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And Dealers in
TINSMITH'S METALS AND SUPPLIES.
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- \$10,000 Lake Winnipeg at \$5 per share.
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R. P. MULLIGAN, WHOLESALE WINE AND SPIRIT Merchant. Liquors and Cigars, all kinds always on hand. Sixth Street, Brandon, Manitoba.

W. B. CANAVAN, BARRISTER, ATTORNEY, CONVEYANCER and Notary Public for Manitoba and Ontario, Portage Avenue, (North Side), near Main Street, Winnipeg.

L. McMEANS, BARRISTER, ATTORNEY, SOLICITOR, &c. Office 515 Main Street, Harris Block, opposite City Hall, Winnipeg.

JOHN K. BRYDON, SOLICITOR, CONVEYANCER, Notary Public, Commissioner in B. R., c. Main Street, Rat Portage, Manitoba.

WADMORE & CO., ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS. Topographical and Patent Draughtsmen. Safe maps made, plans enlarged, etc. Biggs Block Main Street, Winnipeg.

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R. BROWNE & CO., NORTH-WEST TENT FACTOR 25 Bannatyne Street West, Winnipeg, manufacturers of Tents, Awnings, Tarpaullins and Shades of all kinds, on hand or made to order. Blinds and Rollers of all sizes, for Stores and Dwellings—Plain, Figured and Dado.

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FRANK J. APJOHN, SOLICITOR, CONVEYANCER, Notary Public, &c., &c., Real Estate and Mining Agent. Main Street, Rat Portage.

W. C. HARRIS, ARCHITECT, ASSOCIATE ROYAL Canadian Academy of Art. 562 Main Street.

SNOW & CODD, LAND SURVEYORS, CIVIL ENGINEERS and practical draughtsmen. Office in rear of Registry Office, Main Street, Rat Portage.

GEORGE MITCHELL, CONVEYANCER, DRAUGHTSMAN, Mining and Real Estate Agent, Commissioner in B. R., &c., County Court Office, Rat Portage, Man.

C. I. BOUCHETTE, DOMINION LAND SURVEYOR, Civil Engineer, Winnipeg and Dynevor.

WANTED MANAGEMENT OF COAL MINE. HAS had considerable experience in Lancashire, England. Good references. Address A. S., THE COMMERCIAL office, city.

PARTNERSHIP IN ONE OF THE BEST PAYING Businesses in the North west. Moderate Capital required. Address "X," Care of McLeod & Co., 512 Main Street.

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MANUFACTURER OF AND DEALER IN
Fine Furniture, Office Desks, &c., Picture and Mirror Frames, &c.
Factory Corner Princess Street and C. P. R. R.
Warerooms, Main Street Opposite Queen Street.
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COPELAND & GIBBONS,
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Custom House business attended to promptly
All kinds of goods bought and sold on commission.

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SMALL WARES.
AND FANCY GOODS,
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JEWELERY,
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Druggists' Sundries, Etc.
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WHOLESALE ONLY.

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Hardware, Stoves & Tinware

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GALVANIZED IRON CORNICES.
Roofing, Steam Heating, Plumbing and Gas Fitting and General Jobbing promptly attended to.
520 & 522 MAIN STREET, WINNIPEG.

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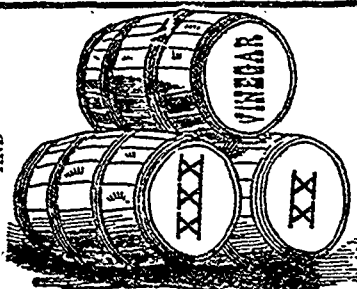
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Boots and Shoes, Trunks and
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Ample experience as to the requirements of Manitoba and the North west Territories; very best connections with Eastern manufacturers, large stock constantly on hand; reasonable prices and liberal terms should commend this firm to the favorable consideration of the present and prospective Retail Merchants of Manitoba and our great North-west.
35 Queen St. East, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

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STOCK LARGE AND WELL ASSORTED.

PRICES LOW TO CASH AND
PROMPT MEN.

PRINCESS ST. - WINNIPEG.



We Have Received Our Direct Importations of
Herrings in brls and ½ brls.
Figs in boxes, ½ boxes and mats:
Boneless fish 40 lb. boxes.
Boneless fish 5 lb. boxes.

WHITE BEANS, DRIED APPLES
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Stock and Arriving.

Turner, MacKeand & Co,

BANNATYNE STREET,

The Commercial

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

PUBLISHED BY STEEN & BOYCE EVERY TUESDAY - \$2.00 PER ANNUM

VOL. 1.

WINNIPEG, MAY 1, 1883.

NO. 31.

The Commercial

A journal devoted to keeping a comprehensive record of the transactions of the Monetary, Mercantile and Manufacturing Interests of Manitoba and the Canadian North-West.

ISSUED EVERY TUESDAY

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WINNIPEG, APRIL 24, 1883.

R. H. JOHNSTON, livery stable keeper, Nelson, has gone out of business.

A. B. HANDSCOMBE, manufacturer of organs, Winnipeg, has assigned in trust.

JAS WHITE, livery stable keeper, Clearwater, is about to give up business.

G. T. LUNAY, hotel keeper, Nelson, has opened a similar house at Pilot Mound.

E. FLOOD & Co., bankers, Prince Albert, contemplate giving up business in that town.

FRANCIS CRAIG, blacksmith, Nelson, is about to give up business and remove from that town.

ALEX. TAIT, livery stable keeper, Princess street, Winnipeg, is about giving up business.

KENEDEY, STROME & Co. stationers, Winnipeg, have sold out their book bindery to Brashop & Co.

J. S. VOOMAN, dealer in groceries, Ruttanville, has sold out his business to W. D. Ruttan.

HURD & BAKER, contractors, Prince Albert,

have dissolved partnership, and each started business alone.

THE plasterers of Winnipeg met last night at the Golden Hotel, and took steps for the formation of a trades' union.

DIER & Co., dealers in groceries, Virde, are in close quarters at present, and are endeavoring to arrange with their creditors.

THE steamer Marquette left the city yesterday to make the pioneer trip of the season up the Assineboine to Fort Ellice.

MCLEAN & WATSON, barristers and attorneys of Prince Albert, have dissolved partnership and each will carry on business alone.

THERE has been a change in the firm of S. A. Smith & Co.' photographers, Minnedosa, the firm name now being Smith & Mensies.

J. ROBINSON, dealer in dry goods, Winnipeg, is admitting D. S. Starr into partnership, and the new firm name will be J. Robinson & Co.

MADIGAN & MANN, contractors, Winnipeg, have dissolved partnership, and the business will be continued in Winnipeg by Luke Madigan.

JOLLY & MONTGOMERY, dealers in groceries, Regina, are dissolving partnership, and the business will be carried on by Montgomery alone.

PARSONS & FERGUSON, wholesale stationers, Winnipeg, have dissolved. Ferguson retires and the business will be continued by S. R. Parsons.

WOODWARD & TILLEY, restaurant keepers, Queen street, Winnipeg, have dissolved partnership, and the business will be continued by Tilley & Co.

THE breaking up of the river has done no damage in Winnipeg so far, with the exception of carrying away some 4,000 logs belonging to J. R. Sutherland, of this city.

MARSH & Co., wholesale paint and oil merchants, are erecting a new warehouse fronting the railway switch on Gomez street, 66x100 feet in area, with two stories and basement.

ANOTHER biscuit factory is now in operation in Winnipeg, carried on by Woods, Ovens & Co., who are making a first-class article in their line, and intend placing their goods upon the

Ontario market as soon as lake navigation opens up.

THE Morris Herald of April 26th says farming is now in full blast with every prospect of a bountiful year, and that some of the Menonite farmers around there have already finished seeding.

PRAIRIE fires have been reported from several of the surrounding districts. In four instances hay stacks were destroyed, but the quantity of that commodity held in the country leaves no fears for any scarcity this season.

THE new officers of the Argyle Gold Mining Co. are A. W. Ross, M. P., President; H. N. Ruttan, Vice President; Mr. Knight, Secretary-Treasurer, and M. A. McLean, Hon. W. N. Hood, A. C. Killam and P. J. Brown Directors.

ON Friday the contract between the city of Winnipeg and the North west Electric Light Company for the lighting of the city by electricity was signed by Mayor McMicken on behalf of the city, and Mr. Munsie on behalf of the Company.

WALLACE, RAMSEY & Co, private bankers, are giving up business in Brandon, and are concentrating their business in Minnedosa. They have issued a circular stating that deposits and notes due held by them, will be transferred to the Merchants Bank.

FERON, SHAW & Co., commission brokers, Winnipeg, have secured the sole agency for Manitoba for J. T. Morton, of London, England's pickles, preserves and other manufactures. This firm are showing great activity, and are fast extending their business over the North-west.

A PORTION of the dam at Morris which was being constructed for a water power, was swept away by the recent floods. The amount of damage will not be very heavy, but the work will be kept back considerably.

FROM Prince Albert we learn that the machinery of Moore & MacDowal's saw mill is being rapidly fitted up, and by the end of the present month that institution will be in full blast. Notwithstanding the great distance from a railway, Prince Albert is making rapid advancement towards an industrial town.

Preservation of Grain.

A correspondent of the North-western Miller, writing on the above subject, gives the following instructions necessary for grain preservation:

"A great deal of attention is given to the construction of granaries for wheat in France, because the preservation of this grain depends in a great measure on the manner in which it is stored.

The French millers are averse to placing grain in store on the ground floor, but prefer large store rooms, well aired, on the second or third floors. The walls should be very thick, and constructed of freestone, and attention should be given to the fact that the walls should not be coated with plaster which will be likely to attract dampness from the atmosphere, peel off and soon become loosened, leaving in its place a very copious white foam or moss, which has been recognized as nitrate of lime. These walls, to be protected from dampness ought to be coated internally with a cement made of two parts of good mortar, two of well baked bricks in powder, and one of white marble pulverized. If the quality of the plaster is good, once laid on, and allowed to dry, stucco can then be applied, the properties of which must be such that the plaster will resist the combined action of dampness and the rigors of a northern climate.

Wheat granaries should be very spacious, and carefully paved with varnished bricks, or if not, with good bricks, well baked and thick, but good; well seasoned boards will be found good flooring. The boards must be well seasoned, so as not to impart an odor to the grain. Each floor ought to be allowed several openings about three inches in diameter to allow the wheat to pass from one story to another."

Some of our North-western farmers during the past winter approached near enough to these institutions to have a rough board shanty in which to store their wheat, in the construction of which ventilation was a point well attended to, as the seams between each two boards were sufficiently wide to allow of a good current of air, and plenty of drifting snow in case of a blizzard. Not one of them ever thought of spoiling grain by plastering the inside of the walls either. Some were more careless, and allowed their wheat to lie out side on a platform of boards, with some straw sprinkled over as a protection from the elements. It may be that an inordinate desire for ventilation prompted the adoption of this latter method. Be that as it may, the conundrum still remains to be unravelled, namely. If wheat preserved in the North-western style made first-class flour, what quality would be produced by adopting the French system? By approaching a little nearer to the latter next season, our farmers might carry out a very profitable experiment, and it is a certainty that millers will not object to their making a fair trial.

Dealing in Futures.

The Chicago Commercial Bulletin of April 17 contains the following report of a case of interest bearing upon deals in the future:

"WASHINGTON, April 16.

"A decision was rendered in the United States Supreme Court in the brokerage case of John H. Rountree, plaintiff in error, against Ernest F. Smith and M. C. Lightner. In error to the Circuit Court of the United States for the Western District of Wisconsin. This was a suit growing out of speculations in domestic produce of the city of Chicago upon 'margins.' It was brought by the firm of Smith & Lightner, brokers, against their customer, John H. Rountree, to recover a balance alleged to be due them on account of purchases and sales of pork, lard, wheat, etc., made by his order. Rountree set up defense that the brokers had not actually bought or sold for him the commodities specified, but had merely speculated in 'options' on his account; that these 'options' were nothing but gambling contracts or bets on the future prices of various articles of produce to which they related; that they were not designed to be actually performed by delivery, but the differences were to be adjusted and payments made and accepted according to the differences between the contract prices and the market price at the date fixed for delivery; and that final these contracts were illegal and void. Plaintiff offered no proof that the particular contracts in controversy were really bets on future prices, but he did offer to show that a very large proportion of all contracts made by members of the Chicago Board of Trade for the sale of produce were settled by payment of differences; that nothing else was expected, and that the proportion of such betting contracts, in which delivery of merchandise was neither expected nor desired, was so great in comparison to bona fide contracts as to justify his inference that the contracts made for him by his brokers were of a gambling kind.

