little ones, yet they cut to better advantage, yield double and hence are very much more valuable. Furs ought always to be trapped; shot cuts the pelt and shaves off the fur, while poisoning destroys and deadens the lustre and lessens the selling price which is a most important consideration. These observations which have been carefully collected ought, we think, to commend themselves, as we have need to exercise more common sense and economy, if not scientific knowledge in matters that concern this as well as many other industries. Reckless trapping and wastefulness in dealing with peltry cannot go on forever. We have had by far too much of it.

There was a time when there was far less discrimination than now with respect to the condition of the skins that were offered to the dealer. The prices which he was accustomed to pay were sufficiently low to enable him to take in almost anything that was offered and make at the same time enormous profits. The available supply has been materially depleted, prices have been enhanced, so that he cannot put up with what he once did. Moreover, almost everyone—and most people wears furs in a climate like that of Canada—use pelts, and each one professes to be something of a connoisseur and cannot have anything fobbed off on him. For all these reasons, reckless taking, reckless curing and reckless purchasing by storekeepers are to be reprehended. Poor furs will not pay, the ultimate consumer will not buy them or, if he does, is not inclined to pay much for them. All parties are therefore losers. The storekeeper when he sends or brings them to town is disappointed as to results, and the trapper, who frequently receives store pay, discovers that there is a far less margin to his account than he had anticipated. Thus no one is satisfied and our fur bearing animals are becoming slowly but none the less surely extinguished. A stop ought to be put to the existing condition of things, the trapper and the storekeeper alike must be taught, by a determined refusal to buy, that low quality skins have no value. Then the hunter will wait until the fur bearing animals have arrived at their prime; and he will not require to take so many of them to realize a certain return, while the surviving animals will multiply and in their turn obtain that maturity without which they are comparatively worthless. The waste that annually occurs in connection with the fur trade is really enormous, so many causes which ought never to be lost sight of combining to detract from the value of the animals that are captured.—*Trade Review.*

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