SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

LESSON VIII.—FEB. 23, 1908.

Jesus at the Pool of Bethesda.—John 5: 1-18.

Commentary.—I. The sick at Bethesda (vs. 1-4). 1. after these things (R. V.)—The "things" about which John had written in chapter 4—the healing of the nobleman's son. a feast—What feast was this? Ancient writers say the Passover, but recent writers think it must have been the feast of Purim, which was celebrated on the 14th and 15th of Adar (March). Edersheim calls this feast the "unknown feast," and then suggests that it was either the feast of Wood-offering (August) or the feast of Trumpets (September). These various views tend to show the uncertainty.

2. by the sheep gate (R.V.)—From Neh. 3: 1, 32; 12:39 we see that there was a sheep-gate, "so called because the sheep, for sacrifice were driven through it into the city." This gate was near the temple. the Hebrew tongue—Hebrew here means Aramais, the language spoken at the time, not the old Hebrew of the Scriptures.—Cam. Bib. Bethesda—This name does not occur elsewhere. It means "house of mercy." The site is not identified with certainty. The traditional spot is near Castle Antonia. But Dr. Robinson thinks "the fountain of the Virgin," an intermittent spring in the southeast of the city, near the Pool of Siloam, probably covered arcades, colonnades or verandahs, open at one side to the air, but protected against the sun or rain overhead. In a hot country like Palestine such buildings are very necessary.—Ryle.

3. multitude—The sick congregated here in great numbers. waiting, etc. —The last part of verse 3 and all of verse 4 are omitted from the Revised Version. This is wanting in so many of the original manuscripts that our revisers think it is not properly in the text. If John did not write these words they must have meen inserted by copyists as an explanation of v. 7. They would therefore reflect the popular idea of the pool at the time they were inserted, which Dr. Whedon thinks was early in the secondary century. The omission of v. 4 in no way weakens the truths taught in this lesson.

II. An important man healed (vs. 5-9). 5. an infirmity—The original implies rather a loss of power than a positive disease; probably it was a nervous disease of paralytic type.—Abbott. thirty and eight year—the duration of the illness is mentioned, either to show how inveterate and difficult it was to heal, or rather, according to verse 6, to explain the deep compassion with which Jesus was affected on beholding the unhappy man —Godet. From verse 14 we may infer that his disease was the result of the sins of his youth.

6 knew—The word "knew" in the original indicates one of those instantaneous perceptions by which the truth became known to Jesus according as the task of the moment demanded. Verse 14 shows that the whole life of the sufferer is present to the eye of Jesus, as that of the Samaritan woman was in chapter 4.—Godet. saith unto him—Usually Christ waited until he was asked before he relieved the suffering, but in this and a few other cases he healed without being asked. He read the man's past life and present condition of mind, and saw that he was in a state to receive spiritual good from the healing. wilt thou—Why does he ask a question to which the answer was so obvious? Probably in order to rouse the sick man out of his lethargy and despondency. It was the first step toward the mans' having sufficient faith; he must be inspired with some expectation of being cured. —Cam. Bib. This is the same question that Christ is continually asking those who are in sin.

7. No man—He was friendless as well as sick. Is troubled—This spring, probably the Fountain of the Virgin, is intermittent to this day, and various travellers have seen it suddenly rise from five inches to a foot in five minutes.—Pelouet. Whedon thinks that the moving of the waters arose from an underground connection of the pool with the city waterworks. "The occasional and intermittent disturbance of the water is not to be understood as a regular occurrence, but as something sudden and quickly passing away. Hence the man's waiting and complaint."—Myer. Put me into the pool—Literally, "in order to throw" me into the pool; perhaps implying that the gush of water did not last long; and there was no time to be lost in quiet carrying.—Cam. Bib. While I am coming—"Thus picturing the extreme haste and rapidity with which the favorable opportunity was seized. There was a rush and scramble for the one chance, such as we have seen for choice seats in a car or hall."

8. Rise, etc.—Commands like these would test the man's faith and obedience. "As in the case of the paralytic (Mark 2, 9), Christ makes no enquiry as to the man's faith. Christ knew that he had faith; and the man's attempting to rise and carry his bed after thirty-eight years of impoteney was an open confession of faith.—Cam. Bib. Bed—Probably only a mat or rug, still common in the East. And walk—"Jesus speaks here as God. He speaks in no name but His own, and with an authority which belongs to God alone. And what is the consequence? The man became whole immediately; and this sudden restoration to health and strength was an incontestible proof of the omnipotence of Christ."

