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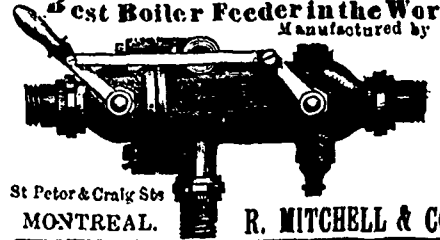
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WINNIPEG, JANUARY 25TH, 1887.

No. 18.

The Commercial

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WINNIPEG, JANUARY 25, 1887.

F. J. SHORE, hotelkeeper, Winnipeg, has sold out.

A PUBLIC market will be established at Calgary.

— GARRISON will shortly open a new hotel at Saskatoon, Assa.

— KNIGHT, of Emerson, will start a general store, at Gleichen, Alberta.

J. A. CHRISTIE, lumber dealer, Brandon, talks of giving up the retail trade at that place.

A FIRE in the Palmer House, Winnipeg, damaged the building to the extent of \$300 or \$400.

THE Queen's Hotel, Medicine Hat, Assa., has been closed. A number of the local merchants will loose by the failure of the proprietor.

THE Regina board of trade will prepare a statement of the trade of that place for the past year.

J. D. BALFOUR & Co., blacksmiths, Winnipeg, have dissolved partnership. J. D. Balfour will continue.

HENRY ROWLES, fancy goods, Winnipeg, has moved to Ontario. Mrs. Rowles will continue the business here.

MC EWAN & COCKBURN, general storekeepers, Winnipeg and Boissevain, contemplate dissolving partnership.

JAS. CRAWFORD has opened a stock of groceries at Neepawa, Man. Dry goods will likely be added to the business.

H. MORTON, of Hastings, Ont., will shortly go into business at Calgary, in the jewelery, and organ and sewing machine lines.

A. J. MCGUIRE & Bro., cigar manufacturers, Winnipeg, have turned over the business to Thos. Lee, an employe of the late firm.

C. C. MONTGOMERY, carriage maker and blacksmith, Winnipeg, has sold out his horse-shoeing department to McNaney & O'Brien.

STONE has been discovered west of Calgary, from which it is said a superior quality of cement can be manufactured. A company will be formed for the development of the discovery.

W. ALEXANDER, dry goods, Winnipeg, who has been selling out by private sale for some time, has disposed of the balance of his stock to Wm. Draper and Graham Boston, who will carry on the business under the firm name of Draper & Boston.

THE sheep on the ranges about Calgary are said to be doing very well. Lafferty & Smith have already made arrangements to import six thousand sheep from Washington and Oregon territories in the spring. They now have over 1,000 on their range.

E. SECKEL & Co., commission merchants, Chicago, have issued a most valuable and comprehensive book, containing a vast amount of statistical information relating to grain and provisions. The work is one which will come into almost daily use by those interested in the lines of trade mentioned.

THE bankrupt stock of Brown & Coblentz, clothing and furnishings, Winnipeg, was purchased by R. J. Whitla & Co., at 50c. on the dollar. Part of the stock has been disposed of to Summerville & Co., dealers at Brandon, and has been taken to that place.

THERE promises to be quite a building boom at Banff hot springs, Alberta, in the spring. In addition to the fine hotel which the C. P. Ry. Co. will build there, J. D. Molton, of Calgary, is negotiating for the erection of a large hotel. Several additional stores will also be started.

THE estimates of the Calgary Council for the year 1887 have been submitted. The expenditure is placed at \$24,455, of which amount \$15,000 will be placed at the disposal of the fire, water and light committee. About \$6,000 will be expended in public works, and \$3,000 in the police and relief department. It is understood debentures will be issued to the amount of \$20,000.

THE North of Scotland Canadian Mortgage Co. held their annual meeting lately in Scotland, at which Mr. Nanton, of Winnipeg, manager for the company here, was present. The chairman stated that the business of the company in Manitoba was in a very satisfactory condition, and was developing steadily. It was stated that there had not been a sale of land nor a suit since the company commenced business in this province.

THE annual meeting of the Manitoba Dairy Association was held in Winnipeg, on Wednesday last, president Wagner occupying the chair. The president, in a lengthy and interesting address, advocated the establishment, by the Government, of schools for teaching dairying; also the appointment of a proper person as inspector of creameries, dairies and factories. A deputation was appointed to wait upon the Minister of Agriculture, and to lay before him the claims of the Dairy Association for a grant to enable them to bring a competent instructor to Manitoba. The following officers were elected: Wm. Wagner, president; C. B. Keenleyside, secretary-treasurer. Directors, Hon. Dr. Harrison, W. M. Champion, Reburn; C. G. Caron, St. Charles; C. N. Helliwell, Morden; J. B. Ashby, Beaconsfield; A. Malcolm, Minnedosa; K. McKenzie, Burnside; James Bray, Carberry.

THE Montreal Board of Trade has established an insurance, or guarantee scheme, for the benefit of the families of deceased members. To take advantage of the arrangement, each member must pay an entrance fee of \$20, and on the death of a member, an assessment of \$3 will be levied upon each member. Refusal to pay the assessment, will entail a liability to forfeiture of membership in the board. A medical examination is required, before advantage can be taken of the scheme, but all who were members of the board previous to December 31st last, will be allowed to enter without the examination.

THE Toronto *Mail* in the course of an article on the disallowance of railway charters in the Northwest, says: "The monopoly clause is really nothing more than a shield and protection for the rates of the St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba road, which denominates American territory south of Manitoba, and has the reputation of being a hard task master. If the Manitoba people are wise they will make this the test question at the Dominion elections. In old Canada we secure favors from the Government by putting a pistol to its head, when it is in the act of appealing to the country. Strictly speaking the operation is not defensible, but we do not see why Manitoba should not resort to it in order to secure fair play, other means having failed." The *Mail* strikes the key note when it says that disallowance should be made the test case in the coming elections. A test case if this question was made in South Winnipeg at the local elections, with a most gratifying result, and the verdict then rendered against disallowance has stimulated its opponents to renewed energy. Disallowance will undoubtedly be the test question in the coming contest, and the candidate who cannot or will not answer decisively in the negative, will be of little use to the electors of Manitoba. In the contest in South Winnipeg, disallowance received a fatal thrust, and it is now generally considered here that its days are numbered.

THE Toronto *Mail*, since its new departure in proclaiming its entire independence of political party, has come out as an advocate of manhood suffrage, with an educational qualification. In the United States, manhood suffrage has worked serious evil in some of the larger cities, such as Chicago, where the municipal government has been placed practically in the hands of the mob. An educational qualification might overcome this unpleasant feature of the case, though in Canada there would be little to fear in this respect from manhood suffrage in its broadest sense. The last act passed by Parliament, in extending the franchise, has introduced all but manhood suffrage, and only one short step would be required to make it complete. However, it would seem necessary that some safeguard should be thrown about the franchise. In a country like Canada, with free schools and no excuse for gross ignorance, there could scarcely be any objection to an educational qualification. Besides, it is a question if a man who cannot read, can be sufficiently well informed on public affairs to cast an intelligent vote. In the states of Massachusetts and Connecticut, an educational qualification limits the franchise, namely, that the citizen must be able to read and write. Such a qualification imposed in this country could not be any great hardship, and would not likely provoke very strenuous opposition, though the *Mail* looks for strong opposition from the French press of Quebec.

La Justice, a leading organ of the nationalists in Quebec, intimates that an attempt will be made to extend French influence in the Manitoba Legislature. It says that Mr. LaRiviere, who is the sole representative of the French element in the Government, threatens to resign, unless the demands of his compatriots in the House for additional representation in the Cabinet, be granted. *La Justice* adds that the Norquay Government will be defeated, in the event of the defection of the French members, consequent upon a failure to comply with the demands of the latter. Just what would happen in the event of the overturning of the Norquay Government by the withdrawal of its French supporters, it is difficult to foretell. There is little sympathy with class or race interests of any nature in Manitoba, and the opposition would hardly dare attempt to assume control of the affairs of the province on the basis of concession to any particular race. The people of Manitoba are too cosmopolitan in their views to countenance any movement of this nature. There is already a strong undercurrent of feeling against the dual system in practice in the province, of using the French and English languages in official transactions. The use of the two languages entails a considerable additional cost upon the province, which has much need of curtailing expenditure as much as possible. At one time, the use of the two languages may have been required; but with the small and decreasing minority of the French in the province, the latter language is looked upon by many as altogether unnecessary and the cause of useless expenditure. There are now almost as many foreigners of other nationalities in the province as there are French, and on the same principle official business should be transacted in these languages also. It is almost a foregone conclusion that in time, only the English language will be used officially in Manitoba. An attempt at domination in the local House, on the part of the French members, would most likely leave the latter without the fold of either party, and would probably hasten the time when the exceptional privileges which they now enjoy shall be taken away.