"This Court holds that the evidence of what other people intended by other contracts of similar character, however numerous, is not sufficient of itself to prove that the parties to these contracts intended to violate law, or to justify a jury in making such presumption. It is also to be observed, the court says, that the plaintiffs in this case are not suing on the contracts, but for services performed and money advanced for defendant at his request, and though it is possible that they might under some circumstances be so connected with the immorality of the contract as to be affected by it, they are certainly not in the same position as the party suing for the enforcement of the original agreement.

"The judgment of the Circuit Court in favor of the brokers is affirmed with interest. Opinion by Justice Miller."

According to this decision the flood gates of gambling are once more opened upon the produce business of Chicago. Like the recovering upon a promissory note obtained without consideration, the transfer of a claim to a third and presumably innocent party puts an effectual block upon the former decisions of the Supreme Court of Illinois, declaring dealing in futures upon the marginal principle gambling. To put the matter in plainer terms, each transaction may be gambling, but the broker, who

acts as stakeholder, must in all cases be absolved. It is doubtful if this principle will work well outside of futures. If two men bet \$1,000 on a horse race, and placed their money in the hands of a third person, they might, according to this decision, be guilty of gambling, but the stakeholder could not be made a party to the transaction. This may be law, but it does not sound like logic, and still less that staple commodity, common sense.

Bolstered Newspapers.

It is astonishing how many of these sheets are published on the continent of America, where the freedom of the press, as alleged by many newspapers, has been run into license. In Europe the unofficial organ is often the mouth-piece of some monarch or head of a ministry, and is used as a medium to in some cases foreshadow the policy of its inspirer, but much oftener to mystify the public as to the probable actions of that individual in the future. On the American continent the newspaper is not so often the mouth-piece of the political leader as of the scheming speculator, although in many cases the politician has some little hold upon a newspaper which assists in blowing his horn. The great journals of the continent, however, have in most cases passed out of the hands of the politicians into those of the monopolist. Even the dispatches which are each day dished up for the daily press by the Associated Press, have to be manipulated by the agents of such men as Jay Gould before they are allowed to be published. The latest alleged transfer of this nature is no less than the Toronto Globe, which, according to some of its contemporaries, is now controlled, body and boots, by the Grand Trunk. This journal has for many years been conducted for purely political party purposes, and has been looked upon as the oracle of the Reform party of the Dominion, a sort of "urn and thummum" for the guidance of all believers in that political faith. From such a standing to the position of defender of railway monopoly, preferential freight rates and all the little crookedness necessary for a railway advocate, the political enthusiast will consider a terrible fall, but the man who looks at matters from a purely commercial standpoint may think totally different on the matter. As a political oracle the Globe has never been a gold mine to its proprietors, for somehow political and financial intetests seldom lead to mutual success in a newspaper. As a railway advocate it will be more intimately connected with institutions run upon plain principles of financial gain, and by the association may in future prove a much more profitable institution to its proprietors than it has in the past.

An agent of the Portage Westbourne & North-western Railway is at present in London, England, we understand, where efforts will be made to float the finances for the extension of that line. Like all other North-western undertakings, the worst opposition it will meet will be the belittling reports of this country which have appeared in the Eastern Canadian press. But the P. W. & N. W. is now in the hands of parties who will push its extension with vigor.

Progressive Influence of Trade Guilds.

In America few outside of the careful students of British history have any idea of what trade guilds or corporations really were, and what power they exercised in the guiding of trade affairs. But there are in this continent a few elderly persons, born across the Atlantic, who remember how these bodies regulated the affairs of commerce and industry in each town or city, and how their officers were considered by the masses of the townspeople personages of no ordinary degree, and entitled to much respect, if not reverence, from their less prominent fellow-citizens. Thus the greatest boast of Baillie Nicol Jarvie was that his father had been a deacon of the corporation of weavers in the city of Glasgow.

The trade guild with its cumbersome machinery of action was, after all, a very useful institution in its day. It gave to the senior members of each branch of trade or industry the power of regulating their own affairs to a great extent, and saved a lot of very troublesome questions from being brought before magistrates, who in by gone days were not, as a rule, men thoroughly versed in trade matters. Thus the hours of labor, the standard of work, and even the diet of artisans and apprentices were subjects upon which the lowest person connected with any trade possessed the power of an appeal to the deacon of the guild, whose judgment upon such questions was the *ipso dixit* of the matter at issue.

The laws and peculiarly quaint arrangements connected with these guilds seem to the advanced trader or manufacturer of the present day not only cumbersome, but ludicrous and even nonsensical in many respects, but it must be borne in mind that these same guilds were the means of nurturing industry and commerce through centuries, when the nobility of the country, in no way interested in such progress, would have trampled them under foot. Many Englishmen look to the "Magna Charta" wrung from King John as the foundation of their liberties, but it can only be accepted as the foundation of liberty for the nobility of the country, who in after years too often carried it into license and tyranny. Every privilege secured by the trade corporations of towns and cities was another move towards the growth of commercial power, and it was a favorable circumstance that the members of the nobility had no desire to hold any sway in the affairs of commerce, but were content to leave the details of such matters to the Commons, who, after profiting thereby, were all the richer game for plunder when opportunity afforded. For a time commerce had to suffer from the plunder of the nobles, but in time its elements became so cemented together that it was dangerous for even a combination of nobles to assail them and in the cementing process nothing had so much influence as the trade guilds. Thus the calling of shopkeeper or tradesman was sneered at by even the servant of the noble; but in time the power of this class became so great that a work of social revolution commenced, and went gradually forward, until in the present day the trade element rules Britain, as it does almost every representative nation in the world, and the

interests of commerce are paramount in the legislative assemblies of every progressive nation. How much of this advanced state of commercial progress we are indebted to the old guilds for, only the careful student of British industrial history can fully comprehend. Like many other institutions they were valuable in their day, and now that the march of progress has left them behind as relics of by-gone ages, we can still look back to them with a certain amount of gratitude for what they accomplished.

Hogs and Pork.

The Cincinnati Price Current of April 20th gives the following table of packing at different points in the United States:

	1883.	1882.
Chicago,	210,000	330,000
Kansas City,	70,088	60,495
Indianapolis,	13,000	26,300
Cincinnati,	18,500	10,050
St. Louis,	38,000	31,000
Milwaukee,	22,600	21,500
Cedar Rapids,	14,861	35,513
Cleveland, O.,	17,936	38,687
Sioux City, Iowa,	7,000	6,795
Ottumwa, Iowa,	5,885	12,277
Marshalltown, Iowa,	2,525	
Oskaloosa, Iowa,		2,200
Saluba, Iowa,		2,800
Atlantic, Iowa,	1,500	1,765
Atchison, Kansas,	1,845	

Total to all points, 445,000 590,000

Commenting upon this statement the Chicago Daily Commercial has the following regarding the hog movement in that city:

Receipts for live hogs for the week were 40,904 head, against 45,139 last week; 130,780 same week in 1882, and 84,159 for same week in 1881. Receipts since March 1, 1883. (Live and Dressed) have been 427,443 head, against 712,798 head same time last year. Shipments of Live for the week were 19,080 head, against 49,684 same week in 1882. Shipments since March 1, 1883 (Live and Dressed) have been 197,441 head, against 333,720 head corresponding time in 1882, leaving over for packing and city consumption since March 1 last 230,002 head, against 379,078 head corresponding time in 1882.

Arrivals of hogs at Chicago continue to fall materially below last year, and considerably below general anticipations. A year ago the present week we received 130,000 hogs, this week about 49,000. Prices now are 35 to 40c per 100 lbs. higher than last year at this time, and apparently every inducement is offered to producers to send their Hogs forward, but they do not come. The quality has averaged very fair, the hogs being generally young but fat, and it is plain that producers are feeding corn freely. We have had a rather unsatisfactory market during the last week. There were more hogs than the shippers wanted, but not enough to warrant packers in attempting to buy every day, so the latter let the former have the market, and the result was a bad break in prices early in the week. Later on, however, under an improvement in prices of provisions and some increase in the hog supply, packers entered the market, and prices reacted, and closed about 5 to 10 cents lower than a week ago. Shippers want were not ar-

gent, as is evidenced by the fact that they took only about 20,000 head this week, against nearly 50,000 the same week last year. For the coming week a slight increase in supplies is generally anticipated, the figure being about 60,000.

American Iron Trade.

In reviewing the annual report of the secretary of the American Iron and Steel Association, Bradstreet's has the following upon the stagnation in that line of business:

Steel rails were the first of all iron and steel products to weaken, and in November and December, 1883, were greatly depressed. The price of steel rails dropped from \$60 per ton in December, 1881, to \$39 last December.

Most of the causes of this have frequently been mentioned heretofore. Over-production, consequent upon the business and speculative boom in the three years preceding 1882, was the leading one. An outcome of this was the shrinkage in the demand for railway material. The requirements for consumption had not grown as rapidly as the means for production. The poor harvests in 1881 added to the depression by increasing the price of food and provisions. It is added that some leading influences which unfavorably affected the iron and steel industries still remain. These are noted in the interruption to railway extension and continued over-production in some lines. Since the adjournment of Congress, however, it is not noticed that consumption is more active. This is due in part to the spring movement of merchandise and cereal products. Competition continues sharp and prices low, from which the consolation is drawn that consumption may be stimulated thereby, as the iron and steel markets favor buyers rather than sellers. It is further stated that "it seems absolutely certain that prices must for some time to come rule extremely low." A further good is believed probable in that new rolling-mills, blast-furnaces and steel works, "which are not needed," will not under the existing situation be erected.

Eggs.

It does seem a high price for eggs in Winnipeg during the past week, namely, 25 cents a dozen, wholesale. A corner may exist in the city, although it is difficult to see how it could, as several dealers reported liberal stocks on hand. In Toronto, at the same time, eggs were abundant at 13 cents, and some quotations of 12 cents were made. The Minneapolis Commercial Bulletin of April 21 says that eggs in that market would be a glut but for the northern demand. Now, as there is no tariff in Canada to protect the industry of the hen, it is difficult to see why it should require 16 cents margin to ship eggs from Minneapolis here, and it is equally hard to account for 12 or 13 cents between this city and Toronto. Now that Easter is gone, let us have some eggs at a reasonable price. They are wanted cheap in the North-west about this time of year, and as they are now 14 cents at Minneapolis, they can be had.

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, MAY 1, 1888

SLAUGHTER SALES.

There are no persons in Winnipeg, we believe, who have any desire to go back to the days when the officers of each trade guild fixed for the season the prices of all goods connected therewith, and dealt out summary justice in the shape of fines upon the trader who had the temerity to sell under the scale of prices fixed. Still, there may be some who would wish that a little of that old system were now put into operation being to check the series of slaughter sales, which are now going on in the city. It is estimated that at present not less than \$250,000 worth of dry goods and at least \$100,000 of other merchandise in the city are being offered for sale at greatly reduced prices. Sales of this class are generally accepted as an evidence of stagnation in trade generally, but this cannot be accepted as an explanation in Winnipeg. Trade cannot be said to be in a stagnant state in the city at present, and some other reason must be assigned. There is no difficulty in discovering a very potent one in the results of the past season's overstocking, and it is not necessary to again refer at length to the extent to which this has gone. The houses who are now driven to the cheap sale for cash, are not those who are in a state of insolvency and grasping at straws, but firms who have, as a rule, secured an extension from their creditors, and have a wide margin of assets over their liabilities, and who now resort to this course to turn as much as possible of their heavy stocks into cash. It is not difficult to see how this must greatly demoralize the retail business of the city for the coming season, and already it is injuriously affecting the wholesale interests also. These houses are not only compelled to make great sacrifices on account of their past indiscretion, but in so doing inflict a great amount of injury upon merchants who, through a period of inflation and excitement have maintained a wise and conservative business policy. Such men must suffer very much, as they must either carry over stocks, which they are perfectly able in the ordinary course of business to handle, or sell at losing prices to compete with their more reckless opponents in trade. The business of a city like Winnipeg on any staple line is neces-

sarily limited, and the quantities of goods of the class above described, when thrown upon an already rather overloaded market, must play havoc with the profits, which are a necessity for commercial success.

There is never any lack of an excuse on the part of firms who follow the suicidal course above described, and among the number put forward are the statements that the banks generally have not stood by the merchants of the city in their time of trial, and that eastern creditors, owing to jealousy of wholesale houses here, have followed a very illiberal policy with retailers here who have gotten into difficulties. In both of these statements there is, no doubt, some truth; but allowing so, they only account for the evil, but do not in the least justify the reckless course, which has produced it. There has been more purchasing abroad and in heavy consignments by retailers in this city than was at all necessary in the past, and it is to be hoped that at least, while the country is carrying the load it now has laid upon it, there will be more purchasing done at home, and in quantities that will not exceed immediate demands. A course like this will assist greatly in pulling through the pressure that must be felt in retail circles for months to come, and in eventually bringing business to a state in which the supply of goods will not be in excess of the probable demands.