9. And walked—With the command was given the power of obedience. So the sinner who is bidden to commit himself to Christ need not wait for any compulsion. As he makes the effort he will find divine power within himself. Sabbath—The seventh day of the week, the Jewish Sabbath.

III. Persecution by the Jews (vs. 10-18). 10. The Jews, those opposed to Jesus, perhaps members of the Sanhedrin, told the man that it was "not lawful" for him to carry his bed on the Sabbath. Jeremiah had commanded, "Take heed to yourselves, and bear no burden on the Sabbath day" (16, 21), and the Jews interpreted this as forbidding the carrying of the lightest weight. But Jeremiah's meaning is made clear by Neh. 13, 15: "Treading winepresses on the Sabbath, and bringing in sheaves, and lading asses," etc. "To forbid this man from carrying his bed was like forbidding a modern man to move a campstool or a chair." 11. The man replied, "He that made me whole" told me to carry my bed. This was the same as saying that a man who could perform such a great miracle as healing him had authority to tell him what to do. "But why did our Lord command this man to carry his bed on the Sabbath? 1. He was a poor man, and if he had left his bed he might have lost it. 2. Christ showed by this that He was Lord of the Sabbath (see Matt. 12, 8). 3. This was not contrary to the spirit of the law. 4. It was consistent with the wisdom of Christ to perform his miracles so they might be seen and known by a multitude of people. The healed man carrying his bed on the Sabbath day would call attention to the miracle and cause it to be generally known."—Clarke. It is always right to do good on the Sabbath day.

12. They asked him who the man was that had told him to carry his bed on the Sabbath. "They ignore the miracle and attack the command. They ask not, 'Who cured thee, and therefore must have divine authority?' but, 'Who told thee to break the Sabbath, and therefore could not have it?'"—Cam. Bib. They cared not for knowing what they might admire as a work of mercy, but what they might make the ground of an accusation. How many are like them, always looking out for something with which to find fault.—Ryle. 13. But as Jesus had been in Jerusalem but little, the man who was healed did not know him, and Jesus now had disappeared in the crowd. 14. Soon after this Jesus found the man in the temple and said to him, "Sin no more." This was not an accidental meeting; Jesus had his eye on the man, his work with him was not yet finished. God makes this same demand of every sinner. And yet there are those who insist that it is impossible to live without sin in this life; but if such is the case then Jesus asked this man to do the impossible. Unless he ceased his sinning a worse thing would come upon him. "More sinning after this warning would deserve greater punishment (see Heb. 6: 4-6); and after so long a course of sin, a repetition of the sins would naturally produce greater evils than any he had yet experienced.

15. After this the man told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him whole. "He expected, probably, in the simplicity of his heart, that the name of him whom so many counted as a prophet, if not as the Messiah himself, would have been sufficient to stop the mouths of gainsayers. Had it been in a baser spirit that he went, as Chrysostom ingeniously observes, he would not have gone and told them that it was Jesus who had made him whole, but rather it was Jesus who had bidden him carry his bed."—Trench. "He meant his statement for a justification of Jesus; they used it for his persecution." 16. Then the Jews sought to kill Jesus because he had done those things on the Sabbath day.

17, 18. The discourse which follows (vs. 17-47) is believed to have been delivered before the Sanhedrin. Luther calls this "a sublime apology which makes the matter worse." Jesus refers to God as his Father, and this angers the Jews still more.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.

Faith is the way of man's approach to God; the link uniting the human and the divine. Unbelief shut man out of Eden. Faith brings man back to union with God. A solvent bank honors every draft presented for payment. God honors the faith of every man. "According to your faith," is a true, unfailing axiom.

"Wilt thou be made whole?" (v. 6). This question is put to a poor paralytic, waiting by the troubled waters at the pool of Bethesda. It was probably the time of the feast of Purim, a feast celebrated by works of beneficence and gracious gifts. Christ entered into the spirit of the feast. He, who needed no solicitations to excite his sympathy, offered to the despairing, diseased man, one of life's best gifts—perfect health. Had the man doubted or hesitated, had he said, "I do not know why you should be interested in me;" "I have no right to expect you to do this for me;" "I have done nothing which should give me a claim on you," the Saviour could not have bestowed upon him the boon of health. All physical healing is a type of the spiritual. Sin and sickness are twinborn. Christ died to atone for both. He said to those suffering from sin, "Wilt thou be made whole?"

