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The Commercial

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

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

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No. 43.

The Commercial

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

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WINNIPEG, JULY 18, 1887.

MRS. MOTTRAM has opened a millinery business at Oak Lake, Man.

A. A. MCARTHUR, grocer, Winnipeg, has sold out to A. Frederickson.

THOS. DIXON, hotelkeeper, Virden, has admitted — McGillvray into partnership.

T. MOORE, blacksmith, Oak Lake, Man., has sold out to one Spence, lately from England.

THE *Hot Springs Record*, is the name of a new publication, lately established at Banff, Alberta.

MCBAIN & TOLLING will open a general furniture shortly at 7 and 9 Alexander street, west, Winnipeg.

MANWARING & WRIGHT, general merchants, Birtle, Man., purpose opening a branch at Churchbridge.

It is reported that the work of construction on the Hudson's Bay railway will shortly be resumed. The reliability of the rumor cannot be vouched for.

THE St. Lawrence sugar refinery, Montreal, has been destroyed by fire. Loss estimated at about \$500,000.

J. B. CROSS, trading as Cross & Co, commission, etc, Winnipeg, is out of business, and effects sold for taxes.

THE annual meeting of the Manitoba & Northwestern Railway Company will be held in Winnipeg on August 15th next.

JAS. L. COLTART, a well-known clothing and furnishing merchant of Winnipeg, died suddenly on Thursday last, from heart disease.

MR. SOL. JOHNS is selling out his hotel furniture and effects in the Tremont House, Pilot Mound, by auction on Tuesday, July 19th.

THE Manitoba Lumber and Fuel Co, has succeeded to the business of Davis & Co, wholesale and retail lumber and fuel dealers, Winnipeg.

THE general stock of J. O. Stacy, of Balmoral, was sold under execution, in Winnipeg, on Wednesday last. The stock was disposed of in job lots, at auction.

BUCKLE & SONS, job printers, and J. H. Smith are out with a circular seeking aid towards the establishment of a Conservative evening newspaper in Winnipeg.

M. THOMPSON bought for N. Bawlf over 1,200 bushels of wheat at Rapid City one day recently. There seems to be considerable of last years crop in the country yet.

It is said that a large sum has been secured to develop the Gold Hill Company's mines, Rat Portage district. It is also claimed that operations will shortly commence on the Pine Portage mine.

DURING the past month there were thirty-four entries given at the Dominion Land office at Regina, according to the *Leader*. A rush is expected during this and subsequent months, owing to the good crop prospects.

DURING the month of June the total amount of duties collected at the Customs house at Regina was \$359.03. The goods imported through the office for the year ending 30th June last, amounted to \$8,589 and the duties to \$2,439.

S. HAMPTON has opened a general store at Rapid City.

HUGHES & KENNEDY will establish a saw mill on the Rainy river.

WILSON & EMMETT, butchers, Calgary, have dissolved partnership.

J. WARREN will re-open the bakery lately occupied by Fredricksen at Rapid City.

THE Rainy Lake mill at Rat Portage has run out of logs, and has consequently closed down for the present.

PROBABLY the first fresh salmon ever brought to Macleod, came in on the coach last week — *Macleod Gazette*.

BAKER & BROWNE, hotelkeepers, Fort Qu'Appelle have dissolved partnership. The business will, be continued by T. E. Baker.

A FEW settlers are going into the Rainy river district, east of the Lake of the Woods. Crops are very fine there this season.

THE crops throughout the Macleod district are reported as being in splendid shape, and the prospects for an abundant harvest were never brighter.

JAMES BISSETT & SON have sold out their wholesale tea and grocery business in Winnipeg to John A. Tees, well and favorably known in this city, who will continue the business. It is the intention of James Bissett & Son to give their entire attention to their manufacturing business, and in this connection E. H. Bissett will leave for England and Germany next month.

THE *Manitoba, Northwest and British Columbia Lancet* has made its appearance, and should prove a valuable addition to western journalism in its peculiar sphere. The *Lancet* announces that the advancement and interests of the medical profession will be its aim, and the publisher asks the co-operation of his professional confreres in the work. Undoubtedly the medical profession will only too gladly respond to the invitation. Dr. Pennefather, of Winnipeg, and favorably well known to the profession and public throughout Manitoba, is the founder of the new journal. Physicians are invited to send for a sample copy.

WITH the general disposition to increased tariffs in the direction of protection, so noticeable with so many nations at the present period, it is somewhat of a change to observe that Mexico has decided on a fifteen per cent. reduction in her customs duties upon imports. The new tariff went into operation about the first of the month. It will probably result to the advantage of the United States, though Great Britain also commands a very large share of the Mexican trade.

THE sub-contracts for the grading of the Red River Valley railway have been let to S. H. Strovel, Egan Bros., and Bryson & Irwin. Work on the grade is now proceeding. Meantime Eastern Canadian journals are keeping up their hostility to the building of the road, and doing their best to destroy the credit of this province abroad, with the hope that it will be found impossible to raise the funds for carrying out the work. The Local Government, however, claim that the funds can be secured, whether or not the bonds are floated. With the powerful backing of the Grand Trunk and the Northern Pacific companies, it is not likely the project will fall through for the lack of funds, as the necessary amount would be a small matter for either of these corporations mentioned to raise. It has been rumored that the Government will refuse Customs facilities to the road if completed, and the *Montreal Gazette*, the organ of the Hon. Thomas White, intimates that this course will be adopted, which certainly gives considerable force to the rumor. It is not likely, however, that such an arbitrary policy would be long tolerated by the people of Canada, even if it be found practical, of which there is grave reason to doubt. It must therefore be regarded more in the nature of a bluff than a policy fairly determined upon. But should the Dominion resort to such questionable measures to destroy the usefulness of the road after it is completed, Manitobans must be prepared to meet and overcome such obstacles with the same resolute determination which has brought about the present phase of the question.

The *Monetary Times* refers to the Deceased Municipalities Bill as follows: "The legislature of Manitoba has passed a law under which the debts of the municipality of Emerson, West Lynne, Morris, Portage la Prairie, Gladstone, Minnedosa, and Rapid City—a formidable list—are scaled down to what these municipalities can afford to pay. Three commissioners are to try to find out what this is. This is the first act of repudiation that has ever discredited a Canadian legislature. Grant that these municipalities, or some of them, are unable to meet their obligations now, that is no reason for repudiating a part of their debts, or for scaling down. If the scaling down be fifty per cent., the Government may guarantee three per cent. interest on the amount, and as it may refuse to do so, the leverage for squeezing the creditors is likely to prove effective. Some of these municipalities will certainly recover from the depressed condition in which they are now, and be able to pay. For this reason, the debts ought to have remained at their original figure; reduction is at once unjustifi-

able and discreditable." In the above the *Times* makes it appear that the bill compels the "scaling down" of municipal liabilities. This is not the case. The Government agrees to guarantee a portion of the debt of an involved municipality only after the municipal authorities have come to an understanding with their creditors. The creditors are not forced to accept any arrangement whatever which they may not be willing to agree to. The most regrettable feature of the bill is seen from the standpoint that it may have the effect of encouraging some of the involved municipalities to be more independent with their creditors, and less anxious to meet their obligations.

MR. VAN HORNE stated not long ago that the reason the Northern Pacific was anxious to get into Winnipeg was to place that company in a position to force the C.P.R. to come to terms on the Puget Sound trade. The Canadian road has been cutting into the Northern Pacific trade on Puget Sound, and according to Mr. Van Horne, all the C.P.R. had to do was to signify that it would cease operations in the Sound, and the latter road would at once withdraw from its prospective Winnipeg business. In other words, the Northern Pacific would not cut on rates to Winnipeg if the C.P.R. would agree to the same propositions regarding Puget Sound business. Mr. Van Horne may be as near the truth in his assertions of the willingness of the Northern Pacific to withdraw from the Winnipeg business, provided the C.P.R. would withdraw from Puget Sound, as he was in making a somewhat similar statement to the shippers of Victoria, B.C. The *Columbian* newspaper of that province says: "It will be remembered that Mr. Van Horne stated when at Victoria lately that overtures had been received from the Northern Pacific railway proposing to withdraw from the British Columbia trade on condition that the C.P.R. people withdrew from the Sound trade. Mr. Oakes, vice-president of the Northern Pacific, writes to the Victoria agent as follows: 'You can assure the shippers of Victoria in the most positive terms that the Northern Pacific railroad company does not contemplate retiring from the business of British Columbia, and has made no overtures such as Mr. Van Horne claims in his interview.'" It will be seen that Mr. Oakes very flatly contradicts Mr. Van Horne. Both men cannot have stated the truth. If Mr. Van Horne be the prevaricator, it is tolerably certain that his statements in regard to the Winnipeg line were of the same nature.