There are a few aggravated features about this slaughter sale business now going on, which deserves special notice. One is the fact that even a stock of groceries has been placed upon such a market, for the express purpose evidently of making a big display, as by private sale to some dealer the stock in question would in all probability have realized much better for its owners. Another is the rushing in of bankrupt stocks from other towns in the province, and thus visiting the merchants of this city with the evils arising from the blunders of people in other places. This is only following out the foolish course that many parties in the eastern provinces have adopted in the past, but which has been considerably checked by the loss which has attended numerous shipments during the past year. While, therefore, people in the east have gotten over their folly in this respect, those of other towns around here still hold the idea that at any time Winnipeg can be made a commercial slop-

bucket, if not for the whole Dominion, at least for the North-west.

The cold-blooded reader can look upon this state of the retail trade, and cynically conclude that the public will be the gainers thereby. But it is questionable if the temporary advantages gained from cheap retail purchases, will not be overbalanced by the depressing effect it will have upon the whole business system of the city. The old adage says, "When rogues fall out honest men get their own;" but this is not a case of rogues but fools falling out, and unfortunately their folly brings much mischief to more sensible people.

BOOMS.

The origin of the above word it is a little difficult to trace, but its application to political affairs must, we think, be credited to our neighbors on the south side of the international line. Its coming into common use dates, in all probability from 1879, when the boom of Gen. Grant for the American presidency was inaugurated by his supporters. From the political to the business circle the term has gradually made its way since that year, and it has now become an absolutely necessary portion of modern etymology in speculative circles. Thus wheat, corn, oats, pork and other articles on the produce market have their periodical booms when fancy values are reached, and which are naturally followed by periods of reaction. Stocks are subject to the same influences, and no where under the sun is the significance of the term better understood than in the North-west. Here above all other places the term is meant to convey the idea that purchases of any commodity are being made at fancy prices, and that money is being made fast on account of some local excitement. Naturally where booms run to such extremes their reactions must be proportionately severe, and this is still more so when the boom is connected with purely speculative matters. A time of inflation in mercantile affairs, or over-production in manufactures, will assuredly bring a reaction. But even during the stagnation which such a reaction produces a work of absorption keeps going on, slow though it may be, which will eventually rectify matters and restore business to a solid footing. In a purely speculative boom where funds are buried in non-productive investments, a collapse brings generally a shrinkage without a hope of re-expansion,

and in many cases a total loss of the funds invested. Then, in speculation a boom produces the impression that money can be made rapidly without the combination of labor and capital, while in mercantile or manufacturing booms calculations, no matter how hopelessly sanguine they may be, are based upon an union of these elements of progress. In every industrial country under the sun periods of booms succeeded by stagnation have taken place, and will continue to take place, so long as human nature is prone to be intoxicated with success. Yet where these have been most marked, industrial and commercial progress have been greatest. Depression is only the short prostration which follows the abatement of the fever of inflation, and in which the whole system of commerce and industry is silently although slowly undergoing a process of regeneration as well as recovery, from which in time it comes cleansed of many of its former impurities. Booms in non-productive investments have not this redeeming trait about them, but when they collapse leave no solid foundation on which to base any work of regeneration or reviving. They are then dead to all interests and purposes, and as during life few if any of them had any aim for benefiting mankind, but were without a soul, there is no hope of their resurrection.

IMMIGRATION TO THE NORTH-WEST.

Since the return of Mr. J. H. McTavish, Land Commissioner of the C. P. R., people in this country have gotten a more comprehensive idea of the magnitude of the immigration that will take place from Europe to the North-west during the coming summer, and the thorough system that has been followed out by that gentleman and assistants in Europe to place the advantages of this country before intending emigrants. Now that something like an estimate of the expected immigration can be made, it is only prudence that steps should be taken to give proper attention to the location of the new arrivals, and in some way mitigate the trials which many of these must undergo in their endeavor to seek a home over these North-western prairies. The agents of the C. P. R. and other companies interested in the settling up of this country have only been carrying out the desire of the people here by their work of directing emigrants to our country, and the reception given to such should be both

hearty and encouraging to them. - Such is not always the case with immigrants arriving in this country, as can be seen by reports in some American newspapers. The Chicago Journal of Commerce of April 25, for instance, heralds the arrival of some 650 immigrants from Ireland with the heading, "The First Intallment of Paupers." No such statements about, or feelings regarding immigration to the North-west can afford to be indulged in. Labor is wanted here, even if it is not accompanied by wealth, and the arrival of farmers, mechanics and laborers here are only so many pledges for the rapid development of this country.

There is no doubt but the arrangements made by the Dominion immigration agent at Winnipeg and other points are on a large scale and well calculated for the best interests of immigrants, but last year the Dominion arrangements and the supplementary efforts of the City Council were found insufficient, and with the vast increase of immigration this year they will doubtless be found even more so. This is not a work that should be left entirely to the Dominion Government, the C. P. R. and the City Council. Every organization of citizens, whether for a commercial, social or religious purpose, should contribute its share to the same; and this is specially the case with commercial organizations. All the immigrants arriving in the country are not coming to secure farms, but many are coming to seek labor in connection with commerce or manufactures. There is an opening here for the city Board of Trade to take some action, and even the trades unions of the city which profess to have so much regard for the interests of the laboring classes can in this field prove their usefulness. There is no class of citizens free from responsibility, and it is to be hoped that none will shrink from their duty to accord a hearty welcome to those we have invited to our Land of Promise.

DISAPPOINTED BONIFACE.

There are many classes of business men in Winnipeg who express disappointment at the small proportion of new arrivals who stop over at the city on their way to their new homes in the North-west, and among the number none have more reason to than the hotel keepers of the city. At this season last year Winnipeg hotels were crowded to suffocation, and landlords were making money fast. Some of

the reasons why immigrants this spring make their way westward at once we stated in article in our last issue, one of the most potent being the fact that the new arrivals are nearly all actual settlers seeking farms, and not the speculative class. Another reason for Winnipeg's being slighted is owing to spring being so much earlier this year, and parties wishing to engage in farming operations this season have no time to linger around cities or towns, but are taking advantage of the favorable season to make as early a start as possible.

To the above reasons must be added another, which is not very complimentary to Winnipeg hotel keepers. Numbers of the unsettled class who hung around the city first spring and returned again to the Eastern Provinces, have spread through the latter very damaging reports regarding the extortionate rates charged here for board. Some of these reports are absurd enough to produce only a smile upon the faces of persons acquainted with the actual facts in the case. But absurd though they are, they have the scaring effect, and the officers of the C. P. R. find that in every train load of arrivals there are many, especially among the Canadian element, who are prepared to proceed direct west even by a night freight train, rather than run the risk of being fleeced in this city, as they confidently expect to be if they stop over. Such an impression is altogether erroneous, although during the hotel jam of last spring overcharging no doubt did occur in a few instances. Hotel keepers in the city however, feel the effects of the false impression, and have perhaps only the cynical satisfaction, that those who thus slander them will fare no better, if not worse, at points further west, than they would here. The misapprehension will die away in time, but at present the hotel keepers have just reason for complaint, and the numerous retail merchants dislike to see the flow of incomers go past without making purchases, and all through misrepresentation.

CHARTERS WANTED.

The numbers and variety of charters applied for to the Legislature of Manitoba must strike the stranger, who takes the trouble to inquire into the matter, with the idea that originality of conception is not wanting among the enterprising portion of the people of this Province. In the Manitoba Gazette of

April 7th there are notices of some seventeen applications for charters which are of a most varied description. Projected railways are of course the most numerous, being five in all, and the construction of these projected lines would cost somewhere between \$15,000,000 and \$25,000,000. How much of these would be constructed within five years, should the charters be granted, it would be difficult to say, but, judging from the fact that during the last two years less than one hundred miles of railway have been constructed in the North-west, outside of the great work carried on by the C. P. R. Syndicate, it is not likely that the aggregate length of these five lines would be very great during the time specified. Next in number to the railway charters comes desired powers for city corporations regarding debentures and so forth, which involve somewhere about \$110,000 in their calculations. Mining charters number two, and their combined capital makes the modest sum of \$1,500,000. There are three applications for incorporation of societies, one of which is for the propagation of temperance, from which it may be inferred, an individual may swear off without permission of the Provincial Government on the principle of individual rights, but a combination of persons cannot forsake the flowing bowl without Parliamentary sanction. There is an application for a stock exchange with the very moderate capital of \$10,000, one industrial undertaking with a stock of \$75,000, and only one financial corporation with a capital stock of \$400,000. In all the capital necessary for these seventeen undertakings is somewhere between \$20,000,000 and \$30,000,000. When it is taken into consideration that only \$400,000 of this huge aggregate is for the providing of finances, a calm on-looker is forced to the conclusion that the projectors of these expensive schemes must have great expectations, and a closer inquiry into the list of impecunious followers that some of them have lends a shade of the ludicrous to many of the notices published in the Gazette. A still closer inquiry would no doubt reveal the fact that a considerable proportion of these charters are applied for, not with the intention of making any practical use of them, but for the purpose of peddling them around for what can be made out of them. It is now a notorious

fact that the charter monger is a profession in the North west, and numerous scheming loafers do continue to exist, and in some instances to make money out of such business. At the present time a score of charters can be purchased, and they range in magnitude from power to construct 500 miles of railway to the running of a brick-yard.

Such a state of affairs, while much to be regretted, is difficult to prevent. In a new and undeveloped country like the North-west there must be scarcely any limit to legitimate enterprise, if progress is to be secured. It is easy therefore for schemers to take advantage of such circumstances, and the wonder is how many dupes they can find whose gullability is the only source of profit they have to depend upon. It should be the aim of every capitalist looking for a North-western investment to select one which will tend towards rapid development of the staple resources of the country. Such do not always hold out the halucinating charms of the worthless charter, but they will be found to pay a steady return upon capital when the charter bubble has bursted and left nothing behind.

SOLID INVESTMENTS.

Notwithstanding the great recklessness which has characterized the investments made in many ways in the Canadian North-west, there is, after all, no new country in the world where more safe and solid ones can be made, and even those who were formerly enemies of this country are being forced to admit this fact, and are bearing testimony to their change of opinion by the estimation in which they now hold stocks of North-western companies.

Readers of THE COMMERCIAL, if they have noticed our reports of the Toronto stock market for the past four months, must be struck with how the stock of the North-west Land Company has fared there. When the stock was first placed upon the Toronto and Montreal markets it was eagerly seized by a class of impecunious speculators who thought they saw in it a good commodity for scalping stock in which light margins and a quick turn over was all that was necessary to make a good profit. The light margins they put up, but the quick turn over did not come, and the stock naturally declined until these poverty-stricken sharpers had to let go. Once the stock got into the

hands of men able to hold it, a steady advance set in, and it is now quoted at twice the figures of three months ago. This is all the more noticeable as the stock of this company kept on advancing when that of the best banks in the Dominion were on the decline. A stronger proof than this cannot be had of the value of North-western investments, when their source of profit depends upon the development of the staple resources of the country. The success of the North-west Land Company depends upon the agricultural development of the North-west, and this great country offers many fields for investment equally as sure of giving steady and liberal profit upon capital. The agricultural field is not more promising than the industrial, and in this particular the North-west offers unlimited scope for capital. Outside of the gold mining industry, whose value is now being recognized by distant capitalists, there are unlimited coal fields in the Souris and Saskatchewan valleys which invite the mattock of the miner and the funds of the capitalist to supply an ever increasing market for fuel. There are thousands of square miles of rich timber lands here still untouched and awaiting for the hand of industry to turn them to the comfort of mankind. There are many valuable water powers which can be utilized, and above all an ever increasing production of the finest wheat in the world, for which the country furnishes natural advantages for manufacturing into flour before it is exported to the crowded centers of the east and of Europe. It is in these fields that the Great Canadian North-west offers remunerative investment for capital, and so far as these have been taken advantage of investors have had no reason to complain of the returns received. It is folly to expect that a country like this, which above all others requires patient labor for its development, can offer allurements like those which the three-card monte man places before his intended dupe. But unfortunately such representations have been too frequently made, and the country has now to suffer for the misrepresentation. But to the capitalist who is looking for a field for funds where the returns upon the same will be both liberal and lasting, he cannot select better than in the development of the North-west. No field on the American continent can offer more solid investments.

WINNIPEG MONEY MARKET.