THE date for holding the Dominion elections has at last been definitely fixed, and the contest is now in full blast, with all its attendant excitement. In the Northwest—both in the province and the territories—the country was found to a great extent unprepared for the election, notwithstanding the feeling which has existed for the past six months or more that Parliament might be dissolved at any moment. Even now there is a great deal of uncertainty, and at the time of writing it was not known definitely in every case just who would be in the field. In Manitoba some very peculiar features attach to the present elections, which are worthy of notice. One of these is, that in only two constituencies of the province, namely, Marquette and Selkirk, will there be a straight party contest. Then there is the candidature of Mr. A. W. Ross for re-election in Lisgar, who was supported by the Liberals and opposed by the Conservatives at the last Dominion elections, but who has now the support of the latter and the opposition of the former. But the most peculiar and unaccountable feature of the whole proceeding is found in the combination between the two party organs in the city,

in advocating the candidature of Sir Donald A. Smith for Winnipeg. Unaccountable is almost too tame a word to be applicable to the case, and besides it might not be appropriate, for there are suppositions to account for the combination which are not at all creditable to the parties thereto. In the case of the *Manitoban* there is nothing to be wondered at in its support of Sir Donald; but the advocacy of the candidature of the latter gentleman by the *Free Press* has been the cause of amazement. True, Sir Donald is usually spoken of as a gentleman of broad and liberal views, and in many respects he would undoubtedly make a worthy representative; but how the *Free Press* can support him in his present capacity is a matter of wonder. The Liberal organ has long posed as the embodiment of self-sacrificing devotion to Manitoba's interests. It has been the self-constituted champion of her rights, and the strong arm of protection against aggression and injustice from all sources. After having become used to such contentions, the action of the *Free Press* has been a rude shock to those who vainly believed it was sincere in all its pretensions of devotion to the interests and rights of this province. In advocating the cause of Sir Donald A. Smith, the organ has done obeisance to the beast of monopoly, and bowed down low at the feet of Hauman. Whatever Sir Donald's personal fitness for the position may be, it must be remembered, that to endorse his candidature under the present circumstances, would simply be to endorse monopoly, or at least give a tacit assent to it. The abolition of disallowance is the thing above all others the most to be desired in the interests of this city and province, and every representative from the Northwest should be pledged to give an uncompromising opposition to monopoly. How could Sir Donald A. Smith, as a director of the C. P. Ry., and therefore interested in a continuance of the disallowance policy, meet the requirements which would be expected of him as a representative from this city at Ottawa. The idea is preposterous from whatever point of view it may be considered. Vague rumors have been circulated to the effect that the Government would announce its determination to discontinue the disallowance policy, but such statements cannot be accepted as worth anything, when it is considered that similar promises have before been made in Parliament and elsewhere, but always without any attempts at acting upon them. Mr. Luxton owes his election in north Winnipeg to the feeling against disallowance. The support which he now tenders through the *Free Press* to a gentleman personally interested in upholding that policy, is a feature which cannot be accounted for in a manner at all creditable to the *Free Press*. The remarkable statement made by the organs, that their favorite candidate would announce a platform satisfactory to everybody, is too ridiculous to be worth serious consideration. The other two candidates in the field for Winnipeg are both pledged to oppose disallowance; to further the Hudson's Bay railway, and to assist any scheme toward the settlement of the vacant lands of the province. These are the three great questions of importance to Manitoba. They are both local men, running on the independent ticket, and each one is at the head of a purely Northwestern institution. There is therefore no occasion for calling in a representative of monopoly. In regard to the contest in Lisgar, the name of Professor Goldwin Smith has been mentioned. Mr. Smith could hardly be considered as more of an outsider than Mr. Ross. The latter gentleman has been a non-resident of the province almost since his last election, and there is no particular reason to believe that he is will remain a resident after the coming elections are over, whilst for many reasons his candidature should be obnoxious to the people. In the absence of a creditable local man the erudite professor would make a worthy representative, and one whom the electors of Lisgar need not feel ashamed.

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Each Package contains 10 ROUND
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The Commercial

WINNIPEG, JANUARY 25, 1887.

FLAX-GROWING IN CANADA.

The subject of flax-growing in Canada has received special attention of late from the press all over the country. This question has been brought prominently to the front by the paper read in the Conference Hall at the late Colonial Exhibition in London, England, by Mr. E. B. Bigger, of Montreal, entitled "The Flax-Growing and Linen Manufacturing Capabilities of Canada." The paper, which has been published in full in the *Canadian Journal of Fabrics*, is a very comprehensive one, dealing as it does with all the stages of the flax-growing and linen-manufacturing industry, from the earliest records of its growth to the present day. Mr. Bigger commences with the earliest known manufacture of flax in ancient Egypt, and after tracing its history and development through the middle ages, concludes by showing the advantages which this country enjoys for flax-growing.

From the paper it is learned that flax of excellent quality has been grown in every province of the Dominion. "But it is of the flax-growing and manufacturing of the Canadian Northwest," says Mr. Bigger, "that I wish more particularly to speak." We are told that there are three species of flax indigenous to the Northwest, and that these grow luxuriantly over a vast area of country. Where such is the case it might be expected that the cultivated flax would attain a high state of excellence, and this has been abundantly attested by practical experiment, extending over a great number of years, since the early French pioneers introduced the plant into the country. Experience has shown that the Northwest is peculiarly adapted to the growing of an excellent quality of flax, the climate, soil and other conditions being specially favorable to the propagation of the plant. The Mennonites have grown this crop to advantage, though they use only the seed, the straw being burned. As high as twenty-five bushels per acre of the seed is said to have been raised by them. The price obtained is about 90c to \$1.00 per bushel, which would make it a paying crop even without utilizing the straw. According to a blue-book regarding the Mennonites, one buyer is said to have paid out \$24,000 three

years ago, and since that time doubtless the cultivation of flax has increased. In a country where so much binding-twine is used, it does seem a pity that the straw could not be turned to better advantage, and no doubt in time some profitable means will be found of disposing of it other than by burning the valuable fibre. Regarding the manufacture of the straw, Mr. Shantz states that owing to the scarcity of labor and the shortness of the season, the Mennonites have not found it to pay them to leave their other work to prepare the fibre.

Returning to Mr. Bigger's paper, it is stated that "while Ontario seed is remarkably rich in oil (about 14 lbs. to the bushel) that of the Northwest is still richer, yielding 16 lbs. to the bushel, which is probably the highest yield in the world." British manufacturers who have tested the Canadian straw, state that no better fibre could be desired. It is also the testimony of Canadian and United States manufacturers that the Manitoba straw excels in quality the product of any other part of the continent.

The adaptability of this country for growing flax would amount to little if it could not be shown that the product could be utilized in such a way as to make the crop a paying one. This part of the subject Mr. Bigger takes hold of in a vigorous way. After showing the permanent character of the linen industry, he gives figures regarding the demand for the product. Out of 100,000 tons of flax used in Great Britain in 1885, over 83,000 tons were imported, at a cost of £3,200,000 for the raw material. Of this amount 59,341 tons came from Russia. Besides this demand in Great Britain, a profitable export business might be done with the United States. Then there is the oil and oil cake, which latter products of flax seed have already been exported to a considerable extent.

As to the profit from flax-growing in Manitoba, Mr. Bigger says:

"The average value of Russian and German flax is £32 a ton, of Irish £56, and of Belgian £74. Taking the average production of European countries as a criterion, 8 acres will raise a ton of dressed fibre, of which the average value will be £41 or say \$200, which would give a total result much better than wheat at its present price in Manitoba and the Northwest. For the purpose of this estimate I have taken the average production of European countries; but, as a matter of fact, the yield per acre will equal, if not exceed, that of Ireland and Holland, which is about 32 stones per acre, and the value per ton will prove to be nearer that of Irish flax

than of Russian. We may put this extra value against any extra cost for transportation from the field to the sea, and we still have the profits of the seed."

As to what might be done at home in the manufacture of flax, it was pointed out that Canada imports linen goods to the value of over \$1,440,000 annually. In Ontario twines and rope to the value of about \$1,000,000 per year are manufactured, but these are not all from flax. Still we import linen twines to the value of over \$177,000, linen thread to the amount of \$150,000 and linen ducking to the value of \$750,000. Instead of importing, Mr. Bigger thinks we should be exporting all these goods. There is also the paper-manufacturing industry, for which the straw could be utilized to advantage.

One feature specially favorable to the cultivation of flax in Manitoba would seem to be in connection with the first breaking of the prairie sod. A good crop may be secured from the first plowing, where other grains would prove a failure. It has been the custom of the Mennonites to grow their flax from the first breaking of the natural sod, and they have always had good returns. It is generally supposed that flax is a very exhaustive crop to the soil, but Mr. Bigger holds that this is not the case where the waste material is returned to the land.

With all the advantages enjoyed in Manitoba for flax-growing, the progress already made in the cultivation of the plant, and the demand for the various manufactures of flax, there would seem to be a profitable field for the preparation of the straw which is now burned. There is already a large quantity of binding twine used in the province and the adjoining territories, and the amount consumed will be increasing yearly. In fact, the use of binding twine in this country is almost confined to the Northwest, and this article is imported into the province, whilst here the straw is burned on the ground. Though there might be some doubt as to the profitable growing of flax for the exportation of the prepared fibre, yet there can scarcely be a doubt but that the manufacture of binding-twine for home use would prove a satisfactory investment, if not now, at least in the very near future.

THE MANITOBA MENNONITES.

