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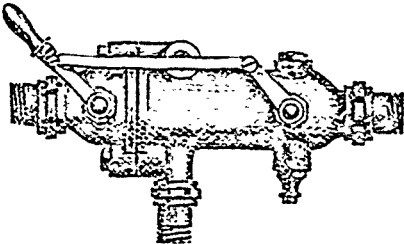
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—CONGO'S—

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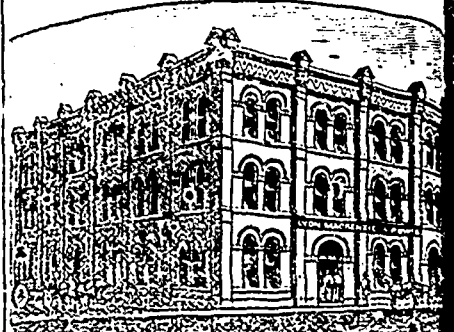
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Consignments of Fresh Fruits received regularly throughout the season

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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 Tuesday—Subscription, \$2 per annum

VOL. 3

WINNIPEG, MARCH 10 1885.

NO. 24.

The Commercial

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

ISSUED EVERY TUESDAY.

THE COMMERCIAL will be mailed to any address in Canada, United States or Great Britain at \$2.00 a year in advance.

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

Book, Newspaper, Railroad, Commercial and Job Printing specialties.
227 Office, 4 and 6 James St. East.

JAS. E. STEEN,
Publisher.

WINNIPEG, MARCH 10, 1885.

S. CROSSLEY, general storekeeper, Brandon, has assigned in trust.

A. BETHUNE, general storekeeper, Manitow, is giving up business.

THE sheriff is in possession of Sicotte & Gagnon's hotel Port Arthur.

A. H. MORRISON, butcher, Portage la Prairie, has sold out to R. C. Culbuck.

A forty foot seam of iron, four miles north of Calgary, has been discovered.

GAGES BROS., Moose Jaw, are closing out their general store, and will retire.

J. C. WELLINGTON, general storekeeper, Moose Jaw, has assigned in trust.

D. G. DICK, Dominion City, has sold out his general store business to W. R. Dick.

C. R. LUNDY, Crystal City, contemplates removing his grist mill to Snow Flake.

SIDDONS & HERLAD, general storekeepers, Stonewall, advertise giving up business.

THE stock of the estate of J. H. Arkell, grocer, Winnipeg, has been sold to F. Weir.

ROBINSON & REMSEY, general storekeepers, Moose Jaw, have closed out their business.

THE first millinery store at Morden will shortly be opened by Misses Dewar & Gray.

GEO. A. NEW, general storekeeper, Dominion City, is closing out his business at that place.

IT is reported that 500 farmers with their families will settle at Moquet's Creek in April.

GARLAND & THOMPSON, Portage la Prairie, have formed a partnership in the sawmill business.

THE Emerson sawmill will be operated this summer by Mr. James Carney of Carney & Watson.

W. CLOGHER, Winnipeg, has sold out his Port Arthur hotel and restaurant to W. C. Johnston.

WM. CONNOR, general storekeeper, Darlingford, advertises that it is his intention to retire from the business.

IT is rumored that Captain Scott is to be appointed Collector of Customs in Winnipeg in place of Mr. Mingie.

MR. RALE, of the firm of Rale & Townsend, hotelkeepers, Port Arthur, is reported away, and the landlord has taken possession.

BRIGHT & McLEAN, grocers, Winnipeg, have dissolved partnership, McLean retiring. The business will be continued by Bright alone.

THE St. Boniface woolen factory, which has been closed for some time past, has again commenced operations under the management of Mr. Hill.

GOLDSTEIN, ZINKAS & Co., general storekeepers, Troy, have dissolved partnership, Zinkan retiring. The business will be continued under the style of Goldstein, Beauchamp & Co., and Goldstein will continue alone at Fort Qu'Appelle.

A CONVENTION of farmers, members of the Farmer's Union, met in Victoria Hall, Winnipeg, last week, their meetings being held on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The gathering was altogether a tame affair, and its proceedings were marked by an amount of moderation in marked contrast to those of last year's convention.

GARSDIE & WARR, printers and publishers of the Stonewall News, have dissolved partnership. The business will be continued by Samuel D. Garsdie alone.

THE South Winnipeg election of an M.P.P., took place last Tuesday, and resulted in a victory for the Government candidate, Mr. Hamilton, his majority being 77, while the total votes polled was 1,135.

IN our editorial columns will be found an article on "Equal Distribution of Assets," which is a matter of great importance in commercial circles at present. It is understood that if the Winnipeg Board of Trade will draft a bill of the nature described, Attorney-General Hamilton will take charge of it and press its passing during this session of the Provincial Legislature. There is no fear but the Board will undertake its portion of the work.

AT a meeting held on the 4th instant of the shareholders of the Manitoba Southwestern Railway the following gentlemen were elected directors of the Company: General Manager Van Horne, General Superintendent Egan, Hon. D. A. Smith, R. B. Angus, Mr. McTavish, J. A. M. Atkins, J. S. Atkins, D. M. Telford, and L. A. Hamilton. The new Board then elected Hon. D. A. Smith, president; J. M. Egan, vice-president; and J. Vanzill, secretary.

AT the meeting of the Winnipeg City Council, held last night, the matter of reduction of expenditure in the different departments was taken up and reports received from the different committees. The Finance Committee suggests a reduction of \$4,195; Board of Works, \$1,530; Fire, Water and Light, \$4,195; Licenses, \$100; Police Commissioners, \$8,328; Market, \$555; Health and Relief, \$400; Scavenger, \$13,000; Property, \$860; making all over a reduction of \$40,955, from a total expenditure of \$82,378. The pruning hook has been freely applied in connection with salaries of city officials, and if a similar policy is followed in connection with all other civic expenditure, Winnipeg has undoubtedly started upon a course of retrenchment which will soon bring the city out of difficulties, besides re-establishing its credit in foreign money markets.

Business East.

ONTARIO

T. Raycroft, shoes, Lakefield, is dead.
 Thomas Gilleese, livery, Renfrew, is dead.
 E. J. Benedict, general store, Buckhorn, is dead.
 A. Young, boots and shoes, Chatham, is dead.
 Lewis Ludwig, hotel, Exeter, is retiring from business.
 Mrs. L. Vance, grocer, Hensall, has given up business.
 John Ackland, shoes, St. George, has assigned in trust.
 Frank West, drugs, etc., Lyu, has removed to Simcoe.
 J. A. Clark, grocer, Blyth, has given up business.
 C. H. Walper, mill, Middlemiss, has been burned out.
 W. G. Scott, furniture, Dunville, has been burned out.
 W. Mason, carriages, Markdale, has been burned out.
 J. W. Portch, auctioneer, Toronto. Bailiff in possession.
 Tuos. Haller, confectioner, etc., Atvinston, has sold out.
 M. Ogden, hotel, Port Hope, advertises business for sale.
 D. Halliday, butcher, Toronto, has retired from business.
 Franklin & Davis, general store, Port Rowan, have sold out.
 Thos. Matthews, livery, etc., Markdale, has been burned out.
 D. W. McLeod, general store, Stayner, has assigned in trust.
 Chas. Lafleur, general store, Deux Rivieres, has compromised.
 Carelly & Co., general store, Exeter, is retiring from business.
 W. P. Marter, liquors, Port Arthur, has given up business.
 E. O'Callaghan, general store, Cornwall, has obtained extension.
 J. Kerr & Bro., hardware, Millbrook, have sold out to R. Doak.
 D. J. Shanahan, blacksmith, etc., Markdale, has been burned out.
 Jas Carroll, blacksmith, Salmonville, offers his business for sale.
 Alfred Suhler, clothing, Sarnia and Point Edward, has assigned.
 E. Cox & Co., dry goods, Chatham, have removed to Port Hope.
 Chas. Allward, of Chas. Allward & Co., show-cases, Toronto, is dead.
 J. A. Douglass, general store, Brougham, has sold out to T. H. Morton.
 E. McTavish, dry goods, etc., Lindsay, has sold out to G. A. Weese.
 Austin Bros., grocers, etc., Parkdale, have sold out to J. E. Snelgrove.
 J. O'Sullivan, grocer, Cornwall, has been sold out by the sheriff.
 G. D. McKay, gentlemen's furnishings, London, has assigned in trust.
 H. H. Scott, fruit, etc., Chatham, is giving up business and leaving here.