The past week has developed a more active demand for money at the banks, and a feeling of tension if not stringency. In business circles generally money has circulated pretty freely, but there has been an evident husbanding of resources to meet the coming fourth of May. The impression at the banks now is that a pressure caused by loading and not any unsafe state of affairs has caused the increased demand upon their resources. There is no doubt but more funds are now necessary for the conduct of mercantile affairs, than under ordinary circumstances, owing to extra heavy stocks which merchants of all grades are compelled to carry. This with a disposition cast at the headquarters of many of the banks to keep a check upon the North-western supplies must necessarily be felt in this city. There has however been no advance in rates, gilt edge commercial paper being still good at from 9 to 10 per cent. and ordinary at 11 to 12. We hear of very little being done in mortgage loans on landed property, and the transactions carried out during the week have nearly all been at straight 10 per cent. interest.

The fourth will be the testing point, and with that day safely past, money will no doubt be easier in the city.

WINNIPEG WHOLESALE TRADE.

The general report from the wholesale trade of the city for the past week indicates a gradual improvement, although there are a few branches which still complain of a quietness. In most of the staple lines there is a good volume of trade doing, but a feeling of watchfulness pervades almost every branch, and there is an evident intention not to overpush the trade this spring. In fancy lines, while there has been quite an improvement during the week, business is by no means rushing, and in one or two it is actually slow. The report of collections has brightened up very much and is altogether encouraging. A few wholesale men report still quite a proportion of renewals, but the general report is that these are decreasing in number fast, and in a few cases a report of paper almost all attended to by customers during the latter half of April has been received. The situation is altogether much more promising than it was two weeks ago, but there are no evidences that the improvement has as yet produced any recklessness. The opening of river navigation has had something to do with the improvement of the past week, but the principal cause has no doubt been the very favorable weather which has given an early commencement to spring farming operations.

AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY.

The wholesale dealers in this line report heavy demands from their country agencies and customers, while the trade in the city is not extra heavy. Some complain slightly of a scarcity of cars for shipping to western points, but these complaints are few and not grievous. Goods are still arriving from the east and south and will, doubtless keep coming in in a steady stream until May 15, when the new tariff on machinery takes effect. Harvesting machinery

is now being forwarded to country dealers, and the demands for machines and implements for spring work may be said to be over. The report from the trade so far is that the supply this spring has been something in keeping with the demand, and has not fallen so far short as it did last spring.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

The report of the past week from this branch of business is a cheering one. Both country and city demands have been steadily increasing, and there is great activity among wholesalers. There have been several opening orders received from new men in the country, but the trade now doing cannot but be a safe one. Collections are reported much improved during the week.

CLOTHING.

In this business the sorting up orders for spring goods have commenced, but are not as yet very numerous. During the past week travelers have been out with samples of fall goods, but the orders for these have been few and light. Altogether the business done has not been great, but wholesalers are not disappointed, as more or less of a lull is expected about this season. The feeling of confidence which set in with the opening of April has strengthened very much during the past week.

DRY GOODS.

The report from this branch of the trade is anything but satisfactory for the past week, and promises to be much less so for weeks to come. The overstocking of which THE COMMERCIAL has said so much during the past few weeks is now bearing its very worst fruits. Some half a dozen heavy retail stocks in the city are now on sale at ruinously low prices, and this has put quite a damper upon the demand for new goods from wholesalers. The evil has not yet reached its worst, and the trade will be in more or less of a demoralized state for weeks to come. The only bright point to notice is a slight improvement in collections, which is quite general in the city, the requests for renewals being much fewer during the past week than the one previous.

DRUGS AND CHEMICALS.

From this branch of trade there is a moderately good report for the past week. Orders both from city and country have been quite numerous, although not sufficiently so to cause any rush. There is an easier feeling in prices of staple goods, although no marked decline has taken place. Collections are reported fair to good.

FANCY GOODS AND SMALL WARES.

The past week has been rather a quiet one in this trade, although no actual dullness exists. The first demands of the season are past, and it will require settled good weather for at least another week before any further activity will be apparent. The trade of the week has been lighter than that of the previous one, but there has been a marked improvement in collections, scarcely any renewals having been asked for.

FISH AND POULTRY.

In fish the business done during the past week has been about an average in volume, and would have been heavier but for the limited va-

riety, which was confined to white fish and pickerel, the former selling at 8c and the latter at 3c. The stock in the city is daily growing less, and a rise in prices is probable. Oysters are almost out of the market, but a few selects were sold at 60c and some standards at 50c. Findon haddocks are still quoted at 12½c and sell freely. Poultry is about out of the market, not enough having been offered during the week to admit of wholesale quotations.

FRUIT.

The week past has made but little change upon the fruit trade of the city. The demand has not been increased, except for apples, which have been growing scarcer at the same time, and have advanced slightly in price. The lowest quotation toward the close of the week was \$8, while \$8.50 and even \$9 have been asked for prime qualities. Oranges are still plentiful and have sold from \$8 to \$9 a box. Lemons have sold from \$7.50 to \$8. This makes up the variety of green fruit that has been on the market. Figs have not changed, and are quoted in mats at 10c; large boxes, 14c. Raisins sold at \$3.50 for loose Muscatelles, \$5.25 for black crown, and \$8.50 for triple crown. Dried apples are almost out of the market, being very scarce in the city.

FUEL.

There are still no changes in the coal quotations, and the expected taking over of the line to Thunder Bay by the C. P. R. syndicate having been postponed indefinitely, any likely changes are delayed in consequence. Anthracite is still quoted at \$15 and bituminous at \$13.50 and \$14.50. Wood has not changed in price, but will probably be slightly lower within another week, owing to the opening of navigation. The warm weather of the past week has caused a heavy falling off in the demand for all classes of fuel, and trade may be said to have been rather dull.

GROCERIES.

While a heavy routine of business has been doing in this line during the past week, the amount of trade has not been as much as was expected at this season. No doubt securing operations being in full swing lessens the demand from retailers and creates the quietness complained of, but even this staple branch of trade has been injured by the cheap sale business, goods of this class having been sold during the week at a great sacrifice. There have been very few changes in the prices of staple goods. Sugars have been quoted, raw at 9½ to 9¾c; yellows, 9½ to 10½c; granulated, 11c, Paris lumps, 12½c. Coffees have ranged, Rio, 15 to 18c; Java, 22 to 28c. Teas have held steady all week. Country collections are reported improving, while those in the city have not been quite as good.

HARDWARE AND METALS.

There has been decided activity in this business during the past week. In shelf hardware a good trade has been done at country points, while the building prospect in the city has created no small demand there also. The extreme western towns have not contributed so much to the volume of the week's business as the older towns of this Province, and this is especially so in hardware and metals for building

purposes. Among other great demands of the week has been one for shot, over three car loads having been sold during the past ten days. At present there is quite a scarcity in the city. The trade in metals has livened up very much during the week, and houses in that line are rushed. The only change in prices has been an advance of 25c on tin plate, while the competition among English and home manufacturers keeps other goods from advancing. Quotations are as follows: Tin plate, 14x20, \$8.00 to \$8.85; 20x28, \$15.00 to \$15.25; bar iron, \$3.75 to \$4; sheet iron, 5½ to 6c; iron piping, 25 per cent off price list; ingot tin, 32 to 35c; pig lead, 6½ to 7c; galvanized iron, No. 28, 8½ to 9c, according to quality.

LEATHER AND FINDINGS.

In this line of business trade has been in a very satisfactory state during the past week. Sole leather, No. 1 Spanish, 33 to 35c; kips, slaughter, 70 to 75c; B. Z., 85 to 90c; French first choice, \$1.15 to \$1.25; French calf first choice, \$1.40 to \$1.50; wax upper, No. 1, 55c; green, No. 1, 55c; harness leather, 34 to 36c for plump stock. These quotations have not changed during the week.

LUMBER.

In this branch of business matters are in rather a disorganized state. There is a feeling of uneasiness regarding what the freight arrangements from Thunder Bay will produce, and parties who would make contracts for large quantities of stuff are holding off a little for these new rates, which may not be published for many weeks to come. On the other hand some dealers have a heavy stock on hand, and although the demand is heavy, it is not altogether what was expected at this time. There has been considerable cutting done during the past week, and it would now be impossible to give any quotations that could be relied upon. Parties wishing to contract any large quantity of lumber would do well to get figures from the different dealers, as the lumber arrangements which held prices without a change for several months last summer and fall, are evidently bursted now, and the trade is down to state of open and perhaps unhealthy competition.

STATIONERY AND PAPER.

There is no reason for complaint in this line of business during the past week. In stationery business has been steady and active, while the increased demand for building paper and such other staple goods has created extra life. Altogether the report from this line is one of the best in the city for business doing, and collections are stated to be equally good.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

Business is reported rather quiet in these goods, but the trade is in a very healthy condition, so far as safety and confidence are concerned. Quite a quantity of goods have been thrown upon this market from eastern cities, and have found a sacrifice sale. Retailers areas a rule well stocked and cautious about making further purchases. Collections are reported exceptionally good. The following are quotations for staple goods, duty paid: Hennessy's one star, in cases, \$14; V. O., in cases, \$18; Jules Robin, cases, \$10.50; in wood, \$4 per gallon, Imperial

me sure; Pinette, in wood, \$4 per Imperial gallon; Louis Freres, in cases, quarts, \$10; flasks, two dozen in a case, \$11; half flasks, four dozen in a case, \$12; M. Dubois, in wood, \$8.50 per gallon; cases, quarts, \$8; flasks, \$9; half flasks, \$10. Gin, Holland, in wood, \$3 per gallon; red cases, \$11; green cases, \$6; Old Tom gin, Bernard's, in wood, \$3.25 per gallon; Booth's, in wood, \$3.25; Booth's, in cases, quarts, \$8.50; Scotch whisky, Ramsay's in wood, \$4; Stewart's, in cases, quarts, \$8.50; flasks, \$9.50. Irish whisky, John Jameson & Sons, in wood, \$4.50; Bernard's, in cases, quarts, \$8; flasks, \$9.50. Jamaica rum, \$3.50 to \$4 per gallon. Domestic whiskies, Gooderham & Wort's, in wood, \$1.65 per gallon; G. o. p. rectified, in wood, \$3.50; W. F. L. five-year old, \$2.50 per gallon; cases, quarts, \$7.50; flasks, \$8.50.

THE MARKETS.

WINNIPEG

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

The past week has undoubtedly been the quietest in connection with grain affairs that has passed since the crop of 1882 began to move. During the week there has been literally no movement in any class of grain. The millers have on hand a liberal supply of wheat, and as they are only running enough to supply the local trade, they are not reducing it very fast. There has not been a load, so far as can be learned, of street receipts during the week, and by rail the only wheat coming into the city is a straggling car or two of what has been stored for some time at country points. Not a car of wheat has been shipped to eastern points all week, and none are likely to be until seeding operations are about over, or at least much much further advanced than they now are.

In rough grain there is no change in the state of affairs. Only a few cars have reached town during the week, and these have been merely transfers from one storehouse to another. The stock of oats in town is very heavy, and dealers complain that the demand is very light and the storage charges heavy. Altogether the grain trade of the city has passed through the worst week of stagnation that has taken place since last fall.

WHEAT.

The price of wheat under the above circumstances has been nominal, 80c being offered for good hard Fife. As soon as navigation is thoroughly open the movement will no doubt revive and shipments to eastern markets, via Duluth or Prince Arthur's Landing, will commence. An advance in prices may be expected then, if eastern markets hold as they have done during the past two weeks.

OATS.

The price of oats has also been nominal, and dealers are not disposed to buy, even if the grain was to be had. The standing offer of the week has been 40c, and unless the demand becomes much more active than it now is, there is not much chance of an advance.

BARLEY.

This grain is not wanted at present, dealers complaining that nearly all they have bought during the season is yet lying in store unsold, and there is no hope of a local demand. To ship to eastern points as markets there now are, would entail loss. It is impossible therefore to give quotations for the past week. No other grain has so much as been inquired for during the week.

FLOUR.

Mills have been only partially running during the past week, in order to supply the local demand. No shipments have been made to eastern markets during the week, and it is

probable that none will be until lake navigation opens and cheap transportation can be secured. The local demand has continued steady and good during the week, and prices have not changed, quotations being: Patents, \$3 to \$3.20; xxx or strong baker's, \$2.50 to \$2.60; baker's, \$2 to \$2.10; trader's or xx., \$1.50

BEAN.

The demand for this product has been falling steadily off during the week, but prices have not changed from \$11 a ton.

SHORTS.

The stock of this product in the city is quite liberal, while there is very little demand existing. Prices still hold up to \$13 a ton, but with the advance of spring a reduction on this figure is not at all unlikely.

POTATOES.

The scarcity of potatoes mentioned in our last report still continues, and the price has not changed during the past week from \$1 a bushel. With the improved state of roads and open river navigation the local supply will no doubt soon increase and relieve the scarcity.

BUTTER.