The Mennonites furnish a good example of what may be accomplished in Manitoba

by industry and perseverance. They are now as a rule occupying a very comfortable and satisfactory position in life, whilst the more thrifty among them are fast becoming wealthy. Mr. H. P. Hansen, of Morden, states that this year the Mennonites in that district have raised 275,000 bushels of marketable wheat, which at 50c per bushel will bring them in \$137,500. Next season an increased acreage will be sown. Stock-raising is also being gone into with marked success, and horses are taking the place of oxen. Mr. Hansen says that the village system is being abandoned, and many of the Mennonites now live upon their farms, instead of clustering together in hamlets. During the past year several villages have broken up, and a similar course will be pursued with others during next season. They are also taking up the municipal system of the country. In a few years a great many of the peculiarities which now distinguish them as a separate people, will have disappeared. If the Mennonites of Manitoba are of the same stock as their brethren who years ago settled in Ontario, they will yet form some of the most flourishing communities in the province. The German Mennonite communities of the latter province are recognized as a thrifty, industrious and law-abiding people, and excellent citizens in every respect. The progress already made by the Mennonites in Manitoba, would indicate that those in this province will occupy a position similar to their Ontario brethren in the not very distant future.

These people were in anything but a happy condition when they came here. Mr. Shantz, in his evidence before the standing committee of the House of Commons on immigration, stated that when the Mennonites came to Manitoba, they brought all their poor with them. Some of them were only laborers in Russia. A loan of \$96,400 was advanced by the Government to enable them to start in life on the prairies, and though only some ten years ago, this amount has been about wiped out, principal and interest. This is certainly a successful result, and in itself shows that the Mennonites are thriving in Manitoba. According to Mr. Shantz, the aggregate sum of money among them when they arrived in Canada amounted to but \$40 for each individual, or less than \$250 per family. This was unequally divided, as about one half of them were said to have possessed practically nothing. Their poverty was

owing greatly to the regulations and restrictions under which they labored in Russia, and in leaving that country, those who had property were compelled to sacrifice it for almost nothing. Mr. Shantz further states that the Mennonites like the country and climate, and are all pleased that they left Russia. They are learning the English language, and are fast adapting themselves to the customs of the country. To their Canadian neighbors their progress in this latter respect may seem slow, but when their backward condition on arriving in the country is taken into consideration, there is no reason to feel dissatisfied with the result, whilst there is abundant reason to believe they will yet make excellent citizens.


THE FISHERY DISPUTE.

The United States authorities are talking of adopting some very stringent legislation against Canada, owing to the action of our Government in protecting the fisheries. A bill has been introduced by Senator Edmunds, authorizing the President to issue a proclamation, forbidding any Canadian vessel from landing at any port in the United States. The Senate committee again takes up the three mile limit dispute, and contends that Americans have a right to fish within bays which are more than six miles broad. The committee also asserts that "some seizures were made in violation of the treaty of 1818, whilst others were made on such slender technical grounds as to make it impossible to believe they were made with the object of protecting substantial rights against real invasion." It has also been hinted that Canadian railways would be prohibited from making connection with United States roads, in the event of our Government continuing its action in the fishery matter. If the United States Government undertakes any retaliatory measures of the nature proposed, it will be in their power to very seriously injure the trade of this country; but in doing so they will also do injury to the commercial interests of their own country. Any restrictions placed upon international commerce between the two countries, by either party thereto, cannot result otherwise than injurious to both. United States railways would suffer almost as much as Canadian roads, by the restrictions proposed by some of the United States legislators. It does seem strange that two of the most enlightened communities of the world should be thus

hampering commercial intercourse with each other. The United States authorities may be honest in the expression of their convictions that the Canadian Government has exercised undue severity in the enforcement of the treaty of 1818, but they cannot overlook the fact that to themselves attaches the blame for the present state of things. Canada has been anxious to come to an arrangement with the United States, which would do away with the necessity for an enforcement of this antiquated treaty, but all her efforts in that direction have been thwarted by the United States Congress. When the appointment of a commission was asked for by our Government, for the purpose of conferring with the Canadian and British authorities, and to endeavor to arrive at an agreement which would be satisfactory to both countries, Congress blankly refused to consider any such proposals. Congress, it was declared in effect, was quite satisfied with the existing treaty of 1818, and was adverse to any further negotiations. As soon, however, as that treaty is put in force by the Canadian Government, there is a decided change in the tune. It then becomes an "unwarrantable interference with the rights of United States' fishermen." Its provisions are of such a nature as to restrict international trade relationship. It is altogether such a treaty as should not be enforced by any country against a friendly state. This is practically the position which Congress has taken in regard to the fishery question. First refuses to negotiate a new arrangement, and calls for the enforcement of the existing treaty; then raves about the treaty being unduly severe and proposes retaliatory measures of an altogether unwarranted character. Now, what is at the bottom of all this? Nothing more nor less than a desire on the part of certain politicians to make a little capital for themselves. A presidential election looms up ahead, and this question, with others, may be turned to account in serving party ends. In the United States as in Canada, every public question has a party aspect, and will be used to severe party interests whenever there is an opportunity to do so. The Blaine Republicans see in the fishery dispute a valuable nest-egg, which may be worked up to do valuable service for the party in the future. Accordingly the question will be agitated and kept open until such time as it has served the desired end.

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Manufacturers of  Malt Cross Brand
BOOTS & SHOES,
Noted for their Excellence of Fit and
Durability of Stock.
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WHOLESALE IMPORTERS OF

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THIBAudeau BROS & CO.
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Highest Market Prices will be paid.

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Manufacturer of Granulated and Standard Brands
Oatmeal. Orders by mail promptly attended to.

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Sparkling Lager Beer ! !

Is now ready for the Market at the
REDWOOD BREWERY
Delivered anywhere in the City at \$3.50 per keg
EQUAL TO ANY IMPORTED BEER.




Fine Stock Ales a Specialty
EXTRA PORTER AND STOUT
In Wood and Bottle always on hand.

REDWOOD BREWERY,
The Largest Institution of its class in Western Canada.
J. L. DREWERY, Proprietor,
North Main Street, WINNIPEG.

TORONTO HIDE HOUSE,
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I am prepared to pay the Highest Market
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HIDES !

PELTS, WOOL AND TALLOW.
 LEATHER FOR SALE. 
Either at place of shipment or delivered in
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 Sacks for Wool supplied.
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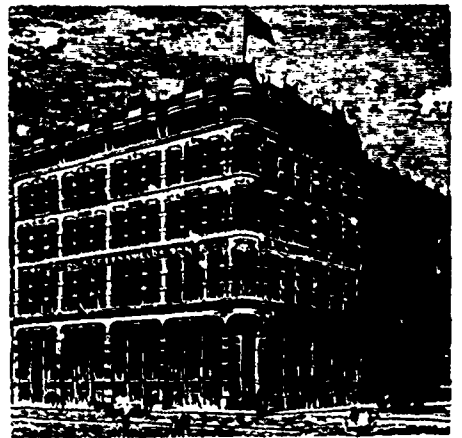
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MILLS AT KEEWATIN. OFFICE: OPPOSITE C.P.R.
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S. GREENSHIELDS, SON & CO.,
GENERAL DRY GOODS,
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Complete Set of Samples with
Mr. W. B. McARTHUR,
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WHOLESALE DRY GOODS,
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Are now receiving and opening large shipments of
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EMBROIDERIES, DRESS GOODS,
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 A visit from our Manitoba Friends when in this
Market is solicited.

CARSLEY & CO.,
93 St. Peter St., MONTREAL,
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KIRKPATRICK & COOKSON,
Established 1860,
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FLOUR, GRAIN, PROVISIONS, PRODUCE, &
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Crathern and Caverhill,
WHOLESALE HEAVY HARDWARE
Metals, Window Glass, Paints & Oils, etc.

Caverhill, Learmont & Co.,
WHOLESALE SHELF HARDWARE,
WAREHOUSES, SAMPLE ROOMS AND OFFICES:
Caverhill's Buildings, 89 St. Peter Street,
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Complete Set of Samples with
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The McClary Manufacturing Co.,
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Manufacturers of

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Pressed and Pleated Tinware, Japanned Ware,
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Ironware, and

Tinsmiths' Metals and Supplies.
WHOLESALE ONLY.

Warerooms: Cor. Rachel St. and Point Douglas Avenue
Sample Rooms and Offices, 7 Spencer Block, Portage Av
J. W. DRISCOLL, Manager **WINNIPEG**

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET

The quietness which has continued to rule in nearly all branches of trade, is also felt in financial circles, to about the same extent. At the banks only a light ordinary commercial discount business has been doing, with some little additional call for funds from grain circles. There have been no features of a special or extraordinary nature worth mentioning. Discount rates steady at 7 to 10 per cent., according to security and amount of loan.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE

Wholesale trade continues very quiet in nearly every branch, and it will be some weeks yet before any active movement occurs. A few little parcels are occasionally sent out, as the advance guard of spring orders, but these are yet so few as to be hardly worth noticing. Stock-taking has been completed with a good many, and new goods are now commencing to crowd in. Opening and assorting these gives considerable employment about the warehouses.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

The movement for spring deliveries has hardly commenced yet, and until that time there will be little stir about the warehouses. Orders have been nearly all taken and show up about the same as last year. A good deal will depend upon the sorting trade for the totals of the season's business, as, owing to the poor season which retailers had last fall, owing to fine, dry weather, they are disposed to make their first orders as light as possible.