Jeffrey & McLennan, hardware, Stratford, have assigned in trust.
 J. G. Spain, fancy goods, etc., Simcoe, has sold out to Frank West.
 Mrs. E. Mann, fruit, etc., Orangeville, has sold out to Whaley & Bell.
 J. E. Spriggins, dry goods, etc., Stratroy, has sold his stock to M. McLeay.
 F. McGibbon, lumber merchant, etc., Sarnia, has had his planing mill burned.
 J. A. McInnis, of the firm of J. A. McInnis & Co., millers, Ingersoll, is dead.
 Fraser & Co., lumber, Wallaceburg, have dissolved, W. A. Fraser retiring.
 J. Clark & Co., drugs, Belleville, have dissolved. D. M. Waters continues.
 Helm & Nichols, foundry, Port Hope, have dissolved. J. H. Helm continues.
 The estate of Thos. Holmes, general store, Mono Mills, is to be sold for rent.
 N. C. McCarty, general store, Thamesford, has sold out to McKister & Young.
 Denton & Wadsworth, tailors, London, have dissolved. J. M. Depton continues.
 Wm. Thomson & Co., wholesale hardware and crockery, Toronto, have suspended.
 Johnson & Whitworth, general store, North Augusta, have sold out to R. L. Joynt.
 J. N. Andrews, of the firm of T. & J. N. Andrews & Co., grist mill, etc., is dead.
 Hillyard & Carman, dry goods, Prescott, have opened a branch at North Augusta.
 Meek & Harrington, gentlemen's furnishings, Port Arthur, advertise their business for sale.
 The firm of J. G. Moser, hardware, Blyth, have admitted one Clegg, under the style of Moser & Clegg.
 Clark, Harris, & Co., cabinetware, Toronto, dissolved March 1, G. E. Harris retiring. The style is unchanged.
 A. B. Powell & Co., dry goods, London, have dissolved. Continued under style of Powell, Allen, & Brickenden.
 Chantler & Monkman, general store, Cookstown, have dissolved. J. Z. Monkman continues.
 The following have been burned out at Theford: Jas. Borthwick, cabinet; Burns & Morphy, general store; Thos. Parkinson, grocer.
 Snyder, Henry, & Co., canned goods, Toronto, have dissolved. T. B. Henry retires, and W. A. Snyder continues under the style of W. A. Snyder & Co.

QUEBEC.

B. Bo'duc, jeweler, Quebec, has assigned in trust.
 Nap. Picard, hotel, Lachine, has assigned in trust.
 Dr. C. Fautoux, drugs, St. Hyacinthe, has closed up.
 O. G. Clement, tailor, etc., St. Johns, has compromised.
 H. Derone, grocer, Quebec, is offering to compromise.
 D. E. Dewar, general store, Aylmer, has assigned in trust.
 Hetu & Pelland, grocers, Berthierville, have assigned in trust.
 W. B. Craig, fancy goods, Montreal, has assigned in trust.
 J. E. Marceau, general store, Isle Verte, has assigned in trust.

Mrs. Chaire, milliner, Quebec, has been partially burned out.
 Douvde & Baston, tinmiths, etc., Montreal, have assigned in trust.
 Wade & Williams, commission agents, etc., Montreal, have dissolved.
 Diogene Dubois, general store, Drummondville, has assigned in trust.
 J. L. Marcon & Co., hats, furs, etc., Montreal, have assigned in trust.
 Lamalier Bros., wholesale fancy goods, Montreal, are offering to compromise.
 Chas. Wolff & Co., restaurateurs and tobaccoists, Montreal, have dissolved.
 Bienville & Brazeau, cabinet-makers, etc., Vercheres, have assigned in trust.
 Mrs. F. Selte dit Vadebonceur, dry goods, etc., Magog, has assigned in trust.
 C. Brady, manufacturer of paper-boxes, etc., Montreal. Bailiff's sale advertised.
 The stock of J. P. Nugent, tailor, Montreal, has been damaged by fire and water.
 The stock of J. A. Vezina, dry goods, Quebec, has been damaged by fire and water.
 Aegholdt, McGillis, & Co., grocers' sundries, Montreal, have assigned in trust.
 J. J. Trudeau, general store, West Farnham, has had his stock damaged by fire and water.
 Joseph Paquette's sash and door factory, Montreal, has been damaged by fire and water.
 J. J. Hargrave, wholesale grain, flour, etc., Richmond, has called a meeting of his creditors.
 D. Nicholson & Co., roofers, Montreal, have dissolved. Continued under same style by Helen Wright.
 F. X. Lamarche, builder, St. Cunegonde, has admitted his son Joseph Arthur Lamarche a partner under the style of Lamarche & Fils.
 The following were burned out at St. Jea Baptiste: Emmanuel Gauthier, grocer; Nap. Onimet, saloon; C. Labelle, grocer; Piem Larose, tobacco.

NOVA SCOTIA.

N. F. Marshall, general store, Middleton, has assigned.
 A. C. Shuman & Co., general store, Acadia Mines, have sold out to Falconer & Durning.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

John Horn, liquors, St. John, is dead.
 Jos. Phillips, hotel, Fredericton, has been burned out.
 J. R. Howie, tailor, Fredericton, has been burned out; insured.
 S. W. Burt, carriages, Centreville, has sold out to S. A. McKenzie.
 Elijah Clark, hats, etc., Fredericton, has been burned out; insured.
 McManus & Le Blanc, general store, Memramcook, have dissolved. LeBlanc continues.

NEW FOUNDLAND.

Thos. N. Jillard has been admitted partner to the firm of Jillard Bros., jewelers, Harb Grace. Style is now Jillard Bros. & Co.

The failures in the United Kingdom for the week ended February 7, as reported to *King's Mercantile Gazette*, numbered 110, as compared with 50 and 238 in the corresponding weeks respectively of 1884 and 1883. England & Wales had 75 failures, as compared with 42 and 217 in the weeks specified; Scotland had 28 failures, as against 21 and 17; and Ireland had 5, as against 3 in 1884 and 4 in 1883.

H. SHOREY & CO.,

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CLOTHIERS,

—AND—

Mantle Manufacturers,

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54 to 62 St. HENRY STREET,
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The Commercial

WINNIPEG, MARCH 10, 1885.

MR. HAMILTON'S VICTORY.

Now that the South Winnipeg election is over, and Mr. Hamilton the Government candidate is elected, it may not be without profit to calmly view the results of the late struggle, and estimate in the same manner their indications.

Notwithstanding the fact that the South Winnipeg election was only a single and isolated contest, great persuasive powers have been used to make the electors and the public generally believe that upon its results depended terrible consequences to either party. We are in no way prepared to accept such a view of the importance of the contest; but we are firmly of the opinion that Mr. Norquay intended that it should act as a feeler of popular opinion, to serve as guide to him as to how far he might go in accepting the terms offered to Manitoba by the Dominion Government. His shrewdness in selecting a candidate who was at the zenith of his popularity with the citizens to enter into a fight where open voting gave every advantage to the Government candidate, proves that he was not prepared to take any chances of defeat which he could avoid. He knew that the opposition to his candidate was strong and well-organized, but sadly lacking in that power which is always in the grasp of the ruling party; and he was careful not to increase any advantage they possessed, nor lessen any of his own. Taking all these circumstances into consideration, Mr. Hamilton's majority of 77 in a total vote of 1135 may be considered a victory for that gentleman himself; but as far as Mr. Norquay and his Government are concerned it is very far from one, and should be accepted by them as a distinct warning that even in South Winnipeg, where the Parliament buildings and Government offices are located, and the bulk of the Government employees reside and vote, there is but little disposition to allow Mr. Norquay much latitude, if he has intentions of playing fast and loose with the rights of Manitoba as a province. The vote of last Tuesday cannot be accepted as a decision of the people against the rights of the province, as set forth by Mr. Norquay last spring, and

we have no doubt that he and his supporters will be wise enough to see this, and profit by the hint it furnishes.

In the South Winnipeg election as in most others alleged bribery, intimidation, wholesale personation and other villainous practices are charged against the victorious, and even the defeated party, now when the battle is over. Of course in every case the accusers are partizans of either side, and their statements may well be subjected to a liberal discount before being swallowed. If the rights of Manitoba have suffered during the recent contest, neither bribery, personation nor any other corruption can be seriously blamed for the injury. It was made plain in the contest, that old party prejudices were the worst and most dangerous enemies to Manitoba rights. Even the defeated party started out in the contest upon a straight reform platform, and only at the last moment, when it was too late, to catch that portion of the wavering conservative vote, which leaned towards provincial rights, was the declaration made by Mr. Luxton's friends, that his election if secured, would not be considered a party triumph, but one in the interests of the province. Manitoba rights were left in the beginning of the contest without a supporter, who would stand or fall by them in defence of old party lines, and as a natural consequence their influence in the contest were not felt as they should have been.

After weighing the results of this election as carefully and unbiasedly as possible, we are shut out to the conclusion, that a gain of one seat is all that the Government have secured, and that by a majority so slender, that they have no reason for exultation over it. Outside of questions of provincial interests Winnipeg has secured an advantage in having one of its members in the cabinet, and in a position to secure for the city the legislation its business men may require and ask for.

EQUAL DISTRIBUTION OF ASSETS.

It is now a fact beyond dispute, that during the present session of the Dominion Parliament there will be passed no Bankruptcy Act, or act for the equal distribution of insolvent debtors' estates, and it is very questionable if such a measure will become law until quite a material change has taken place in the present composition of the House of Commons. The fact is hard for the mercantile circles of Canada

to swallow, but it is practically beyond dispute nevertheless.

When we are thus shut out to the belief that no legislation of this description can be obtained from the Dominion Parliament, we must look to our Local Legislature for relief, even if that relief is only of a temporary nature. Provincial Parliaments have handled this important commercial subject, so that our Manitoba legislators are not without a precedent when they grapple with it. Five years ago Ontario secured a law on the subject, entitled "An act to abolish priority of and amongst judgment creditors," the provisions of which with few exceptions would be found both useful and practical in Manitoba at present, and would at least place it out of the reach of an unscrupulous creditor, to get a priority over others by means of a hurriedly secured judgment and execution. The protective provisions of this act amount simply to this: when a sheriff makes a seizure of the goods of a debtor on behalf of any creditor, he must enter the same in a book kept for the purpose in his office, which book must be kept open thirty days for the inspection the public. Any other creditor of said debtor may twenty days after such seizure, and up to within two days of the sale of effects seized, by notifying the sheriff and serving copies of his claim with affidavit attached upon the debtor and the Clerk of the County Court, be entitled to rank pro rata in the proceeds of such seizure. In short creditors have twenty-eight days in which to protect themselves against the greed of another creditor even, when such and the debtor are in collusion. The remaining clauses of the act are details, which provide for disputed claims of creditors and other probable difficulties in the working of the main principle of the law.