There has been practically no change during the past week in the butter market of the city. Prices have held about the same as our last report. Choice dairy has sold from 25 to 27c, with 28c for some gilt-edged lots. Creamery has ranged from 30 to 32c. Poor qualities have been very little in demand and have been offered at from 20 to 22c. The stock of choice dairy in the city is very light, and the quantity in transit from the east is remarkably small. Dealers are holding off as much as possible, and keeping stocks light in anticipation of the new season's goods being on eastern markets in sufficient quantities for shipping.

CHEESE.

Has held steady in price all the week, a good demand existing for prime quality at 16c.

EGGS.

The price of eggs has been held up to 20c during the week, although it has evidently taken some effort to do so. A stray quotation or two of 23c was heard of during the last few days, and a decline in price is unavoidable. With eggs abundant in Toronto at 12 to 13c, it can hardly be expected that present prices will be long maintained here.

HAMS.

There has been no material change in the price of these during the past week. Lots of smoked have sold as a rule at 16c, but with the close of the week quotations of 16½c were beginning to be heard. No green hams are in demand.

BACON.

The demand for this product has held active during the whole week, and prices have given indications of an advance. Dry salt has sold at 14½c, long clear smoked at 15c, and spiced roll at 16 to 16½c, only one or two lots bringing the latter figure.

MESS PORK.

There has been an active demand for this article during the week, and a slight advance in price has taken place. Early in the week \$25.50 was the general quotation, but later \$26 was reached, and this figure is now general. Dealers anticipate an advance at the packing centers, owing to the supply of hogs being far short of that during the early part of 1882. Elsewhere in our columns will be found a table of packing operations at different points in the United States.

CORNER BEEF.

The demand for this article has increased very much during the week, and although the former price of \$18.50 has so far been held to, there is every indication that a slight advance will soon take place, and in fact with the opening of the present week quotations of \$19 are unremored.

MINNEAPOLIS.

The grain markets of the past week have been reasonably steady, although they did not keep advancing as did those of the week previous. There has been quite a firm feeling generally, and in the early days a slight advance on wheat was secured, which, however, was lost again as the week advanced. The local millers have not made any bold appearance yet as buyers, and still maintain a shy course. Markets have held firm, more in sympathy with those of eastern points, and not on account of the heavy sales or demand for grain. Tuesday was a spirited market, and an advance of 3c on wheat was made. Quotations that day were as follows:

WHEAT, No. 1 hard, \$1.12½ to \$1.12¾; No. 1, \$1.09; No. 2 hard, \$1.07 to \$1.07½.

CORN, No. 2, 50c; rejected, 45 to 48c.

OATS, No. 2 white, 41 to 42c; No. 2, 40 to 40½c; rejected, 36 to 39c.

FLOUR, patents, \$6.50 to \$6.90; straights, \$5.50 to \$6.25; clears, \$5.25 to \$5.40.

On Wednesday a firm feeling was still maintained in grain, and a slight advance in price of wheat was made. Reports of a weakness at Chicago had no doubt its effect of checking a further rise. Quotations for the day were:

WHEAT, No. 1 hard, \$1.13; No. 1 \$1.09; No. 2 hard, \$1.08.

CORN, No. 2 49c to 50c; rejected, 45 to 48c.

OATS, No. 2 white, 41 to 42c; No. 2 40 to 40½c; rejected, 36 to 39c.

FLOUR, patents, \$6.50 to \$6.90; straights, \$5.50 to \$6.25; clears, \$5.25 to \$5.40.

On Thursday a much easier feeling pervaded the grain market, and on wheat there was a drop from ½ to 1c. Quotations of the day were as follows:

WHEAT, No. 1 hard, \$1.12½; No. 1, \$1.07 to \$1.08; No. 2 hard, \$1.07 to \$1.08.

CORN, No. 2, 49 to 50c; rejected, 45 to 48c.

OATS, No. 2 white, 41 to 42c; No. 2, 40 to 40½c; rejected, 36 to 39c.

FLOUR, Patents, \$6.50 to \$6.90; straights, \$5.50 to \$6.25; clears, \$5.00 to \$5.40.

On Friday there was very little change in the state of the wheat market, while other grains remained unchanged in prices. The quotations of the day were as follows:

WHEAT, No. 1 hard, \$1.12 to \$1.12½; No. 1, \$1.07 to \$1.07; No. 2 hard \$1.07 to 1.08.

CORN, No. 2, 49 to 50c; rejected, 45 to 48c.

OATS, No. 2 white, 41 to 42c; No. 2, 40 to 40½c; rejected, 36 to 39c.

FLOUR, patents, \$6.50 to \$6.90; straights, \$5.50 to \$6.25; clears, \$5.25 to \$5.40.

On Saturday there was a slightly weaker feeling in wheat, but no decline took place. Buyers were shy, and the transactions of the day were very light. The following were the range of quotations:

WHEAT, No. 1 hard, \$1.12 to \$1.12½; No. 1, \$1.06½ to \$1.08; No. 2 hard, \$1.07 to 1.08.

CORN, No. 2 49 to 50c; rejected, 45 to 48c.

OATS, No. 2 white, 41 to 42c; No. 2, 39½ to 40c; rejected, 36 to 38c.

FLOUR, patents, \$6.50 to \$6.90; straights, \$5.50 to \$6.25; clears, \$5.25 to \$5.40.

CHICAGO.

The grain markets of the past week have been rather uneventful, a fluctuating feeling being felt more or less each day, but not on any with

a wide range. Thus early in the week a firm feeling and a slight advance on wheat took place, which was lost on Wednesday, and so on through the week. While prices have held moderately firm, there has been none of the steady advance which characterized the previous week. Pork and lard have had a similar course, and have fluctuated back and forward each day within a rather confined limit.

Tuesday was one of the firm days of the week, and wheat advanced fully one cent, while both pork and lard showed considerable stiffness. Closing quotations that day were

Wheat,	April,	\$1.11½	May,	\$1.12½
Corn,	"	54½	"	55½
Oats,	"	41	"	41½
Pork,	"	19.35	"	19.35
Lard,	"	11.70	"	11.70

On Wednesday wheat opened very strong, but afterwards weakened and dropped from 1½ to 2c. May pork was slightly higher and lard a shade easier. Closing quotations were:

Wheat,	April,	\$1.10½	May,	\$1.11½
Corn,	"	54½	"	54½
Oats,	"	41½	"	41½
Pork,	"	19.20	"	18.62½
Lard,	"	11.62½	"	11.62½

On Thursday there was a much firmer feeling in wheat, and a recovery of a portion of the previous day's drop was made. Pork was weaker and lard a shade easier. Closing quotations were:

Wheat,	April,	\$1.10½	May,	\$1.11½
Corn,	"	55	"	55½
Oats,	"	40½	"	42½
Pork,	"	19.20	"	19.20
Lard,	"	11.65	"	11.65

On Friday wheat again showed some weakness, but firmed up near the close. Pork eased off somewhat, while lard held steady. Closing quotations were:

Wheat,	April,	\$1.10	May,	\$1.10½
Corn,	"	55	"	55½
Oats,	"	40	"	40½
Pork,	"	19.15	"	19.35
Lard,	"	11.62½	"	11.75

On Saturday wheat was firm and very little changed, while oats eased off slightly. Pork was active but lower, and lard unchanged. Closing quotations were:

Wheat,	April,	\$1.10	May,	\$1.10½
Corn,	"	55	"	55½
Oats,	"	39½	"	41½
Pork,	"	19.30	"	19.42½
Lard,	"	11.60	"	11.75

TORONTO.

STOCKS.

With the tumble which some stocks took with the opening of the past week there was none of the excitement, which might have been expected under the circumstances, and as the week advanced a firmer feeling was general especially with bank stocks. The greater portion of the week has showed a recovery but not a rapid one, and by Wednesday afternoon a quietness had again set in. Closing quotations that day were: Montreal, 199 and 198½; Ontario, 115½ and 115½; Merchants, 125½ and 125½; Toronto, 189½ and 189; Commerce, 131½ and 131½; Imperial, 142½ and 142; Federal, 158½ and 158; Dominion, 198½ and 198½; Standard, 116 and 115½; Hamilton, 115 and 114½; North-west Land 79 and 80.

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

The grain market of the past week has been quite active, and in wheat there has been quite

an advance in prices. The movement has been heavier than for several previous weeks, and the opening of spring traffic arrangements has given quite an impetus to the produce business. Rough grain has not fared so well as wheat, and barley has been steadily weak, and has declined considerably, while the sales have been very light. In provisions there has also been considerable activity. Pork products of every description have held firm in price, and in some instances advances have taken place. Butter is but little changed since our last report, only that the number of new tubs on the market keeps increasing. Eggs have been holding wonderfully well up in price considering the increase in the offerings. Altogether the grain and produce markets of the week have been rather buoyant.

WHEAT

Has held firm generally during the week, with a very marked advance during the early days. At one point No. 2 fall was held at \$1.07 but afterwards weakened and sold at \$1.06. No 3 ranged from \$1.02 to \$1.04, bringing up at \$1.03. No 2 spring sold on Tuesday up to \$1.11 with \$1.11½ asked, and later in the week at \$1.10. No 3 was worth \$1.04. No 1 was not to be had.

OATS.

There has been but little change in oats during the week, and the transactions have not been numerous or heavy. The feeling has been rather easier. Car lots of western in sacks sold at 47c on Tuesday and later on at 46c. Poorer lots in bulk sold at 44 to 44½c.

BARLEY.

The sales of the week have been very light, and lower grades have been almost unsaleable. No 1 has been held at 70c, while No 2 sold down to 67c. Extra No 3 sold at 58 to 60c, and No 3 was offered at 48c without purchasers.

RYE

Has been scarce and firm quotations nominal at 66 to 67c for car lots.

PEAS

Were also scarce and inactive, but held steady at 78c for No 2.

FLOUR.

The advance in prices with which the week opened was retained, and during the latter days a disposition to hold for still higher figures was noticeable. The demand has increased, and holders have gained courage. Superior Extra has ranged between \$4.70 and \$4.80, and Extra from \$4.60 to \$4.65. Even at these advanced figures, holders are in no way keen to sell.

POTATOES.

Have been slightly on the decline. Car lots sold on Tuesday at 65c, but later on at 60c.

MEATS.

Hams have been in active demand during the week, and have advanced in price. Early quotations for car lots of smoked were 13½c, but 13½c and 13½c was reached. Bacon has been equally firm. Long clear in round lots sold at 11½ to 11½c; Cumberland at 10½ to 10½c; spiced rolls have ranged from 12½ to 13c. Mess pork has been rather weak, ranging from \$21.50 to \$22.

EGGS.

The receipts have kept steadily increasing during the week, but prices have held moderately firm. Round lots were quoted at 13c, and some quotations at 13½ were made.

CHEESE

New stock is beginning to come into market, and prime lots were sold during the past week at 14c. Some lots of old are still held at 15 to 15½c.

SUNDRIES.

Oatmeal has grown scarcer and firmer in price. Sales at from \$5.25 to \$5.40. Green hides were in very slow demand during the week. Hops have sold from 85c to \$1.00 in

bales to brewers. Apples have sold, best cooking varieties from \$3 to \$3.50. Dried apples have sold from 10 to 10½c, with a few sales as low as 9½c.

Markets by Telegraph.

Special Despatches to the Commercial:
STOCKS.

TORONTO, April 30.

After an unsettled week stocks to-day closed firm, no doubt on account of the bonus of the Toronto Bank. Closing bids this afternoon were: Montreal, 195½, sales at 195; Toronto, 196; Merchants, 124½; Commerce, 134½, sales at 134½ and 134; Imperial, 144½, sales 144 to 145; Federal, 158, sales 158½; Dominion, 198½; Standard 115½, sales 115½; Hamilton, 114; North-west Land Co. 78½, with sales reported in London at 80.

GRAIN AND PROVISIONS.

TORONTO, April 30.

After a week of unusual activity, produce generally has had a weak fit during the past few days. Flour to-day is much easier. Superior Extra was offered freely at \$4.70 and \$4.72½ for May delivery. Bran is lower, selling to-day at \$14. Oatmeal is scarce and firm, quoted at \$5.25. Wheat to-day was inactive, but No 2 fall sold freely near the close at \$1.02, and was held by some at \$1.01. No 2 Spring was wanted at \$1.07 but held at \$1.10. Oats were steady but not over active. Western were wanted at 46c. Barley was practically out of the market being neither offered nor wanted. No 1 nominal at 70c, No 2 67c, No 3 59c. No 2 peas were held at 80c, with 78c bid. Rye was quiet at 66c. Butter was very quiet business being almost entirely in rolls which sold at 17 to 18c. Eggs were steady and firmer round lots selling at 14c. Meats were active and quite firm. Round lots of Cumberland sold at 10c and Long Clear 11c. Other grades all higher. One car lot of canvassed hams sold at 13½, and one smoked at 13½. Lard was quiet firm and scarce.

MINNEAPOLIS, Monday, April 30.

