

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

Mrs. Martin, confectioner, is another unfortunate in business. She has made an assignment in favor of her creditors, and will probably be discontinuing business.

Mr. McIlvanie is still experiencing some difficulty or rather uncertainty regarding the supply of water in the artesian wells at his paper mills, and he may yet have to sink much deeper to secure a fuller supply.

R. Taylor, dealer in groceries, is among the unfortunate business men for the past week. His place of business is in the bailiffs' hands at present, but it is hoped that he will be able to make a favorable settlement and resume business soon.

On Wednesday the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Portage Milling Company was held, Hon. F. Ogletre. The report showed that with the exception of about a few thousand dollars all the calls upon stock had been promptly paid up, and even that small balance was expected to be secured very shortly. Considering the short time the institution has been in running order, the prospect of a liberal return on the capital invested is exceptionally good. For these facts your correspondent is indebted to Mr. R. Robertson, the Company's secretary.

There has been a decided slow state of business in this town during the week, and as the merchants have now recovered from the desire for rest, which followed the rush of the holidays, there is a monotonous feeling among them and some are beginning to complain. The weather has been very severe during a portion of the week, and has not been favorable for grain receipts. Still quite a fair supply has come to town. Wheat has been selling from 70c to 75c; oats 35c to 40c, and potatoes are worth 80c a bushel, but very few have come to town owing to the cold weather.

Politics are helping to keep the town lively, and may add another business institution in the shape of a newspaper office. The *Marquette Review* has recently experienced deep convictions of its former iniquity, and has joined the ranks of the party of national honor and honesty. Some anti-disallowance leaders are much troubled over its sudden conversion, and are endeavoring to make arrangements for the launching of a new journal to represent their political ideas. Mr. R. Watson, M. P. and Mr. H. S. Patterson are mentioned as leaders in the movement, but the whole affair may end in smoke as soon as the excitement of the Provincial election is over.

EMERSON.

The question of the location of the C.P.R. bridge across the Red River is not yet definitely settled, but is in a fair way of being so.

The fuel question has been an important one during the recent cold snap, and owing to a scarcity wood sold as high as \$9 a cord.

Charles Full is again about to embark in business here as an auctioneer and general commission salesman. It is understood that he will be joined by a partner with considerable means.

There have been no business changes of any

note during the week, the only change being one of premises by Hopburn & Irwin, bankers, who are moving into their new brick building on Dominion street.

Business men have been complaining during the week of quiet trade, and the stores have not been making money very fast. Inclement weather has had much to do with this, and the political fever is now high, and people have no time or attention to spare on trading. Grain receipts have been rather light. The grain buyers have fixed up their little grievance, and wheat has taken a tumble. The figures for it now range 70c to 75c, according to quality. Oats have been selling from 30c to 33c, and barley has difficulty in finding a market.

BRANDON.

Considerable interest is being taken in the Local Elections, both candidates have been doing the county and are confident of success.

The County of Brandon has purchased lots at the south of the town, (on the Vivian estate) for the purpose of erecting substantial County Buildings.

A. B. Ferrier, fruit dealer, has failed, liabilities about \$1,200, the assets will not cover his liabilities. A London, Ont., firm will be the chief losers.

James A. Smart, one of our leading hardware men is about to erect a handsome brick block where his present store stands; work will be begun as soon as the weather permits.

The supply of coal is large, but of the poorest quality. Wood is somewhat scarce and is advancing in price, very little wheat is coming in on account of the coldness of the weather here.

Geo. Ripple & Co., also contemplate building a brick store on Rosser Avenue in the spring and if unable to procure land at reasonable figures, will enlarge their present hardware store on eighth street.

Considerable change is being made in the freight offices of the C.P.R. here, they are being enlarged, as the present accommodation is far too limited for the number of clerks required to do the work.

Mr. Cook, the favorite manager of the Merchants' Bank, here, has been offered the accountantship at the Montreal office of that institution. Mr. Meridith, late manager of the same bank at Regina, now manages here.

Business during the past week has been somewhat quiet, the rough weather has prevented the farmers from coming into town, and immigration is at a standstill; the merchants, however, are ordering large stocks for the spring trade, which is expected to be very large.

The Brandon Club has got into temporary trouble, and a number of parties with claims against the proprietors, are pressing for payment; the money, however, will be forthcoming, as one of the owners is wealthy and intends sparing no pains in making the institution a success. At the present time, however, the merchants feel somewhat uneasy on account of the large amount of the liabilities. Several Winnipeg wine dealers are interested to a considerable extent.

NOTES FROM INDIAN HEAD.

Under date of January 6th, a correspondent has sent us the following:

"The weather being fine during the past week around here, and several townships of the rich lands in this district having come into market, there has been quite an excitement among the numerous squatters, who, on hearing the news took train for Qu'Appelle, in flocks, to make their entries at the Land Office there.

"Ridesdale & Whalen are putting up a large ice house, which they will no doubt be able to fill, and be in a position to supply ice to the neighbouring towns during the coming summer.

"Several parties are busily engaged getting their lumber in readiness to build as soon as the town site is surveyed, which it is hoped will be at a very early date."

Slow Transportation.

It is now within the reach of Winnipeg wholesale houses to secure an extensive business in Prince Arthur's Landing and other points on the western shore of Lake Superior, and already several have opened up connections there, and have laid the foundation of what must prove a large and profitable trade. The great complaint, however, is in connection with the uncertainty regard the forwarding of freight by the C.P.R. A Winnipeg wholesale house shipped a consignment of goods to Prince Arthur's Landing on December 8th, and up to the close of last week they had not reached the consignee. The shippers say they could do a heavy business in that town, could they only guarantee the delivery of goods within two or three weeks after they are ordered; but they have no certainty about when shipments will reach there.

The carrying trade in merchandise from Winnipeg to Lake Superior must prove one of great value to the C.P.R., and wholesale dealers here should have every advantage in their favor to enable them to compete with houses in Ontario and Quebec. Of course the officials of the C.P.R., are not responsible directly for the delays complained of, as the line from Rat Patage to the lake is yet in the hands of the contractors. Their influence with the contractors, however, might accomplish, and we hope, and have reason to believe they will employ it in mitigating if they cannot obviate the delay. It is their interests to do so, and there is no doubt but they will attend to the matter.

There have been some statements circulated recently that the movers in the E. & N. W. railway charter were actuated by personal motives, and that now their enthusiasm is very low. The fact that the line is now superfluous will account better for the present apathy.

From the cotton and woollen manufacturing districts of the Eastern United States report, are daily increasing of stagnation in these branches. It is estimated that around Philadelphia alone 10,000 operatives are thrown idle, and over 50,000 are only partially employed. Employers talk seriously of a heavy reduction in wages, and in such a case a general strike is inevitable.