"I have no man when the water is troubled to put me into the pool" (v. 7.) All earthly hope was gone. Only the divine Son of man could help this hopeless cripple. Such crises come to some lives. Such a crisis came to the railroad evangelist, Jennie Smith. She had been a helpless cripple for sixteen years. Much of the time suffering intense agony. One limb, subject to awful spasms, was confined in a strong box, after unusual suffering, a few friends gathered about her as she lay in her extension chair and she was wonderfully healed, and instantly arose and walked. She says, "My being yet thrills with praise as I think of that hour."

"Rise, take up thy bed and walk," (v. 8). God is glorified by obedience and dishonored by disobedience (Lev. 10. 13; Dan. 5. 23). God commanding the impossible makes it possible. What he bids men to do he empowers them to do. He does not force their will, but He seeks their consent to His will.

"Jesus findeth him in the temple" (v. 14). This man was found in the temple praising God for his wonderful deliverance. To praise is the natural instinct of a redeemed soul. A Hindu missionary was once remonstrating with a native Christian who was singing at the top of his voice. "Sing softly, brother," he said. "Sing softly," was the answer; "is it you, our father, who tells me to sing softly? Did you ever hear us sing the praises of our Hindu gods? how we threw back our heads and shouted? And now do you tell us to whisper the praises of Jesus? No, sir, we cannot. "And sought to slay him" (v. 16.) Adam Clarke says: "How implacable must their malice have been! The spirit of religious persecution has always been dangerous. Every other disposition appears to have its moderator, but this is wholly abandoned to the guidance of Satan, and has for its objects the men who know the truth and who live to the glory of God."

Nell—Why doesn't Maude join your sewing circle? Belle—She wouldn't be of much use. Nell—Can't she sew? Belle—Oh, yes, she can sew, but she has an

SURPRISE TO THE POWERS.

GERMANY BREAKS WITH THEM ON TURKISH QUESTION.

Allies Herself With Turkey on Account of Receiving Railroad Privileges—Austria Also in the Deal—New Grouping of the Powers Needed.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 17.—The Novoe Vremya publishes an article dealing with the breaking up of the concert of powers hitherto engaged in pressing the Porte's consent to the introduction of judical, financial and administrative reforms in Macedonia.

At a conference of the ambassadors in Constantinople this week, says the Novoe Vremya, called for the purpose of affixing ambassadorial signatures to a joint note with reference to judicial reforms which have been the subject of negotiations for the past twelve months Ambassador Marschall Von Bieberstein made the startling announcement that Germany declined to proceed further in company with the powers in this matter. Instead Germany proposed to abandon the joint note, agreeing with Turkish counter proposals, whereby Turks, instead of Europeans, should be appointed inspectors of courts, in return for which the Porte would consent to extend the mandate for European gendarme officers, which expires in March of this year.

The Novoe Vremya interprets this action on the part of Germany to mean that collapse of the Muertzteg programme and states that it was due to secret treaties already concluded between Austria-Hungary, Germany and Turkey, by which Germany obtains long sought concessions and guarantees for the Bagdad Railway, Austria gets the Novipazar Railroad lin. and the exclusive right to build a railway in the Vilayets of Uskup an i Saloniki.

Baron Von Bieberstein's announcement, says the Novoe Vremya, has been communicated to the Home Government and is expected to be the starting point for a new grouping of the powers in the nearest east.

ACTION DISMISSED.

Employment Agent Fails to Recover From Toronto Paper.

Toronto despatch: An action to secure $5,000 damages from J. Ross Robertson, proprietor of the Evening Telegram; Mr. C. O. Knowles, news editor, and Mr. J. Chancellor Boylen, a reporter of the paper, in the July Assizes yesterday, was dismissed by Mr. Justice Mabee on the conclusion of the plaintiff's case. The plaintiff is Mr. D. J. Van Dusen, who runs an employment agency at 11½ Richmond street west, under the name of the New Method Employment Bureau. He alleges that the defendants entered into a conspiracy to injure his business on November 21, 1906.

Boylen and Hall, another reporter, were directed to investigate complaints into the methods employed by Van Dusen in his business. Hall went up to the bureau on November 21 to ask for a position. He paid $1 and was sent to a firm on Wellington street for a bookkeeper's job, and was told by the firm that the position was filled some time before. so Hall returned and reported the fact to Van Dusen. A week later Boylen went to the bureau and asked for a bookkeeper's position. He paid $1 and was sent to the Wellington street firm, where he received the same answer as Hall. Hall then swore out an information charging Van Dusen with fraud.