DRY GOODS

New stocks are now pouring in upon the warehouses, and about the only thing doing is in opening and assorting these goods. It will not now be a great while before spring assortments commence to go out, though very little has been done in this way yet. About the same features apply to clothing as to dry goods.

FISH AND GAME

Fresh lake fish of all kinds are still very scarce, and only a few loads arriving. Prices now are: Whitefish, 8c; pickerel, 4c; jackfish, 3c. Oysters are quoted at 35c for standards, and 37½ to 45c for selects, according to quality. Bulk oysters, \$1.85 to \$2.20 per gallon, according to quality. Fresh-sea fish are in the market and quoted as follows: Smelts, 11c; tommy-cods, 7½c; cod, 11c; haddock, 11c; lobsters, 18 to 20c. Smoked Finnan haddies, 11c.

FRUITS

Apples are very firm, and owing to the scarcity of fruit in outside markets, it is said that new stocks could not be laid down here at present prices. Stocks here are said to be not by any means large, and when these commence to give out, a heavy advance of from \$2 to \$3 per barrel is talked of. Other fruits are steady and prices unchanged. Nothing new in the market. Quotations are now as follows: Florida oranges, \$7.00 to \$7.50; Mexican oranges, \$7.00 to \$7.50. Winter apples, \$4.50 to \$5.00 per bbl. for good stock. Messina lemons, \$7 to \$7.50; Oregon pears, \$4.50 to \$5; Malaga grapes, \$7 to \$8.00 per keg; Cranberries, \$9.00 to \$12.00, according to size of barrel and quality; Figs, in 50-pound sacks, 12½c; New Eleme figs, in layers, 15c to 20c per

pound, in one lb. to ten lb. boxes; Golden dates, 11 to 12c; peanuts, roasted, 18c; peanuts, raw, 15c; walnuts, 20c; almonds 20c; filberts 15c; Texas pecans, 18c. Dried fruits quoted: Valencia raisins \$3.15 to \$3.25; London raisins \$3.75 to \$3.90; black crown \$5 to \$5.25; black baskets, 4 boxes, \$1.30. Apple cider is worth \$10 a barrel, or \$7 per half-barrel. Sweet potatoes, \$9.50 per bbl; Spanish onions, cases 150 lbs., \$7.25; cases 50 lbs., \$2.50. Evaporated apples, 13 to 14c; dried apples, 7c; new Turkey prunes, 7½c.

RAW FURS

The movement in furs has not been very brisk this season, probably owing to the scarcity of snow for sleighing. There will not likely be any changes in prices until after the Hudson's Bay Co's sales in London, which commence on January 26th. Prices here are: Beaver, per lb, \$2.50 to \$4.00; bear, per skin, \$5.00 to \$20; bear, cub, per skin, \$1.00 to \$7.00; otter, per skin, \$5.00 to \$10.00; mink, per skin, 30 to 90c; martin, per skin, 60c to \$2.50; fisher, per skin, \$1.00 to \$6.50; lynx, per skin, \$1.00 to \$2.50; racoon, per skin, 40 to 60c; skunk, per skin, 40-60-80; muskrat, per skin, 1 to 7c. Fox, red, 25c to \$1.40; fox, cross, \$1 to \$10; wolf, timber, 25c to \$2.25; wolf, prairie, 25c to \$1.25.

GROCERIES

The firmness noted in coffees and syrups continues. Quotations are now steady as follows: Canned tomatoes, at \$3.50; corn, at \$3.25 to \$3.50; peas, \$3.75; yellow sugar 6½c to 7c; granulated 7½c to 8c; lump sugar, 8½c; Coffees, Rios, 19 to 20c; Government Java, 30 to 32c, other Javas, 25 to 28c; Mochas, 31 to 34c. New season's teas are now quoted as follows: Japan season 1886-7, 25 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, \$2.00 to \$2.25; T. and B. tobacco, \$10.

HIDES

Prices hold the same as last quotations, and now are as follows: Winnipeg inspection, No. 1, 6c; No. 2, 5c; bulls, 4c; calf, fine-haired real veal, 7 to 13 pound skins, No. 1, 9c; No. 2, 7c. Sheep pelts, 30 to 65c. Tal-low, 3½ to 4c.

HARDWARE AND METALS

Prices hold firm in hardware, with indications of advances, though quotations here have not been changed. Prices are as follows: Cut nails, 10d and larger \$3.35 to \$3.75; I. C. tin plates, \$5.50 to \$5.75; I. C. tin plates, double, \$11 to \$11.50; Canada plates, \$3.50 to \$3.75; sheet iron, \$3 to \$4.50, according to grade; iron pipe, 45 to 50 per cent. off list prices; ingot tin, 26 to 30c per lb., according to quality; bar iron \$2.50 to \$3 per 100 lb; shot, 6¼ to 7c a lb; tarred felt, \$2.60 to \$2.85 per 100 lbs; barbed wire 7 to 7½c.

THE MARKETS**WINNIPEG****WHEAT**

There has been little if any change in the markets since our last report. Receipts through-

out the province have continued light all over, in fact probably one of the lightest weeks since the season regularly opened. This is partly accounted for from the supposition that owing to the change in prices of late, farmers have got an idea that it will pay them to hold for awhile in anticipation of higher figures for the balance of their grain. The snow which fell toward the close of the week, if general, will improve the roads and perhaps increase deliveries. Prices hold the same all round, namely, 65c for No. 1 hard delivered at the mills in the city, and 62c for 2 hard and 1 northern. Cars on track still hold at about 62c here.

FLOUR.

Prices here remain entirely unchanged. Broken lots, delivered in the city, are quoted: Patents, \$2.35; Strong bakers', \$1.80; XXXX \$1.20 to \$1.30; super-fine, 90c to \$1.

BRAN AND SHORTS

Steady at \$12 for bran and \$14 for shorts.

BARLEY.

Moving very slowly at the unchanged price of about 45c.

OATS

A few cars have arrived from southern Manitoba, and several car lots have also passed through from the east, billed to western points. Prices hold at about 43c as the usual quotation for cars on track here.

OATMEAL

Prices hold steady at \$2.60 for standard and \$2.75 for granulated, in trade lots.

POTATOES

None offered in trade lots, but there are indications that plenty will be coming forward as soon as the weather moderates.

EGGS.

Scarcely any called fresh moving, and those in the market held at 22c. Some pickled offered at 20 to 22c.

BUTTER

No large consignments have arrived, and only a few scattered lots coming to hand, of mixed rolls and tubs. Prices hold steady at 20c for such lots as are being taken by the trade, though concessions would be made for quantities. This price is for what is considered as best quality. Inferior obtainable at from 12c upwards.

BACON

Prices hold at the late reduction, as follows: Long-clear, 8c; breakfast bacon, 11c; spiced roll, 10c.

HAMS

Steady at 13c.

LARD

\$2.15 seems to be about the regular quotation for 20-pound pails in trade lots; 3-pound are worth 43c, and 5-pound pails 65c each.

DRESSED POULTRY.

There is now very little coming in, but the market is well supplied with old stocks of all kinds, which are being slowly reduced. Chickens hold at 5 to 6c; turkeys, 12 to 13c; geese, 8 to 10c; ducks, 10 to 11c.

DRESSED MEATS.

Hogs continue to come in freely and prices hold steady at 5c for lots suitable for packing. Very little dressed beef moving, with sides quoted at 4 to 5c; mutton, 8 to 9c. best pork sausage, 8c.

MINNEAPOLIS.

In the local market wheat is nearly 2c higher than it was a week ago, and has been firm and on the rise all the week; while elsewhere the markets have been dull, with a drooping tendency, prices falling a full cent to-day at Chicago on the report of copious rains in California,

where there have been fears of a drouth. Millers cannot understand the strength in values here, figuring a clear loss of 15c. per barrel in making flour out of wheat at present prices. The flour market is dull, and they are generally of opinion that so long as this continues, there can be no permanent improvement of strength in wheat. Some go so far as to predict an early and heavy decline in wheat prices, as a result of heavy stocks and the dullness in flour. A well known elevator man said to-day that wheat would be 8 or 10c cheaper or about May 1st, adding that nothing save an outbreak of hostilities in Europe could prevent such a decline.

Receipts and shipments have been very light and the movement in the country is almost at a standstill, owing to heavy general storms and severe cold weather.

The highest and lowest wheat prices by grade on 'change during the week ending Jan. 19, closing prices, and the prices one year ago were:

	Highest.	Lowest.	Clos'ng.	Jan. 13 1886
WHEAT— No. 1 hard	80	78 1/2	80	85
" 1 northern	79	77 1/2	79	82
" 2 "	77	75	77	77

Futures were not strong and showed but slight fluctuations, May 1 hard opening at \$4 1/2c and closing at \$4 1/2c. May 1 northern opened at \$3 3/4c and closed at \$3 3/4c.

FLOUR.—There has been no improvement in flour during the week, the market seeming inclined to fall back into the old ante-holiday condition of weakness and depression. There is some inquiry from abroad and from domestic markets, but buyers demand heavy concessions and millers decline to do business at a loss, particularly at a time when the output is subject to the restriction of a low and frequently varying stage of water.