THE agitation against disallowance, and the subsequent movement on the part of the Local Government to build the Red River Valley road, has brought about considerable discussion in Eastern Canada regarding the Hudson's Bay road. Journals which a short time ago opposed the northern route, are now strongly advocating the claims of the road to Hudson's Bay, probably influenced in this course by the idea that Manitobans could be induced to abandon the road to the boundary in favor of the Hudson's Bay road. It will undoubtedly be a source of pleasure to the people of the Northwest to learn that many Eastern journals are now favorable to the construction of the nor-

thern road, but at the same time Manitobans would never think of abandoning the road to the boundary merely upon a few indefinite promises of aid to the Hudson's Bay railway. In reply to THE COMMERCIAL, the *Montreal Herald* hastens to state that it cannot be classed with those journals which formerly failed to recognise the feasibility of the northern route to Britain and Europe. The *Herald* says of this route: "We may have doubted its being a paying commercial route, or disbelieved the statements that were made as to the number of months in the year that it was open to navigation, though the press and public are open to further information even on these points. But, inasmuch as the world is aware that the Hudson's Bay Company have for a great number of years used that route, and have annually sent one or two ships to Fork and Moose factories with the supplies for the Interior, it was not possible for us, or for anyone, to regard the route as purely visionary. Everyone knows that it is navigable for sailing ships, and therefore more easily navigable by steamers during certain months of the year, and these months—be the opinion as to the limitation of time right or wrong—are those in which the rush of immigration usually takes place. Knowing the indisputable, as well as the questionable, capabilities of the route, it is quite possible to think that the time has not come for its use."

AN exchange, in speaking of Commercial Union, argues that it is a step in the direction of free trade, and therefore should be favorably received. This is a remarkable line of argument to pursue. It is simply wonderful how alleged free traders can jump to the extreme of Commercial Union at a single step. If free traders are opposed to the present Customs duties upon imports into Canada on the ground that they are too high, how, in the name of common sense, can they countenance a movement which would result in nearly doubling the duties? The proposed Commercial Union scheme with the United States is the very opposite of free trade, and cannot but clash with true free trade principles in every particular. Commercial Union with the United States would mean the increasing of our tariff to the standard of the United States, which is very much higher than the Canadian tariff. It would, moreover, give the entire control of our fiscal matters into the hands of a people very much more strongly protectionist than ourselves. If our duties are already too high, why double them by adopting a Commercial Union arrangement such as proposed? If fair trade principles are right, as opposed to the policy of protection, how can alleged fair traders approve of a policy opposed in every particular to the very primary principles of free trade and fair trade. It is remarkable that free traders are taking the lead in "booming" the Commercial Union cry, notwithstanding that the movement, if successfully carried out, would result in increasing our tariff from 50 to 100 per cent. That the proposed complete reciprocal trade arrangement is diametrically opposed to free trade principles may be shown from the statement that every increase in the Canadian tariff makes commercial Union

more feasible. So long as there is a considerable difference between the Customs duties of the two countries, the adoption of Commercial Union would make a great change in our commercial arrangements. But once let the Canadian tariff be advanced to about the same percentage as that of the United States, and Commercial Union becomes perfectly natural and feasible. This in itself is enough to show that Commercial Union is utterly opposed to free trade. Free traders who cry out for such an arrangement either do not understand the principles in which they profess to believe, or they have little faith in the free trade or fair trade policy.

To Shippers of Hides.

The report of the hide and leather examiners presented at the board of trade meeting on Tuesday last, states that though the quality of city hides is very good, those from the country are very inferior, on account of mutilation in skinning and carelessness or ignorance in handling and shipping to the market. A short time ago THE COMMERCIAL referred to this matter, and at that time gave instructions to guide butchers and shippers in handling hides. It is said that not less than \$20,000 is annually lost to this country through the improper handling of hides. In view then of the importance of the subject, we will again refer to some of the principal points to be considered in handling hides. First it will be necessary to describe what constitutes the different grades. A No. 1 hide is a steer or cow hide, free from cuts scores and brands. A No. 2 hide is also a steer or cow hide, cut, scored or branded. Stags and bulls are classed as No. 3, and the latter, when branded, cut and scored, are classed as damaged, or rejected. A hide might be free from cuts, scores and brands, and still not grade as No. 1, owing to its being out of condition in other respects. Before a hide can be inspected, according to the Act governing the inspection of hides, horns, hoofs, snout, muzzle, tail bone, switch, etc., must be removed, either by the owner or the party to whom the hides have been shipped. A score is a scrape which has been given the hide in skinning, and which approaches the nature of a cut, though the hide is not cut clean through. A score is equally as damaging as a cut, as it renders the leather thin. This is an injury which should be guarded against in skinning an animal. After the hide has been properly taken off, it should be spread out and liberally sprinkled with salt. The salt should be thrown on with the hand, and distributed, not on a portion, but all over the hide. It usually takes about ten pounds of salt to properly prepare a hide. The hides may be left spread out for a time or until ready to ship, when they should be folded as follows: First throw in the head, then the sides, and roll up and tie each one separately. Sometimes hides reach the market bundled up several together, which is not right. Hides not treated properly are graded as damaged or rejected and are called hair slipped. Surplus parts should be removed before shipping, as it only adds extra freight charges to the shipper. Not unfrequently from 15 to 20 pounds have to be removed from a single hide before it can be

inspected, which simply means the loss of freight on that weight. Hides which are not properly treated in due time, or fallen or dead hides, lose substance, and cannot grade high, though free from blemish in other ways. In this connection it is gratifying to note, that since the Winnipeg inspection was established, the quality of hides has improved very materially, some dealers placing the improvement as high as 50 per cent. Winnipeg inspection is recognized at Toronto as very accurate. Of three cars of Winnipeg inspection, which were reinspected at Toronto, the maximum variation was found to be but one pound, which is considered very close.

THE C.P.R. Co. have recently made a heavy reduction in freight rates on live stock, shipped to Winnipeg. The reduction from Morden to Winnipeg, is \$8 per car, on a previous charge of \$28 per car. This will give an idea of the proportionate lowering of the rates.

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The Commercial

WINNIPEG, JULY 18, 1887.

INTERPRETING THE TARIFF.

At the late general quarterly meeting of the Montreal Board of Trade, the time was principally occupied in discussing matters in connection with the administration of the Customs Department. The discussion dwelt mainly upon the interpretation of the tariff by Customs officials. This is a question which is of special interest to importers in all parts of the country, and the difficulties are not confined to the port of Montreal alone. Importers at Winnipeg have at times been compelled to submit to inconveniences, and perhaps injustice, owing to the indefinite nature of the tariff regulations, and the difficulties in the way of arriving at equitable decisions in many instances. The Customs officials are not necessarily to blame for every apparent act of injustice, or for any inconvenience which importers may be subjected to. Still officials have it in their power to act in a very arbitrary manner towards importers if they feel so disposed, and this possibility of arbitrary action on the part of the officials should be as fully removed as is possible under the circumstances. However, the complaints in this connection, as a rule, are not against the Customs officers so much as against the regulations themselves. There is a vague uncertainty about the tariff enactments which often render a just and satisfactory decision in matters of appraisement and classification as quite out of the question, even with the most honest and painstaking officials, whilst in the hands of a dishonest or arbitrarily disposed officer the inconvenience and loss which importers may be subjected to is almost unlimited. There is often a disposition to subject imports to the highest duties which the vague tariff regulations will allow of. In this way, and mostly by changing the classification, the percentage of duties may be made to vary very considerably. Thus an importer at Winnipeg might be taxed 30 per cent., whilst the same goods at Toronto would be allowed to pass on payment of 20 per cent. duties. For instance, on a line of medicines, it was shown at

the Montreal meeting that by changing the classification the duty could be made to range from 20 to 50 per cent. An importer who might happen to have the commodity in question classed under the 50 per cent. tariff would be at a great disadvantage in competing with a more fortunate party, who might chance to have his goods classified under the 20 per cent. tariff clause. Another instance has transpired in which a consignment of small glasses was classified as table-ware, and charged 30 per cent. duty, whilst under the usual classification of glassware the duty would have been 10 per cent. less. In another case exactly the same goods were classified as an advertising medium, and charged 10 per cent. extra, because the dealer had ordered his name blown in the glass.

These are only instances which are constantly recurring, and which will serve to show the latitude Customs officials have to work under, and which they may make use of to hamper and annoy importers at their own sweet will. If the tariff cannot be so arranged as to do away with these anomalous features, at least something could be done to restrain the liberties of the officials in interpreting the various clauses. As it now stands importers are practically at the mercy of the Customs officers, who have the full power to render decisions, the general rule being that the Customs always receives the benefit of the doubt in a disputed case, as against the importer. The same thing is true as regards appraising. No doubt importers sometimes endeavor to get the advantage of the Customs in the valuation of goods, but on the other hand Customs officers have all but absolute power in appraising at their discretion, and undoubtedly do frequently render arbitrary decisions. Of course the importer has a right to appeal, but the expense, delay, and annoyance of such a course is such as to usually cause him to submit to the decision of the Customs officer. The Montreal Board of Trade has suggested the advisability of resorting to arbitration to settle disputed cases between Customs officials and importers. Such a course would undoubtedly cause the removal of many of the grievances which importers have against the Customs, and would therefore tend toward establishing more harmonious relations between the Department and the mercantile community, a result very much to be desired.

THE FARMERS AND COMMERCIAL UNION.