In non-suiting the plaintiff Mr. Justice Mabee said that the defendant Robertson had only done his duty in investigating the complaints which came into his newspaper office about the methods of the plaintiff, who used his advertising columns.

LEGAL FIGHT.

Canadian Improvement Co. and Lake Superior Co.

New York, Feb. 17.—Vice-Chancellor Garrison, sitting in the Chancery Chambers in Jersey City to-day, began the final hearings upon the application of the Canadian Improvement Company to set aside the transfer of 50,000 shares of the stock of the Lake Superior Corporation, which it owns, to a number of Philadelphia banks and trust companies now holding the stock as collateral for loans.

The primary object of the contention is to retain for the Canadian Improvement Company the voting control of the stock in the Lake Superior Corporation, which was pledged with the Philadelphia banks upon the reorganization of the Lake Superior concern.

AMNESTY TO NAVAL CONVICTS.

How King Manuel Will Initiate His Reign.

Lisbon, Feb. 17.— The council of State has signed a decree granting amnesty to military and naval convicts. It includes the sailors who were deported for mutiny two years ago. The decree begins with King Manuel's words: "I have a great wish to initiate my reign by an act of amnesty, thus using the moderating faculty given to the throne by the constitution." The Council is also discussing general amnesty for political offences.

COMPANY WILL PROVIDE.

Wants of Families of Isle Perrot Victims to be Looked After.

Montreal, Feb. 17.—Despite the terrible loss of life at Isle Perrot, work is going on to-day at the other powder mills, as if nothing had happened. So far the remains of six men have been picked up. The remains of the other three victims are still under a small shed near the works, and now and again a workman finds some ghastly piece of torn flesh, which is added to the other pieces already picked up. The wife of Joseph Royon, one of the victims, has become temporarily insane as a result of the awful tragedy.

It is eminently satisfactory to learn that the company intends to make provision for those families bereft of their bread-winners through the explosion. Mr. J. F. Johnson, superintendent of the Standard Explosive Company, while specifically stating that he was not speaking officially, nevertheless assured the writer that the company would certainly make some provision for the bereaved families.

PLAYING THE GAME.

GERMANY GAINS INFLUENCE OVER PERSIAN NATIVE SCHOOLS.

An Imperial Grant Ordered—Berlin Doctors in Control of Hospital—Railway Concessions Secured.

Berlin, Feb. 12.—A pseclal despatch from Teheran to the Tageblatt announces that the Persian Government has finally been prevailed upon to contribute 50,000 marks yearly for 25 years toward the expenses of the German school in the Persian capital. The school engages itself to find academic teachers, who are to undertake the development of the Persian scholastic system. Thereby Germany secures an influence over Persian youth. The sum dedicated to the above purpose is secured upon the customs receipts.

The importance of the above news is at once evident to anyone having knowledge of Persian politics. Recently Germany obtained a concession through the banker, Herr Guttman, for the establishment of a bank, and likewise, through the ability of Herr Stemrich, a concession for the Teheran-Kirmanshah Railroads. As soon as the existing treaty with Russia, prohibiting the building of railroads until 1910, expires, this will connect Teheran with the Bagdad railroad.

More recently still, Herr Stemrich persuaded the Persian Government to give the direction of the Imperial Hospital into the hands of German doctors.

Germany has been quietly, secretly and swiftly pursuing a sensible, practical course, which all at once places her before the astonished eyes of her Anglo-Russian competitors in a position of superiority, owing to her clever policy.

Every one to-day, if in the least behind the scenes in Teheran, knows that the Persians' terrible financial straits are overwhelming them, and they look to Germany to assist them with a loan which is intended to release them from the grip of the Imperial Bank, a British institution. This matter is receiving most serious consideration in Wilhelm Strasse. That is why the late Minister to Persia, Herr Stemrich, occupies such a high position in the Foreign Office.

STORK APARTMENT HOUSE.

None But Families With Babies Accommodated There.