Quotations at the mills for car or round lots are: Patents, \$4.40@4.60; straights, \$4.20@4.40; first bakers', \$3.60@3.85; second bakers', \$2.95@3.10; best low grades, \$1.80@2.00, in bags, red dog, \$1.40@1.50, in bags.

These quotations are on flour in barrels, except as stated. The rule is to discount 25c per bbl for 250 and 140 lb jute bags, 20c for 98lb cotton sacks, 15c for 49lb cotton sacks, 10c for 24 1/2 lb cotton sacks. In half barrels the extra charge is 30c per bbl.

MILLS.—The market is firm and steady, owing to the light production. Quotations are for bulk bran, \$9.50 to \$10.25, and for shorts \$10.25 to \$10.75 per ton.—*Northwest Miller.*

The Visible Supply.

The amount of wheat in store at the principal points of accumulation in Canada and the United States (east of the Rocky Mountains), on the dates named, also the amount afloat and in transit by water, with corresponding week last year, was as follows:

	Bush. 1886.	Bush. 1885.
November 27th	59,572,340	55,539,993
December 4th	59,539,331	56,700,410
December 11th	59,989,660	57,981,156
December 18th	61,460,330	58,388,469
December 24th	62,261,330	58,320,974
	Bush. 1887.	Bush. 1886
January 1st	62,729,570	58,432,999
January 8th	63,345,59	57,780,320
January 15th	62,823,581	57,118,183

By this statement it will be seen that the visible supply of wheat decreased 522,014 bushels for the week ended Jan. 15th, 1887.

WHEAT IN STORE.

The following shows the stocks of wheat (expressed in bushels) in store at the places named on Jan. 15th, 1887: Duluth, 9,876,000; Minneapolis, 7,339,378; Chicago, 13,281,251; Toronto, 22,500; Montreal, 269,251; New York, 9,951,600.

UNITED KINGDOM IMPORTS.

The following return shows the extent of the imports of breadstuffs into the United Kingdom during the first seventeen weeks of the season, with the average price:

IMPORTS.	1886.	1885.	1884.
Wheat... cwt.	16,357,587	18,956,074	16,202,375
Flour... "	5,061,977	4,295,457	4,933,840

WHEAT.

	1886.	1885.	1884.
Av. price... week.	33s 11d	30s 2d	31s 5d
Av. price... season.	31s 5d	30s 11d	32s 1d

BREADSTUFFS AND PROVISIONS EXPORTS, ETC.

The following table shows the exports of breadstuffs and provisions from the principal Atlantic seaboard ports for the week ending Jan. 15th, 1887, and for the corresponding week last year.

	1887.	1886.
Flour, bbls.....	209,800	175,773
Wheat, bus.....	1,980,800	198,709
Corn, bus.....	989,400	1,952,158
Oats, bus.....	9,000	140,279
Pork, lbs.....	5,360	4,210
Lard, lbs.....	5,416,700	5,808,778
Bacon, lbs.....	10,379,900	8,275,757

AVAILABLE SUPPLY OF WHEAT.

Available supply of wheat Jan. 15th, 1887, and corresponding date last year; also the supply as shown by the first report for each month of the crop year:—

	1887, bus.	1886, bus.
Visible supply in the U. S. and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains.....	62,823,581	57,118,183
On passage—		
Wheat and flour for Continent.....	5,220,000	1,600,000
Wheat and flour for United Kingdom..	21,040,000	14,400,000

Total.....	89,783,581	73,118,183
1887—		
Jan. 8.....	88,225,595	72,180,320
Jan. 1.....	86,169,570	71,454,978
1886.		
Dec. 4.....	80,739,331	71,823,440
Nov. 6.....	81,079,352	66,283,886
Oct. 2.....	73,700,379	56,740,901
Sept. 4.....	67,525,555	56,444,381
Aug. 7.....	58,192,092	56,410,409
July 3.....	52,778,752	63,440,303

Flax-Growing in the Northwest.

But it is of the flax, growing and manufacturing of the Canadian Northwest that I now wish more particularly to speak. Here three species of indigenous flax—the *linum perenne*, with a blue flower; the *linum striatum* and the *linum rigidum*, bearing yellow flowers—grow luxuriantly over a vast area of country, and may, no doubt, one day, be utilized to good advantage in the manufacture of twines, etc., when machinery is introduced to work up the fibre. The true flax plant has been grown here for the last 200 years. It was introduced by the French Canadian pioneers in the reign of the Hudson's Bay Company, and the last 150 years self-sacri-

ficing French Canadian nuns have prepared the flax and spun it, by the old methods, into vestments and linen altar cloths, as well as into garments for ordinary wear, and these industrious nuns taught the art to the half-breeds of the Northwest.

It is, however, only within the last few years that a true conception is beginning to be formed of the special suitability of the Canadian Northwest for flax-growing, of the vast area that can be brought under cultivation, and of the excellence of the fibre for the purpose of the manufacturer. A comparison of the soils of Egypt, of Belgium and Holland (where the finest fibre in the world is grown), and of Russia (where the largest quantity is produced), with that of our own Northwest, will show that the conditions for obtaining both quantity and quality are here present in almost every part of the country.

Mr. Peter O'Leary, a gentleman well acquainted with the conditions under which the fibre is grown and manufactured in Ireland, after travelling over this region, wrote to the *Field* last year, and made a report to the Dominion Government, pointing out the entire fitness of this land for flax cultivation. After speaking of the excellence of the soil and the numerous lakes and streams fit for steeping flax straw, he points out the wide extent of country over which wild flax grows, and considers its spontaneous growth a strong evidence of natural suitability for ordinary flax. "The Mennonites," he adds in his report to the Government, "grow considerable flax for the sake of the seed, which they sell at 90c to \$1 a bushel to manufacturers of oil and linseed cake, the use of which is largely increasing. There is now a mill in Winnipeg, but hitherto Minneapolis was the market." He thinks there is an unlimited field for flax spinning here, and that manufacturer from Ireland or Scotland should readily supply the necessary capital. "All circumstances," he concludes, "are in favor of the utilization of flax fibre for cordage and textiles of various kinds."

Apart from the amazing fertility of the soil two peculiarities of the Northwest favor this crop. One is, plenty of water for the purposes of retting, and many of the lakes and ponds are of an alkaline character, which will be a great natural aid in procuring a bright thread. It is this quality, I believe, which gives such a value to the Belgian flax grown above the River Lys. Another is that where dew retting is practised, (and there are many who maintain that for producing the best thread, neither steam nor water retting can ever equal it) the regular and copious dew falls of the great prairie, combined with the clear atmosphere, give all that nature requires for this part of the process.

Another point of advantage for the Canadian Northwest farmer is that by sowing flax on the "breaking" or first turning of the soil, a more profitable crop can be produced in flax than in wheat or any grain. This has been proved by the experience they have already gained. Now there are 250,000,000 acres of virgin soil that can be thus treated within the "great wheat belt" alone; and if one crop—and no more—were taken off each new field as it is brought first under cultivation it would supply the factories of Ireland, England and Scotland with

fibre for 80 years to come, even if we took the 3,000,000 acres of Russian flax land as the measure of our production. But beyond this region of 250,000,000 lies another 100,000,000 where, while it will not be safe to grow wheat, flax will thrive well. Fourteen weeks of good growing weather will bring flax to maturity, and it has been perfectly ripened in England in eleven weeks from the sowing of the seed. In short, flax will thrive well as it does, within a short distance of Archangel in Russia (latitude 64) it will do equally well in corresponding temperatures in the Northwest. Flax has had the reputation of being an exhaustive crop, but the best authorities now hold that it is not so if the woody matter, the steep water and other waste materials, or their artificial substitutes, are returned to the soil.

For the purpose of paper-making, flax which is thinly sown, for the seed only would do as well as that sown thickly for fibre, so that it may prove of great importance to establish linen paper manufacturing in Canada, if only to use up the large quantities of straw which are now burnt by the Canadian Menmonites without a thought.—*E. B. Bigger, on flax growing in Canada.*

Home-made Linen.

As to the adaptability of the soil and climate of Canada, flax of excellent quality has been grown in every province of the Dominion, and has been utilized to a considerable extent in domestic manufacture ever since the first settlements. In Acadia some of the "Kirtles of homespun" of Evangeline and her compeers were of linen; in New Brunswick, the early settlers, as I learn from one of their descendents, made a good deal of their own linen clothing, and it was so also in Quebec and Ontario. But in these Provinces factory made linens have largely superseded these goods, and only among the French Canadians of Quebec may the hand loom and the hand scutcher now be seen as a distinct feature of rural life. Here the same primitive implements that were used in Normandy in the middle ages may be seen, and in the back districts the *habitant* still wears summer breeches of linen, and wipes his face and hands on linen towels, made by his wife or daughters. These rough but most serviceable products, in the shape of towelings, sheetings, aprons, etc., are even yet brought into Montreal and sold in the Bonsecours and St. Anne's markets; and I heard a Western Ontario merchant say, he never visited Montreal without an injunction from his wife to bring her home a stock of these honest goods.—*E. B. Bigger, on flax growing in Canada.*

Grain and Milling Notes.

The new Great Northern Elevator at Duluth has so far unloaded 2,000 cars, or 1,200,000 bu, and still has room for 1,000 cars more. When this elevator is filled the elevator capacity of Duluth will be exhausted until elevator J is completed.

