

### Western Notes.

T. A. Newman, general merchant, Portage la Prairie, contemplates building a large block on the avenue, beside the McLoughlin block.

Soules & York, butchers, Calgary, have secured the contract for supplying the Anthracite Coal Company with beef for the term of one year.

Petitions are being circulated at Portage la Prairie praying the Legislature to enact such laws as will enable the town to settle its indebtedness and re-elect its municipal officers.

The Portage *Tribune*, *Conservative*, said last week:—"The wheat blockade has caused the money market here to be very stringent of late. Trade has been but fair since the opening of the new year and considerable credit has been asked for."

Senator Sanford talking with a correspondent respecting his western ranch says the cattle wintered very satisfactory and he proposes to send up a large number the coming summer. In reference to building on Queen street, Winnipeg, he says it is not yet decided to put up a new block this year as there is probably sufficient accommodation in Winnipeg for present demand.

Several refrigerator cars containing potatoes purchased by Major Lewis, a St. Paul seedsman, for various points in the United States, were shipped from Manitoba last week. Each car is heated by a stove. The prices paid for the potatoes range from 35 to 40 cts. per bushel. Most of them will be sold for seed in the Southern States.

It is said by parties from Lake Dauphin district, Man., who were in town this week, that there is a large band of wild horses roaming between Lakes Dauphin and Winnipegosis, and that several attempts have been made to catch them without avail. The horses are said to be descended from a band that was taken there some years ago by a ranchman who died and left no person to look after them.

Mr. Secretan, chief engineer of the Northwest Central Railway, speaking of the road, says: "We expect to commence tracklaying 50 miles in the spring. Of this distance 26 miles are already graded. This season 100 additional miles will be graded. In all likelihood a train service over the completed portion of the road will be inaugurated next summer if the rails arrive in time. A party of surveyors have been out all winter locating 125 miles.

A correspondent from Boissevain writes:—"Notwithstanding that we have three elevators in Boissevain, with a capacity of about 60,000 bushels, the effect of the shortage in the supply of cars has been severely felt. Three times within the last six weeks, the elevators have been full, buyers have been out of the market in consequence, and farmers had to do the best they could with their wheat. As a specimen of the speedy shipment of wheat on the C. P. R., a Times reporter was shown a grain certificate of a car shipped from Boissevain on 22nd December and inspected in Port Arthur on the 8th February. The general feeling amongst merchants was that the car shortage was seriously affecting business interests, and farmers complained bitterly of the hardship and loss of time and mon-

ey, consequent upon the uncertainty of the market."

Capt. Clark, of Winnipeg, left for the east on Feb. 24, and will sail from Halifax on the 10th of March for Glasgow, Scotland, where he will assume the management of the Canadian court at the exhibition there.

*Moosomin Courier*: A large consignment of flour consisting of five or six loads arrived here from the Cannington Mills, Moose Mountains, on Monday. The flour is of first-rate quality, and is pronounced by competent judges to be the finest flour ever seen in this country. It is selling at \$2 the 100 lbs.

A table showing the annual consumption per head of various articles paying excise or customs duties in the provinces since confederation gives the following figures for Manitoba and the Northwest, in gallons:—Spirits, .616; beer, 1.748; wine, .061; tobacco, 2.511 pounds. The revenue derived per head annually since confederation is as follows in Manitoba and the Northwest: Spirits, .692; beer, .008; wine, .054; tobacco, .483.

### Editor's Table.

The *Rat Portage News* has celebrated its first birthday by appearing in enlarged form.

The Dominion Department of Agriculture has just had issued a special addition of W. H. Lynch's useful work on "Scientific Dairy Practice, or Profitable Dairy Agriculture for Canadian Farmers." The book contains nearly 150 pages, devoted to considering the dairy from every possible standpoint. It will prove a most valuable work for those who wish to inform themselves in correct dairy practices.