Markets to-day rather stronger, but no advance in prices. Strong feeling, owing to sympathy with Chicago. Oats advanced one cent, while flour remained unchanged. Quotations were: Wheat, No. 1 hard, \$1.12; No. 1, \$1.08 to \$1.09. Corn, 50c; rejected, 40 to 49c. Oats, No. 2 mixed, 40 to 41c; rejected, 37 to 39c. Flour, patents, \$6.50 to \$6.90; straights, \$5.50 to \$6.25; clears, \$5.25 to \$4.50.

CHICAGO, Monday, April 30.

Considerable activity in wheat to-day, with a slight advance in price. Corn strong and oats unchanged. Pork was firm and slightly higher, and lard was quiet and unchanged. Closing quotations were: Wheat, May, \$1.12, June \$1.14½. Corn, May, 55½, June, 57½. Oats, May, 40½, June, 42½. Pork, May, \$19.47½, June, \$19.67½. Lard, May, \$11.65, June, \$11.80.

MILWAUKEE, Monday, April 30.

Wheat closed firm this afternoon, May, \$1.11½, June, \$1.14.

Crop Prospects.

The absence of rain for the past two weeks has prevented any floods from occurring, and that has naturally assisted in procuring an early seeding time. It is safe to say that in the older settled districts of the province over one third of the acreage for the season is sowed, while in newer localities operations are not quite so far advanced. Could another ten days of dry weather be had, seeding would be practically over. From Brandon district comes the report

of two parties who on Saturday night had 150 acres each seeded, and there are numerous such instances all over the province.

Visible Supply of Grain.

The following table of figures, showing the stock of wheat and oats in store at different points on this Continent, on April 14th, we take from the Chicago Daily Commerce Bulletin of April 32d:

	Wheat.	Oats,
	bu.	bu.
In store at—		
New York,	4,176,513	902,076
“ do.
Albany,	35,000	53,000
Buffalo,	571,734	29,504
Chicago,	6,075,065	1,520,983
“ afloat,	713,363	102,000
Milwaukee,	1,250,742	928
Duluth,	1,377,753
Toledo,	2,522,433	7,150
Detroit,	1,502,176	20,108
“ afloat,	178,938
Oswego,	15,000	1,509
St. Louis,	724,841	112,859
Cincinnati,	32,000	33,738
Boston,	115,661	144,178
Toronto,	525,954	200
Montreal,	217,084	97,589
Philadelphia,	457,551	104,078
Peora,	4,546	127,195
Indianapolis,	291,100	50,200
Kansas City,	109,873	7,993
Baltimore,	573,474
Down Miss,	9,146
On Rail,	237,570	549,379
Total,	21,708,330	3,873,804

The Wheat and Corn Situation.

Under the above heading a report signed by Denison B. Smith, Secretary of the Toledo Produce Exchange, appears in the Montreal Gazette of April 26th, from which we extract the following:

“As we have heretofore stated in these columns, we desire to avoid giving publicity to premature and exciting reports of the growing wheat. Indications of deficient harvests always excite great interests, and frequently alarm, and while we feel pledged to a reasonable course, we intend to keep abreast of the current news on this interesting topic. The reports concerning the growing wheat on low and wet lands in Michigan are very unfavorable. The same conditions exist in Indiana and Illinois. There is some complaint of late in Missouri which is not fully authenticated. Ohio prospects are very unpromising, and we feel very confident, and largely from our own observation, that the yield in this State cannot result in more than a two-thirds crop. There is a good deal of sensational writing on this subject, and statements are printed which state too much. California is included in the general statement of destruction by a Milwaukee man, and more wheat will likely be produced there than ever before. It is yet too early for positive conclusions concerning any of the States mentioned. A week or ten days may bring more cheering prospects, but it is not too early for great apprehension, which we sincerely hope may be allayed by succeeding events.

Whatever result these reports may produce upon prices of what wheat remains of last crop, is of little import in contrast with the

advantages to all interests of a full average production. Conservative men argue that until present stocks begin to be in better consumptive demand short crop reports should have but little effect, but if the public judgment settles down upon a considerable deficiency in the coming crop, the load of old wheat will soon become lighter to carry. Our harvest is likely to be a month later than usual. English and French production must inevitably be largely deficient. The movement from farmers' hands has already decreased largely, and will continue to shrink so long as the future yield is unsettled, and especially if present uncertainty results in positive loss.”

Firm Markets.

The past two weeks have developed a firm feeling and general advance in wheat, which has astonished many people of a bearish turn of mind. The general expectation was that with the closing of April a rapid decline in prices would take place. On the contrary, in Chicago and Milwaukee, as soon as the 15th passed and terror of delivery with winter storage charges attached were gone, a steady advance in prices took place, and although a powerful element struggled to break the market in Chicago, a still more powerful element carried it away beyond their reach and forced prices upwards. Some idea of the strength of combination required to carry the market in this manner may be had from the quantity of wheat which could be thrown upon the same, namely somewhere near to 20,000,000 bushels, nearly all of which could be thrown upon the bull party in case of a powerful and well organized effort to break the market. There can be no doubt, but that there is some heavy carrying work being done at present, and many a holder now wishes for a series of frosts and thaws to kill winter, or a series of cyclones to destroy spring wheat. Every report of damage to crop is now carefully circulated to help the bull movement. The present prices cannot be maintained upon any present home or foreign demand, and some outside influences are necessary to hold up figures, until the manipulators get time to unload in safety.

Mr. F. W. Cusack has been appointed General Agent representing the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha, and Chicago and North-western Railway Companies in Manitoba and North-west Territory, succeeding C. N. Bell, who has resigned, with office at 517 Main Street, opposite City Hall, Winnipeg, appointment to take effect May 1st, 1883.

The firm of James Bissett & Son, importers of teas who have located in the Gerrie Block, are now perfecting their arrangements for a system of direct importation from China to Winnipeg. Mr. Jas. Bissett is at present at Shanghai where he is purchasing moderately until July when the new season's tea will be available, and he will secure a heavy stock suitable for the North-western market.

There are still no arrangements completed between the C. P. R. syndicate and Manning, McDonald & Co. regarding the taking over of the line from Rat Portage to Thunder Bay. Parties intending to import from eastern points are getting uneasy to know how freights will be affected when the C. P. R. open the road for regular traffic.

RAT PORTAGE.

J. Philbin has opened up a bakery on Main street in the two story building recently erected by Dr. Hanson.

The building for Adamson & Co's. bank is being hurried forward and will be ready for occupancy in about a week.

Immediately after the opening of navigation business is expected to stir up, and lively times are looked for during the coming summer.

Andrew Alexander is having a two story building erected on Main street near the Post Office, a portion of which he will occupy as a millinery store.

Business is a little quiet in town at present. Lumbering camps are all broken up for the season, and navigation on the lake not being open yet, trade is naturally dull.

A Winnipegger named White is erecting a two story building near the Post Office, the ground floor of which he intends to fill with a stock of clothing and gents' furnishings.

Hodder, Edwards & Co., a Winnipeg firm, have opened a general grocery and wine and liquor business on Main street, and have every prospect of doing a good business.

The machinery is now all into the Rainy Lake Lumber Company's mills, and cutting will commence early in May. The frame work of the Winnipeg Lumber Company's mills has been erected, and the work of construction is being rapidly pushed forward.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

T. L. Johnston, dealer in boots and shoes, has gone out of business.

R. E. Crowell, restaurant keeper, is giving up business here, and is going to Regina.

J. B. Pewtrees & Co., dealers in stationery and fancy goods, are retiring from business.

C. C. Woodside, painter, is about to give up here, and move to Prince Arthur's Landing.

There have been a number of business changes in the town lately, and more are likely to take place.

H. J. Woodside, jeweler, has opened a branch store at Carberry, and is putting in a stock of goods there.

James J. White, of the Queen's Hotel, is going out of business, and will be succeeded by Henry Grannis.

J. E. Wright, dealer in drugs, has been closed up by his creditors, and makes one more to the number of unfortunates in this place.

R. Adamson & Co., bankers, of Winnipeg, are closing up their branch house in this town, and are, it is understood, opening at Rat Portage.

The breaking up of the ice on the Assiniboine has been accompanied this spring by no disasters or dangerous floods, and the water is fast falling.

EMERSON.

M. F. Conway, hotel keeper at West Lynne, has closed up his house.

No grain or produce has been coming to town

for the past week, and no markets can be given.

There have been no business changes in Emerson, but some have taken place in West Lynne.

Hyman & Co., wholesale liquor dealers, West Lynne, have dissolved partnership, and the business will be continued by Jacob Hyman.

Business has not been very good in town during this week, but no business mishaps have taken place, and it is now thought that all the shakely business firms are weeded out.

The excitement about the rising of the Red River at this point has all subsided, and people are once more down to attending to their own affairs. The arrival of the steamer H. W. Alsop on Sunday evening last put an end to all fears about the bridge, which is still standing, although the ice breaker in front of the center pier is gone. For some days the river has been going slowly down, and all danger it now over.

Payment of Notes.

Joseph Stovel, merchant tailor of this city, has laid before us the following case, which does seem a hardship which might easily have been avoided. On Wednesday last Mr. S. had a note falling due, and payable at the bank of Montreal. On the forenoon of that day he secured from his own bankers a certified check for the amount of the note, and called at the Bank of Montreal for the latter. On finding the note had not been presented there, he made a deposit of the amount, marking on the deposit slip that it should be applied in payment of the note falling due that day. This he did at the suggestion of the manager of the Bank of Montreal, and went about his business perfectly confident that his note would be protected. Next day he was astonished on receiving a notice of the protest of his note at the Federal Bank, Winnipeg. On inquiry at this institution they positively asserted that the note had been presented for payment at the Bank of Montreal, and the answer, "no funds," received, while at the Bank of Montreal just as positive assertions were made that the note never had been presented there. In the high-toned circle of chartered bank managers, tellers, clerks and other financial animacule we suppose this whole affair will be explained with the statement that some one is mistaken. In some circles it would receive the lucid explanation that some one lied. But this is only one of the many similar instances which could be cited. It is nothing uncommon to find business men in this city plunging out and in of banks, with the cash in their possession, to pay a note, which on its face, states where it is to be paid, and not being able to find the note, and we could furnish a number of instances where the note has gone to protest under such circumstances. It Mr. Stovel's case the carelessness or blundering of some one connected with either of the two banks above mentioned has cost him the notary's fees, and places him in a false position in the eyes of the commercial public.

Grain in the North-west.

It is a general impression among a certain class in the cities and towns of this Province that only a small proportion of the crop of 1882

has come to market, and that a heavy surplus still remains in the hands of the farmers, and is held for higher figures. The opinion is very strongly held by a number of retail merchants, whose outstanding debts are scattered over the prairies, and who hang to the opinion as a kind of hazy security that these will be paid ere long. There certainly is a considerable portion of the crop of last year left in the hands of the farmers, but it is to be feared not so much as the class of merchants above referred to calculate upon. So far as oats are concerned, the quantity held over is no doubt considerable. For several years back oats have risen to from 60 to 75 cents a bushel after the opening of spring, and a great many of the farmers who were able to do so, have held over in the hope of securing these advanced figures once more. The average price of oats in Winnipeg during the past winter has been below 50 cents, and for a large portion of the season 45 cents was the highest figure paid. Temptation to sell has therefore not as yet been placed before the farmers who are holding, and it remains to be seen if it will before the crop of the present season is harvested and threshed. There is no reason to believe, however, that the quantity of wheat still held back from market is proportionately anything like as heavy as that of oats, and so far as reliable reports can be obtained, they go to show that not only is the amount of wheat still in the hands of North-western farmers small, but a very heavy share of it is more or less damaged, and will be unfit for milling purposes. There is nothing to be gained by holding to the belief that the grain held back is greater in quantity than it really is, and the sooner people get down to a reconciliation with the facts of the situation, the better it will be for all concerned. The past winter has been one of too sanguine calculations in the North-west, and in the future it will be well to look at matters in their hardest light. By making calculations of affairs a shade worse than they really are, people are liable to err upon the safe side, and a little of such calculations will sandwich well with the over-bright hopes which have been too frequently built up only to be torn down again by disappointment.

Wool.

The Boston Journal of Commerce speaks as follows of the state of the wool market for the week ending April 20: The past has been the dullest week in the wool market for some time. The sales have been 1,800,000 lbs. The arrivals have been about 1,600,000 lbs., including Montevideo, Australian and English combing and carpet, most of which has gone direct to manufacturers. There has been no change in prices, although the tendency has been to lower rates. Ohio and Pennsylvania fleeces have sold at from 40c for X to 42 to 44c for XX and XXX. and choice Michigan X at 40c, but this is the outside price. Combing and delaine fleeces have sold at 43 to 45c for fine delaine and 42 to 48c for combing. Unwashed wools have been quiet and scarce, with sales mostly of medium grades at 30 to 35c. Spring California has been in fair demand at 19 to 31c, with sales 227,000 lbs. Fall California has been dull and neglected.

