

MANITOBA GLIMPSSES.

BRANDON.

What a fine view you get of this great prairie country from the Grand View Hotel, in Brandon! As far as the eye can reach, what magnificent rolling land, what a sky, what an air! A few miles away you can descry the building of the Industrial School, with 640 acres of land surrounding it. Adjoining this is the Experimental Farm with its extensive range of buildings; then here, there and yonder a comfortable homestead with its various surroundings and groups of trees. Brandon is a great deal more prosperous to-day than it was on my last visit; its business men are much more cheerful. Of course the big crop has helped wonderfully, and the future outlook is cheery. The town is also making material improvement. Several fine business blocks have been erected; for example, the Syndicate, Fleming and the C. E. Miller blocks, which would grace any place in Canada. The new post office and custom house, too, is a very fine building. J. A. Christie, bookseller and stationer, has erected and fitted up very neat and commodious premises, and there have been a good many private buildings erected in various parts of the town within a very few years. The waterworks and sewerage system of the town are also excellent. There are a few complaints of frozen wheat in this district, but, everything considered, Brandon is progressive and prosperous.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

Surrounded as Portage la Prairie is by as fine an agricultural country as any in the west, and after this rich land yielding such magnificent crops, the place cannot help being prosperous. Business is good, so say they all—merchants, manufacturers, hotel keepers. The flouring mill of the Lake of the Woods is running nearly full capacity. McKinnon & Kennedy have also an oatmeal mill, which is running full time. The two large elevators, holding some 200,000 bushels, are nearly full. They tell me here that not more than 10 per cent. of the wheat received is smutty or frozen, and about 70 per cent. of it is No. 1 hard. The crops of this district have been very good, indeed bountiful; for instance, one person who has 1,700 acres of land got over 16,000 bushels of grain off it, viz., wheat and oats, and other farmers have done proportionately well. A new post office has been erected which is an ornament to the town; two churches, Presbyterian and Baptist, very neat buildings; also two new schools, one of which is finished and the other to be ready by the spring. The Hudson Bay Co. are also building new premises. I was shown over the neat building of the Land Titles offices, in charge of Mr. P. Whimster. They have the Torrens system of title in use here, and the arrangement of documents and large volumes of deeds and other matters pertaining to the sale and exchange of property is very nicely managed.

The Imperial Bank of Canada and the Bank of Ottawa are the two principal branch banks here. The Imperial, which is under the management of Mr. W. Bell, has a substantial building, with neatly fitted offices, and the Bank of Ottawa, which has good quarters in the centre of the town, is under the management of Mr. H. Dickens. Both banks are doing a good business. J. & E. Brown, general merchants, who have been in business for several years here, have enlarged their premises to three stores, which they have fitted up in first-class style. T. A. Garland, Wm. Garland and A. L. Ashdown, are other prominent merchants in the town. As a rule, the merchants report good business doing.

WINNIPEG.

The growth of Winnipeg is one of the wonders of the present age, and that growth is steadily increasing. The following figures furnished by Mr. M. H. Miller, a prominent citizen, is an evidence of this steady growth, at least for the past five years:—

	Value.
1890.. Buildings and improvements, \$	400,000
1891.. " " "	600,000
1892.. " " "	900,000
1893.. " " "	1,884,000
1894.. " " "	1,200,000
1895.. " " "	1,500,000

and it is still showing evidence of progress.

An influential financier of the city says that about \$15,000,000 has been paid out by the banks this year for cattle, flax and grain to about 25,000 farmers, and that fully \$3,000,000 has been paid out for this season's crop alone,

which has reduced to a great degree the farmers' indebtedness, enabling him to pay the storekeeper and the implement maker, and enabling the storekeeper to pay the wholesale dealer. All agree that business is improved and that better times have been reached.

Amongst the many fine buildings of Winnipeg may be mentioned the new premises of the Bank of Ottawa, which is really an ornament to the city. It has four floors and basement, with a tower, something in the Corinthian style. The inside furnishing of the building, too, is all that could be desired. A fine block has been put up by Thomas Ryan, wholesale boots and shoes, who has also retail stores in the city. It is on the corner of King and Bannatyne streets, has three stories and basement, is built of white brick with stone finish, with plate glass windows; the interior has offices neatly fitted up in fancy woods. Mr. Ryan says that business in his line is steadily increasing. He will remove to his new premises in a few weeks. About a year ago Scott & Leslie dissolved partnership, and the Leslie Bros. purchased some property lower down on Main street, on which they have erected large premises. On three of the floors I noticed the neat arrangement of the furniture received from the various manufactories of the Dominion. A large warehouse of four floors for extra stock has also been erected at the rear. J. H. Ashdown, hardware and metal merchant, has erected large warehouse and premises on Rorrie and Bannatyne streets, and Geo. Craig & Co., dry goods merchants, have just removed to larger premises on Main street, handsomely fitted up, and there are many other additions and improvements. J. L. Meikle & Co., wholesale and retail music dealers, etc., of Port Arthur and this city, are just removing to larger and better premises on Main street. The large flouring mill of Ogilvie & Co. is running full capacity, which is some 15,000 barrels daily.

