

BRANDON.

Arrangements have been made by the Dominion Express Company to bring all bonded goods through to Brandon, thus avoiding the delay that has heretofore arisen owing to parties receiving consignments having to go to Winnipeg to pass them through the customs.

Standard time has not yet been adopted by the city.

A. D. Cooper has reopened his photographic studio in the city.

MINNECOSA.

The opening of the railway to this point has given quite an impetus to business. The first regular freight came in on Friday last.

Considerable quantities of grain are coming in. R. McNeil is buying grain for McMillan Bros., and Mr. Armitage for the Ogilvie Milling Company.

Building operations in Minnedosa this season amounted to over \$90,000.

Arrangements are being made to establish a line of stage between Minnedosa and Russell to connect with the railway.

Major Douglas has a large gang of men at work in the Riding Mountains taking out logs for next season's lumber supply.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

Considerable grain is coming into market and business in the town is generally improved. In fact it has been quite brisk since the sleighing became good. Quotations for grain are: wheat, Red Fyfe, 65c to 72c; other varieties of wheat, 50c to 60c. Barley, 35c to 40c. Oats, 17c.

Alloway & Champion have closed their private banking institution here.

Carey & Co., groceries and liquors, have dissolved. The business will be continued by John O'Reilly.

A good deal of farming lands has changed hands in this district lately. The principal as a rule is from \$12 to \$17 per acre.

The city charter has been completed and application for incorporation will be made at the next meeting of the Legislature.

Edward Manchard has opened a flour and feed store. He has been appointed agent for the London and Ontario Investment Association.

Robert Fletcher has secured a thirteen months' extension of time from his creditors. T. B. Millar is assignee.

Mr. Danskin has sold his butchering business to Mr. Craddock.

The oatmeal mill is now running full blast, and is turning out an excellent quality of grain.

The Good Old Times.

In days gone by when the poet sang of the guileless phase of human life, he was wont to instance the miller as the type of all that was happy, and free from the cares of this wicked world. Seated in the midst of all the beauties of rural felicity, the miller was supposed to live a singular charming life, far apart from the strife and turmoil incidental to the existence of the man who strove in busy towns to gain a living in a more noisy combat. The music of the old mill wheel, jogged onward by a rippling

brook, was the ideal of all that could fill the soul with happiness unalloyed. But what a change has come upon all these scenes. The miller must now be a financier, a merchant, and an expert mechanic. He must figure out the economies of his business within the smallest fraction; he is not the same man he was, aye, fifty years ago. In the days our father boast of, when the miller ground only the produce of the soil in his neighborhood, when the good housewife cared not whether germ or bran were wholly removed from the sweet and nourishing loaf she placed upon the family board, the miller was the son of the soil, like his neighbor, the farmer. But now he is a town manufacturer, counting his profit in a small percentage on a large capital, and because the good old times are no more, because the free and easy style of doing business has passed away, and men devote themselves as assiduously to the attainment of the mighty dollar, and strive for it as fiercely as ancients fought for kingdoms. Civilization has worked wonders; it has joined the far ends of the earth and brought the products of the most distant shores to those who make known their needs, but with all this we can not but admire and extol the men whose wants were so few and so easily satisfied. The greater the refinement and the more scientific the results obtained in all the walks of life, the more stern does the reality of it become.—*Produce Exchange Reporter.*

Gum Arabic.

In Morocco, about the middle of November, a gummy juice exudes spontaneously from the trunk and branches of the acacia. It gradually thickens in the furrow down which it runs, assumes the form of an oval or round drop the size of a pigeon's egg, of different colors, as it comes from the red and white gum trees. About the middle of December the Moors encamp on the border of the forest and the harvest lasts a full month. The gum is then packed in large leather sacks, and transported on the backs of camels and bullocks to the seaports for shipment. This is the gum arabic of commerce.

Absorption of Moisture by Grain.

The claim that grain absorbs moisture enough on a sea voyage to pay the freight charges has been verified by some test experiments made at the California agricultural college. Various kinds of grain were placed in a moist atmosphere and the increase in weight was noted.

The greatest increase was during the first twenty-four hours, the absorption being nearly 3% per cent. of the total absorbed during the fifteen days' exposure. The following table shows the figures:

	First 24 hours.	Total in 15 days.
Oats.....	2.79 per cent.	7.20 per cent.
Barley.....	1.45 per cent.	7.00 per cent.
Wheat.....	2.44 per cent.	6.56 per cent.

From the results obtained it was computed that perfectly dry grain 65° Fah. would absorb as follows: Oats, 29.08 per cent; barley, 28.17 per cent; wheat, 25.01 per cent. Under ordinary conditions the percentage is perhaps not so high, 15 to 16 per cent. probably being the average.

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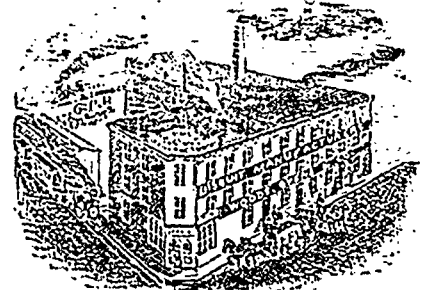
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