Boston, Mass., despatch: Boston is to have a "Stork" apartment for the use of families with babies only, and it is to be built through the efforts of Miss Margaret M. Perkins, a philanthropist and teacher of Toronto, who has just returned from a trip abroad, during which she studied "race suicide" conditions in France. Miss Perkins was the only woman saloon passenger on the Cymric which rescued the St. Cuthbert's crew, and her letter authorizing the building of the apartment was written aboard the vessel. It was written to Lawyer John H. Bartlett, of Brockton, Mass., and authorized him to secure an option on a site and to secure designs for an apartment to cost not more than $250,000.

In her letter Miss Perkins says: "I am a philanthropist, and I have a few thousand dollars lying idle at my bankers. I have a number of friends who would be glad to enlist in such a plan, and I think we can easily take care of a quarter million investment. I had thought of New York as a location, but I am impressed with the fact that Boston needs such a place, and I wish you would arrange the details at once."

MINCE PIE FOUND GUILTY.

Made Responsible for as Many Murders as Drink.

New York, Feb. 17.—The Herald has received the following despatch from Washington: Dyspeptics, made so by eating mince pie and drinking ice water, are responsible for as many murders as those who drink to excess, according to Theodore Sutro, President of the New York branch of the German-American Alliance, who declared to the House Committee on the judiciary to-day that drink was not the only intemperance practiced by the American people, and asserted to the clergymen and Woman's Christian Temperance delegates present that prohibition does not prohibit.

He cited as an illustration the House of Representatives itself, where, he said, in days gone by, representatives had been in the habit of going to the restaurant and ordering: "Tea with a big wink of the left eye."

UPHOLDS THE VATICAN.

Italian Government Declines to Support Prof. Schnitzer.

Munich, Feb. 17.—The Government, replying in Parliament to a request to support against the Catholic Church Prof. Schnitzer, of the University of Munich, who was excommunicated a few days ago by the Pope for an article he wrote on the Pope's encyclical on modernism, and whose students were forbidden to attend his lectures, refused to interfere in the matter.

It contended that the position of theological lecturers in the universities of every country was based on an understanding that they faithfully observe the doctrines of their faith.

ANTHRACITE'S ANNIVERSARY.

New York, Feb. 17.—The Tribune has received the following despatch from Wilkesbarre, Pa.:—Judge Jesse Fells' successful burning of anthracite coal in a grate, which took place just one hundred years ago, was celebrated here to-day under the auspices of the Wyoming Valley Historical and Geological Society, and prominent citizens from all over the region were present to pay tribute to Judge Fells as the man who really started the great anthracite coal trade.

MARKET REPORTS

TORONTO MARKETS.

Live Stock.

The total receipts of live stock at the City Market, since Tuesday, as reported by the railways, were 167 carloads, composed of 2,830 cattle, 1,071 hogs, 1,058 sheep and lambs, 220 calves and two horses.

The quality of fat cattle was better; that is, there were more good cattle offered during the last two days than for many weeks, but that is not saying very much, as the season of the year is now at hand when there should be many good cattle and fewer of the half-fat kind.

Exporters—The prices quoted for export steers ranged from $5 to $5.35 per cwt.; export bulls, $4 to $4.50.

Butchers—Prime picked lots of butchers, $4.80 to $5.10; loads of good, $4.50 to $4.75; medium, $4 to $4.40; common, $3.65 to $3.90; cows, $2.50 to $4; canners, $1 to $2.

Feeders and Stockers—This week receipts of cattle were larger and prices got down to a lower basis. Messrs. Murby bought 50 head this week at prices ranging from $3.25 to $3.60 for good 750 to 850-pound steers, and $3.00 to $3.40 for good 650 to 1,000-pound steers.

Milkers and Springers—There was a fair trade for milkers and springers of good quality, but the common, light strippers offered as milkers were slow sale at low prices. About 75 to 100 cows changed hands at $30 to $50 each. One very choice Holstein springer sold at $60.

Veal Calves—The market for veal calves was again strong; that is, for good quality. Prices ranged from $4 to $7 per cwt.

Sheep and Lambs—The market for sheep and lambs, especially lambs, was not as strong, but prices held fairly well for the best. Export ewes, $4 to $4.50, yearling ewes and wethers for butcher purposes, $4.75 to $5 per cwt.; rams and culls, $3.50 to $4 per cwt.; lambs, $5.50 to $6.75 per cwt.

Hogs—Mr. Harris quoted prices unchanged at $5.15 for selects, fed and watered, and $4.90, f.o.b. cars at country points.

Farmers' Markets.