The Commercial Union movement is still attracting a great deal of attention from the press all over the Dominion, and the agitation seems to be taking hold mainly among the farmers of Ontario. Influential commercial bodies as a rule do not take a favorable view of the proposals. The arguments advanced by the promoters of the movement are mainly such as will appeal more directly to the agricultural community, among whom they have so far largely confined their operations. The great prosperity of the United States is much talked of, and it is claimed that Canadian farmers would be equally as prosperous under Commercial Union with that country. These statements must be taken with a great deal of reserve. In the first place it does not appear that the agricultural population of the United States is more prosperous than the same class in this country. Indeed, it is a question if a more prosperous farming community could be found on all the continent, or, for that matter, in the world, than the very farmers of Ontario who now head the agitation for Commercial Union. Certainly the farmers of that province are better off than the same class in a great many states of the American Union. The majority of these farmers who have held their lands for any length of time have comfortable homes and bank accounts of some proportion, whilst many of them are really wealthy, and hold large amounts of stock in commercial corporations. Contrast this with many of the States of the Union, where almost the entire farming community have their lands under mortgage, and it will be found that the Canadians have no reason to complain.

But admitting, for the sake of argument, the false supposition that the farmers of the United States are more prosperous than those of Canada, it cannot be clearly shown that Commercial Union would improve the condition of the latter. If Canadian farmers are not as prosperous as those of the United States, it must be that either they are not as thrifty a class as their brethren in the latter country, or that the country in which they live has not the natural advantages enjoyed in the States. Both these statements, however, would be indignantly repelled, as well they should be. The assumed superior prosperity of the farmers in the United States cannot be owing to any special advantages which the latter

enjoy in the world's markets, nor to the remuneration which they receive for the fruits of their toil. All the principal agricultural products of Canada are likewise produced in the United States. Likewise about all the commodities of which Canadian farmers produce a surplus over home consumption, are also produced in the United States in greater supply than the home markets are capable of consuming. The leading agricultural exports of Canada are therefore also produced for export from the United States. Now, as the prices of these products both in Canada and the States are largely regulated by the market values in Great Britain and Europe, it is manifest that Canadian farmers would not receive better prices for such commodities, even were they at liberty to ship freely to the United States, without the imposition of duties upon the product. Of course there are a few agricultural commodities produced in Canada which would at times bring a better price in some United States markets, but any advantages of this nature would be fully counterbalanced by the shipment of United States products into Canada. Barley is the only grain shipped to the United States, and upon this cereal Canadian farmers would probably realize better prices, but in turn they would lose upon their peas through the importation of corn for feeding purposes. Fruit-growing is another prosperous industry in Western Ontario, which would suffer very severely from Commercial Union. Another great point with the Commercial Union agitators when talking to the Ontario farmers, is the horse question. The farmers have been persuaded that they would all make their fortunes selling horses for export to the States, but they are not told that they would lose to about an equal amount through the importation into Canada of United States hog products. It is a fact that a great many food products are cheaper in the States than in Canada. Again, the farmers would be benefitted by the cheapening of some lines of manufactured goods imported from the States, but the hole made in the Customs revenue from this cause would have to be made up in increased taxation in some other direction.

There is a great disposition to point to the time of the existence of the old Reciprocity treaty between this country and the States, and to claim that the prosperity and high prices for agricultural

products then existing would be again reproduced through the carrying out of the Commercial Union programme now. A very little investigation only is required to show that this idea is utterly fallacious. The conditions existing in the United States at the present time are altogether different from what they were in 1855. At the time of the existence of the old Reciprocity treaty, prices for nearly all goods, and more especially food products, in the United States, were ruling at abnormally high values. The civil war had the effect of taking large numbers of men from industrial and agricultural pursuits, and placing them in the non-producing class. In this way production was largely curtailed for a series of years, and added to the increased war demands, values were abnormally high all around. Now, however, there are no such incentives to render United States markets so desirable to our agriculturists. Since those days the Western States have made great strides in agricultural development, and with the great extension of the railway systems through those regions, and the consequent reduction in freight rates, the Western farmers, favored as they are with cheap land and virgin soil, are enabled to pour their products in upon the East in a ceaseless and irresistible stream. Farming has been rendered unprofitable in the Eastern States in many branches, owing to this Western competition. Under Commercial Union it is not unlikely that many Eastern Canadian agricultural industries would likewise be compelled to succumb.

Considered from a narrow or provincial point of view, it is difficult to perceive what advantage Manitoba farmers would receive from Commercial Union. Notwithstanding the railway monopoly, the position of farmers in the province will compare favorably with that of the agricultural population in the States immediately to the south. We produce nothing for export which is not produced in large quantities in Minnesota and Dakota, whilst many agricultural products rule lower in those states than in this province. In our first great staple, wheat, Manitoba would lose through Commercial Union. Duluth wheat would then come into competition with Manitoba for the trade of the Ontario millers. The writer heard an Ontario shipper state not long ago that, under a reciprocal trade arrangement, his firm would purchase all their wheat in Duluth. Next in impor-

tance to wheat stands the milling industry. During the past year or two Manitoba millers have worked up a good trade in high-grade flour, both in British Columbia and the Eastern Provinces. In the former province this trade would practically be destroyed by Commercial Union, whilst in the East the competition which would follow from Minneapolis millers, with their great advantage in the matter of freight rates, could not but result in greatly curtailing the sales of the Manitoba product, and perhaps rendering the industry unprofitable. Oats would also have been lower in the province during the past few years, had a reciprocal arrangement been in force between this country and the States, as would also have been potatoes. In addition the province would have been flooded with cheap Chicago provisions, to the very great reduction in the profits derived from a leading industry of our farmers; namely, hog-raising. We would derive some benefit from the cheapening of certain commodities now imported from the States, upon which we now have to pay excessive duties; but these matters are in our own hands, and can be remedied without incurring the disadvantages of Commercial Union.

Under Commercial Union we could not materially increase our exports to the United States, that is, so far as the profits derived from such exports is concerned. As the products of the farm increase, we must look to Great Britain largely as the natural market for our surplus agricultural commodities. Anything that will tend to improve our prospects in that direction should be received with much greater favor by the people of the Northwest than these vague Commercial Union proposals. The Northwestern States, instead of being consumers of the products of the Canadian Northwest, are our competitors in the outside markets of the world. Under Commercial Union, any advantages which we now enjoy over these states in Eastern Canadian markets would be swept away, and we would stand on an equal footing with them, but with freight rates in favour of the states to the south.

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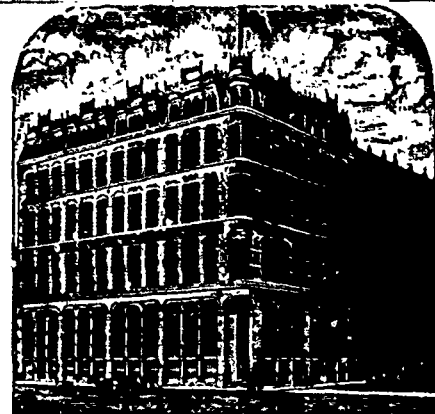
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WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET

Renovals are reported of frequent occurrence, paper now falling due being generally disposed of in that way, with perhaps a part payment. This of course is not at all satisfactory to wholesale dealers, but it has to be submitted to in many instances. With the glowing crop prospects ahead, there is a disposition to be as lenient as possible with deserving cases. The scarcity of the circulating medium is recognized, and it is conceded that until the crop commences to move there must be a shortage in circulation. Banks and loan companies were doing a quiet and steady business, without special features of importance.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE

The wholesale trade was influenced by about the same leading feature as at the time of our last report, namely dullness. With but one or two exceptions all branches of trade were in the same comatose state. Very little activity was evidenced in any line, with perhaps the exception of fruits, which were active in anticipation of a brisk holiday business. The city retail trade seems to be almost as quiet as the wholesale branches.

DRY GOODS

A few orders for very small amounts are occasionally received, but the aggregate of these would foot up only to a small amount for a total week's business. Travelers are now out with lines of fall samples, but even yet it is found that there is a disposition to refrain from placing orders for future delivery. The saying of many a slip between the cup and the lip seems to exercise many merchants, and although prospects are good, yet they desire to hold back until crops are beyond any possibility of damage. This feeling of caution has been shown to a greater extent this season than in any past year, and altogether it is a wise course of action, as it is usually better to be on the safe side than to take unnecessary risks.

FURS

The fur market is still to unsettled to give reliable quotations. Many northern merchants will lose by the decline in prices. For instance a lot was sold here last week at less than \$2,000 which cost the trader \$2,700. The bids for the lot ranged from \$1,700 to the price accepted. The high prices of last year, caused traders to expect a good business this year, but they have been disappointed. Fur traders will be more careful in the future from the experience of this year.

FRUITS—GREEN, VEGETABLES, ETC.