There can be no doubt but this act, while it falls far short of the value of a Dominion Bankruptcy law, could be adopted in principle in Manitoba, and with a few amendments and additions be made of great value and utility to the mercantile classes of the province. Its scope could be made to include chattel mortgages granted within a specified time of the debtors insolvency, and in many other respects so arranged as to compel practically the equal distribution of the assets of an insolvent among his legitimate creditors, even in a case where the insolvent had made up his mind to grant dishonest preference.

It is needless to go over the insolvency record of the past three years to show the necessity for such legislation as is here suggested. The instances are numerous and fresh in the memory of many in which dishonest preferred claims have swallowed up the entire estates of insolvent debtors, and left nothing for other and less unscrupulous creditors. In fact the uncertainty which has existed in the minds of creditors who would be both just and generous to a debtor, has often led them to seek reprisals by a system of sharp practice they would otherwise never put in force. Should we have a recurrence of the panicky days of 1883, we might certainly expect, that "Devil take the hindmost" would be the motto of the bulk of creditors in seeking their own from shaky debtors.

Some effort should be made to secure the passing of such an act by our local Parliament during the session now about to open, and as one of our city members is now a member of Mr. Norquay's cabinet it is not too much to expect, that the member for South Winnipeg would give some special attention to a piece of legislation which will specially benefit the commercial classes who form the constituency he represents.

It may be urged by some obstructionists that such a measure as we suggest is incomplete, in so far as it falls far short of the business wants of the country at present. But such an argument is valueless. A measure which accomplishes one half of work actually necessary, is certainly much better, than nothing, and it is questionable if legislation on commercial affairs is not best accomplished when it is overtaken gradually and in stages. We hope some legislation of this kind will be enacted before the close of this session of the House.

THE REJECTED FLOUR TAX.

As long as any country is burdened with a system of heavy import tariffs, a regular course of legislative tinkering must be pursued each year, and like the Irishman's stockings the heels of which were usually ready for darning by the time the toes were repaired, the tariff web has too frequently to be patched in one place by a piece, which has left a hole at another. This is made painfully apparent in connection with the Canadian duties on wheat and flour. Although Mark Lane London practically fixes the price

of wheat all over this continent, so long as we have a surplus for export, the loyal farmer of Canada has to be deluded into the belief that an import duty on wheat is a protection to him in raising the same, in order to make him a supporter of the National protection policy. If any further argument were necessary to show the absurdity of such a thing, it can be formed in the facilities which United States millers have for grinding Canadian wheat in bond and shipping the same back to a Canadian market, a privilege which we cannot complain of on this side of the boundary, seeing our Government allow millers the same in connection with United States wheat. Our millers naturally complain of a tariff, which places on the wheat necessary to make a barrel of flour a duty, considerably higher than is fixed upon the flour in a manufactured state. With facilities for grinding in bond the United States miller has just this difference in the duty of an advantage over his Canadian competitors, and can, if our flour markets keep as high as those in the United States, make a better profit out of grinding Canadian wheat, than that of his own country. The avowed aim of our national policy is to foster industries at home, but its arrangements in connection with wheat and flour aim to protect an industry, namely wheat raising, which cannot be assisted in any way, so long as Canada is a grain exporting country; and at the same time they place the milling industry of the Dominion at the mercy of competitors on the other side of the boundary. There is certainly just cause for millers to complain of such a state of affairs and the Government professing a protective tariff creed does them a great injustice, and supports a strange anomaly, when it fails or refuses to give them redress.

In proposing to redress the above grievance the extreme protectionists will no doubt advocate an increased duty on flour, but even the present Dominion Government with its ultra-protective tendencies have not the hardihood to impose an increased tax on bread in the present state of stagnant trade and threatened destitution among the laboring classes, and it is probably well, that they have something to deter them from following such a course. Still there is no reason why our millers should suffer longer under the injustice which an anomalous tariff thrusts upon them. The only reasonable

course open in the matter is to reduce the duty on wheat, so that our millers will be at least on an equal footing with competitors in the United States grinding in bond: or, if protection for the manufacturer is intended, reduce it so that our millers will have an advantage. Such a course would no doubt be at variance with the ideas of those who think they can still delude the farmer into the belief that a wheat tariff is a protection to him. But the farmer has long ago seen the folly of such an opinion; and with him there is a growing belief that all tariffs are meant for the profit of others at his expense. In the Northwest the farmer would not suffer one cent's worth of injury if the tariff on wheat were entirely swept away; but the milling industry would be greatly benefited thereby. It may not be generally known, but it is a fact, nevertheless, that not a barrel of Northwestern-manufactured flour from the crop of 1884 has as yet reached the markets of Montreal and other eastern cities, the reason being the inability of our millers to compete there in price with those of the United States under the present anomalous state of the tariff law. We are all anxious to see large exports of wheat from this country to the east; but we are still more anxious to see our wheat exported in a manufactured state, and the cost of its manufacture retained in the country. The profits on its manufacture retained in circulation here would be of much greater benefit to us than we shall ever derive from an import duty on wheat, which has as much effect upon the price of that cereal as an eclipse of the moon has upon the stock markets of London or New York.

There is a taint of dishonesty about every provision of our tariff arrangements which are supposed to be protective of the farmer, which Canadian statesmen should be shrewd enough, if they are not candid enough, to feel ashamed of. As each import duty on manufactured goods is put in force, the people of the Dominion are told, that it is to preserve for our own people home markets which of right belong to them, while the farmer must look to crowded Europe for a market to fix his prices, and where Canadian protection cannot reach. But the anomalous wheat and flour duties go further than this, for they fail to protect the man who manufactures the farmer's grain. It is not to be wondered at therefore if there is among the agricultural classes of the Dominion a growing scepticism about the benefits from protection of any description.

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WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

There was quite a little bustle in the banks during the early part of last week, and commercial financing was temporarily brisk. The payments on the fourth were not so well met as could have been wished, and the extra renewals and part renewals, added to a regular demand for discounts, which was the heaviest with which any month since November has opened, caused quite a call upon the banks; but it was met by them with seeming ease and willingness. The volume of paper passed in up to Wednesday was certainly heavy for this early period in the spring; but since then the demand on the banks has steadily eased off, and this week opens about normal, or, if anything, below that state. Considerable funds could have been used for out-side transactions not considered commercial, but for such purposes they were difficult to obtain at the banks. Rates of discount are unchanged, being 8 per cent for first-class paper, 9 to 10 for ordinary, and 10 to 12 for irregular discounts and one-month paper. Although money is none too free at present in the east, it is thought that there will be no difficulty in securing plenty of funds for the increased discount demand which will naturally set in with April. In real estate loans, the complaint that nearly all transactions are small is still heard; but applications have been quite numerous during the past ten days, and the firm which attends to such transactions reporting their fees for February heavier than for any month since last summer. A few companies who have troublesome boom loans on hand are careless about letting out more funds, but others are eager and willing for business; and that loans on good improved property are easily obtained. Rates of interest still range from 8 to 10 per cent., and the latter is seldom paid except in cases of renewals.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

It has been rather difficult to get to the bottom of facts in connection with trade affairs in the city during the past week, owing to the excitement caused by the South Winnipeg election, and the wholesale interests have been more or less disturbed by that circumstance. As far as facts could be reached, it would seem that there has been a slight improvement generally, and an increasing activity in spring goods lines. The improvement has been considerable in connection with some lines of season goods, and the steady spring business may now be looked for in these. In goods of everyday consumption there has not been a better feeling; and if sales have not greatly increased, the number of country merchants who have been in the city and making inquiries about goods gives promise of a liberal business during the balance of March. Even in lines connected with building and outdoor contract work there have been indications of early improvement; and should mild weather continue, the inquiries now being made will soon take the shape of transactions. The lowering of freight rates on the all-rail route from the east has had rather a checking effect upon some lines of heavy goods, as intending purchasers are inclined to hold off a little in hope of securing

slightly lower figures. But as no advances on account of winter freight have been made in almost any line during the winter, and prices of all goods are inclined to stiffen from this onward, the hopes of reductions are likely to meet with disappointment. The report from collections does not give the same encouragement as that from sales. The fourth did not show anything like as satisfactory results as the fourth of February, and cash returns have not been as free as could be wished, or even might be expected. Still, quite a number of houses report collections satisfactory, so that the average all round has not been discouraging. Altogether the week has not been a very bright one; but it has shown that we are entering upon what will doubtless prove an extended period of activity in sales.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The meeting of the Farmers' Convention, held in the city during the past week, brought in quite a number of people from the country; but it does not seem to have added materially to sales in this trade. Dealers have had any number of inquiries after goods; but they have had little else, and intending purchasers are very slow and cautious about investing. The week's business has been confined to a very limited sale of machines for spring use. Collections are moving about the same as they have been for some weeks past, but so free as they should be.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

Business has enlivened quite a little in this branch during the week, and spring's activity has fairly commenced. Wholesalers are busy sending out orders taken last month, while fresh demands are daily coming in. Collections falling due have not amounted to enough upon which to base a report; but the trade altogether is in a very satisfactory condition.