The receipts of grain to-day were moderate, with price unchanged. Wheat steady, 100 bushels of goose selling at 93c. Barley steady, with sales of 300 bushels at 70c. Oats unchanged, 200 bushels selling at 57c.

Hay in limited supply, with prices firmer; half a dozen loads sold at $20 to $22 a ton. Straw is nominal at $15 a ton.

Dressed hogs are in fair supply, with light quoted at $7.25 to $7.50, and heavy at $7.

Wheat, white, bush.	$ 98	$ 0 90
Do., red, bush.	0 98	0 99
Do., spring, bush.	0 95	0 00
Do., goose, bush.	0 93	0 00
Oats, bush.	0 56	0 57
Barley, bush.	0 70	0 72
Rye, bush.	0 84	0 00
Peas, per bush.	0 88	0 00
Hay, timothy, ton.	20 00	22 00
Do., clover, ton.	16 00	0 00
Straw, per ton.	15 00	0 00
Seeds, Alsike, No. 1, bu.	8 50	8 75
Do., No. 2.	7 75	8 25
Do., red clover	10 00	10 25
Dressed hogs.	7 00	7 50
Eggs, new laid, dozen.	0 35	0 40
Do., storage.	0 23	0 26
Butter, dairy.	0 28	0 32
Do., creamery.	0 31	0 34
Geese, dressed, lb.	0 10	0 11
Chickens, per lb.	0 13	0 15
Ducks, dressed, lb.	0 12	0 13
Turkeys, per lb.	0 17	0 20
Apples, per bbl.	1 75	3 00
Potatoes, per bag.	1 00	1 10
Cabbage, per dozen	0 40	0 50
Onions, per bag.	1 00	1 25
Beef, hindquarters.	8 50	10 00
Do., forequarters.	5 50	6 50
Do., choice, carcase.	8 00	8 50
Do., medium, carcase.	6 25	7 00
Mutton, per cwt.	8 00	9 00
Veal, prime, per cwt.	9 00	11 00
Lamb, per cwt	10 00	12 00

Live Poultry, Wholesale.

Turkeys, young	$0 14 to $	....
Turkeys, old	0 12	....
Geese, per lb.	0 10	....
Ducks, per lb.	0 11	....
Chickens, fancy, large	0 11	....
Chickens, medium	0 09	....
Fowl	0 09	....
Squabs, per dozen	2 00	3 00

Sugar Market.

St. Lawrence sugars are quoted as follows: Granulated, $4.50 in barrels, and No. 1 golden, $4.10 in barrels. These prices are for delivery; car lots 5c less.

Winnipeg Wheat Market.

Following are the closing quotations on Winnipeg grain futures to-day:

Wheat—Feb. $1.05 1-2 bid, May $1.09 1-4 bid.

Oats—58 1-2c bid, May 62 1-2c bid.

New York Sugar Market.

Sugar, steady; fair refining, 3.17c; centrifugal, 96 test, 3.67c; molasses sugar, 2.92c; refined, steady.

London.—London cables are steady at 10 1-2 to 12 1-4c per lb., dressed weight; refrigerator beef is quoted at 9 1-2 to 9 3-4c per lb.

Liverpool Apple Market.

Messrs. Woodall & Co. cabled Eben James: "4,600 barrels sold. Market active and dearer by 3s." Total shipments since season opened, 1,970,259; same time, 1906-7, 1,318,836; same time, 1905-6, 2,014,071.

Montreal Markets.

Montreal.—Owing to the continued downward tendency of wheat values at American and Canadian centres, cable advices were again weak and lower, and business in Manitoba spring wheat was dull, there being little or no demand. The local market remains steady under a continued fair demand from all sources. We quote: Eastern Canada No. 2 white oats, 53c; No. 3, 50c; No. 4, 48c; rejected, 47c, and Manitoba rejected, 49 to 49 1-2c per bushel, ex-store.

A steady volume of trade is being done in flour. Supplies are sufficient and prices are firm. Choice spring wheat patents, $6.10; seconds, $5.50; winter wheat patents, $5.75; straight rollers, $5.50; do., in bags, $2.67; extra, $2.95 to $2.10.

The local millfeed market is very active. The demand is strong. Stocks are adequate and prices are unchanged. Manitoba bran, $23 to $25.50; middlings, $27 to $29 per ton, including bags; milled mouille, $28 to $32; and pure grain mouille, $35 to $37 per ton.

Montreal Live Stock.