Apples are in abundant supply in barrels. Oranges were all but out of the market last week. Lemons are firm at quotations, with a possibility of higher prices this week. Blueberries are now coming in freely, and prices going down. They are expected to drop to about half the price at which they were selling last week. Tomatoes are lower; also cucumbers, etc. Prices are as follows: lood oranges, Malta, \$8.00 to \$8.50. Messina lemons, \$7.50 to \$8.50 per box; bananas, \$4 to \$5 per bunch; apricots, \$3.50 per box; tomatoes, \$1.50 for one-third bushel box; cucumbers, 60c; watermelons, \$7 to \$9 per dozen. New apples, \$3.00 to \$6.50 per barrel; California peaches,

\$4.00 per box; California plums, \$4.00 per box. California pears, \$7.50 per box; blue berries, 8 to 10c per pound. Bermuda onions, \$3.75 per box of 50 lbs.; southern onions, \$4 per 100 weight; Egyptian onions, \$7 per case of 100 lbs.; apple cider, \$7 per keg of 15 gallons; cabbages, 5c lb; lettuce, radishes, onions, beets and turnips, 20c per dozen bunches; rhubarb, 2c per lb.

FRUITS—DRIED, AND NUTS.

Quotations remain as follows: Figs, Turkey, in boxes, 10 to 11c, new Elme figs, in layers, 10c per lb.; boxes, 15c per lb., or \$2. per dozen in 1 lb. boxes; Golden dates, 9 to 10c; Valencia raisins \$2.25; London layers, \$3.50; evaporated apples, 15c; dried apples, 7½ to 8c; new Turkey prunes, 7½c to 9c. Nuts are quoted: Peanuts, roasted 17 to 18c; peanuts, raw, 15c; walnuts 18c; almonds, 20c; filberts, 12½c; Texas pecans, 17c; cocoanuts, \$12.50 per 100; maple syrup, \$15 per dozen cans of 1 gal.; maple sugar, 13c per pound, in cakes, new.

FISH

Fresh British Columbea salmon is now arriving freely and quoted at 12 to 12½c per pound.

GROCERIES

Sugars are firm, with ¼c advance all around at refineries. Teas are quiet and will not likely change before the new crop arrives, which will now be soon. Coffee is somewhat firmer again. Syrups and molasses are strong at outside markets. A Montreal report says: Syrups are strong at 32 to 40c; all the stock of Barbadoes molasses in the city has been bought up, and none can be secured now at less than 30 to 31c. Prices here remain as follows: yellow sugar 6½c to 7c; granulated 7½c; lump sugar, 8½c to 9c; Coffees, Rios, 22 to 23c. Government Java, 33 to 35c, other Javas, 25 to 30c; Mochas, 31 to 35c. New season's teas are now quoted as follows: Japan season 1886-7, 20 to 45c; Congous, 1886-7, 20 to 60c; Indian teas, 35 to 50c. Old range Moyune gunpowder, 25 to 70c; panfired Japan 23 to 45c, basket-fired, 25 to 40c; Ping Suey young hyson, 25 to 35c; Moyune young hyson, 25 to 50c; Season's congous, 1885-6, 20 to 55c. Syrups, corn \$2.25 to \$2.60; sugar, cane, \$2.10 to \$2.35; T. and B. tobacco, 50c per pound.

CANNED GOODS

Prices generally are steady as follows, per dozen: Salmon, \$1.70, mackerel, \$1.50 lobsters \$1.87, sardines (French) ½ tins, \$1.70, ¼ tins \$2.90, cove oysters, \$3; corn, \$1.65, peas \$2.00, tomatoes \$2.00, baked beans \$2.75, corned beef \$3 to \$3.25, lunch tongues, 2 lbs. \$7.00; 1 lb, \$3.50. Fruit in 2 lb. tins, are quoted: pears, \$2.50 to \$2.75, strawberries, \$2.60 to \$2.75; plums, \$2.25 to \$2.50, peaches, \$3.75.

HARDWARE AND METALS

Prices for Canada and tin plates have advanced at Montreal, and an advance here is expected in sympathy. The firmer tendency is general and is expected to continue, under the recent advance in duties. Prices are: Cut nails, 10d and larger, \$3.75 to \$4.00; I. C. tin plates, \$5.50 to \$5.75; I. C. tin plates, double, \$11.00 to \$11.50; Canada plates, \$3.50 to \$3.75; sheet iron, \$3.50 to \$5.00, according to grade; iron pipe, 35 to 40 per cent off list prices; ingot tin, 28 to 30c per lb., according to quality; bar iron, \$3.00 to \$3.50 per 100 lbs.; shot, 6½ to 7c

per lb.; tarred felt, \$2.75 to \$2.95 per 100 lbs.; barbed wire, 7 to 7½c.

HIDES

Prices unchanged. Quotations are: Winnipeg inspection, No. 1, 6c; No. 2, 5c; bulls, 4c; calf, fine haired real veal, 7 to 13 pound skins, No. 1, 8c; No. 2, 6c; sheep pelts, 30 to 65c; tallow, 3½ to 4c.

LEATHER AND FINDINGS

Prices are: Spanish sole, 28 to 32c; slaughter-ole, 33 to 35c; French calf, first choice \$1.35 to \$1.50; Canadian calf, 90c to \$1.00; French kip, \$1 to \$1.10; B Z kip, 85 to 90c; slaughter kip, 65 to 75c; No 1, wax upper, 45 to 50c; grain upper, 55c; harness leather, 33 to 35c for plump stock. American oak sole, 45 to 60c; buffe, 17 to 22c a foot; cordovan, 25 to 27c; pebble, 21 to 23c; colored linings, 12c.

PAINTS, OILS AND COLORS.

are now as follows: Turpentine, 80c in five-gallon cans, or 75c in barrels; harness oil, \$1.25; neatfoot oil, \$1.50; linseed oil, raw, 72c per gallon; boiled, 75c 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, 40c; fine qualities, 50 to 75c. Coal oils, silver star, 26c; headlight, 28c; water white, 30c. American oils, Eocene, 35c; water white, 33c; sunlight, 29c. Calcined plaster, \$3.75 per barrel; Portland cement, \$5 to \$5.50; white lead, genuine, \$7.00; No. 1 \$6.50; No. 2 \$6.00; window glass, first break, \$2.25

WINES AND SPIRITS

Quotations are now as follows: Gooderham & Wort's five year old, \$2.40; seven year old, \$3; old rye, \$1.75; Jules Robin brandy, \$4.50; Bisquet Debouche & Co., \$4.75; Martell, \$6.50; Hennessy, \$6.50; 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 per case; DeKuyper green gin, \$6.50 per case; Tom Gin, \$9.00 to \$10.00; Martel and Hennessy's brandy, \$15.00 per case of 12 bottles.

WOOL

Prices are: Cotswold and Leicester, washed and in merchantable condition, 12 to 15c; do. unwashed, 8 to 10c, according to condition and quality. Pure Southdown and Shropshire, washed and in good condition, 15 to 18c; do. unwashed, 10 to 12c. Montana and Oregon fine wools, unwashed, 13 to 15c, when in good condition.

THE MARKETS

WINNIPEG

WHEAT

There was an easier feeling, with a disposition to lower prices, but the movement is so small that it was not thought worth while changing quotations. The only thing doing is an occasional car received at the mills.

FLOUR

The city mills are working away, but prices obtainable for exports are not very encouraging. Prices to the local trade are as follows: Patents, \$2.25; strong bakers', \$1.90; XXXX, \$1.30 to \$1.35; superfine, \$1.10.

MILLSTUFFS

Unchanged, at \$3.60 for bran and \$10.00 for shorts. Chop feed, \$25 to \$30 per ton.

OATS

Quiet and unchanged, at about 45c on track.

OATMEAL

Granulated held at \$2.60 per sack, and standard at \$2.45.

POTATOES.

New imported are declining in prices, owing to native now coming into the markets. About \$4 to \$4.25 per barrel is now the quotation, with the feeling easy.

EGGS.

Receipts were light all last week, and only about sufficient to fill immediate wants. The price held steady at 13c in lots to the trade.

BUTTER

Receipts are now light, commission dealers having advised country shippers to hold until the weather gets cooler. The city retail trade is supplied mainly from farmers, at from 10 to 12c. There were no sales in quantity on outside account, and prices were nominally at 10 to 13c.

CHEESE

There was a small quantity in the market, which was sold in box lots to the retail trade, at 12 to 12½c. It was reported that there was a prospect of a car of Ontario cheese being brought in, owing to the disposition shown by local factories to hold. Unless this market is supplied more liberally with the native product it will not be a surprise should the intimation above be carried out.

LARD

Chicago is usually held at \$2.30 per pail, and native at \$2.20 to \$2.25 for small lots.

CURED MEATS

Chicago hams are being sold freely, but other products are pretty well supplied with the native article. Quotations are: Long, 9½c; bacon, 9½c; breakfast bacon, 12c; spiced hams, 11c; hams, 13c; Chicago mess pork, \$18 per barrel; mess beef \$13 per bbl.

DRESSED MEATS.

Quotations are: beef sides, 6 to 7c; hogs 6½ to 7c; mutton 10c; veal, 9 to 10c.

LIVE STOCK

Cattle are offered freely, and it is said sales have been made at under 3c. Sales were reported at 3½c and 3¼c. A sale of a lot of pigs at the yard, was reported at 4½c, which is the outside price.

Literary Review.

