

Winnipeg to Portage la Prairie to connect the two systems the reduction will be made.

Portage la Prairie.

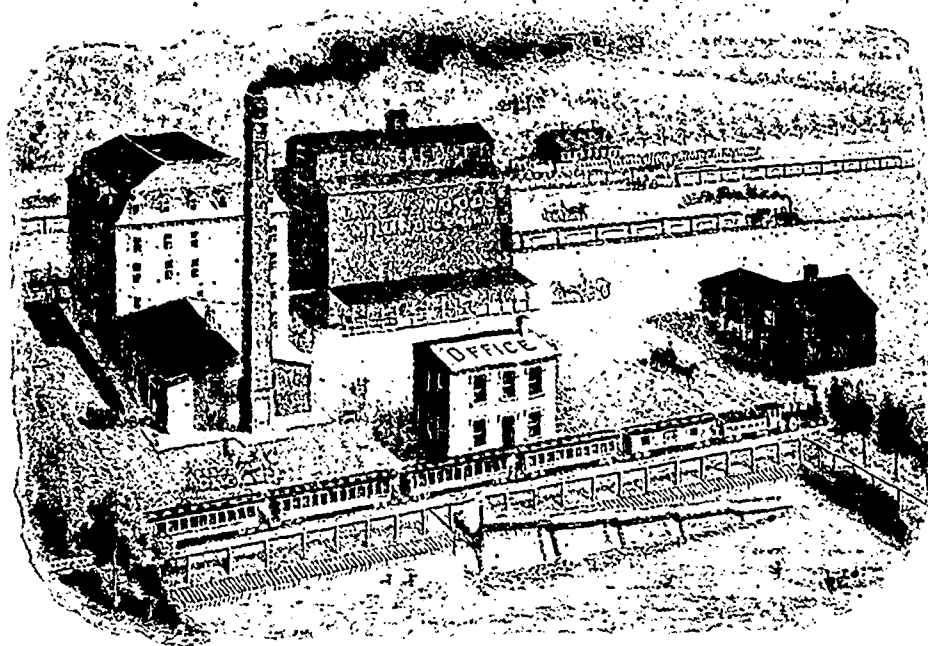
This important Manitoba centre is sharing fully in the general prosperity which has fallen to the lot of the agricultural districts of western Canada for the past two years. The chief town of the most thickly settled and highly cultivated portion of this prairie province, and to some extent a railway centre as well. It is found to progress rapidly and in time to be a large and influential agricultural town. Conditions in this place are at present exceedingly encouraging. The grain crops are nearing maturity and give promise of an abundant yield. Money is fairly plentiful even at this time as a result of the success of last year's agricultural operations; the proportion of indebtedness to gross investment is very much smaller than heretofore. Many of the farmers have money to lend, and the general mercantile business of the town is on a

piled by G. F. Stephens & Co., of Winnipeg.

Thomas Metcalfe is making extensive improvements in his mill and is building an elevator, which he expects to have completed in about two weeks.

Some idea may be gathered of the extent and magnitude of the business done in Portage la Prairie when it is learned that there are several retail trading concerns here which have an annual turnover of upwards of \$100,000 each. One of the most interesting business concerns in Portage la Prairie is the Farmers' Trading company, which does a strictly retail business, and extends this not only throughout the district immediately tributary to Portage la Prairie but to all parts of the province as well, using the mail order system. This company handles all kinds of farmers' supplies, provisions, implements, etc. Crighton's tea establishment is another interesting and progressive Portage la Prairie concern. Other lines of household goods are also

the produce market is stiffening up rapidly and numerous telegrams were shown to prove the assertion. These telegrams coming from Manitoba quoted creamery at the factories at 16 1-2 and 17 cents and jobbers claim that with charges added the lowest price creamery can be sold at to-day is 20 1-2 to the trade. As regards dairy there are so many different grades and so much of the inferior grade on the market that it is difficult to give a fair price and it can only be quoted at from 14 to 18. All the jobbers in Vancouver and British Columbia urge The Commercial through your correspondent to keep hammering away at the butter shippers in Manitoba to send their butter in better shape. If the farmers, storekeepers and creamery people could but see the shape it reaches here in, even when sent in refrigerators they would refrain from embarrassing the trade as they do. Mr. Griffin, produce merchant here, states that in despair he recently sent word to a shipper to be more



MILL AND ELEVATOR OF THE LAKE OF THE WOODS MILLING CO., PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, MAN.

safer and more conservative basis. Building has not been very extensively entered into in Portage la Prairie this year, which is not an unfavorable sign, as the number of business premises was somewhat in excess of requirements for a time, and the surplus accommodation is very wisely being utilized before fresh additions are made. There is one important exception in this respect, however, that is, a new block which is being erected on Saskatchewan avenue—the main business thoroughfare—by Dr. Cowan, to be occupied by J. & E. Brown's general store. This block is 75x80 feet, three stories and basement. The Messrs. Brown will occupy two floors and basement and the top floor is to be reserved for a lodge room for the Oddfellows and other fraternal orders. The building is of brick and will be a handsome addition to the business premises of the town. Griffith, of Winnipeg is the architect.

The Hudson's Bay Company premises here are being improved by the addition of a fine plate glass front sup-

ported.

The business of Marlatt & Houssor, lumber dealers, is now carried on under style of G. B. Houssor & Co.

Portage la Prairie has several industries, the most conspicuous of which is the big flour mill of the Lake of the Woods Milling company. This is a strictly first-class mill, both in respect to capacity and the thoroughly modern nature of its equipment. The famous hard wheat of the Portage plains is converted into flour at this mill, and shipped westward to Australia, China, Japan, etc., as well as eastward to Great Britain, while the domestic trade of the mill extends from Victoria, B. C., to Halifax, N. S.—in fact all over our broad Dominion. We show herewith a cut of the Lake of the Woods company's mill and elevator at Portage la Prairie.

Business at Vancouver.

Vancouver, Aug. 1.—There were numerous changes in the market during the past week. Jobbers declare that

careful with his shipment; or he would cease handling his produce. To his disgust the next shipment that came arrived in smaller pats than ever, some of them scarcely weighing half a pound and so small that they were almost running like oil. The trade here are dumfounded at the ignorance displayed by the shippers in Manitoba as to how goods should be sent to be fit for use in the outside market. During this hot weather the butter should come packed in tubs to be taken on its arrival here to the cold storage and made up into pound squares, the added moisture necessary to making it over adding to the bulk and consequently not adding to the cost of the butter, as there are some four pounds more added in every twenty-five pounds.

The creamery people object to this, claiming that the grain of the butter is affected. Jobbers say that this is so, but to a slight degree only, and the selling power of the butter by the process is much increased, as it is displayed in firm tempting looking