BRANDON.

The steamer Alpha will begin running this week, as the ice is well out of the river.

Considerable property changed hands during the past two weeks.

Messrs. Bower, Blackburn, Mundle & Porter intend branching out more extensively in the wholesale business.

H. Crosley is also moving to the center, having taken the store being erected by William Wood on Ninth street.

Mr. E. Hughes has sold his private dwelling on Eighth street and contemplates building a handsome residence shortly.

Coombs & Stewart have purchased the north-east corner of Ninth street and Rosser avenue from J. W. Horne, and will erect a large store at once.

Business promises to improve. At present it is too good for complaint, but the merchants with heavy stocks think they could stand some improvement.

Geo. Ripple & Co's. new store on Rosser avenue is fast approaching completion and will shortly be occupied by that firm; their stock of hardware is one of the largest in the city.

D. Scott & Co's. warehouse and store is finished and they are taking in one of the largest stocks of furniture in the North-west. They intend doing a wholesale and retail business.

Dr. Cornell, one of the proprietors of the Beaubier House, has sold out his interest and this favorite hotel will now be conducted by Messrs. Beaubier & Ferguson, who intend to run a first-class house.

A grist mill, oat meal mill, elevator and foundry are about to be erected on the Woodworth estate. It is also expected that the court house will be built at the east end of the town, notwithstanding that several more central locations have been offered.

SELKIRK

H. B. Hodgins, chief of police, is starting a livery stable.

The farmers are all busy preparing for a big summer's work.

The weather for the past week has been fine, the roads dry and business good.

Messrs. Robert & Peter George, together with Messrs. Stewart & Smallie, propose starting a stock farm on an extensive scale in the vicinity of Netley Creek, a few miles from Selkirk.

The sub-contractors on the Selkirk Branch commenced work this week, and are making good progress. If we have anything like an average spring they will have the whole road ready for track laying before the first of June.

The river opened up without doing any damage worth mentioning. A large quantity of Hugh Sutherland & Bro's. logs (it is stated 2,000) came down along with the ice, and Mr. James R. Sutherland, who is here looking after them, is talking of building a saw-mill here this summer to manufacture them into lumber.

The steamers Colville and Victoria came out

of their winter quarters Thursday, the first-mentioned bound for Lower Fort Garry and the latter for Winnipeg, to which place she intends making regular trips until navigation opens on Lake Winnipeg, which will be about the first of June. The Victoria returned Friday night from Winnipeg with a large quantity of freight and a number of passengers.

REGINA.

The following list is, by actual count, the correct one of business places in Regina: General stores, 15; hardware stores, 5; drug stores, 3; bakers, 2; lumber yards, 5; chartered banks, 2; private banks, 1; lawyers, 16; doctors, 3; harness makers, 3; hotels, 15 all told; books and stationery stores, 10, besides an endless number of boarding houses, real estate offices, implement agents, blacksmiths, &c., &c. We must not forget the printing office or churches, of which latter we have three.

The all important question of water supply for Regina has been settled. The test well which was put down by Scarth & Co. and the Town Commissioners has proved a grand success. On Tuesday, the 24th, abundance of water was struck at a depth of 97 feet. In a few minutes the water rose 67 feet, and on the following morning the water was near the top. On the following day one of the Winnipeg papers arrived, with the statement that the well was down 200 feet, that over \$1,500 was expended, and no signs of water. When the article was written there might have been little or no signs of water; but the writer must have known that the rest of the report was incorrect. The daily papers of Winnipeg have gone considerably out of their way to malign Regina. They publish false statements about the quality of the land, and quantity of water, and exaggerate other matters; but they have not the manliness to publish corrections sent from here by citizens who have lived here since town was started. This is the most cowardly kind of journalism.

Mining Affairs.

There has been quite a little stir in North-west mining circles during the past week, and interest in the mines of this country is now greater than ever before. The necessarily long term of expectation, during which those interested in mining affairs had to depend upon assay, has come to an end, and actual production has taken the place of assayers' certificates and quartz exhibits. To the Winnipeg Consolidated Gold Mining Company belongs the credit of producing the first gold bricks from the Lake of the Woods district, although we understand that the race between this Company and the Argyle has been a very close one, and has left no room for a handicap.

On Tuesday evening three small gold bricks were received at the office of the Winnipeg Consolidated, which had been forwarded direct from their mine, and great interest was manifested by all connected with mining affairs in their arrival. The three weigh 41 oz., 7 dwts. and 12 gr., and are valued for about \$775. The gold is in quality pretty near that of the Nova Scotia mines, and is considered purer than Cal-

ifornian. From the Secretary of the Company, Mr. J. B. Berryman, we have received the following report of the ratio of production per ton of quartz, namely, \$25.83 secured, and \$16.61 still left in the tailings, all of which can be saved as soon as the Company get their new amalgamating pans at work.

At the office of the Argyle Mining Company we were informed, that within a week a brick will be forthcoming from their mine, if it is possible to cross the lake to Rat Portage. The officers of the company assert that they will show a brick at least twice the value of what has been produced by the Winnipeg Consolidated, and it is a well known fact that the machinery they have at work is by far the best in the Northwest.

From the other mines there is very little news, owing to the state of the lake making communication with the mainland so dangerous. But there is activity in every company, and every effort will now be put forth to prove the mineral wealth of the Lake of the Woods district.

In the city, mining stocks generally have received quite a boom, and holders are beginning to think they own stock that will soon go above par. Sales have not been so numerous as might have been expected, owing to holders being unwilling to sell at present, in the hope of securing higher figures very soon. There can be no doubt but this production of the Winnipeg Consolidated has done much to restore confidence to many who had begun to doubt about the chances of returns from mining investment, and with the opening of lake navigation this confidence will, no doubt, be still more strengthened.

MANITOBA CITY.

An unpleasant rumor has been in circulation for some time about one of our leading grain dealers, which we are glad to be able to say has not a particle of truth for its foundation.

Large quantities of wheat and oats are still being held by farmers throughout this part of the country, many holding for an advance in price. We believe they are making a mistake.

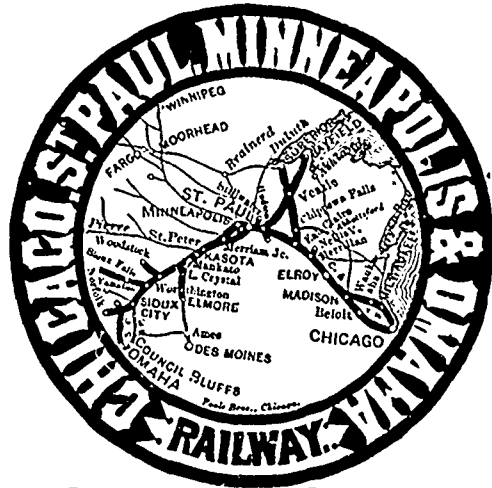
Immigrants who appear to be of the right stamp are arriving almost daily, and proceed from here to various points of Southern Manitoba, a large number going to Rock Lake and Turtle Mountain districts. Some who have taken up and improved their homesteads are now bringing their families to live with them in this land of promise.

Messrs. Fennel & Co. have got their large livery stable in order, and have quite a number of first-class rigs, which are in constant demand. They purpose in a few days placing a stage on the road to run from here to Pilot Mound, Crystal City, Clear Water and other western points. This will be a great convenience to the traveling public.

Competition in the general store business in this place is so great that syrup which is sold in Emerson or Winnipeg at \$4.25 to \$4.50 per keg of five gallons, is sold here for \$4, and many goods are sold equally regardless of profit.

The Finest Route to the Nor'west.

Palace
Dining
Cars.



Magnificent
Sleeping
Cars.



Ontario Metallic Spinning Co.,
WOODSTOCK, ONT.

Manufacturers of the best and cheapest four-pointed
BARBED STEEL WIRE,
made. Over FOUR THOUSAND MILES already put up
on the Canadian Pacific Railway and in the North-west.
For circulars and prices apply to
R. J. SHORT, Agent,
Opp. C. P. R. Freight Sheds, Point Douglas.
P. O. Box 944.

H. R. BANKS & CO.

Manufacturers and Dealers in
**Lumber,
Lath,
Shingles, Etc.**
Planing Mill and Factory,
Garland St., Portage La Prairie.
Branch Yard, Moose Jaw.

City Planing Mill and Factory,

Dufferin St., Portage La Prairie.

**Taylor & Watson,
CONTRACTORS & BUILDERS**

Manufacturers and Dealers in all kinds of
BUILDING MATERIAL.



MAIL CONTRACT.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon, on 18th May, 1883, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails, on a proposed contract for four years, once per week each way, between Birtle and Rosburn, via Toddburn, from the 1st July next.

The conveyance to be made in a suitable vehicle. The Mails to leave Birtle every Wednesday at 6:30 a. m.; arrive at Rosburn at 12:30 p. m. Leave Rosburn same day at 2:30 p. m.; arrive at Birtle at 8:30 p. m. Or, if more suitable to the parties tendering, the arrival and departure may be as follows: Leave Rosburn every Wednesday at 6:30 a. m.; arrive at Birtle at 12:30 p. m. Leave Birtle same day at 1:30 p. m.; and arrive at Rosburn at 7:30 p. m.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen, and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Birtle, Toddburn and Rosburn, or at the office of the subscriber.

W. W. McLEOD,
P. O. Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office,
Winnipeg, 29th March, 1883.

MAIL CONTRACT.

SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon, on 18th May, 1883, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails, on a proposed contract for four years, once per week each way, between La Broquerie and Winnipeg, from the 1st July next.

The conveyance to be made in a suitable vehicle via Clearsprings, St. Anns, Loreita and Prairie Grove.

The Mails to leave Winnipeg every Friday at 8:30 a. m., and arrive at La Broquerie at 7:30 p. m. Leave La Broquerie every Saturday at 6:00 a. m., and arrive at Winnipeg at 5:00 p. m. Or, if more suitable to parties tendering, the arrival and departure may be as follows: Leave La Broquerie every Friday at 6 a. m., and arrive at Winnipeg at 5 p. m. Leave Winnipeg every Saturday at 8:30 a. m., and arrive at La Broquerie at 7:30 p. m.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen, and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of La Broquerie, Clearsprings, St. Anns and Winnipeg.

W. W. McLEOD,
P. O. Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office,
Winnipeg, 29th March, 1883.

MAIL CONTRACT.

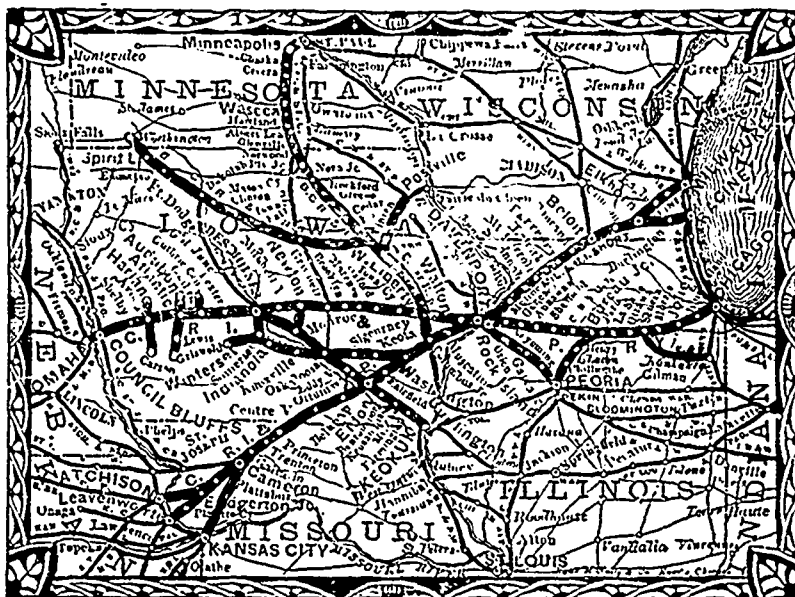
SEALED TENDERS, addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon, on 18th May, 1883, for the conveyance of Her Majesty's Mails, on a proposed contract for four years, six times per week each way between St. Boniface and Winnipeg, from the 1st July next.

The conveyance to be made in a suitable vehicle. The Mails to leave Winnipeg daily, Sunday excepted, at 7 a. m., and arrive at St. Boniface at 7:20 a. m. Leave St. Boniface same days at 6 p. m., and arrive at Winnipeg at 6:20 p. m.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed contract may be seen, and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of St. Boniface and Winnipeg, or at the office of the subscriber.

W. W. McLEOD,
P. O. Inspector.

Post Office Inspector's Office,
Winnipeg, 29th March, 1883.