The *Emigrant*, the monthly journal published by J. A. Carman, of Winnipeg, and devoted to the interests of immigration to Canada, has completed its first year. A bound volume of the full year has been placed on our desk, and in glancing over its pages, the many interesting features of the publication are observed. It is printed on fine paper, profusely illustrated and filled with original matter mainly descriptive of the great Canadian Northwest. Manitoba falls in for a liberal share of notice, but other portions of the country are not neglected, the entire region from the great lakes to the Pacific ocean being the especial field for the journal. The leading feature of the *Emigrant* is its contributed papers from writers possessing special knowledge upon subjects which they undertake to discuss. In this way a vast amount of information is secured regarding the entire Northwest, which could not be obtained in any other way. The natural features of the country, in the animal, vegetable and mineral kingdoms, historical sketches, practical experiences, etc., receive particular attention. A bound volume of the *Emigrant* will be found a useful reference to those wishing to ob-

tain special knowledge regarding western Canada. The journal is doing a great work in the interests of immigration to Canada, and it is worthy of encouragement from Dominion and Provincial Governments, as well as from individuals.

Estimated Yield.

From returns made to the C.P.R. the following estimates of the yield of wheat per acre are given at the points mentioned along the main line and branch railways in the province and the territories:

	Per acre.
Treherne	30
Gretna	20
Cypress River	30
Pilot Mound	20 to 25
Barnsley	25
Elm Creek	25
Stony Mountain	40
Shoal Lake	30 to 35
Otterbourne	25
Glenboro	20
Emerson	25 to 30
Portage la Prairie	30
High Bluff	25
Brandon	25
Griswold	30
Wapella	30
Solsgrith	25
Newdale	30
Binscarth	25
Gladstone	30
Rapid City	30
Birtle	30
Strathclair	30
Dominion City	20
Stonewall	30
Rosenfeldt	25
Holland	25
Minnedosa	35
Boissevain	30
Morris	30
Virden	25 to 30
Clearwater	22
Oak Lake	25 to 32
Westbourne	35
Neepawa	25 to 30

Japanese Cotton Industry.

A report of the British consul at Tokio shows that Japan is a more important producer and consumer of cotton than is generally supposed. Cotton is generally grown throughout that country, the average yield being 120 pounds per acre. The annual yield is estimated at 44,000,000 pounds (110,000 bales of 400 pounds.) In addition to this 3,000,000 are imported, showing a total consumption of 47,000,000 pounds of cotton. A great deal of yarn is imported to be manufactured on native looms. Indian yarn and cloth are supplanting English goods in the trade with Japan. Cotton spinning is profitable; judging from the large dividends paid by some concerns. Japanese cotton manufacturers are talking of extending their export trade so as to supply part of the Chinese demand. Cheap raw material is needed, and the consul says it is a matter of speculation as to whether the growing trade relations between Japan and the United States by way of the Pacific will ever

include the importation of American cotton. Foreign machinery is used considerably for spinning, but for weaving native looms are used. In many cases the cotton growers manufacture cloth.—*Ex.*

Buttermilk as a Drink.

A great physician once said that if every one knew the value of buttermilk as a drink it would be more freely partaken of by persons who drink so excessively of other beverages, and further compared its effects on the system to the cleaning out of a cook stove that has been clogged up with ashes that have sifted through, filling up every crevice and crack, saying that the human system is like the stove, and collects and gathers refuse matter that can in no way be exterminated from the system so effectually as by drinking buttermilk. It is also a remedy for indigestion, soothes and quiets the nerves and is very somnolent to those who are troubled with sleeplessness. Its medical properties can not be overrated, and it should be freely used by all who can get it. Every one who values good health should drink buttermilk every day in warm weather and let tea, coffee and water alone. For the benefit of those who are not already aware of it, I may add that in the churning of it, the first process of digestion is gone through, making it one of the easiest and quickest of all things to digest. It makes gastric juice, and contains properties that readily assimilate with it, with very little wear upon the digestive organs.—*Hall's Journal.*

REAL estate is said to be moving freely at Calgary.

The rains of last week were general throughout the Northwest.

Four cars of buffalo bones passed south last week from the vicinity of Moose Jaw.

RANKIN & ALLAN, of Calgary, offer a general stock and business at Banff, Alberta, for sale.

ABOUT 500 Icelandic immigrants have arrived at Winnipeg. They will likely settle on the line of the Hudson's Bay Railway.

An Emerson exchange says: H. F. Despars, of St. Boniface, is in town. It is said he intends to open a general store in West Lynne.

The Western Assurance Company of Toronto, have opened an office at Vancouver, B.C., where H. T. Ceperley has been appointed agent.

THE *Macleod Gazette* has come out in the improved form promised some time ago. It is now in the front ranks of Northwestern journalism.

The contract of furnishing beef to the North-West Mounted Police at Regina beginning on the 1st inst., has been awarded to Mowat Bros. The Hudson Bay Co. supply other articles.

THE rails and rolling stock for the Red River Valley road have been purchased, and satisfactory arrangements have been made for the transport of the material over the C.P.R.

All parties having claims against the estate of the late John Morrison, cattle dealer, Moosomin, are requested to send the same to M.R. Currie, or to R. Stevenson, advocate, Moosomin.

EASTERN MARKETS.

CHICAGO

Wheat opened strong on Monday, but weakened and closed near the bottom. Contradictory rumors of the condition of crops caused the fluctuations. The visible supply statement posted to-day showed a decrease for last week of 1,420,000 bushels, which was only about half the decrease counted on. The visible supply on July 9th stood at 32,987,394 bushels, against 28,567,718 bushels one year ago. Exports for the week ended July 9th, from Atlantic ports, were 3,957,850 bushels, wheat and flour equivalent. Closing prices for the day were:

	July.	Aug.
Wheat	71½	72½
Corn	35½	36½
Oats	25½	25½
Pork	—	—
Lard	6.47½	6.52½
Short Ribs	7.77½	7.80

On Tuesday cash wheat was fairly active. There seemed, however, to be a lack of any particular drift to the market, and speculation was of a light scalping nature. Prices fell away ½ to ¾c. Few leading speculators were operating, and those only in a very moderate way. July opened at 71½c, advanced ¼c and declined to 70¾c. Closing prices were:

	July.	Aug.
Wheat	71½	72½
Corn	35½	36½
Oats	25½	25½
Pork	—	—
Lard	6.50	6.55
Short Ribs	7.90	7.92½

On Wednesday there was little trading, and the market was lifeless. Closing prices were:

	July.	Aug.
Wheat	71½	72
Corn	35½	36½
Oats	—	25½
Pork	—	—
Lard	6.52½	6.57½
Short Ribs	—	—

On Thursday the wheat market was weak and lower, 71c was the lowest point touched for August. September closed at 73½c, a decline of ½c from the opening. Closing prices were:

	July.	Aug.
Wheat	70½	71½
Corn	36½	36½
Oats	26½	25½
Pork	—	—
Lard	6.52½	6.62½
Short Ribs	8.20	8.20

On Friday there was little change in the situation, and prices further fell away. Prices declined ½c in the morning. Exports continued to be large, but there seemed to be no controlling the general impression that wheat must go lower before it can advance. August opened at 71c and sold down to 70¾c, closing a point better. September opened at 73, and closed at 72¾c. Pork stood at \$11.50 for the year. Closing prices were:

	July	Aug.
Wheat	69½	70½
Corn	36½	36½
Oats	26½	26
Pork	—	—
Lard	6.62½	6.67½
Short Ribs	8.22½	8.22½

On Saturday August wheat opened at 70¾c, and only reached ½c above that figure. The

close was at the bottom. September opened at 72¾c, and closed at the bottom. Closing prices were:

	Aug.	Sept.
Wheat	70½	72½
Corn	37½	37½
Oats	25½	26½
Lard	0.70	0.80
Short Ribs	—	—

DULUTH WHEAT MARKET.

Closing prices for No. 1 hard on each day of the week were:

	Cash	Aug.	Sept.
Monday	76 to 76½	76½	70½
Tuesday	75½	75½	76
Wednesday	—	75½	75½
Thursday	74½	74½	74½
Friday	—	74½	74½
Saturday	—	74½	74½

MONTREAL MARKETS.

GRAIN

There has been scarcely any change in cereals and none whatever in wheat. Quotations were given about as follows: Canada red winter wheat, 83 to 85c; white winter, 83 to 85c; Canada spring, 83 to 85c; peas, 66c per 66 lbs.; oats, 24 to 25c per 32 lbs.; rye, 50 to 55c; barley, 48 to 55c.

FLOUR

The flour market has been dull, and with a weak tone. Manitoba strong bakers' was in best demand, especially for the local trade, of which five cars sold on Wednesday at \$4.85. Prices were as follows: Patent, \$4.10 to \$4.65; Canada strong bakers', \$4 to \$4.05; Manitoba do., \$4.35; American do., \$4.40 to \$4.60.

BUTTER

There is a good movement in creamery at about 19½c. Choice qualities were firm. Prices were: New creamery, 19 to 20c; new townships, 15 to 17c; new western, 12 to 14c; low grades, 8 to 10c.

CHEESE

The market has continued unsettled, and irregular. Colored qualities were in best demand. Cables reported easier in British markets. At Ingersoll, Ontario, on July 13th, offerings were 1,160 boxes June make. Sales were 300 at 9½c, and 275 at 9½c. Prices here were quoted as follows: Finest white, 9c; finest colored, 9 to 9½c; medium to fine, 7½ to 8½c.