CLOTHING.

There is very little improvement to note in connection with this trade during the week. The shipping out of goods sold during the past month has been going on, but very few new orders were received. Improvement is now looked for, and with continued mild weather will no doubt soon set in. The report on collections is rather mixed, varying from good to very unsatisfactory. The average is only fair.

CROCKERY AND GLASSWARE.

All is quietness in this trade at present, and spring business has not opened up yet. There are symptoms of some activity farther on in the month; but spring will be fairly opened up before there is any rush. No complaints are being made about collections, the report being good.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

Although there has been a little improvement in this trade, matters are still rather quiet; but more stir is expected as spring advances. Collections are reported moderately good.

DRY GOODS.

In this staple branch it may be said that the sale of spring and summer wear has set in; but as yet the aggregate of goods disposed of is not heavy. Buying is evidently going to be done as cautiously as it was last year, and in anything outside of staple lines purchasers will

not move until the spirit compels them. Still, quite a heavy volume of sales is anticipated during the balance of the month. Collections have not been so free as they might, and this fact has made wholesalers less anxious to swell the number of sales by pushing.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALLWARES.

There is still no real activity in this trade, although a scattered, irregular business has prevented actual quietness during the past week. With a continuance of the present mild weather a rapid improvement is looked for, and its influence for good has already been slightly felt. The report from collections is not so good as it might be, although not actually bad.

FISH.

There has been a lively local demand for small lots of fresh fish, and a few car-lots have been shipped to points south. The mild weather has made holders of stocks a little more anxious to sell, and prices have been easier. Car-lots of white-fish have been offered as low as 4½c, although prime lots are still held at 5c. Jack-fish have been offered in car-lots at 2 to 2½c, and small lots at 2½ to 3c. Small lots of white fish range from 5½ to 6c. Oysters are unchanged in price: Standards, 30 to 35c; selects, 40 to 45c.

FRUIT.

There has been a fair business in this line during the past week, while collections are reported good. The most noteworthy feature is the upward tendency of apples. Prices are as follows: Apples, \$5 to 6 a bbl; Messina oranges, \$5 to 5.50 a box; lemons, \$4.50 to 5.50; Malaga grapes, \$7.50 to 8 a bbl; Eleme figs, in boxes, 16 to 20c per lb; Malaga figs, in 14lb boxes, 11 to 13c; prunes, in kegs \$7.50 to 8; and in 50lb boxes, 8 to 8½c per lb; golden dates, in 50lb boxes, 10c; raisins and currants, unchanged.

FUEL.

Mild weather has had a bad effect on this trade, and last week was a very quiet one. Some holders of stocks of poplar have been eager to sell, and round lots were offered in the city at \$2.50 to 3; tamarac is scarce, and is held at \$4.50 to 4.75 delivered. Coal is unchanged in price, quotations, delivered, being: Anthracite, \$12; bituminous, \$9 to 10.50; Saskatchewan, \$7.50.

FURNITURE.

There is still a quiet report from this trade, and the wholesale orders shipped during the past week would not reach a couple of car-loads. Collections are also reported far from satisfactory.

GROCERIES.

Very little improvement has been made in this staple trade during the week. An unusual number of country merchants being in the city, sales show an increase over those of the previous week; and but for the dead state of the city, the gross aggregate would have been quite encouraging. Collections are still reported rather slow. Prices of goods are unchanged; but the recent reduced freights from the east have caused an easier feeling. Quotations are as follows: Sugars—Yellows, 6½ to 7c; granulated, 8 to 8½c; Paris lump 10c and a further advance is still looked for. Coffee and Tea

are firm and unchanged quotations being as follows: Rios, 14 to 16c; Javas, 22 to 25c; Jamaicas, 17 to 20c; Mochas, 30 to 34c. Tea, still ranges as follows: Moyune gunpowder, 30 to 75c; new seasons, 65 to 85c; Japans, 25 to 50c, new seasons, 40 to 55c; Congons, 30 to 75c; new sea-ons, 55 to 90c. Syrups, single crown, \$2.50, and triple crown, \$2.75 per keg.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

A visible improvement has taken place in the state of this trade during the week. The spring movement has now reached heavy lines; and although as yet there have been more inquiries than sales, the feeling is altogether better than it was ten days ago. The lowering of freight rates from the east has brought down the prices of some goods, and quotations are now as follows: Tin-plates, I.C., 14 x 20, \$6 to 6.25; 20 x 28, \$12 to 12.50; Canada plates, \$3.80 to 4; sheet-iron, 28 G, \$4.75 to 5.25 per 100 lb; iron-pipe, 40 to 50 per cent. off list prices; ingot-tin, 25 to 30c per lb; galvanized iron, 28 gauge, 7½ to 8c per lb, according to quality; bar iron, \$2.75 to 3.25 per 100 lb; cut nails, \$3.50 to 3.75 per keg.

LEATHER AND FINDINGS.

Business is steadily improving in this line, and a state of moderate activity has now been reached. Collections are reported rather slow. Quotations of goods are as follows: Spanish sole, 33c to 37c; slaughter sole, 35c; French calf, first choice, \$1.40 to 1.50; domestic, 85c; B Z calf, \$1 to 1.25; French kip, \$1.00 to 1.10; B Z kip, 85c to 90c; slaughter kip, 65c to 75c; No. 1 wax upper, 50c; grain upper, 55c; harness leather, 33c to 36c for plumb stock; English oak sole, 65c.

LUMBER.

Sales during the past week were not heavy, but there were quite a number of inquiries; and other indications are not wanting that activity, or at least a little stir, will soon set in.

PAINTS, OILS AND COLORS.

The improvement noted in our last report still holds up in this trade; and it is becoming evident that another ten days will bring a fair opening up of spring activity. As soon as this is fairly running, there will doubtless be some changes in prices in keeping with reduced freights; but as yet there are none reported. The following are current quotations: Linseed oil raw, 69c per gal.; boiled, 72c; seal oil, steam refined, \$1.10; no pale or straw seal in the market; castor, 15c per lb; lard, No. 1 \$1.30 per gal.; olive, \$1.50 to \$2, according to quality; machine oils, black 30c; oleine 50c; fine qualities, 65c to \$1. Coal oils, headlight, 27c; water white 33c. Calcined plaster, \$4.00 per bbl.; Portland cement, \$6; white lead, genuine, \$8.00; No. 1, \$7.50; No. 2, \$7. Window glass, first break, are quoted at \$2.50.

SADDLERY AND HARNESS.

A steady but scattered trade has been done in this line during the past week; while indications are not wanting that steady activity is not far distant, and that the spring business is setting in. Collections are reported fairly free, and as good as can be expected.

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

There is very little reason for boasting about business in this trade, and the past week has been rather a slow one. Collections were fair.

WINES AND SPIRITS

Now that the election excitement has died away, a smart demand for domestic spirits has set in; but there is still no request for imported or fancy wines. Collections are reported moderately good. Quotations of domestic spirits are as follows: Whiskies - Gooderham & Wort's, in wood, \$1.55 to 2.25 per gallon; 65 o.p. rectified, in wood, \$2.50; W.F.L. five-year-old, \$2.50 per gallon; cases, quarts, \$7.50; flasks \$4.50.

THE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG.

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

The movement of wheat all over the province has been quite heavy during the past week, and in the city receipts have shown no disposition to fall off, but have been ample for the local milling demand, and with a surplus for storage. Shipments to Port Arthur continue; and as rates have been lowered on the United States lines leading south, shipments by that route are likely to commence now. Should the mild weather last and the snow continue to disappear as rapidly as it is now doing in the country, receipts must soon fall off; and there is a disposition on the part of farmers who are able to hold, to do so until after seeding is over, in the hope of securing better prices then. The movement of oats and barley has been decidedly light for the week. In provisions the feeling was better than noted in our last report. Prices have not advanced, however; and as lower freight rates from the east are in force, competition from that source may have a weakening effect on meats; and in dairy produce the stocks in the city are too heavy to admit of any upward tendency.

WHEAT.

Although reports of a decline in eastern markets were received early in the week, there were no signs of change here. No. 1 hard was scarce, and quoted nominally at 74c; No. 2 hard was worth 67 to 68c; No. 1 regular, 66c; No. 2 regular, 60 to 62c; No. 3 regular, 54 to 55c; rejected, 40 to 50c, according to condition.

OATS.

There is still but a light demand, and buyers and sellers cannot agree as to prices. The former are prepared to take at 36 to 37c, but 38 to 40c is persistently asked.

BARLEY.

No change has taken place in connection with this grain. Very little except feed has been reaching the city, and that is not plentiful, but is quite equal to the demand, and sells about 30c.

FLOUR.

At least one car-load has gone east to Port Arthur, while there has been a fair western and local demand. Prices still hold: Patents, \$2.3; strong bakers', \$2; XXXX, \$1.65; super fine \$1.25.

BRAN AND SHORTS.

The demand for this keeps active, and mills can dispose of all their products as fast as made. Prices are: Bran, \$11 a ton; and shorts, \$13.

POTATOES.

It is difficult to get at quotations, owing to the small number of sales reported. About 45c has been the average for small lots.

EGGS.

Fresh-laid are in good demand, but scarce and sell freely at 30c. Packed lots are still held at 26c, but are not much called for.

BUTTER.