"Canadian Leaves" is the title of a work containing a series of papers read before the Canadian Club of New York City. Among the papers and authors we find the following:—"The Future of Canada," by Edmund Collins; "The Schism in the Anglo Saxon Race," by Prof. Goldwin Smith; "The Humorous Side of Canadian History," by J. W. Bengough; "The Heroines of New France," by J. M. Lemoine; "Literature in Canada," by Geo. Stewart; "Echoes from Old Acadia," by Prof. Chas. D. King; "Canada First," by Rev. George Grant; "Commercial Union," by Hon. B. Butterworth; "The Mineral Resources of Canada," by John McDougall; "An Artist's Experience in the Rockies," by J. A. Fraser; "Advantages of Commercial Union," by Erastus Wiman. G. M. Fairchild, jr., also gives a brief reference to the Canadian Club. These are certainly a brilliant series of papers, and the list will in itself recommend the publication to the Canadian public. Handsome pen and ink sketches of the different authors are given. Artistically the volume is an exceptionally fine one. Napoleon Thompson & Co., publishers, 51 and 53 Maiden Lane, New York.

A copy of the annual report of the Toronto board of trade, with the compliments of Edgar R. Willis, secretary, has reached the table. The report forms quite a comprehensive volume of about 70 pages, replete with trade information and statistics, not only of the city of Toronto, but of Canada in general. The work is a credit to the pains-taking secretary. The

forty-fifth annual report of the Montreal board of trade has also been received from the secretary, Geo. Hadrill. This also contains a large amount of statistical trade information.

D. L. Clink and Brother have bought the machinery in Coleridge & C.'s mill at the mouth of Turtle River, Battleford district and will transfer it to a point further up the Saskatchewan probably to Moose Creek.

The annual meeting of the Medicine Hat, Assa, agricultural society was held last week. The feature of the evening was the address by the president, Wm. Cousins, in which he referred to the prosperous condition of the society and the success of their first exhibition. He claimed that this district was equal to any in the Northwest in a great many respects, and in regard to climate it had no equal in Canada. The fact that spring weather has been with us for four weeks should be an inducement to farmers and ranchers to settle here. The following are the officers elected for the ensuing year: Wm. Cousins, president; W. T. Findlay, 1st vice president; T. Tweed, 2nd vice-president; M. Sutherland, E. Rochester, R. McCutcheon, J. Hargraves, H. S. Scatcherd, M. Leonard, D. C. Holt, directors; and G. McCuaig, secretary treasurer.

Jno. Davino, Vancouver's city auditor, has opened a real estate office.

The Newfoundlanders who have located on Howe Sound are purchasing nets, supplies, etc., and will begin fishing immediately.

C. E. Whitman, grocer, Victoria, is burned out. The buildings occupied belonged to Samuel Gray, and were insured for \$3,000. Stock probably not insured.

Godfrey & Co., hardware dealers, have begun the erection of a warehouse at Vancouver, 60 ft. by 30 ft. to the rear of the Wilson block. This warehouse is to be built of iron for the storage of their stock.

R. Collier, Victoria, inspector of hulls, has received information that he has been appointed surveyor for Lloyds' Board of Marine Underwriters for British Columbia. Mr. Collier is also surveyor for the Board of Marine Underwriters of San Francisco, having received that appointment some time ago.

*Vancouver Herald*: We learn that a party is now in the city negotiating with the city council in regard to the establishing of smelting works in this place. It is generally believed that satisfactory arrangements will be made, and that ere many months we will have one of the most improved systems for smelting erected that is to be found in America.

The buildings for the Vancouver Iron Works are nearly completed. The main building is 50x30 ft. with a wing 60x30 ft. at either end, and an extension at the back 26x20 ft. The machinery is now on its way from the east, and is daily expected. It consists of all the latest improved apparatus necessary for a machine shop and foundry. The company expect to have everything in good working order by the first of April. The business is under the management of Mr. McKelvie, an experienced machinist.