CARBERRY, MAN.

Carberry is one of the most active and thriving towns in Manitoba. It is the centre of a large tract of good farming land, and consequently of grain distribution. Some 1,500,000 bushels of grain, mostly No. 1 hard wheat, will probably reach the elevators here before the present season closes. The town, too, is being rebuilt since the fire of 1893. New schools have been erected, and new stores. H. F. McCutcheon and H. A. Manville, merchants, have made improvements in their premises. The Massey-Harris Company, of which Mr. R. F. Hay is the manager, have large premises in the centre of the town. The Union Bank of Canada has a branch here, of which Mr. R. M. Harrison is the manager, and he has good offices. Logan & Co. have a private bank. Two weekly newspapers are published in Carberry. The Messrs. Rogers' flouring mill of 150 barrels per day capacity, is running full time. Of course there is among the large crop of 1895 some frosted and smutty wheat in certain districts, but the quality of the vast bulk of the crop is fine.

THOS. GORDON OLIVER.

Winnipeg, 11th Nov., 1895.

EFFECT OF THE CHICAGO DRAINAGE CANAL ON LAKE LEVELS.

The *Marine Review* very pertinently observes that a great deal of nonsense is being written about the attitude of lake vessel owners towards the Chicago drainage canal. An editorial writer on one of the dailies says the vessel owners "are fairly bubbling over with joy to think that the relentless campaign to be waged by the association against the canal is to be backed up by the army engineers." The fact is that vessel owners as a rule have not paid near as much attention to the question of the effect of the canal on lake levels as the newspapers would have the public believe. As soon as there is definite information relative to the effect of the canal, the vessel owners will be heard from, especially if it is found that the water in lake channels and harbors is to be materially lowered, but the army engineers, as well as all other engineers, are as far from knowledge on this score as they have ever been. It is expected that the War Department will, as a result of the report just submitted by Gen. Poe and his associates, take steps to secure further information on the lake outflow question, and when this is done the effect of the canal may be readily understood. For the present vessel owners will satisfy them-

selves by awaiting further reports regarding the discharge of the lakes, and by trying to lay plans for Government supervision of anything that may be done towards drawing off water from Lake Michigan. They will be on the lookout, however, for any scheme that would force the Government to take the big sewer off Chicago's hands and make a river and harbor work of it. As a commercial waterway the Chicago canal will be of no use to the present generation, and not a dollar of Government funds should be appropriated for it.

THE DIRECTION OF BRITISH FOREIGN TRADE.

With regard to the direction of our foreign trade during the first nine months of the current year, the Board of Trade Returns give the following comparative statement:—

IMPORTS.	Nine months ending Sept 30th.		
	1895.	1894.	1893.
From foreign countries	£ 231,607,000	£ 231,981,000	£ 227,821,000
From British possessions	72,283,000	72,783,000	69,257,000
Total	303,890,000	304,714,000	297,078,000
EXPORTS.			
To foreign countries	£ 115,418,000	£ 106,553,000	£ 112,685,000
To British possessions	51,202,000	54,910,000	52,709,000
Total	166,620,000	161,463,000	165,394,000

Although the total of our imports from foreign countries this year does not differ very greatly from that for the corresponding period in 1894, there are some considerable variations in figures for particular countries. There is, for instance, a notable drop from £66,661,000 to £62,978,000 in our imports from the United States, due mainly to the smaller quantities and lower prices of the wheat and flour we receive from thence. Diminished imports of agricultural products also account for a decrease of nearly £2,000,000 in our imports from Roumania, and of £1,130,000 in those from Egypt. On the other hand, however, there is an increase of nearly £1,000,000 in the value of our imports from Russia, due to the receipt of larger quantities of wheat, flax, and hemp; and in our imports from Argentina, mainly products of the soil, there is an increase of £1,400,000. But the biggest increase of all is one of £3,400,000 in the imports from France, of which the bulk arises in silks, woolen stuffs and leather. In the trade with our colonies the only movements of any material magnitude are a falling off in the imports from India, and a pretty nearly counterbalancing increase in those from Australasia. Turning now to our exports the outstanding feature, so far as foreign countries are concerned, is an increase of close upon £8,000,000 in our shipments to the United States, which has been spread over most branches of our manufactures; but if the comparison is made with the corresponding period of 1893, the increase does not much exceed £1,000,000. Germany, Japan, Chili and Argentina have also bought more largely of our products, but there is a considerable falling-off in the value of our exports to Holland, Roumania and Egypt. A shrinkage in her purchases of cotton piece goods accounts for nearly the whole of a decrease of about £3,900,000 in our exports to India, and there is a decrease of fully £1,000,000 in our shipments to Canada and Newfoundland; but to South Africa we increased our exports by about £1,000,000, and in those to Australia there was an increase of over £500,000.—*London Economist*, Nov. 9.