There is as yet no apparent decrease in the stock in the city, and local receipts have in no way fallen off. It is questionable if the stock now held are not sufficient to supply the demand until grazing is good. Only good quality are asked for, and these can be had at 26c with 21c asked occasionally for choice. Low Mediums are slow sale, and inferior is not wanted at any price. It becomes more evident every day, that export arrangements will have to be made before the close of the year.

CHEESE.

Prime lots are scarce, but the demand is not heavy. Good qualities range from 14 to 15c.

HAMS.

The demand has been improving during the week, but prices are unchanged, 13½c being asked for local-smoked.

BACON.

Local-packed bacon still finds keen competition from the east, and prices remain liberal. Dry salt is quoted at 9½ to 10c; medium 12½ to 13c; breakfast bacon, 13½c.

MESS PORK.

Only a light demand has been maintained during the week, but prices have been steady. Local-packed being quoted at \$19 to 19.50, Chicago at \$19.50 to 20.

LARD.

There was a fair demand for this product. Pails of 20lb are still held at \$2.50.

MESS BEEF.

Scarcely any demand, and quotations nominal at \$16.50 to 17.

DRESSED HOGS.

Receipts have been steady, but not heavy. Prices are weaker, \$5.50 being the average quotation of the week.

MINNEAPOLIS

The wheat market was very sick the last three days of last week, and prices dropped down in the seventies, but there was a recovery yesterday and to-day, and the closing was strong, with buyers eager and holders steady. Trading has been light in volume, receipts and shipments meagre. The bears say that seeding is in progress in southern Dakota, and we are to have another year of good crops, but that prices must go away down soon, as the bulls feel confident that if all other signs hold them, European complication will result in a great war, which means high prices for everything. They scout the idea that higher prices in France and Germany should cheapen wheat and flour, because those countries last year had but 11 per cent of our breadstuffs exports.

Following were the highest and lowest prices by grade on change during the week ending to-day, together with to-day's prices and the prices one year ago:

Wheat.	Highest.	Lowest.	Closing.	1 Year Ago.
No. 1 hard..	80½	78	80½	80½
" 2 "	77	76	77	77
" 1 "	71	69	71	71
" 2 "	66	65	66	66

Futures have been dull and lower, May No. 1 and dropping from \$5½c to \$2½c and closing at 2c. No. 2 hard, May, opened at 80c and closed at 80½c. Coarse grains were quiet at unchanged prices. Rejected corn, 33 to 34c. No. 2 oats 24 to 25c.

MILLSTUFF—Has been a little stronger, bulk in closing at \$8.50 to \$8.75, and shorts at \$2.25 to \$9.75.

FLOUR—Dullness has ruled in the flour market, and prices are lower, it becoming necessary to make concessions to do business. Most of the mills have been running on contracts made some time ago for future delivery, but these are pretty well cleaned up. There has been no forcing of the market, for the reason that the production was too light to make it an object.

Quotations at the mills for car or round lots are as follows: Patents, \$4.60 to 4.85; firsts, \$4.15 to 4.40; first bakers', \$3.40 to 3.75; second bakers', \$2.90 to 3.10; best low grades, \$1.90 to 2.10 in bags; red dog, \$1.50 to 1.70, in bags.

The milling situation in Minneapolis is not materially different from a week ago, except that the water has not been so extremely low since Monday. Notwithstanding the prevailing "soft" weather, the water during the closing half of last week was no better than on the first three days, and the water mills were not able to do much. The steam mills, however, ran steadily and sustained the output. The production of the week (ending Feb. 28) was 74,900 bbls.—averaging 10,700 bbls. daily for seven days—against 73,100 bbls. for the preceding week, and 60,900 bbls. for the corresponding period in 1884. Up to the present writing (Wednesday) of the current week, the water power has been slightly improved though not sufficiently to affect the general output. The mills that have been unable to run in the past are little better situated now; and those that have done a varying amount of work, do not yet add very materially to it. The weather is mild and thawing, and must have the effect of at least releasing water held back by ice; and these conditions are regarded as favorable to bring about a good stage of water in a very short time. Another mill, with 2,500 bbls. capacity, will be started up with steam next week, but one of 1,200 bbls. operated by steam has decided as to what course to pursue. In the three mills are closed down, as now, it is not unlikely, the capacity that will be idly next week, will be over 10,000 bbls.; while the other mills in operation are only running two-thirds time. With the flour market dull, millers show less desire to operate their mills, especially where extra expense attendant upon low water is involved, and the mills that are being put in repair in anticipation of better times later on.

The following were the receipts at and shipments from Minneapolis for the weeks ending as indicated:

	RECEIPTS.		
	Feb. 24.	Feb. 24.	Feb. 17.
Wheat, bush..	427,700	312,170	391,670
Flour, bbls.	390	680	125
Mill, tons.	12	98	69

SHIPMENTS.

	Mch. 3.	Feb. 24.	Feb. 17.
Wheat, bush ..	104,400	68,900	73,740
Flour, bbls ..	75,201	67,068	81,514
Millstuff, tons..	1,972	2,082	2,826

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

MINNEAPOLIS.

	Mch. 2.	Feb. 23.
No. 1 hard ..	1,247,500	1,244,448
No. 2 hard ..	107,915	101,685
No. 1 ..	1,914,183	1,866,814
No. 2 ..	5,096	271,971
Rejected ..	19,943	3,294
Special bins ..	673,853	658,000
Total.....	4,204,959	4,165,973

ST. PAUL.

	Mch. 4.	Feb. 21.	Feb. 18.
In elevators, bus ..	1,174,000	1,182,000	1,182,000

DULUTH.

	Mch. 2.	Feb. 24.	Feb. 17.
In elevators, bus ..	1,747,170	5,671,200	5,633,813

—Northwestern Miller.

CHICAGO.

The feeling in the wheat market on Monday was somewhat unsettled; shorts were less anxious to buy, and the speculative element was rather bearish, with a less urgent demand and larger speculative offerings; closed ½c lower than Saturday. Receipts of corn, 397 cars. A fair speculative and shipping business was done, although the feeling developed was weaker. Only a moderate day's business was done in the oats market, and an easy feeling pervaded the speculative part of it. Trading in pork was only moderate, and the feeling unsettled. A fair business was transacted in lard, and prices were steady. The following are the quotations for the day:

	Mar.	Apr.
Wheat ..	\$0.74½	\$0.74½
Corn ..	37½	37½
Oats ..	26½	26½
Pork ..	12.45	12.60
Lard ..	6.85	6.92½

Trading in the wheat market on Tuesday was chiefly of a local character. Receipts were larger, and the shipping demand light. The visible supply showed an increase of 420,000 bushels. Corn receipts were 385 cars. Only a moderate business was done, with, however, a good shipping demand. In oats a better feeling developed itself in the speculative market, and ruled at the close about ½c better than Monday. Prices fluctuated considerably in the pork market; but the demand was fair, with only moderate offerings. Trading in lard was moderately active; offerings were fair, with no urgency in the demand. Quotations are as follows:

	Mar.	Apr.
Wheat ..	\$0.74	\$0.74½
Corn ..	37½	37½
Oats ..	26½	26½
Pork ..	12.50	12.40
Lard ..	6.80	6.87½

The feeling in the wheat market on Wednesday was feverish, but generally stronger. The

firmness was due to the unsettled condition of affairs abroad. The market fluctuated a good deal towards the end, and closed fairly steady. Receipts of corn, 216 cars. The market was active and much firmer, with a sharp demand. A more active feeling prevailed in oats, and prices were better for all months for futures, but became quieter towards the close. In pork the feeling was quite strong, and prices advanced from 5 to 7½c, with fluctuations confined to small limits. Lard was only moderately active, although the general feeling was in favor of higher prices. The following are the quotations for the day:

	Mar.	Apr.
Wheat ..	\$0.75½	\$0.75½
Corn ..	37½	38
Oats ..	26½	27
Pork ..	12.37½	12.45
Lard ..	6.85	6.92½

Thursday's wheat market opened active and strong, the firmness being due to the unsettled political situation abroad; it closed steady at an advance of 1c over the previous night. A good speculative business was done in corn, and the general feeling was decidedly strong; receipts, 221 cars. There was a sharp advance in oats for all the speculative months, and a firm holding to the close. Pork trading was only fair, and current prices were about the same as Wednesday. Only moderate trading was done in lard, the market being inactive, and closing steady at about Wednesday's figures. Quotations are as follows:

	Mar.	Apr.
Wheat ..	\$0.76½	\$0.76½
Corn ..	38½	38
Oats ..	27½	27½
Pork ..	12.37½	12.45
Lard ..	6.85	6.90

Friday's wheat market opened active, but very unsettled, with frequent fluctuations. Prices were generally higher; but late in the day the feeling was somewhat easier, and closed with that tendency. The speculative corn market was less active, and ruled easy in sympathy with the feeling in wheat; receipts, 195 cars. The business in oats was quieter, with cash and all months for futures holding up well. A moderately active trading only was done in pork, but prices ruled easier. The movement in the lard market was steady, and all fluctuations were comparatively slight. Quotations for the day are as follows:

	Mar.	Apr.
Wheat ..	\$0.75½	\$0.76
Corn ..	38	38½
Oats ..	26½	27½
Pork ..	12.42½	12.47½
Lard ..	6.87½	6.92½

Saturday's wheat market opened strong, and was at times rather buoyant. The war rumors were less exciting, and caused a pretty heavy selling of long wheat. Early sales of all grades of corn were considerably higher than Friday; but further on a weaker feeling obtained, and part of the advance was lost. Oats opened firm, with a fair shipping demand. The pork market opened comparatively slow, with prices ruling easier. Lard was in fair request, and all fluctuations were much confined. The following were the day's quotations:

	Mar.	Apr.
Wheat ..	\$0.75½	\$0.75½
Corn ..	37½	38
Oats ..	26½	27½
Pork ..	12.42	12.45
Lard ..	6.86½	6.92

TORONTO.