The grain buyers at Deloraine and Boissevain in Southern Manitoba, have had a lively time of it for some weeks back. There has been keen competition among the buyers, and all sorts of plans have been resorted to, to secure

the farmer's grain. The latest move was to present the farmer with a ticket, good for hotel accommodation of himself and horses. As all the buyers immediately adopted the scheme, it did not prove of much advantage to the originator, and has since been discontinued.

The final estimate of the United States agricultural bureau for 1896 has been issued. The wheat crop is summed up as follows: Aggregate production of wheat 457,000,000 bushels, area 37,000,000 acres (nearly), farm value \$314,000,000; average price 68.7c per bushel, as against 77.1c for the previous crop and 64.5c for the crop of 1884. The yield of spring wheat centres is better than was expected early in the season, and on the Pacific coast much worse. The general average for winter and spring wheat is nearly 12.4 bushels per acre. Corn shows an increase in area over last year of 3 per cent., increase in production 14 per cent, average price per bushel 36.6c, increase over last year of 12 per cent. The total yield was 1,665,000,000 bushels and the area 75,000,000 acres. The product of oats is 624,000,000 bu, 5,000,000 less than last year. The average yield is 26.4 bushels, against 27.6 last year. The average value is 29.8 cents per bushel; last year, 28.5 cents per bushel.

General Notes.

Switzerland has determined to try the experiment of making a monopoly of the liquor selling business, with the idea of providing only pure spirits and of restricting the sale in a very large degree. The Government will raise the retail price and from the profits, provide means "to check the abuse of alcohol." The proposition is also made that as soon as the Government shall have thoroughly established its monopoly it shall sell spirits only on doctors' orders. This would amount to prohibition so far as spirits are concerned, that is, if doctors were honest in confining their prescriptions to people whom they considered really in need of alcohol.

If we could supply Great Britain with any article more cheaply, quality being taken into the account, than other countries, we should monopolize the supply of it to the British markets, which we certainly never have done, and are not doing to-day, in either grain, meats, or dairy products. Our hold upon those markets in respect to each of those products is growing feebler every year, and it is by no means improbable that we shall, before long, be substantially driven out of them by the numerous competitors who have equal natural facilities, and who are compelled to be content with receiving less rewards for their labor. The only secure market which we have for food products is the home market, and our true National policy is to make that market as large as possible by diversifying our industries.—*New York Bankers' Magazine.*

An austere looking lady walked into a furrier's yesterday, and said to the yellow headed clerk:

"I would like to get a muff."

"What fur?" inquired the dude.

"To keep my hands warm, you simpering idiot," exclaimed the madam, crashing him like a thunder storm.—*Washington Critic.*

W. E. BOWEN, confectioner, Calgary, is adding groceries.

C. BURGESS has opened a stock of furniture at Virden, Man.

SELKIRK merchants have adopted the early closing movement.

A MOVEMENT is on foot at Birtle, Man., to form a board of trade.

ABOUT 1,200 tons of coal were mined near Edmonton, Alberta, last year.

A BOARD of trade will probably be established at Vancouver, B.C., shortly.

R. J. OUDS & Co., grocers, Winnipeg, have had their stock seized by the sheriff.

A COAL famine exists at several points along the C.P.R. west, owing to delay in receipt of supplies.

HENDERSON & BULL, wholesale commission merchants, Winnipeg, have moved to 41 Bannatyne street, east.

A PETITION is being circulated at Broadview, Assa., for presentation to the Postmaster-General, asking for a money order office and a Wednesday's mail.

It is announced that the difficulty in connection with the roller flour mill in course of erection at Moosomin, Assa., has been adjusted, and that the mill will now be completed.

REGINA markets are quoted: Eastern butter, from 18½ to 25c per pound; eggs, 25c per dozen; wheat, 55c per bushel; oats and barley each, 50c per bushel. Very little stir in the market.

FRANK DICK, lumber dealer, Calgary, has sold out his stock and business at that place to Fred. Robinson, proprietor of the Beaver saw mills, B.C. F. Dick will continue as manager of the yard at Calgary.

At the last meeting of the Winnipeg retail Grocers' Association, a committee was appointed to wait upon the City Council and impress upon that body the necessity for adopting measures to prevent hawkers and farmers from peddling around the city. It was also decided to ask the wholesale dealers to confine their business to the trade entirely, which some retailers claim they are not doing.

Geo. CRAIG & Co., general storekeepers, Brandon, have closed up their business there. Their branch business at Portage la Prairie, which has been conducted under the style of J. E. Thomas & Co., will be changed to Geo. Craig & Co., and continued under the latter style. The dry goods from the Brandon store have been moved to Portage, and the other departments disposed of to one McKelvie, of the former place. Geo. Craig, took possession of the dry goods stock and business of Parks & Co., Winnipeg, which he had previously purchased, on Monday last.

SOME grain buyers throughout the province have been resorting to peculiar modes of late to obtain the start of others in securing the major quantity of the grain. From Manitou comes the report that one buyer has adopted the custom of throwing in a ticket for a pound of tea, with each load of wheat purchased. Such conduct is certainly unbecoming any respectable buyer, and is anything but creditable to the firm allowing it. Fair and square competition is all right enough in every business, but prize package appendages and other such illegitimate schemes should be frowned upon. When competition in buying grain induces men to go into schemes such as the one referred to, it is time for straightforward, open-and-above-board buyers to vacate the market.

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EASTERN MARKETS.

CHICAGO

The market was quiet on Monday, but held fairly firm. Near options were dull, deals principally in May. May opened $\frac{1}{8}$ lower than Saturday's close, and sold up $\frac{1}{8}$ to 85 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Fluctuations during the day were slight. Corn broke $\frac{1}{8}$ c, but was only $\frac{1}{8}$ c below Saturday at the close. Oats sold off $\frac{1}{8}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$ c. Pork opened strong and May sold up to \$12.45, May lard to \$6.75, and May ribs to \$6.37 $\frac{1}{2}$. The provision market then reacted and sold off steadily, May pork losing 30c, but recovering partially later. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.
Wheat	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork	11.87 $\frac{1}{2}$	12.20
Lard	6.45	6.65
Short Ribs	6.05	6.25

On Tuesday wheat was decidedly dull, and fluctuations very narrow, owing to the inactivity which prevailed. The business was entirely of a local scalping nature, and without influence on the general tendency of prices. Provisions likewise were neglected, and prices not significantly changed. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.
Wheat	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork	11.92 $\frac{1}{2}$	12.20
Lard	6.42 $\frac{1}{2}$	6.65
Short Ribs	6.07 $\frac{1}{2}$	6.25

The wheat market opened $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ c lower on Wednesday, owing to favorable crop news from California. The bulls also offer immense quantities of wheat, and there was almost a panic to sell on the break. Under this pressure the market sold off $\frac{1}{8}$ to 1c. May getting down to 84 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. At the bottom there was active buying by heavy weights and values became firmer, May advancing $\frac{1}{8}$ c, with several fluctuations. The feeling, however, was unsettled. Provisions sold off for a short time, but soon recovered and maintained a firm tone. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.
Wheat	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	84 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	41
Oats	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork	12.02 $\frac{1}{2}$	12.30
Lard	6.47 $\frac{1}{2}$	6.67 $\frac{1}{2}$
Short Ribs	6.15	6.35

On Thursday the wheat market was dull and heavy, owing mainly to weaker cables. Under liberal offerings of long wheat, prices gradually receded, May selling down to 83 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. War news gave a temporary strength to prices, and May advanced to 84 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, but dropped back $\frac{1}{8}$ c. Pork sold off 15 to 20c, then advanced to the opening prices, but toward the close was easier. Last prices were:

	Jan.	May.
Wheat	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$
Pork	12.07 $\frac{1}{2}$	12.32 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lard	6.45	6.67 $\frac{1}{2}$
Short ribs	6.15	6.32 $\frac{1}{2}$

Wheat opened weak, with May at 84c, but prices were fairly steady during the day. Once prices got down to 83 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, but the close was $\frac{1}{8}$ c above the opening, offerings were taken readily, and there was free buying on the part of several

heavy operators. Receipts at western points this week will show a falling off of 300,000 bushels or more, and despite the talk of over-crow led British and continental markets, exports will only show a slight decrease. The next visible supply is already estimated at 1,000,000 bushels decrease. It is said that Northwestern millers are already drawing on warehouse supplies, receipts not being sufficient to fill requirements. Provisions ruled firm, May pork selling up to \$12.45. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.
Wheat	77 $\frac{1}{2}$	80 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	41 $\frac{1}{2}$
Oats	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	31
Pork	12.17 $\frac{1}{2}$	12.40
Lard	6.50	6.70
Short Ribs	6.20	6.37 $\frac{1}{2}$

On Saturday wheat opened higher, and held firm during the day, the closing prices being at the top. May opened at 84 $\frac{1}{2}$ c, which was the lowest point and ranged from that upward to 85 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Pork opened lower at \$12.20, but advanced and closed at the top. Closing prices were:

	Jan.	May.
Wheat	78 $\frac{1}{2}$	85 $\frac{1}{2}$
Corn	—	—
Oats	—	—
Pork	12.35	12.37 $\frac{1}{2}$
Lard	6.50	—
Short Ribs	6.25	—

TORONTO.