PROVISIONS

Prices were: Mess pork, \$17.00; hams, 11½ to 12c; bacon, 10½ to 11c; shoulders, 10c; lard, 9 to 9½c; eggs, 15 to 16c.

MINNEAPOLIS.

The Northwest Miller says: The tales of crop damage in the Minneapolis belt are exaggerated, but are having some effect on traders. The chinch bugs have done a little more damage than usual in southeastern Minnesota, where they have appeared regularly for several years. The grasshoppers have eaten up the bulk of the crop in one county in northern Minnesota, but the spring wheat crop still bids fair to be the largest ever raised in Minnesota and Dakota. Estimates of the size of the crop range from 450,000,000 to 465,000,000 bus, but the maxi-

imum figure is probably below that which the thresher will show.

WHEAT—Prices for No. 1 hard, cash, ranged during the week from 73½ to 75½c. The closing on Thursday was as follows:

	July.	Aug.	On track.
No. 1 hard	74	74½	75½
No. 1 northern	73	73½	74½
No. 2	71	71½	72½

Flour quotations were:

Patent sacks to local dealers, \$4.00 to \$4.20; patent, to ship sacks, car lots, \$4.00 to \$4.10; in barrels, \$4.20 to \$4.35; bakers', \$3.35 to \$3.65; superfine, \$1.75 to \$2.50; red dog, sacks, \$1.50 to \$1.60; red dog, barrels, \$1.75 to \$1.85.

THE creditors of Sayers Bros., livery, Macleod, will sell the property by tender, on Aug. 23rd.

THE recent decline in the price of coffee has caused the market for dried peas to become very dull. Manufactured coffee does not pay as well as it did before the break.

Louis Cartier, who for some time past has been running the Tremont Hotel, Vancouver, B.C., departed lately for parts unknown, leaving many dejected creditors to mourn his loss.

THE SS. Parthia sailed from Vancouver on July 11th, for Japan and China, with a cargo of flour and coal and passengers. She will stop at Victoria for a brief time. The next vessel due at Vancouver from Asia is the SS. Port Augusta, which is expected to arrive on the 27th inst.

THE stock and plant of C. H. Girdlestone, manufacturer of brooms, spices, etc., Winnipeg, will be offered for sale by the sheriff on Wednesday, 20th inst. The Union Bank hold judgment for about \$8,000, under which the sale is being made. It is understood Thompson, Codville & Co. have a chattel mortgage against the concern.

EDWARD STANLY, merchant, Arrow River, Man., writes THE COMMERCIAL that the crops are most excellent in that district. Railway extension through the region is the one thing needful to complete the happiness of the settlers in that part of the country. It is to be hoped this fine district will soon enjoy ample railway facilities. Arrow River is situated about midway between Virden, on the C.P.R. and Birtle, on the Northwestern railway.

PRICES at Brandon are: A few loads of wheat are still being brought in, and good samples are realizing about 60 cents a bushel. Oats are coming in more plentifully and are selling at 40 to 43 cents. These is still a considerable quantity in the neighborhood and some of those who have held off for 50-cents are left in the lurch. Cattle keep away down in price, dealers here are not offering more than 2½ to 2¾ cents. We saw a very fine yoke of three-year-old steers sold during the week at 3 cents. Sheep are now bringing 5c a pound live weight, and lambs 6c. Hogs in good condition, are being enquired for and readily bring 3½ cents a pound. Eggs are rather scarce, and are now quoted at 10 to 12½ cents. Butter is bringing 12½ cents a pound.—Times.

J. G. MACKENZIE & CO.,
WHOLESALE DRY GOODS,
MONTREAL.

Samples and Prices of Goods adapted to the Northwest Trade furnished on application.

W. & F. P. CURRIE & CO.,

MANUFACTURERS OF
DRAIN PIPES, CHIMNEY TOPS, Vent Linings, Flue Covers, Fire Bricks, Fire Clay, Roman Cement,
& PORTLAND CEMENT, Canad. Cement, Water Lime, Whiting, Plaster of Paris, Borax, China Clay.
 MANUFACTURERS OF
BESSEMER STEEL SOFA, CHAIR AND BED SPRINGS.
MONTREAL.

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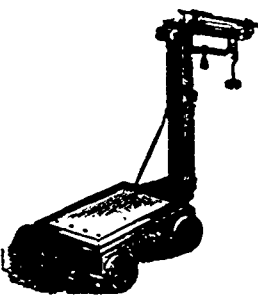
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Dealer in Wool Bats & Mattress Material
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Correspondence solicited and Mail Orders Carefully Attended to. Satisfaction guaranteed.

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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.R.R. Shipping Stations.

RICHARD & CO,

Importers and Wholesale Dealers in

Wines, Spirits and Cigars

365 MAIN STREET,

WINNIPEG.

Personal.

MR. H. S. WESBROOK, of Wesbrook & Fairchild, wholesale implements, etc., has returned from a western trip.

MR. A. C. MATTHEWS, manager at Winnipeg for Dun, Wiman & Co's mercantile agency, has gone on an eastern trip.

MR. J. H. ASHDOWN is sojourning with his family at Killarney, Man, with the object of enjoying for a brief time the benefits of a holiday season.

MR. C. SWEENEY, formerly manager of the Bank of Montreal here, passed through Winnipeg last week, on his way to Vancouver, where he will have the management of the new branch of the Bank of Montreal, at that place.

MR. Samuel Spink, grain dealer, of this city, returned from a trip west last week. He reports crops promising excellent, and thinks an average of 25 bushels of wheat per acre can be counted on with certainty. Barley will be ready to cut in some sections within three weeks.

General Notes.

The membership of the Montreal Board of Trade has, within the past few weeks, increased from 750 to upwards of 1400, applicants included.

Bell & Co., of Guelph, Ontario, have lately despatched to England and Australia upwards of 120 organs. In a day or so they will send forward a consignment to Japan.

Commercial travellers in the United States are estimated to number 250,000, and it is said that it costs at least \$200,000,000 a year to distribute goods by means of this army of drummers.

To the *Philadelphia Medical and Surgical Reporter* an authority on canned goods reveals the interesting fact that most of the jellies in the market are made of apple parings and cores. Sometimes the stock is kept so long that it will not make jelly; then they make strained honey out of it.

The following resolution was passed at a late meeting of the Montreal Board of Trade: That whereas at a conference between the members of the Council of this Board and the Hon. the Minister of Customs, the necessity of certain reforms in the customs regulations were discussed and the public were led to believe that the Hon. the Minister of Customs was about to introduce the reforms suggested, viz: abolition of oath for Customs entries and settlement of disputed values by arbitration; And whereas, during the session of Parliament just over, and in the changes in Customs matters lately made, these reforms have been completely ignored: Be it resolved that it is the duty of this Board to continue to agitate for these reforms and to avail itself of every legitimate means of bringing them about.

Grain and Milling News.

Koester, Craig & Co, millers, Virden, Man., are reported to contemplate a dissolution of partnership.

The Ogilvie Milling Company are having a substantial fire wall constructed between their elevator and flour mill, in this city.

The flour mill bonus debentures, voted in aid of the establishment of a mill at McGregor, Man, have been disposed of to the North of Scotland Loan Co, at a little over par.

The shipments of Indian wheat are gradually approaching the output of last season, and 773,000 qrs. are now on the way to Europe, compared with 753,000 qrs. last week, and 820,000 qrs. in 1886.

The Willford & Northway Manufacturing Co, of Minneapolis, is now ready to supply the new round reel gotten up by J. L. Willford. The first lot of these machines was placed in the Humboldt mill and they are well liked by head miller Scott.

The gophers have played havoc with grain fields in some few cases, mostly in western districts, but it does not appear that their ravages have been at all general, or widely extended. From Whitewood, Assa., comes a report that a ten-acre field of wheat has been entirely ruined by destructive little rodents.

Some of the Winnipeg grain dealers show a disposition to cease for the present from extending their facilities throughout the province for handling grain, owing to the action of the C.P.R. in proposing to enter the field as a competitor for the grain and milling business of the country.

Official reports of the Indian wheat crop are not favorable. In the Punjab there is a deficiency, compared with last year, of about 200,000 tons; in the Northwest provinces and Oude of 150,000 tons; in the Central provinces, of 100,000 tons, and in the Bombay Presidency, of 100,000 tons, and in Bengal 50,000 tons. This makes a total shortage of 600,000 tons, or 21,500,000 bushels.

It is said a lawsuit is likely to arise out of the contract for the machinery of the C.P.R. mill at Keewatin, which has been awarded to E. P. Allis & Co., of Milwaukee. The latter firm, it is said, entered into a contract with the Smith Purifier Company to abandon, for a certain consideration, all business in Ontario. In violation as is alleged, of this agreement the Allis company has taken this Keewatin contract and a suit for damages is to be the result.

The London correspondent of the *Northwestern Miller* says: "American millers have completely revolutionized and demoralized the British milling. The extent to which this demoralization is felt is apparent from the fact that at the present moment probably not more than 2,000 mills are at work in this country, out of a total of perhaps 4,000 workable mills. Minneapolis "straight" flour in London is offering to-day at 23s 6d per sack, ex-ship, without finding buyers, and No 1 Duluth wheat is obtainable for prompt shipment at 32s 6d per 480 lbs."