STOCKS.

Stocks have, as a rule, maintained a steady feeling during the past week, and the changes in quotations have been of the most trivial nature and chiefly the results of scalping operations. The volume of business done has been light, and an absence of any circumstance which would cause activity has been apparent. Quotations with rare exceptions have varied only in fractions from those of the previous week, and fluctuations have been within a very limited range. Closing bids of February 25th and March 4th indicate how void of interest the markets have been. They are as follows:

	Feb. 25.	Mar. 4.
Montreal	189½	190
Ontario	107½	—
Molson's	—	114
Toronto	178½	178½
Merchants'	110	110½
Commerce	118½	118½
Imperial	123	123
Federal	46½	46½
Dominion	187	188
Standard	112	111
Hamilton	118½	118½
Northwest Land	37	35

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

The movement of wheat during the past week was very light, and the business done equally so. The long tug between holders and buyers has at last culminated in concessions being made on the part of the former; and the lower figures reached have had the effect of checking the demand, thus showing how weak and hollow was the power by which the figures of February were maintained. Only immediate wants were supplied by buyers, and this it is expected will be the extent of purchases until navigation opens. In rough grain matters have been different. A good demand for oats has been experienced, and at prices quite as high as reported in our last, while the business done has been limited only by the quality offered. Barley has also been in good demand, especially the higher grades, which have sold readily; and even inferior lots have changed hands with reasonable freedom. Provisions showed an improved tone, although the butter market is still in a demoralized and glutted state as far as the lower grades are concerned. Prime lots, however, gave evidence of returning firmness. A better feeling prevailed in meats, and in a few lines some heavy sales were made during the week. Altogether the provision markets had a slightly firmer tone than that reported in our last.

WHEAT.

Owing to the break which occurred in this market last week there has been but little demand, and as holders were unwilling to accept these prices, there was consequently very little business done all week. Quotations are as follows: No. 1 spring, 81c; No. 2 spring, 78c; No. 2 fall, 81c; No. 3 fall, 78c.

OATS.

Have continued in good demand at firm prices, though receipts have been light. Cars on track have brought as high as 36½c, while street prices have ranged from 38½ to 39c.

BARLEY.

Though sales in this market have been small, a fairly good demand has existed at firm prices, owing to small offerings which were held at firm prices and are as follows: No. 1, f.o.c., 74c; No. 2, f.o.c., 69½c; and No. 3, 58c with but little demand for.

RYE.

Has been very scarce both on street and in car lots, and this consequently caused a firmness as to price on the part of holders, being now quoted at from 59 to 60c.

PEAS.

Are unchanged as to price at from 50 to 60c. Offerings have been small, and the general movement proportionately so.

POTATOES.

Street receipts have been large and freely offered at from 40 to 45c, with but little demand. Cars inactive with fewer offerings at 40c and more taken.

EGGS.

Prices very unsettled in this market owing to the largely increased receipts of lined, and have been selling in round lots at from 12½c to 15c; fresh laid have been in good demand with all offerings freely taken at from 20 to 21c, and on street as high as from 22 to 25c have been paid for these.

CHEESE.

Stocks are getting lower and are being held at firmer prices. The demand for small lots still continues good, and have been selling at 11½c for medium, and for from good to choice at from 12 to 12½c.

BUTTER.

The situation in this market is nominally unchanged, and sales of inferior qualities have been made at a heavy sacrifice. Really choice butter, however, still continues firm, with all offered wanted for immediate local consumption, for which as high as 18c has been paid. Really good box-lots of rolls have been in good demand at from 14 to 16c.

PORK.

This is nominally unchanged, with sales of small round-lots reported at from \$15.50 to 16.

BACON.

More activity has been shown in this market. Cans of long-clear were selling at 8c; Cumberland inactive, but firm, at 7½c; rolls, unchanged, at 10c for short and 10½c for long.

HAMS.

Hams are nominally unchanged. The demand was slow, and all sales of a very light character, at the following prices: Smoked, 11½c; pickled, 10c.

LARD.

This market was active, and lard in good demand at steady figures. Lots of 25lb and 50lb cinnets found a ready sale at 9½c, and small lots of these and pails, 10 to 10½c.

POULTRY.

Receipts in this market still continue small, and prices generally have been firm. Quotations are as follows: Hen turkeys, \$1 to 1.25; gobblers, \$1.50 to 2; geese, 80c to \$1.10; fowls, 25 to 60c per pair; ducks, 80c to \$1.

APPLES.

Good winter fruit has been in good demand at from \$1.62 to 1.72; offerings however, have been very limited. Street receipts have also been small and prices few at \$1.50 for common and \$1.75 to 2.25 good to choice.

Commercial Summary.

Special telegrams to *Bradstreet's* yesterday from leading commercial centres convey as a whole more encouragement as to the outlook for the distribution of general merchandise in the early future than has been reported of late. The advices do not permit the formation of a basis for a belief in the near approach of a genuine trade revival, whether that desirable end be at hand or not. But they do mark the practical end of the blockade of railway traffic, thus permitting the free and speedy shipment of goods, as well as several well-defined evidences of need for and a beginning of spring purchases

by interior jobbers and others. At New York there is a small gain in sales of dry goods, but a still larger increase in hopefulness by agents and others, owing to the presence of more interior merchants and their representatives than before this year. But sales, while exceeding those of the preceding week, are still behind those of the like week in 1884. There is little improvement, if any, in hardware, none in iron and the grocery trade is plainly unsatisfactory. The Boston cotton cloths trade is disappointing, being smaller, and there is an outlook for the stoppage of some eastern mills this spring. Some lines of prints and sheetings have been cut in price some. There is a gain in the southern movement thence for boots and shoes and the advance of ½ to 1½c for upper leather is well sustained. Woollen mills are less depressed than cotton, but the demand is small. Philadelphia sales for near-by wants continue attributed to the slow opening of spring trade elsewhere. At Chicago the milder weather has not improved trade, and the decline in wool further depresses the outlook there. St. Louis reports that improved transportation and stocks held in the interior promise sales, as merchants feel moderately hopeful. At Cincinnati, buying by country merchants has increased slightly, and funds are accumulating there from better collections. There has been some gain in general jobbing lines at Cleveland and a feeling of confidence in commercial circles is noted. From St. Paul and Minneapolis the brightest trade reports, the actual volume of business there being on the increase, conditions fair, and country stores keeping having small stocks. Indianapolis and Detroit trade have experienced a feeling of greater confidence in the outlook, though no increase in sales reported. At other points covered by our graphic service there are no features marked a change. The leading commercial markets have, with the exception of that for wheat flour, shown some increased activity. Cotton stuffs are dull and lower. No. 2 red was closed at 89c, against 90½c the week before and No. 2 mixed corn, 51c, against 53½c. It is shaded and weaker. Provisions are dull, cheap, and the movement of grocery staples again been unsatisfactory. Sugar closed weak and coffee lower. Dairy produce continues drag, with cheese lower. Iron is quiet, large customers taking steadily for immediate wants. At Cincinnati heavier sales than are reported. Cleveland and St. Louis announce signs of larger consumption also. Coal cheaper, and the demand is unchanged. Petroleum, after a spurt to 85c, reacted to 80½c-82½c at the opening. The week resulted further reduced movement of cotton from quotations, and the price has again advanced. Trade estimates of the crop are generally lower. The wool trade ruled very low but there was no noteworthy change in values. There were 270 failures in the United States during the past week reported by *Bradstreet's*, as compared with 254 in the preceding week, and with 237, 260, and 183 respectively in the corresponding week of 1883, and 1882. About 85 per cent. were of small traders, whose capital was less than \$5000. Canada had 46, an increase of 13.

Flax Culture and Manufacture.

Some of our American contemporaries have, during the past month, called attention to the fact that Dakota alone exported last year 1,000,000 bushels of flax-seed, selling the fibre at \$2 to \$2.50 a ton. The low price of grain and other produce has directed attention to the profits of flax-growing, and it will be well if the subject is kept in view by our farmers and manufacturers. In the progress of the arts there will not probably be any discovery that will displace linseed-oil in the art of painting. This will secure a ready sale and a remunerative price for flax-seed. The near future will evidently bring such improvements in the machinery for the manufacture of the fibre as will make the crop a valuable one. Even at present prices for seed and straw, it is fully equal to corn or wheat as a paying crop. If flax is cut instead of being pulled, it is not a very exhaustive crop, the stubble and roots being left on the ground. In the United States there are now about fifty mills devoted to the manufacture of linen thread, twine cordage, coarse linen, and other goods the basis of which is flax; and there are over one hundred mills making goods of which flax is a portion of the fabric. In Canada there are no factories making coarse linen goods, and only three or four devoted to twines, etc., made of linen.