STOCKS

The following comparison of quotations for the dates named will show the changes in the stock market.

	Jan. 12		Jan. 19.	
	ASKED.	BID.	ASKED.	BID.
Montreal	237	236 $\frac{1}{2}$	242	241 $\frac{1}{2}$
Ontario	115	114 $\frac{1}{2}$	116 $\frac{1}{2}$	115
Toronto	114	212 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	214
Merchants	129 $\frac{1}{2}$	128 $\frac{1}{2}$	131	130
Commerce	124 $\frac{1}{2}$	124	125	124 $\frac{1}{2}$
Imperial	135 $\frac{1}{2}$	134	136	134 $\frac{1}{2}$
Federal	108 $\frac{1}{2}$	108	108	107 $\frac{1}{2}$
Dominion	221 $\frac{1}{2}$	220	223 $\frac{1}{2}$	222 $\frac{1}{2}$
Standard	127 $\frac{1}{2}$	127	127 $\frac{1}{2}$	126 $\frac{1}{2}$
Hamilton	—	135	—	135
Northwest Land	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	60	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$
C.P.R. Bonds	106	105	106	105

WHEAT

There has been but very little movement, and discouraging British news has had a tendency to depress the market. On Tuesday No. 2 spring sold at 84c on track, and No. 2 fall at 81c.

FLOUR.

Superior extra sold at \$3.60, and extra at \$3.50. Holders firm at these prices.

OATMEAL.

Cars have held at \$3.75, with sales at \$3.70. Granulated in small lots at \$4.25.

OATS

Have been offered freely and held firmly at 31 to 32c.

BARLEY

Quiet and steady at 57 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 58c for No. 1, 52c for No. 2, 47c for extra No. 3, and 42c for No. 3.

APPLES.

Cars have been in good demand at \$2.50 for good fruit. On the street \$3.00 is the quotation for choice.

POULTRY

Box lots as follows: geese 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 $\frac{1}{2}$, turkey 8 to 10c, chickens 30 to 40c per pair, ducks 50 to 60c per pair.

BUTTER

Unchanged at 19c for choice selections, 15 to 16c for round lots of dairy, 14c for round lots of good store, with white thrown out, at which

price sales for shipment were made; poor 8 to 10c, rolls, 15 to 17c.

CHEESE.

Small lots choice held at 12 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 13c.

EGGS

Pickled held at 17c, and fresh at 20c.

PORK

Small lots sold at \$14.50 to \$15.

CURED MEATS.

Cars long-clear obtainable at 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; cases, 8c; Cumberland, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; rolls, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 9c; bellies, 10 to 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Smoked hams, 11c.

LARD

Pails have sold at from 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 10c, and tinnets 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ c.

DRESSED HOGS

Car lots have been in good demand, and are sold at \$5.90 for hogs averaging 200 pounds. Market prices, \$6.00 to \$6.50.

HIDES AND WOOL.

Green abundant, but prices unchanged, at last week's decline. Cured seem weak, and have changed hands at 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Quotations are:—Hides, No. 1 inspected steers, \$8.50; No. 1 inspected cows, \$7.75; No. 2 inspected, \$6.75; No. 3 inspected, \$5.75; calfskins, green, 11 to 13c; calfskins, cured, 13 to 14c; calfskins, dry, 11 to 13c; sheepskins, green, 75 to \$1.15; wool, super, 23 to 24c; extra super, 28c; wool pickings, 9 to 10c; tallow, rough, 2c; rendered, 4 to 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

DULUTH WHEAT MARKET

Wheat opened firmer at the beginning of last week, mainly owing to the decrease in the visible supply. Trading was light. Receipts were very light throughout the week. On Wednesday prices took a sudden drop, and offerings were crowded on the market. January trades were turned over to May freely, at 6c, and some May was carried to June at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Closing prices for No. 1 hard on each day of the week were:

	Cash	Jan.	May
Monday	—	—	86 $\frac{1}{2}$
Tuesday	80 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	86 $\frac{1}{2}$
Wednesday	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	85 $\frac{1}{2}$
Thursday	79 $\frac{1}{2}$	—	85 $\frac{1}{2}$
Friday	—	—	85 $\frac{1}{2}$
Saturday	—	—	85 $\frac{1}{2}$

Personal.

Mr. W. D. PETTIGREW, hardware, is on a business trip east.

Mr. Gillies, of Buntin & Gillies, wholesale papers, etc., Hamilton, is in the city.

Mr. GEO. CRAIG, of Brandon, who has purchased the dry goods business of Parkes & Co, Winnipeg, is in the city.

British Columbia.

W. Denny, dry goods dealer, Victoria, offers to sell out.

A. B. Francis, hardware, crockery, etc., Victoria, is dead.

H. H. Klinge, grain and feed, is reported away, and sheriff in possession.

The sheriff is in possession of the effects of D. McPherson's Hotel, Vancouver.

Reed & Co., produce and commission merchants, have been closed out by the landlord.

The Arlington Hotel, New Westminster, has been completely destroyed. Geo. Campbell, one of the owners of the local woollen mill, and two others, were burned to death.

G. A. Drummond has been re-elected president of the Montreal Board of Trade; W. W. Ogilvie, and J. P. Cleghorn, vice-presidents, and Robt. Archer, treasurer.

Business East.**ONTARIO.**

Lewis Kelly, cigars, London, has sold out.
 W. O. Cook, baker, Watford, has sold out.
 H. Zimmerman, grocer, Gorrie, has sold out.
 Thomas L. Bayeur, shoes, Belleville, is dead.
 J. H. Haun, lumber, Stevensville, is selling out.
 N. Beach, grocer, Brockville, has assigned in trust.
 Brennan Bros., grocers, Chatnam, have dissolved.
 James Scanlon, shoes, Stratford, has assigned in trust.
 Wm. Kelly, shoes, Port Hope, has assigned in trust.
 T. Duff & Co., grocers, Barrie, have assigned in trust.
 Senior & Co., grocers, Galt, are removing to Toronto.
 Sanders & Caughell, drugs, Ridgeway, have assigned.
 E. Mahoney, dry goods, Toronto, has assigned in trust.
 S. Ostrander, shoes, Wingham, has removed to Brussels.
 E. R. Talbot, general store, Wingham, was burned out.
 D. A. Fraser & Co., general store, Park Hill, have assigned.
 T. A. Austin & Co., general store, Chapleau, have dissolved.
 H. Wright, general store, Thornton, has sold out to H. Ball.
 H. Snow, baker, etc., Toronto, has sold out to Mrs. Senior.
 Thos. Wright, grocer, Toronto, has sold out to C. Duncomb.
 C. H. Poile, jeweler, Chatham, his stock sold at 40c on the \$.
 P. Kennedy, dry goods, Hastings, had stock damaged by fire.
 E. Patterson, grocer, Toronto, has sold out to J. W. Coltson.
 J. Betschen, general store, Gowanstown, has assigned in trust.
 E. F. Bourdon, hats and caps, Toronto, has assigned in trust.
 Robb & Son, grocers, Seaforth; Hugh Robb of this firm is dead.
 M. H. Lloyd, hotelkeeper, Meaford, has sold out to C. A. Farrar.
 Mrs. A. M. Simpson, fancy goods, Aylmer, has assigned in trust.
 A. J. Campbell, dealer in hats, Brockville, has assigned in trust.
 Wicks & Son, jewelers, Toronto, have held a meeting of creditors.
 Edwin Bond & Son, dry goods, Sheffield; Edwin Bond is dead.
 John Walden, dealer in wagons, Gorrie, has removed to Wroxeter.
 Watt & Carr, planing mill, Wingham, advertises their mill for sale.
 G. Mason, stationer, Wingham, had stock partly damaged by fire.
 R. Evans, general store, North Bruce, has sold out to A. Lamont.
 W. R. Eccleston, geuts' furnishings, Hamilton, has assigned in trust.
 G. H. Hazlewood, general store, Lakelet, intends removing to Gorrie.

Wm. Lewis & Son, wire rope dealers, Kingston, have assigned in trust.
 McNulty & Hunt, hotelkeeper, Belleville, has sold out to W. F. Taylor.
 E. G. Hillgarter, harness maker, Waterford, has sold out to F. D. McKenzie.
 John Simpson, hardware, Streetsville, has compromised at 40c on the dollar.
 J. C. Howie & Co., dry goods, Sarnia, their stock is advertised for sale by assignee.
 W. H. Darlington, stationer, Toronto, has advertised his stock for sale by auction.
 Thomas Watson, agent agricultural implements, Brussels, is removing to Harriston.
 J. Greene & Sons, wholesale boots and shoes, Toronto, have dissolved; Wm. Greene retires.
 Taylor & Wilson, wholesale cigar manufacturers, Toronto, have dissolved; each continues alone.
 Menzies & Copland, general store, Brownsville, have dissolved; W. H. Copland continues.
 Muirhead, Gray & Gartley, oatmeal mills, London, have dissolved; style now Muirhead & Gartley.
 S. H. Jones, real estate, Toronto, has admitted A. E. Minkler into partnership; style now Jones & Minkler.
 The following were burned out at Forest: W. A. Cryslar, grocer; Mrs. Mellick, oysters; Chos. Robinson, Billiards.
 M. & S. A. Neilly, hardware, Bradford, have dissolved; M. Neilly retires, and new firm formed under style of R. & S. A. Neilly.