ALBERT LEA ROUTE.

The favorite route from the North to Chicago and the East. Chicago fast express leaves Minneapolis at 6:30 P. M. daily, arriving at Chicago 3 P. M. next day. This is a solid train, consisting of Pullman Cars, Coaches and Baggage Cars, running through without change. Trains leaving Minneapolis at 3:30 P. M. and 7:55 A. M., connect through to Chicago via the C., R. I. & P. Ry.

J. F. McFARLANE, Gen. Northwestern Agent, WINNIPEG, MAN.

Manitoba Steam Coffee and Spice Mills.

G. N. SCOTT & CO.

IMPORTERS, MANUFACTURERS AND WHOLESALE DEALERS IN

Coffees, Spices

MUSTARDS AND GROCERS SPECIALTIES

Roasting and Grinding for the Trade.

Telephone Communication. P. O. 335 Winnipeg.

JAMES ROBERTSON & CO.

—IMPORTERS OF—

TINSMITHS AND PLUMBERS' SUPPLIES

AND GENERAL

METAL MERCHANTS.

11 McWILLIAM ST., EAST,

WINNIPEG.

JAS. TREES, Manager.

WHOLESALE ONLY.

R. JAMES BANNATYNE.

ANDREW STRANGER

BANNATYNE & CO.

(SUCCESSORS TO A. G. B. BANNATYNE)

WHOLESALE GROCERS

AND DEALERS IN

Provisions, Wines & Liquors.

383 MAIN STREET, WINNIPEG, MAN.

BALFOUR & FRASER

MANUFACTURERS & DEALERS IN ALL KINDS OF

Oak, Dimension Timbers,
Sleigh Material, Bent
Stuff, etc. etc.,**Bridge & Ship Timber
a Specialty.**Bridges Built on short notice. Plans
and estimates furnished on Application
P. O. BOX 32. EMERSON, MAN.**CAUTION.**We beg to call attention to the very close imitation of
our bottled whiskey, which is being shipped to Manitoba
and sold, we have reason to believe, for the original RED
SEAL, which we have registered at Ottawa under the

TRADE MARK OF "W. F. L."

The Red Seal and Label are imitated almost exactly; but
our whiskey bears our own signature on**CORKS, LABELS AND CASES,**besides Dr. Girdwood's certificate attached to every bot-
tle, which we have placed thereon because of the imita-
tions of the other labels.

W. F. LEWIS & CO.

Montreal, April, 1883.

**ON HAND
White Lime, Barley & Potatoes.
FOR SALE LOW.
B. V. MILLIDGE,
324 Main St., Corner Sutherland St., Winnipeg.****STEEL CUSHIONED
BILLIARD TABLES.
SAMUEL MAY,
MANUFACTURER,****W. O. ANDREW**Sole Agent for Manitoba and the North West
Territories.P. O. Box 1012, or Room 32 Club Chambers,
Winnipeg.

W. R. LANGRIDGE.

A. McD. WILSON.

LANGRIDGE & WILSON,**WHOLESALE
DRUGGISTS,
PRINCESS ST.**Between McDermott & Bannatyne,
WINNIPEG.

SEND FOR QUOTATIONS.

F. R. BRYANT & CO.,

(FING STREET, NEAR MARKET.

Importers and Wholesale Dealers in

Butter, Eggs, Apples, Fruit,Potatoes, Vegetables, Poultry, Cranberries,
OYSTERS, ETC., IN SEASON.Our Terms are Cash, or all Bills payable on
Demand. Eggs a Specialty.

P. O. BOX 1118,

WINNIPEG.

CLOVIS LUCIER,

Manufacturer of

Saddlery, Harness, Whips, Curry Combs, Horse
Brushes, Blankets, Belts, Spurs, etc.Collars and Fine Harness a Specialty. Special Attention
to Outfitting Emigrants.

65 Princess Street, facing Market Square, Winnipeg.

LEVETUS, WRIGHT & CO.,

IMPORTERS OF

Jewelry, Watches, Etc.,

WHOLESALE ONLY.

Agents for Montreal Optical Co.

Office and Sample Rooms, Bird Block,
433 Main Street.

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

**Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Omaha, &
North-Western Railways.**

GOING EAST.

Express trains leave Minneapolis at 1.00 p.m. and 8.00
p.m.; and St. Paul, 1.45 p.m. and 8.45 p.m.; arriving in
Chicago at 7.00 a.m. and 2.00 p.m.

COMING WEST.

Express trains leave Chicago at 11.30 a.m. (except Sun-
day) and 9.00 p.m., arriving at St. Paul at 6.15 a.m. and
12.45 p.m., and Minneapolis at 7.00 a.m. and 1.30 p.m.This is the only line between St. Paul and Chicago run-
ning the Pullman Smoking Room Sleepers, a Palace
dining cars.

GOING SOUTHWEST.

The Chicago 5 p.m., and Omaha trains leave St. Paul
for Sioux City, Omaha, Kansas City and San Francisco at
10 a.m. and 3.30 p.m.**St. Paul, Minneapolis & Manitoba.**

SOUTHEASTWARD.

Express leaves St. Vincent at 11.15 p.m. and 11.30 a.m.
arriving at St. Paul at 6.20 p.m. and 8.10 a.m.,
the day following, making close connections with trains
running in all directions.

NORTHEASTWARD.

Express leaves St. Paul at 7.00 p.m. and 3.00 a.m.,
arriving at St. Vincent at 4.20 p.m. and 3.45 a.m. the day
following, making close connections with the Canadian
Pacific.Trains run between St. Paul and Minneapolis almost
every hour.Sleeping cars on all night trains.
Trains run no St. Paul time.**Michigan Central.**

EASTWARD.

Express trains leave Chicago at 6.45 a.m., 9.00 a.m.,
3.30 p.m., 5.15 p.m. and 9.10 p.m.; arriving at Detroit at
6.15 p.m., 6.30 p.m., 11.40 p.m., 4.35 a.m. and 8.00 a.m.All trains make close connection at Detroit with the
Great Western and Canada Southern for points east,
through sleepers being attached.

WESTWARD.

Express Trains leave Detroit at 7.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m.,
3.00 p.m. and 9.50 p.m.; arriving in Chicago at 6.50 p.m.,
7.40 p.m., 7.30 a.m. and 8.00 a.m.These trains take the through sleepers from Great
Western, and Canada Southern, and make close connec-
tion at Chicago with the trains of other roads.

Dining car on trains for Breakfast and supper.

ON THE RAIL

—TO—

**CANADA
Through Elroy and Madison,
Wisconsin.**Passengers have all the luxuries of modern railway
travel: Pullman and Sleeping Cars provided with luxu-
ries; Smoking Rooms. No change of cars for any class
of passengers; quick time and sure connections at St.
Paul and Chicago; and starting from Winnipeg on these
trains you will take your meals between St. Paul and
Chicago in the**FINEST OF DINING CARS.**No hurry, no getting left, as your Dining Hall goes with
the train. Remember these comforts and conveniences
andAsk for Passenger Tickets through Elroy and
Madison.For Map of this route call on any Railroad Agent, or
address T. W. TEASDALE, General Passenger Agent, St.
Paul, Minnesota, who will also send free of charge a copy
of the Picturesque North-west.

T. W. TEASDALE,

G. T. and P. Act.
C. St. P. M. & O. Ry.**WINNIPEG IRON WORKS CO.,**

Cor. of Post Office and Victoria Sts.

Manufacturers of

Shafting, Hangers, Pulleys,
Brass and Iron Castings
OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.Iron Columns, Gratings, Forgings, Light
and Heavy, General Blacksmithing, all
kinds of Iron Work, Millwrighting, etc.
Our Shops have been fitted up with the LATEST
IMPROVED MACHINERY and satisfaction
guaranteed in all kinds of work.

Canadian Pacific R'y Co.

(WESTERN DIVISION)

TRAIN SERVICE.

CHANGE OF TIME

On and after April 1st, 1883, Trains will move as follows:

Going West.		Going East.	
8.15 a.m.	leave Winnipeg arrive	6.05 p.m.	
11.10 "	Portage la Prairie	3.15 "	
2.30 p.m.	Brandon	12.01 "	
4.15 "	Oak Lake	10.20 a.m.	
11.30 "	Broadview	3.30 "	
5.55 a.m.	Regina	8.30 p.m.	
10.55 "	Moos Jaw	4.15 "	
9.00 p.m.	av Swift Current lv	7.00 a.m.	
9.40 a.m.	leave Rat Portage arrive	4.03 p.m.	
1.40 p.m.	Whitemouth	12.20 "	
3.45 "	Selkirk	9.50 a.m.	
4.55 "	arrive Winnipeg leave	3.45 "	
3.25 a.m.	leave Winnipeg arrive	4.10 p.m.	
9.45 "	arrive Stoneville leave	2.30 "	
Daily except Sundays.			

Going South.	Winnipeg	Going North.	Winnipeg
Leave	Arrive	Leave	Arrive
7.35 a.m.	*7.35 p.m.	10.35 a.m.	7.00 p.m.
	Otterburn		
8.50 a.m.	8.50 p.m.	5.20 a.m.	5.50 p.m.
	Emerson.		
10.25 a.m.	10.13 p.m.	4.05 a.m.	4.40 p.m.
Arrive.	St. Vincent.	Leave.	
10.40 a.m.	10.28 p.m.	3.45 a.m.	4.20 p.m.
Daily.			
Daily except Saturdays.			
Daily except Mondays.			

SOUTHWESTERN BRANCH.

Going South.	Winnipeg	8.50 p.m.	Going North.	Winnipeg
Lv 7.50 a.m.	Arrive	4.30 p.m.	Av	
" 11.40 "	Morris	4.45 "	12.25 "	
Ar 1.51 p.m.	Gretna	2.30 "	Lv.	
" 5.00 "	Manitoba City		7.35 a.m.	

Mondays and Thursdays to Gretna and return. Tuesdays and Fridays to Manitoba City and returning from there on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

SPECIAL NOTICE.

Magnificent Palace Sleeping Cars will be run daily between Winnipeg and Regina.

Trains more on Winnipeg time.

JOHN M. EGAN, Gen. Superintendent. W. C. VAN HORNE, Gen. Manager. WM. HARDER, Ass't Traffic Manager.

BISHOP & SHELTON,
Steam Cabinet Works,
WINNIPEG.

We are now prepared to fill all orders entrusted to us with dispatch.

MANUFACTURING A SPECIALTY.

298 MAIN STREET.

A. B. ELFORD. W. C. MANNING.

Elford, Manning & Co.,

Manufacturers Agents and

Commission Merchants.

OFFICE AND WAREHOUSE,

No. 43 King St., Winnipeg Man.

Money Advanced on Consignments.

REPRESENTING

UPPER CANADA FURNITURE CO.

Bowmanville, Ont.

DOMINION ORGAN AND PIANO CO.,

Bowmanville, Ont.

COBOURG MATTING CO., Cobourg, Ont.

H. G. PEDLAR'S TINWARE Oshawa, Ont.

THE WINNIPEG WAREHOUSING COMPANY.

(LIMITED)

Store every description of goods Free or in Bond. Special attention paid to Emigrants effects, trunks, furniture, agricultural implements, &c.

Insurances effected at lowest rates.

Warehouse receipts issued negotiable at all Banking Offices.

All goods shipped to the company or to R. W. FRANCIS & Co.

when in car lots will be delivered at Warehouses (which have a switch of C. P. R. running directly to them) free of charge.

We make a specialty of receiving car lots from the Eastern Provinces consigned to different parties throughout the North-West Territories, passing Custom entry and distributing to their several destinations.

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The Department does not bind itself to accept the lowest or any tender,

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Deputy Minister of the Interior.

FRED. WHITE,
Comptroller, N. W. M. Police.
Ottawa, February 19th, 1883.

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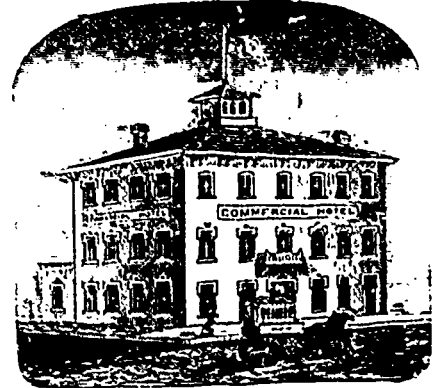
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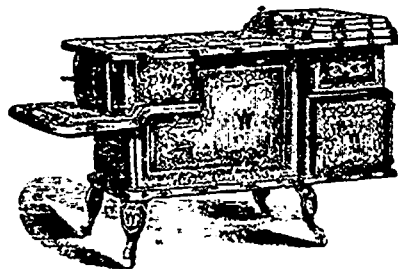
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