Now, we do not counsel an attempt to manufacture any of the finer grades of linen goods. The Americans have failed at it, and hardly any people have succeeded save the Irish. The preparation and the bleaching of linen require peculiar tact; and, moreover, no bleaching process has been found equal to Nature's on linen goods; so that the climate of Ireland possesses special advantages to which no part of Canada can lay claim, except, perhaps Prince Edward Island. But if we may not now succeed in making fine linens, we can certainly succeed in making coarse goods such as the Americans are to-day doing. In fact, the greater part of the flax produced in Canada now goes to the States, for the express purpose of their manufactures. We exported last year flax to the amount of \$73,779, of which \$72,889 went to the States. We also exported the respectable sum of \$14,593 in cordage, ropes, etc. But as showing the ample field for manufacture in this line, we may mention that our imports of various linen goods amount to about a million dollars. We imported in canvas for hats and sails, \$29,144; twine, etc., \$5394; balled flax and tow, \$1205; linen goods of the finer class, \$181,372 (of which \$5156 came from the United States); coarse goods, \$749,976 (of which \$18,338 came from the United States); men clothing, \$4357; and threads, \$124,765. It will be seen that in coarse goods alone we export three-quarters of a million a year, and these are the very class of goods in which the difficulty of skilled labor does not appear to be formidable. Our Western Ontario farmers have made quite a local reputation in flax-growing, and if the capabilities of Manitoba in this way prove as great as they now appear to be, the problem of successful manufacture in the lines pointed out appears to be solved.—*Domestic Dry Goods Report.*

Petroleum.

The *Northwest Improvement Record* says: "Although this is by no means a new subject, yet the ephemeral existence of thousands of poor oil-wells in Pennsylvania, coupled with the fact that the demand for the article is constantly increasing, compel us to attach no slight importance to the discovery of new wells possessing superior indications and prospects.

"It is of locations having these latter conditions that we propose to treat. The first consists of petroleum tracts aggregating 320 acres, situated on the Lesser Slave River, Athabasca District, Canada. On this location exist, probably, the most promising indications ever known, where oil-wells are not in actual operation. For example, the crude petroleum oozes from the bank and flows down the river's edge, upon which these locations front, making it appear like a river of oil, for a distance of a mile and a half. The same indications appear upon the banks of the smaller streams where they flow through these locations. Large quantities of petroleum gum and pools of petroleum-oil on the surface of the ground abound in such unlimited quantities and of such unquestionable nature upon many parts of these locations, that the irresistible conclusion of experts is, that extensive reservoirs of oil must exist in unlimited quantities, and will readily be tapped by boring for it, and that flowing wells must necessarily be struck. These locations comprise what have long been known to Northwestern explorers and voyagers as the 'gum-beds.'

The second location consists of eight tracts of land of 40 acres each, situated on the Red-deer River, sixty miles north of the fourteenth siding, or Sinclair, a station on the Canadian Pacific Railway. The geological formations and indications are practically the same as the first location, viz., crude oil oozing from the banks of the river, oil standing in pools in the depressions of the ground, and the proximity of extensive coal-fields. There certainly are abundant reasons for believing that oil will be obtained at no great depth and in paying quantities.

Belts and Pulleys.

The friction of a belt upon a pulley depends upon the pressure or tightness, and upon the number of degrees of contact. It is independent of the pulley diameter or of the pulley width. Generally, belts running from the large to the small pulley slip on the large and not on the small one. Tightening pulleys are placed on the slack side of the belt near the small pulley. They increase the friction of driving. They should always be as large in diameter and as free as possible. The best tightener is the weight of the belt on the slack side. Loose belts last longer than tight ones. Horizontal and inclined belts are better than vertical and short ones, requiring less tightening.

It is a very common annoyance for belts to run off from one side of the pulley. This is usually caused by: (1.) One or both of the pulleys being more or less conical, wavier the belt

runs to the high side. The only remedy for this is to cut down and true up the face of the pulley. (2.) Frequently the shafting is out of true, or parallel and in line. In this case the belts run off at the side where the shafting makes the nearest approach together. The obvious remedy is to set out the hangers on journals at one end, or set them in at the other till they are parallel. This may be ascertained by placing sharp tacks or pins in a long strip of light wood, fitting them into the centres of the shafts at both ends, and observing how much they differ.—*Paper Trade Journal.*

Statistics from a London Directory.

The population of London is sheltered by 570,000 dwelling-houses, and the area of streets and squares embraces 122 square miles. Every day sees an average of 160,000 strangers enter the city, and 123 persons added to the population; while each year 28 miles of new streets are laid out, and 9000 new houses erected. There are 129,000 paupers, upon whom 10,700 police keep a close eye. The population includes 120,000 foreigners, more Roman Catholics than there are in Rome, and more Jews than there are in Palestine. Two thousand clergymen preside over 620 churches and 423 chapels, of which latter buildings the Independents have 121, the Baptists 100, the Wesleyans 77, the Catholics 90, the Calvinists 10, the Presbyterians 10. The number of cats kept by the people is so large (700,000) that cat's-meat is daily delivered at the majority of the houses. The 3000 horses which die each week are utilized to meet this demand.—*Lumberman and Manufacturer.*

A New Book-stitching Machine.

The following account of a wonderful book-stitching machine is given by the *American Machinist*: "Sterling Elliott, of Newton, Mass., has perfected a machine for stitching pamphlets and unbound books which, it would seem, will induce a revolution in this kind of work. It does the work in a fraction only of the time required by existing methods, and in a superior manner. The machine is a model, not only for the neatness, accuracy, and rapidity with which it does its work, but for its fine mechanical conception and construction, and the almost human action of its mechanical movements. The thread of cord with which the stitching is done is unwound from a large stationary spool, and passes through a tension device similar to a sewing-machine; but there are no needles to thread, nor, in fact, much similarity between the two machines further than that of the tension. All the preparation necessary is to pass the thread between the tension-disks. The pamphlet to be stitched lies underneath a slotted plate. In the operation of the machine the thread is taken hold of about as it would be by the thumb and finger of the hand, and stretched along the top of the plate directly over the slot. Then three needles pass up from underneath through the leaves, and form three loops on the lower side. What would answer for the shuttle of a sewing-machine then passes forward through these

loops, and, seizing the thread, returns with it, when, by the most ingenious of all operations, a square knot is tied at the end, between the leaves, the thread being drawn taut. An arrangement reminding one of the operation of a pair of scissors is at one end of the throat-plate, which at the proper time cuts the thread to exactly the length required. The details of the machine are worked out in such a way as to make failure to act properly almost an impossibility. One of these machines has been on exhibition at a large book-binding in New York, where it has been doing regular work, giving the most perfect satisfaction."

Steel Stove Castings.

We have called attention in previous editions of this journal to the manufacture of steel stove castings by a St. Louis malleable iron company, but seeing that the new business is attracting wide-spread and well deserved attention in the stove trade, we think it not out of place to refer to it again.

In the first place, we may say that the mixture used by the company in making their steel is a secret known only to themselves. As to the fitness of the steel for stove making, however, the contrary is true; its good qualities have been pretty well learned by some of the leading stove manufacturers in this country. The advantages claimed for it (in the form of stove castings) may be briefly set forth as follows:

Firstly, the castings are vastly superior in strength to those made from cast iron, and for this reason can be and are made much lighter in weight than the old kind. For illustration, the company's covers run about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in thickness and weigh a little over two pounds, against covers in cast iron that run from 3 16 inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in thickness, and weigh from six to fifteen pounds. Secondly, the castings being light and of good quality, the cost of transportation is greatly reduced, and loss by breakage is minimized. Thirdly, the texture of the steel being very dense the castings transmit heat much better than would cast iron parts. Fourthly, the castings are as smooth as if each one had been separately planed and polished, making them look much neater and handsomer than the ordinary kind, while rendering them easier to clean. Fifthly, the durability of the castings is such that in the long run they may be regarded as extremely cheap, being guaranteed to last at least five times as long as cast iron. It is said that it is almost impossible to warp them or burn them out, and if by any accident they should become warped, they can be heated red hot and with a hammer or hatchet be pounded straight again. Sixthly, any quality of coal can be burned in the stove in which the castings are used, the quality of the metal being such that cinders will not adhere to the sides or bottom, to the disadvantage of the draft and the heating of the stove itself.

Steel water-fronts just now are one of the company's prominent specialties. They are made from the steel invented by themselves, and are said to be able to withstand a pressure of 500 pounds to the square inch. They are made like the company's covers, quite thin,

assuring rapid heating, and enabling smaller sizes to be used than ordinarily obtained. Their safety as regards explosions is a feature that strongly recommends them to housekeepers, especially in cold weather.

Some of the tests to which the company put their steel stove castings are spoken of by themselves as follows:

"We heat the covers to a white heat and plunge them immediately in ice water without cracking or injuring them in the least. We attach our water-fronts to our boiler and cannot use steam pressure enough to burst them. We can throw them from almost any height on to a stone pavement without breaking them."

— *Age of Steel.*

The English Wheat Crop.

The English wheat crop of 1884, from official returns of the board of trade, is 77,867,616 bus; Scotland 2,348,261, and Ireland 1,000,000 bus, making the United Kingdom, 81,215,877 bus. In twenty-two weeks 29,284,912 bus have been delivered. The seed requirements are about 8,000,000 bus leaving a home crop for consumption of 73,215,877 bus, of which about 30,000,000 have been delivered, leaving about 43,250,000 bus in January still on the English farmers' hands. The annual consumption is 212,000,000 bus, leaving the annual requirement of foreign wheat about 138,000,000 of which about 55,261,992 bus had been imported from Sept. 1, 1881, to Jan. 24, 1884, leaving 82,738,058 to be imported. Of this quantity, 19,128,000 were on passage Jan. 29, 1885. The foreign supply of fresh shipments will be about 63,600,000 bus.