Montreal.—Offerings on hte East End Cattle Market were more plentiful this morning, as country roads are becoming passable again, and farmers can get their stock to railway. About 600 head of cattle were put up for sale, and fairly good prices were realized, good stock bringing as high as 5 1-4c, medium from 4 1-4 to 4 3-4c, and common cattle from 3 1-2 to 4c. Only 50 sheep and lambs were offered. They sold at 4 to 6 1-4c, according to quality. There was a brisk market for hogs, deliveries totalled 744 and the ruling price was $6.25 per 10 lbs. Calves sold at $3.15 to $8 each, according to size and condition, and about 200 were disposed of.

Bradstreets Trade Review.

Montreal.—The general tone of trade here continues to show improvement as money becomes easier. The wholesale trade is showing a better tone. Retail stocks of winter goods have been moving briskly. Prices all round hold firm. Cotton millers expect the coming season will be a record breaker in the matter of volume of business. They are not making any change in their quotations. Underwear mills are also busy on large orders. There is a quiet tone to the boot and shoe trade.

Toronto.—General business here is fairly steady in tone. Wholesalers state there is considerable caution displayed in the placing of orders for spring goods. There has been a better retail movement in winter dry goods. As regards spring goods, buyers seem to be holding off in anticipation of declines. The volume of business in ready-made clothing continues very light. The hardware and metal business is still on the quiet side, but prices hold steady. Staple lines of groceries are moving well.

Winnipeg.—On all sides business is showing the effect of cold weather. All seasonable lines are moving briskly and fairly good sorting orders are coming forward. The dry goods business has particularly benefited in this regard.

Vancouver and Victoria.—The past week has seen further improvement in general business here. Collections are fairly good. Values of country produce, etc., generally hold firm.

Quebec.—The blizzard of the last week somewhat hampered the movements of travellers, the latter being stalled at many points, owing to snow blockades, and as a result orders have fallen behind during the week.

Hamilton.—Trade here continues to hold a good tone. Manufacturers are busy, and they report the outlook for the coming season as bright. Retail trade is fairly brisk and collections are moderately good.

London.—Most lines of trade are moving fairly well here. Boot and shoe manufactories are busily engaged.

Ottawa.—Wholesale and retail trade continue fairly brisk there.

PURE MILK.

PROVINCIAL BOARD OF HEALTH MAKES STANDARD.

List of the Recommendations Made—Buildings Must Be Clean and Employees Cleanly in Their Habits—Tuberculosis Dealt With—Treatment of Milk.

Toronto, Ont., Feb. 17.—(Special.)—The following recommendations have been made by the Provincial Board of Health to fix a standard for the milk supply of the province. "Milk containing less than thirteen per cent. of total solids of 3 3-4 per cent. must be chemically dry, butter fat must be deemed below the standard required when intended for human consumption. all buildings for stabling cows must have good drainage and no building used for dairy purposes must be within a hundred yards of any marshy or stagnant water, etc. The surroundings of all buildings must be kept clean and even the stable yard must be drained. Stables for cows must be used for no other purposes, not even as storage places. Each cow must be allowed 600 cubic feet of air space and cows are to be kept clean. The report deals somewhat extensively with the interior arrangements of stables, all tending towards cleanliness. The cows from which milk is sold must not include any diseased animals and especially none showing signs of tuberculosis or any relative trouble. The employment of the tuberculine test is recommended. Fodder and grain and water must be especially free from contamination and nothing must be fed the cows which would affect the taste or character of the milk.

Dealing with employees around stables the report is especially specific. Employees must be clean in their habits and free from contagious diseases, even milkers' hands must not come in contact with the milk, and only one pail is allowed each milker." After each cow is milked the milk must be taken to milk house and cooled to a temperature of 55 degrees within two hours. No preservatives or other substance shall be added to the milk and no part of the milk shall be removed. The delivery of milk of such a character must be sufficient cause for its exclusion from the municipality.

The report deals exhaustively with the care of vessels in which milk is kept or carried from place to place even the drivers of wagons must be free from contagious diseases. The collection of empty bottles used in the delivery of milk or milk ticket from any house where contagious diseases exists must be made only after the houses has been fumigated, such bottles sterilized in the inspection of dairies. The employment of the score card system is recommended.

A GREAT WAGON ROAD.