J. G. V. Field Johnson, manager of the Kinalmeaky farm, writes to the press as follows: "With the view of allowing the public at large to know something of the experiments being made by the Land Corporation of Canada in the Northwest, in Russian wheats imported from the Black Sea, permit me to state that a field of "Kubauka" sown on the 28th April was well in ear on the 28th June, and the crop heavy. This wheat is fully two weeks earlier in ripen-

ing than red fyfe; it is also much harder and has a large kernel of a light amber color which, when well harvested, is almost transparent. We have also a considerable area of the "Sax-onka" variety which is an exceptionally strong wheat and much valued by English millers for mixing purposes. This wheat yields very heavily, and the ears are frequently six and seven inches in length, and it is a few days later than "Kubauka," but much earlier than red fyfe as proved in last year's experiments."

Our One-sided Trade Policy.

It does seem inconsistent and unfair that whilst the English are opening their markets to our most important staples of produce, the Canadian Government are doing all in their power to drive English goods from our markets. The excuse which the apologists of the Government advance for this, namely, that England wants our produce and therefore it is to her advantage to have it, is to mean and contemptible to receive a moment's consideration. Apply this policy to individuals and what would be the result, if not a general estrangement of trade relationship all round? A firm that is dealing largely with other houses expects reciprocal favors, especially where such favors are in the natural order of trade. It is the same with nations, and there can be no doubt that the great bulk of English merchants and manufacturers feel that the late high protective duties upon English iron are a direct menace to international trading, and a most one-sided policy on the part of Canada, especially when it is considered that Great Britain is far less dependent upon Canadian markets, than Canada is upon British markets. Supposing all the produce shipped from Canada to the United Kingdom were to suddenly cease, the effect upon the English markets would scarcely be felt, with the exception probably of cheese. But on the other hand, let us assume that through some cause or other our surplus products were shut out of the English markets, the same as English iron has been shut out of Canada, how would we fare then? Would the United States take all our surplus grain, flour, etc.? Certainly not! for they are compelled to seek a foreign outlet like ourselves. We have seen mightier trade revolutions than that which would be caused by the English Government resorting to fair trade or partial protection in self defence.—*Montreal Trade Bulletin.*

THE Massey Manufacturing Co. have shipped to Calgary a carload of binders and binding twine, and a car of mowers and two horse rakes which are very wide and cover an immense tract of country. This shows that agriculture is making progress in the far west.

THE Port Arthur *Herald* says:—The C.P.R. will build their Lake Superior shops at the mouth of the river (Fort William). They will be of stone, which will be quarried near Ignace. Operations will begin about the 1st of Sept. There are to be one large foundry for heavy castings and one large general machine shop for fitting; also car repairing shops. They will be supplied with machinery, a large portion of which were made in the C.P.R. shops at Montreal this summer. The Winnipeg shops are not to be dismantled, but to quietly fall into disuse.

Business East.**ONTARIO.**

John Patterson, saw mill, Hollin, was burned out.

C. H. Nix, harness, Uxbridge, was damaged by fire.

A. W. Gordon, banker, Orillia, has assigned in trust.

Colgan Bros., tanners, Mount Forest, were burned out.

A. W. Green, knitting factory, Acton, was burned out.

Thos. Sheehan, grocer, Vesta, has sold out to A. Campbell.

Thos. Ryan, shoe dealer, Toronto, has assigned in trust.

F. H. Dinsmore, books, etc., Stayner,—sheriff in possession.

Jas. Rankin, hotelkeeper, Stratford, has sold out to M. Purcell.

J. B. Swaffield, hardware, Clinton, has sold out to R. M. Racey.

Wm. Hogg, general storekeeper, Flesherton, has assigned in trust.

J. E. Brayley, general storekeeper, Orangeville, has assigned in trust.

E. Thompson, dry goods, Chatham, is advertising to close out his business.

Berry & Sheppard, books, etc., Goderich, have sold out to Fraser and Porter.

W. H. Mitchell, carriages, Mono Road,—stock advertised for sale by auction.

Turner & Vicars, real estate, etc., Toronto, have dissolved; E. J. S. Vicars continues.

R. H. Gray & Co., overalls, Toronto, are succeeded by The Gray and Harold Manufacturing Co.

Jos. Kidd & Son, general storekeepers, Dublin and Seaforth, have sold out Seaforth business.

QUEBEC.

Sharpe's Express Co., Montreal, have assigned in trust.

Beuthner Bros., manufacturers' agents, Montreal, have assigned in trust.

Philippe L. Gagnon, trader, St. Roch des Aulnais, has assigned in trust.

Antoine St. Jean, general storekeeper, St. Timothe, has assigned in trust.

The following were burned out at St. Remi: E. Bonneville, general store and lumber; Mrs. Durivage, hotel; D. Gagne, foundry; C. Lamarre, general storekeeper; P. Therain & Co., general storekeepers; L. P. Lazure, general storekeeper, damaged by fire.

NOVA SCOTIA.

W. G. Sims, trader, Yarmouth, has assigned.

J. R. Lyons, hotelkeeper, Kentville, has sold out.

Peter S. Sinclair, —, Southampton, has assigned.

L. W. Drew, general storekeeper, Petite Rivierre, has sold out.

J. D. Payson & Son, hotelkeepers, etc., Westport, have assigned.

Wm. Ackhurst & Co., commission, etc., Halifax,—Wm. Ackhurst dead.

Winnipeg Board of Trade.

The semi-annual meeting of the Winnipeg board of trade was held on Tuesday last.

A report from the grain examining committee was made which showed that 1,342,600 bushels of wheat had been inspected by the Winnipeg grain inspector, which is but a small portion of the total exports of the province. A considerable quantity went to Port Arthur for inspection in addition to which a good deal was sold by sample. Wheat exported as flour or ground for local consumption, was not inspected, except in rare instances. The wheat of 1886 crop was of a high grade, running as follows:

No. 1 Hard.....	61 per cent
No. 2 Hard.....	9 per cent
No. 1 Northern.....	16 per cent
No. 2 and 3 Northern.....	4 per cent
No. 1 and 2 Spring.....	5 per cent
Rejected, all causes.....	5 per cent

100

The greater percentage of barley and oats is sold on samples, and this explains why such small quantities of those grains are inspected here.

The hide and leather examiners reported that the quality of the hides from the city is very good, but those from the country are very inferior on account of mutilation in skinning, etc., and it was decided to request the hide examiners to prepare a circular for distribution in the country, giving the requirements of the law as to grading, and pressing on country merchants the necessity of proper preparations of hides, as all sales here are made on the inspector's figures. Six thousand and seventy-two hides and calfskins were inspected during the last six months by the official inspector, his fees amounting to \$303.60.

Discussions took place on the question of the experimental farm, immigration, and a pamphlet to be published by the board respecting its position on the disallowance question.

The grain examiners' committee for the ensuing year was then elected, and is composed of the following members: Geo. J. Maulson, S. Nairn, E. L. Drewry, D. G. McBean, W. A. Hastings, S. Spink, N. Bawlf, D. H. McMillan, J. E. Steen and C. N. Bell, secretary.

The hide and leather examiners elected were: F. Ossenbrugge, P. Gallagher, James Penrose, James Hallam, N. Bawlf, S. Spink and C. N. Bell, secretary.

Dairy Matters.

Only one small lot of cheese was boarded on July 9th at London, Ontario, which sold at 8½c. All the June make of the district has been sold.

The Montreal Gazette, of Monday last, says: "It begins to look very like as if the June boom had collapsed. New York has broken badly on unfavorable weather, the heated condition of stock, and the withdrawal of support from shippers who have hitherto upheld the June deal. In this market a weaker feeling prevailed while the cable declined 6d, to 46s 6d; in fact the whole situation has a weak and feverish tone, which promises lower prices for next week."

Grant & Horne, commission merchants, who have been endeavoring to work up a trade in British Columbia for Manitoba cheese, received a telegram on Friday from a Victoria house to the effect that Ontario cheese was offered to be delivered at Victoria, at 10½ cents. Manitoba should command the cheese trade of British

Columbia, but before this can be done, manufacturers here must make up their minds to be guided to some extent by outside quotations. At present they are holding too high to allow of the shipment of cheese to the Pacific coast in competition with the Ontario product. There is even a probability of the Winnipeg market being supplied with Ontario cheese shortly, as it is rumored that negotiations were going on last week with that object in view. It is all very well to talk about encouraging home industry, but if Ontario cheese can be laid down cheaper than the manufacturers will supply the home product, some one will be found ready to import it. There will certainly be a surplus of cheese produced in the province this year, and therefore it is to be hoped that eastern cheese will not be imported.