— *Northwestern Miller*

A Lifting Drawbridge for the Thames.

Horace Jones, architect to the corporation of London, has designed a novel bridge to be constructed across the Thames below London Bridge. It will be 850 feet in length, and is to cost \$4,000,000. The water-way will be obstructed by two piers only, leaving a clear way of 200 feet in the centre when the draw is open. The piers will be crowned by towers 202 feet in height, in which will be located machinery lifting the bed of the bridge to either side for the passing of ships and steamers. The two piers are connected by an upper roadway, over which pedestrians can pass when the draw is open, hydraulic lifts being provided for their ascent and descent. *Chicago Journal of Commerce.*

GREAT BRITAIN last year gave to British steamships for carrying foreign mails a sum equal to the gross receipts from foreign postage plus \$1,500,000.

Recent Legal Decisions.

STATUTE OF FRAUDS — DELIVERY — ACCEPTANCE.—A delivery by the seller to a carrier selected by him for transportation to the purchaser of goods sold under an agreement void by the statute of frauds is not such a delivery and acceptance as will take the agreement out of the operation of the statute, according to the decision of the Minnesota Supreme Court in

the case of *The Simmonds Hardware Company vs. Mullen.*

MEANING OF WORDS USED IN TRADE. — Words in the particular trade of selling and buying bacon and pork sides the words "fully cured" were used as a descriptive of the classification of articles sold, the Supreme Court of Illinois held that in a contest in regard thereto such words should have the meaning attached to them by experts—that is, persons in the trade. *Featherston vs. Rounsvill et al.*, decided February 7.

MUTUAL BENEFIT INSURANCE — "WIDOW." — Where a member of a mutual benefit association being married, married a second time, the second wife being unaware that he was already married, and where the certificate or agreement issued to him by the association by its terms provided that the money due thereon after his decease should be paid to his "widow," and there was no widow then to his children, the General term of the New York Supreme Court held the wife by the second marriage was to be "widow" within the terms of the certificate, and that she was entitled to them as against the children by the first wife. *Polaris Mutual Benefit Association of New York vs. Bonifree et al.* It appeared that after the death of the first wife the deceased had remarried and introduced the successful claimant as his wife from that time till the time of his decease. These circumstances, in the view of the court, justified the presumption that a voluntary marriage had taken place between the parties, a presumption which was sufficient to support the support of her claim in the case.

AGENCY — AUTHORITY — SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS. — If a person authorize another to assume the apparent right of disposing of property in the ordinary course of trade a purchaser is the right to presume that the apparent authority is the real authority, and the title passes, notwithstanding special instructions from the principal to his agent, of which the purchaser had no notice. So held by the Kentucky Superior Court in the case of *Abernathy et al. vs. Nelson.* In this case a mortgagee who had obtained a decree for the sale of mortgage tobacco agreed that the mortgagor might take the tobacco to a particular warehouse for sale, the proceeds to be paid to the commissioner and credited on the judgment. The mortgagee employed certain persons to take the tobacco to market and sell it for him, and bring the proceeds of sale, which they did, taking however, to a different warehouse than designated by the mortgagee. The court held that the title passed to the purchaser, notwithstanding appearing to indicate that the agent was clothed with a general authority to sell in the ordinary course of trade.

GUARANTY — RELEASE OF GUARANTOR. — A. & B. entered into a contract whereby A. & Co. agreed to sell to C. & Co. merchandise not to exceed in amount, at any time, the sum of \$3500, B. obligating himself in case of default in payment by C. & Co. to pay A. & Co. the deficiency or amount that might be "due by settlement" by C. & Co. to A. & Co. not to exceed the amount fixed. No time of credit was given, but the understanding was that C. & Co. were to pay as fast as they could collect.

from their sales. C. & Co. upon quitting business told A. & Co. they could not pay until sixty or ninety days, in which they could make collections from their sales, and A. & Co. thereupon accepted their notes, payable in that time for the amount owing by them. Upon this state of facts the Kentucky Court of Appeals held (Emerson *et al.* vs. Dye *et al.*) that the parties to the guaranty must have understood that the exact time of payment was thereafter to be fixed by the creditor and principal debtor, which was done by the execution of the notes, that there was no default by the principal until the notes matured, and that therefore the execution of the notes without the guarantor's consent did not release him.

TELEPHONE COMPANIES—DUTIES TO PUBLIC.
In the case of State vs. Nebraska Telephone Company, decided on the 21st January, the Supreme Court of Nebraska held that telephone companies are common carriers of news; that all persons are entitled to equal facilities in the employment of the benefits to be derived from the use of the telephone, and that where no good reason is assigned for a refusal by a telephone company to furnish a telephone instrument to a person desiring to become a subscriber and tendering a full compliance with all the rules established for other subscribers, a writ of mandamus should be issued to compel such company to furnish such person with the necessary instruments. In giving judgment in the case the court said: "The demands of the commerce of the present day make the telephone a necessity. All people, upon complying with the reasonable rules and demands of the commodity, patented as it is, should have the benefits of the new commerce."—*Bradstreet's*.

ENCOURAGE HOME INDUSTRY. THOMAS G. PATTON, Manufacturer of Choice Havana Cigars. All orders promptly filled. 361 Main Street, opposite Dunlop Block Winnipeg.

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Dissolution of Partnership.

Notice is hereby given that the partnership heretofore existing between us, the undersigned, as

WOODS OVENS AND CO.,

of the city of Winnipeg, has this day been dissolved by mutual consent.

All debts owing to the said partnership are to be paid to Messrs Woods & Co., of the said city of Winnipeg, or to the partners, who will pay all debts due by said firm.

Dated at Winnipeg this seventh day of February, A.D. 1885.

Witness—
J. W. Wilson.

A. WOODS,
JESSIE OVENS,
W. J. OVENS,
ELIZABETH WOODS.

The above mentioned business heretofore carried on under the name of Woods, Ovens, & Co will be continued by the undersigned,

WOODS & CO.

Winnipeg,
7th February, 1885.

G. F. CARRUTHERS.

J. H. BROCK.

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Canadian Pacific Railway. (WESTERN DIVISION)

WINTER TIME TABLE.

Commencing Sunday, December 7, and until further notice, Trains will run as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Going West and Going East. Lists train numbers, departure times, and arrival times for routes including Winnipeg, Brandon, Regina, Moose Jaw, Swift Current, Maple Creek, and Medicine Hat.

Trains between Winnipeg and Brandon daily, except Sundays. Three trains a week between Winnipeg and Moosejaw, leaving Winnipeg Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays; returning leave Moosejaw Sundays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Once a week between Winnipeg and Laggan, leaving Winnipeg Tuesday, returning leave Laggan Friday. Train between Calgary and Laggan subject to cancellation at any time without notice.

Table with 2 columns: Going East and Going West. Lists train numbers, departure times, and arrival times for routes including Winnipeg, Port Arthur, and Port Arthur.

Train for Port Arthur leaves Winnipeg Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, returning leaves Port Arthur Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Table with 2 columns: Going South and Going North. Lists train numbers, departure times, and arrival times for routes including Winnipeg, Emerson, Morris, Gretna, and Manitou.

Daily, except Saturday. Daily, except Mondays. Trains run daily between Winnipeg and Gretna. For Manton, leave Winnipeg Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; returning leave Manton Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

Train leaves Winnipeg for Stonewall, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 9:30 a.m., arriving at Stony Mountain 10:30 a.m. and Stonewall at 10:55 a.m. Return same day, leaving Stonewall at 1:30 p.m. and Stony Mountain at 2 p.m., arriving Winnipeg 3 p.m.

Train leaves Winnipeg for West Selkirk Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 4 p.m., arriving at West Selkirk 6 p.m. and returning leaves West Selkirk Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 7 a.m., arriving at Winnipeg 3 a.m.

Sleeping Car Service.

Trains leaving Winnipeg Tuesday morning for Calgary and Port Arthur will have sleeping cars attached, returning leave Calgary Saturdays, Port Arthur Thursdays.

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Express trains leave Chicago at 11:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., arriving at St. Paul at 6:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., and Minneapolis at 6:45 a.m. and 1:45 p.m.

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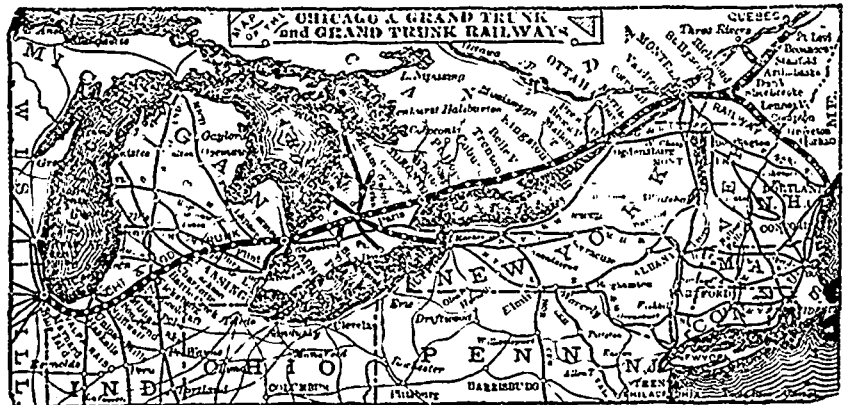
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