Denver, Feb. 17.—The News to-day says: In return for the millions of dollars paid in taxes by the west for river and harbor improvements in the United States, the business men of four western States, will petition the next Congress to appropriate $1,000,000 for a wagon road 1,000 miles long, to be built from Yellowstone National Park to the Grand Canon of the Colorado River in Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming and Arizona will be asked to join hands in making a campaign for the road.

CASES SETTLED.

When Did York Loan Become Insolvent?

Toronto despatch: Mr. George Kappele, referee in the York Loan case, reserved yesterday afternoon that he is ready to give judgment in four of the classes of shareholders, namely, the juvenile class, those with certificates purporting to carry a first claim on the assets of the company, shareholders who had borrowed from the company on their shares and those who had turned over their stock for insurance policies, pianos and other articles. The decisions in these cases will probably be announced at an early date.

The question of when the York Loan Company legally became insolvent, whether at the time of the winding-up order or previous to that time, will be taken up by counsel within the next few days, and the decision will affect quite a number of the shareholders.

The differences between the York Loan and the National Life, involving a large sum of money, are being considered by the liquidator with a view to adjustment, if possible, without going to court.

Yesterday afternoon Mr. W. M. Douglas, K. C., argued in reply to Mr. W. N. Ferguson, K. C., who represents the class of permanent shareholders, and who contended that the York Loan had not acted legally in issuing the permanent stock, and therefore the holders were not liable for the unpaid portion of the stock. Mr. Douglas argues that the stock, having been issued and accepted was good, and the holders are liable for some $200,000 unpaid on their stock.

FIGHT WITH LORDS

BILLS REJECTED LAST YEAR TO BE RESUBMITTED.

The First Time in History—Never Before Has It Been Done in Life of Single Parliament—Premier Throws Down Gauntlet.

London, Feb. 17.—Prime Minister Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman has thrown down the preliminary challenge in the battle with the House of Lords. He announced in the House of Commons to-day that two Scottish Land Bills, passed by the Lower House last session and rejected by the peers, will be revived and passed through the House of Commons by closure in three days, and will then be sent to the Lords for their reconsideration.

This will be the first time in history that a bill has been resubmitted to the House of Lords within the life of a single Parliament. The Premier admitted that the grounds on which the peers rejected the bills last session, namely, that they only received them 24 hours from prorogation, and therefore had no time to consider them properly, had justification, but he said the present procedure had reference, also, to the resolution adopted by the House of Commons last year, restricting the power of the House of Lords to alter or reject bills, and he insisted that within the limits of a single Parliament the final decision of the House of Commons must prevail.

NORWAY'S INTEGRITY.

Terms of the Treaty of Guarantee Made Public.

Paris, Feb. 17.—The treaty signed recently between France, Great Britain, Germany, Russia and Norway, the object of which is to guarantee the independence and territorial integrity of Norway, was made public to-day. It provides that Norway shall cede to no power any part of her territory, and the signatory powers agree to recognize and respect the integrity of Norway and to act in concert in her support in the event of her being menaced by any power.

The life of the treaty is ten years, but it will remain in force for a second decade if it is not nullified within eight years of its inauguration. The withdrawal of one of the signatory powers does not make it impossible for the others to renew the treaty.

CRUSHED BY FALLING ICE.

Long Expected Accident Beside Barrie Postoffice.

Barrie despatch: At last the long expected has happened, when a citizen, Angus McPherson, was very seriously injured this afternoon by ice falling from the roof of the post office. He was picked up in an unconscious condition and hurried to the hospital, where every effort is being made to revive him.

This building was erected in 1884, and has ever since been a considerable source of anxiety to the local officials. While the crowd was awaiting the removal of Mr. McPherson, another lot of snow came crushing from the roof, but luckily no one was injured.

Mr. McPherson is a Canadian, unmarried, and belongs to Beaverton. He was a foreman in the lumber camps, and had been in town for a couple of weeks at the Vespra House, waiting for the spring work to open in the north. He is not expected to recover.

LOST THEIR LIVES

While Robbing a Slot Meter to Buy Liquor.

Philadelphia, Feb. 17.—Martin Brady and John Bartol were asphyxiated here yesterday while trying to extract money from a gas meter. They were found dead in the cellar of Brady's home. Brady's arms were wrapped around a "quarter-in-the-slot" meter, which had been wrenched from its fastenings. The police believe that the two men tried to extract money with which to buy liquor from the meter and in so doing sacrificed their lives. Physicians said the condition of the bodies indicated that the men had been drinking heavily.

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