Here is an excellent chance for Manitoba cheese to come to the front and gain a reputation abroad. It should be taken advantage of by every factory in the province. The following from the *Canadian Gazette*, of London, England, will explain: "The Frome District Agricultural Society has hit upon the happy notion of commemorating the Jubilee year by giving a series of valuable prizes for the best four cheeses of any make except Stilton. The competition is open to Her Majesty's dominions, and we heartily commend this opportunity to the agriculturists of Canada interested in dairy products. In addition to a sum of £30 offered as the first prize, a presentation cup, value £20, will be given; and there are also four other prizes, ranging from £20 to £4." The following advertisement appears in connection with the above announcement:—Frome District Agricultural Society, Somerset, England. To farmers and cheese factors. The Frome District Agricultural Society offer Jubilee Prizes for Cheese at their next annual exhibition, on September 28th, of £90. Conditions: Class 1.—For the best four cheeses of not less than 25 pounds each, of any system or make (except Stilton), open to Her Majesty's dominions:—1st prize, £30, and presentation cup, value £20; 2nd prize, £20; 3rd prize, £10; 4th prize, £6; 5th prize, £4. Last day of entry, Wednesday, 14th September. Entrance fee, \$1. Wm. Pulham, Secretary, Frome.

A. C. McPHERSON & Co., wholesale fruits, Winnipeg, contemplate adding a wholesale grocery department to their business.

THE stock and plant of John Cosgrave & Co, brewers, Winnipeg, will be offered for sale by the sheriff, on Tuesday, the 19th inst. The sale is under a judgment obtained by the Commercial Bank for \$8,550. Cosgrave came here less than two years ago, from Toronto, and commenced business with a flourish of trumpets, but with little cash. He has, however, managed to get considerably into debt, and the failure is a natural consequence of undertaking too much with little means. He first formed a partnership with Blackwood Bros., but the latter very soon withdrew from the business, which had been commenced by the leasing and fitting up of an idle brewery here. Lately he formed a partnership with a Mrs. Elliott, who put \$3,000 cash in the business and gave her note for \$2,000 in addition.

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Cereal Duties in Germany.

The German Empire, it is well known, entered two or three years ago on a protectionist policy, and laid heavy import duties on wheat, flour and other cereal products, raw and manufactured. These duties it has lately been proposed to still further augment, and in the meantime it was rumored that the Government was about to ask for a provincial protective law, giving it power to summarily shut out imports of foreign grain; the Government has, however, disclaimed any such intention. It appears likely that any attempt to raise the corn duty will meet with determined opposition from an influential section of the Liberal party, and it is said that a formal anti-corn law league is about to be formed by the new Liberals in the Reichstag or German House of Commons. This league is to have a special organ in the shape of a newspaper.—*London Miller.*

Wheat in the Far Northwest.

Bishop Young of the Church of England diocese of Athabasca, arrived from Vermillion, Peace river, on Wednesday, June 22nd. He left Vermillion on May 9th and canoed to the Forks of the Peace river, about 200 miles up stream. Last season was quite favorable for crops at Vermillion. Wheat, barley and potatoes yielding well and ripening. The weather became cold about October 13th, but turned milder towards the end of the month. The ice began to run in the river about November 5th and set on November 19th. The weather was mild until New Years. In January and the

early part of February it was steadily cold. The latter part of February was mild. The lowest thermometer was 52 below, about the end of January. The snow was about two feet deep and was gone about the 21st of April. The river opened about the end of the month. Cattle did well all winter, some feeding out.

Wheat was sown at Vermillion on April 29th, the ground being in excellent condition, and potatoes were planted before that time. At Dunvegan on the flats of the Peace river and Old Wives' lakes wheat was sown about May 4th. On May 29th wheat was up two inches and looked well. A slight frost at Dunvegan on June 4th cut down cucumbers, melons and bean plants, but did not injure the wheat. It was not felt at Old Wives' lakes, where cucumber plants remained unaffected. Bishop Young is of opinion that in both soil and climate an immense area of the Peace river district is fitted for agricultural settlement, only lacking means of communication with the outside world to make it available.—*Edmonton Bulletin.*

The recent drop in the price of wheat at Chicago, caused more loss to Manitoba shippers than has generally been supposed. One or two consignments of wheat which had been forwarded east and were on the road when the drop occurred, were refused by the parties to whom they had been shipped. This of course was only in one or two instances, as no first-class firm would break an agreement owing to a drop in the market, even if they could find a means of escape from a contract, through a technicality. In this way one consignment of wheat, for which 70 cents had been bid on track at a provincial point in Manitoba, but which was subsequently shipped to Montreal and refused, was sold in that city at 89 cents. This price would of course net the shipper a considerable loss.

British Columbia.

R. J. Ferguson, saloon, Victoria, has sold out.
P. Maurman, cooper, Victoria, has sold out to Chas. Spanholtz.
F. Davis & Co, restaurant, Victoria, has had effects seized by sheriff.

The SS. Sardonyx has sailed for Portland to bring 250 tons of flour for China.

Crosdale & Jones, [real estate and insurance agents, Victoria, have dissolved partnership.

The Bon Accord cannery has forwarded east the first shipment of this season's pack of salmon.

Beegan & Madigan, millinery, Victoria, contemplate dissolving partnership and closing out business.

The ship W. F. Drew, from China, has been chartered by the Moodyville mills to load lumber for South America.

Jacob Cohen has bought the business and good will of the Cosmopolitan Hotel, Vancouver, from the late proprietor, Mr. Louch.

Frank Davis late proprietor of the Belvidere restaurant, Victoria, has left for parts unknown, leaving behind him many lamenting creditors.

The ship Riverside, has cleared from Vancouver with a cargo consisting of 1,093,355 feet rough lumber, valued at \$14,252.89, for San Diego, California.

Contractor McGillvray, of New Westminster, arrived in the Selkirks where he has a contract for \$100,000 worth of snow sheds, on Three Valley and Summit lakes.

The salmon are commencing to run on the Fraser River, and canners are all prepared to begin operations. The water is gradually subsiding to its usual level.

Oppenheimer Brothers, Vancouver, have received the goods bought by them recently in the east, and have accordingly opened up business in their warehouse on Powell street, as wholesale dealers in groceries, liquors and cigars. This is the first wholesale grocery house established at Vancouver.

The Vancouver News says: Manitoba butter is beginning to find its way in large quantities to the coast. The quality is good and there is no reason why it should not supplant the California butter in this market. Nearly fifty pkgs. arrived yesterday, and several dealers are making arrangements to receive supplies at regular intervals.

The Vancouver News of a recent date says: Yesterday was an unusually active day in real estate. Purchasers were numerous, and a large amount of property changed hands, and all at advancing prices. The sales were not confined to any particular quarter of the city, but were scattered in almost every direction, although the heaviest sales were made on Hastings street.

Vancouver has been made a Customs port of entry, with Mr. Bowell, late of Winnipeg, as collector. The News of that place says: Mr. Bowell, who has the honor of being the first collector for the port of Vancouver has had much experience in the customs department. He was surveyor of customs in Winnipeg for several years, during which time the bulk of the collector's work fell to him, so he is in every way com-

petent to manage the department successfully and will no doubt become as popular here as he was in Winnipeg.

The SS. Mexico arrived at Vancouver from San Francisco with a large quantity of freight for shipment over the Canadian Pacific. The following are the consignments and their destination. Best wool, 10 tons wool; Chicago 10 tons canned goods; St. Paul 20 tons do.; Minneapolis, 20 tons do.; Omaha, 20 tons do.; Sioux City, 20 tons sugar; St. Louis, Mo., 20 tons borax; Marshalltown, Iowa, 40 tons sugar; Des Moines, Iowa, 40 tons sugar.

The erection of permanent workshops at Vancouver for the Canadian Pacific Railway has been finally decided and the spot for their location fixed. The size and style of the shops will be exactly similar to those in Winnipeg and will be very substantial in structure. The following are the dimensions as laid down in the plans: Machine shops 61x130 feet, boiler shops 64x66, blacksmith shops 60x100, coppers shop 30x 60, stores department and offices 50x150. The round house will have a capacity for twenty engines. The buildings will be built of wood, afterwards bricked both inside and out.

Taxing Commercial Corporations.

An important decision has been made by the Privy Council on the right of the local legislatures to tax commercial corporations. The test came about in this way. In 1882, the legislature of Quebec passed a law taxing all commercial corporations doing business in that province. The constitutionality of the law was disputed, by the corporations, and after a fight of several years, victory rests with the legislative authority. The local legislatures have power to impose only direct taxes, and this, it was contended, was indirect; a contention confirmed in 1883 by Justice Rainville. This decision was reversed by the court of the Queen's Bench. Under this law every bank, insurance company, every incorporated company carrying on labor or trade, every loan, telegraph, telephone, city passenger railway company is liable to pay certain specified taxes annually. Electric light and electric railway companies are omitted; but there is no assurance that they will not be scooped into the net the very next session. The tax will be on the capital of the banks, insurance, navigation, loan, and telegraph companies, and the city railway companies will pay \$50 for each mile of line; ordinary railway companies \$5 a mile, and those which have received government subsidies \$50 a mile.

A. B. HOWIE, of Morden, has started a bakery and confectionery business at Manitou, Man.

RICHARDS, BROPHY & DARBY, barristers, Winnipeg, have dissolved partnership. Richards & Brophy continue the business.

W. KINNESTEN of Calgary, is going to San Francisco to make arrangements for the direct importation of his supply of fruits.

A CARLOAD of the material for electric lighting has arrived at Calgary. Among the rest is a large engine and several dynamos. The erection of the buildings and the stringing of wires, it is understood, will be begun at once and pushed forward rapidly to completion

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