QUEBEC.

Mrs. P. Rodier, dry goods, has assigned.
 A. Grundler, tailor, Montreal, has assigned.
 Coursol & Bros., bakers, Lachine, have dissolved.
 Gallery Bros., bakers, Montreal, have dissolved.
 G. Champoux & Co., general store, have assigned.
 R. G. Brown, dry goods, Montreal, has assigned.
 A. Dumont, grocer, Montreal, was damaged by fire.
 Mark Kutner, hats and caps, Montreal, has assigned.
 Renaud & Desjardins, grocers, Montreal, have assigned.
 Stephen St. Denis, forwarder, etc., Lachine, have assigned.
 Cote & Meagher, hotelkeeper, Sherbrooke, were burned out.
 A. Beaudry & Co., wholesale jewelers, Montreal, have dissolved.
 Cobban & Co., wholesale mouldings, Montreal, have dissolved.
 Butterfield & Spencer, shoe manufacturers, Montreal, have dissolved.
 J. L. Cassidy & Co., wholesale crockery, Montreal, have dissolved.
 Gillespie, Moffat & Co., wholesale general merchants, Montreal, have dissolved.
 McFarlane, Austin & Robertson, wholesale stationery, Montreal; David McFarlane, jr., admitted partner under same style.

NOVA SCOTIA.

J. F. Smith, grocer, Windsor, has assigned.
 Hisler Bros., hats, etc., Halifax, were burned out.

Thomas Ronan, liquors, Antigonish, is dead.
 John H. Philp, hats, etc., Halifax, has assigned.
 W. & A. Nauffts, fish, etc., Halifax, have assigned.
 Patrick Dowd, wagons, Halifax, was sold out by sheriff.
 T. Hamilton, general store, Wentworth, was burned out.
 David Shephard, general store, Shelburne, has assigned.
 Selig & Jefferson, blacksmiths, Lunenburg, have dissolved.
 Baldwin & Co., crockery, Halifax, had their stock damaged by fire.
 Louis P. LeBlanc & Co., furniture, Pubnico, are selling out by auction.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

S. B. Foster & Son, treks, St. John; Seth R. Foster is dead.
 C. Harper & Co., general store, Bayfield, were burned out.
 Fowler & Brown, commission merchants, Moncton, have dissolved.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

J. Evans & Co., grocers, Charlottetown, were burned out.
 J. McLeod & Co., tailors, Charlottetown, have dissolved.
 John Stumbles, harness, etc., Charlottetown, was burned out.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

J. Udle & Co., painters, etc., St. John, have assigned.

General Notes.

A Guelph paper notes that T. Gowdy & Co., of that place, have recently been shipping quite a number of lawn mowers for Australia.

A Boston firm has made an offer for the whole output of light homespun for summer wear, from the Golden Grove Woollen Mills in New Brunswick.

In the province of Quebec there are no less than 249 tanning and currying establishments, and in Ontario 262, making a total of 511. These manufacture various kinds of black and sole leather, for the different requirements of the leather trade.

The price of pig iron continues steadily to advance, holders having lately advanced their views \$1.50 to \$2 per ton. An enquiry was made from a point west of Toronto for 100 tons of Summerlec, but the lowest price that it could be laid down at point of delivery was \$22.50 for immediate shipment via Portland. Coltness and Summerlec have advanced in Glasgow to 56s.

The past year has been, according to the Baltimore *Manufacturers' Record*, the most remarkable in many respects in the history of the Southern States. The amount of capital including capital stock of incorporated companies, represented by the new manufacturing and mining enterprises organized or chartered in the South during 1886, including the enlargement of old plants and rebuilding of mills, aggregated \$129,226,000, against \$66,812,000 in 1885. The iron interests have attracted the greater share of attention, and some gigantic enterprises have been organized and are now building furnaces.

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Dating Bills Ahead.

To those not directly interested in the trade, the practice of dating bills ahead presents some uncomprehensible aspects. It is probably practiced more in the shoe trade than in other lines, but not exclusively in that line. When understood it is a very simple thing. It may seem on its face to be selling goods on sixty or ninety days time, or for whatever period the date is fixed ahead, and in that view of the case it might seem that one who bought goods in that way was getting an advantage over the buyer who paid spot cash for his goods. But that is not the fact, at least if it happens to be so, it is not so intended by the jobber who sells the goods. Bills are usually dated ahead at the request of the seller and to his advantage and convenience. It is done because a jobber wishes to get the goods out of his house, thus saving insurance, press of work in a busy season, and withal to make sure of a sale when an order has been given. Dating generally applies only to goods that will not be needed for some time to come, and it is better for both the jobber and the buyer that they should be in the hands of the latter, although not especially needed. If all the goods sold were shipped just at the time they were needed, the jobbers would be wholly unable to fill orders. If the goods are not needed, it could not, of course, be expected that the dealer would pay for them; but if a dealer has the money to spare and will not use it otherwise, it would be to his interest to pay for them and settle the matter. If he does so, he will not be any worse off than if he deferred payment to the date of the bill. There is, how-

ever, a wide distinction between dating bills ahead on unsalable goods, and selling goods that are needed, on time. Hence the discounts for cash are not made on bills dated ahead that are given on time sales, when they are cashed. In the first place, prices are made as for net cash, and in the latter they are the time price, which is higher. --Ex.

Seal Fisheries in Alaska.

The fur seal fisheries furnished nearly all the revenue derived from Alaska up to 1834. Seal fishing is prosecuted on several islands, St. Paul and St. George being among the principle ones. There are eighty families residing at St. Paul and twenty-four at St. George. The buildings on the island are tasteful and modern in appearance, and are said to be fully as neat as the average of Eastern villages of that size. Most of these people are natives of the islands. The sealing season furnishes them with occupation a little over half the year. This they find to be sufficient to abundantly supply all their wants for the entire 365 days. For over five months they have but little to do but to go to church which they do frequently during the week the service being in the Russian language. Some of the people, however, sleep through most of the idle season, while others gamble or dissipate. The morals of those communities however, are said to be fully as high, if not higher, than those of more highly civilized people. Another island—St. Matthew—swarms with polar bears, some of which measure eight feet long and weigh 1,200 pounds. Killing these animals for their fur is a source of much profit to the islanders. When the killing sea-

son arrives, the seals are driven to the slaughtering grounds by men, who get between them and the water while they are asleep on the shore. They are driven slowly, because if they become heated their fur is injured. When the slaughtering grounds are reached the men make an indiscriminate attack on the seals with clubs and the work is finished with knives, after which they are skinned. The skin of the fur seals is worth about \$10 each; the hair seals 50 cents. The fur of the sea otters, which animals are very scarce, bring \$50 each. The entire seal catch of these islands each season is now about 100,000.—*St. Louis Globe Democrat.*

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English Capital in American Railways.

Europe now holds about seventy thousand shares of Mexican Central stock, or a little more than 20 per cent. of the whole issue. The talk about Europe having secured control is moonshine. Some day it may be a fact; but what of it? Europe owns a majority of the stock of the stock of the Pennsylvania road, of the Louisville and Nashville, and, it is believed, of the New York Central, not to mention various other railroads in North America. But one and all of them are operated under local laws and by citizens of the United States. English capital is as likely to develop a given section of this country as United States capital. It is more likely to develop Mexico than United States capital, and the development of Mexico will rebound to the advantage of the United States, no matter whose money brings out the development. If the English or Germans want a majority of the stock and bonds of the Mexican Central road, and are willing to pay for them, no sentiment will stand in the way of their acquiring them.—*Journal of Commerce.*

Raw Furs.

Buffalo skins are practically out of the market. Proportionate to their scarcity is the price. A few years ago, good buffalo skins could be bought for five or six dollars. Now they are worth eight or nine dollars for the same quality of skin. There has been only about one thousand skins collected against fifty thousand or sixty thousand a few years ago.

Bear skins have been doing fairly well this year. The extensive use of skins for rugs, which has been in fashion for some time, strengthened the market for bear skins to quite an extent. Bear skins are now worth all the way from five dollars to twelve dollars, as to quality, with cubs selling at prices ranging from two dollars to four dollars, as to both size and quality.

Beavers are in good demand. This skin has been very fashionable for the last three or four seasons and consequently the demand has been much improved. Russia supplies a very superior quality of beaver fur. The demand continues good this year, although perhaps it is not quite up to last year's figures. The price ranges from three dollars to seven dollars, the variance being due to difference in size.

There is not much call for fox skins. Occasionally a few are sold for rugs but the majority go for robes and for dress trimmings. The price varies from seventy-five cents to forty dollars as to size, quality, color and variety.

Otter skins have been receiving a fair share of patronage. A great deal of otter has been used for muffs, collars and dress and coat trimmings. They vary in price from four dollars to six dollars.

Skunks have been in good call. They have been used very extensively for dress trimmings and a great many have been sold. The costliest skins are those that have the least white to them. Some white will be found on every skunk but it is cut out when the skin is dressed. These skins range from ten cents to one dollar, according to quality.—*New York Commercial Bulletin.*

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