

The Assize Court.

The civil cases which have as yet been disposed of at this court do not amount to ten per cent. of the number on the calendar, and a number of criminal cases of importance have also to be overtaken.

Among the cases disposed of during the past week was that of McKenzie v. the London and Lancashire Insurance Company. Plaintiff sued this Company for the payment of an insurance policy on the Knappen House, which was burned in February last, and the origin of the fire in which was shrouded in mystery. Defendants sought to avoid liability by showing that gasoline had been used in the building for lighting purposes, and the use of the same was contrary to the terms of the policy issued by the company. The theory of the defence was that the presence of the gasoline apparatus generated and permeated the whole building more or less with gas, and that the same in all probability caused the explosion with which the fire commenced through being ignited from the furnace of the steam-heating arrangements. A great array of evidence was produced on both sides, and the defence introduced the evidence of Professor Bryce, of the Manitoba College, to prove the explosive and dangerous nature of the gasoline used in the building. At the conclusion of the evidence on Wednesday afternoon, Mr. McMahon, Q.C., addressed the Jury for the plaintiff, and Mr. Biggs for the defence. Justice Miller summed up, and the Jury returned a verdict for the plaintiff of \$5,166.66.

The case possessed unusual interest for the business public generally, as the question of the liability of insurance companies is one of great importance in Winnipeg at present. It had additional interest in the fact that Mr. McKenzie has six cases against other insurance companies in connection with the same fire, and this one against the London and Lancashire may be said to be the test case.

There is every probability that the case has not been heard the last of, as the counsel for the defence lodged the usual objections after the verdict, and an appeal will in all probability be taken.

Contrary to the general expectation, an amicable arrangement was reached on Friday afternoon between counsel in the cases of McKenzie against the different insurance companies who were interested in the Knappen House fire. The case against the London and Lancashire, in which the Jury gave verdict for the plaintiff, seems to have been accepted as a test, and Justice Miller, on the afternoon in question, announced the settlement and discharged the Jurymen.

The terms of settlement, it is understood, are that all of the companies pay plaintiff seventy cents on the dollar of amounts insured, together with their own costs and a proportion of plain tiffs. By this arrangement the six companies interested will pay over \$21,000. The arrangement will no doubt be an acceptable one to Mr. McKenzie, while the test case supplies a precedent by which the liability of insurance companies will be more clearly defined.

Brandon.

The Imperial Bank of Canada has purchased a lot on the corner of Rosser Avenue and Tenth Street, for which they paid \$150 per foot. It is their intention to erect a handsome brick block next spring. In the meantime, they will occupy a building which is being erected near their own property.

The weather being favorable, building still goes on briskly; some new houses are being started. Jack Frost, however, will soon stop building operations for this year. There is every probability that it will be renewed in the spring with greater vigor.

The several grain warehouses and elevators are approaching completion; grain is coming in more freely. Business is brisk, and large shipments are being made West. Mr. Owen Carson shipped several car-loads of goods to his branch house at Regina.

The contractor for the sidewalks is pushing on the work vigorously. He finds great difficulty on account of the scarcity of labor.

L. M. Fortier & Co. shipped to the Oglivie Milling Company four cars of wheat this week.

The fire engine is on the way from the Ronald Manufacturing Company. It is expected to arrive in a few days.

The nomination for local honors takes place on Monday, 4th December. There will be few changes in the present Council.

The Johnson estate is having a boom; lots are advancing in price and sales are rapid.

The McTaggart Bros., iron and brass-founders, of Portage la Prairie, are being encouraged by Brandonites to remove their works here.

The Bell Telephone Company are soliciting patronage with a view to introducing this useful messenger into Brandon; a number of subscribers have been secured.

Wheat, 75c; oats, 55c; barley, 60c; potatoes, 75c; flax not offered. Wood, \$10; coal, \$18.

Emerson.

Notwithstanding the mud of the past week, business has been steadily good in this town, and grain receipts are on the increase. Merchants speak of a general improvement, and a free feeling in collections, and look forward to a general rush as soon as a settled freeze up sets in.

The sale of the retail business of Ashdown & Co., mentioned last week, was to Messrs. Killer & Akins, of this town, and Jerry Robinson, of Winnipeg, who will carry on business under the firm name of J. Robinson & Co. It is the intention of the new house to go into a wholesale and jobbing business, and the retail house of Killer & Akins will be carried on as heretofore at the old stand, and will remain a distinct and separate institution.

Wheat sells in the streets at from 70c to 60c, oats, 45c to 48c; barley, 65c. There is plenty of competition in this line, and Messrs. Trail, Moulson & Clark, of Winnipeg, are in the market, and represented here by Mr. Russel as buyer.

A. Rinskoff has retired from the partnership with Mr. Proudhomme in the Emerson Hotel. The latter has taken in Mr. Robinson as partner,

and the new firm name will in future be Robinson & Proudhomme.

The residents of this town and the visitors to it will be well pleased with the new arrangements of the C.P.R. regarding through tickets to the East and South, which came in force on November 1st. Coupon tickets are now issued at the ticket office to all the leading points in Eastern Canada and the United States, and baggage can be checked through to all similar points.

Mr. Burnham's fine new block on Dominion Street is fast approaching completion, and will be ready for occupation within a month. The Emerson Club will locate in it as soon as the upper floors are ready for occupancy.

A meeting of citizens was held in the offices of the Emerson and North-western Railway Company, on Saturday afternoon, at which it was decided to send a delegation to Ottawa to use endeavors against the disallowance of the E. & N. W. charter. Those present were not then aware of the action of the Dominion Government on the subject, and another meeting with a different object will probably soon be called.

THERE are few, if any, inland towns in Canada where such enterprise has been shown as in Prince Albert, and this is all the more marked on account of the limited means of communication which its people have with the centers of trade. It can only be reached by steamboat during two or at most three months in the spring and early summer, and at all other times teaming, or travel by York boat, is the only means of transportation or communication. Nevertheless quite a live town exists there, and a prosperous colony around it. At present a mail reaches there only once in three weeks, and the business of the town naturally suffers thereby. The claims of this enterprising town and old settlement around it for a weekly mail should be urged at Ottawa. No doubt the expense of conveying the same would be considerable, as it entails five days of a drive each trip. Still the efforts of the people to build up a town should be encouraged by the Post Office department at the Canadian capital, and it is to be hoped that some of our Manitoba members of Parliament will lend their aid and influence in the matter.

A Montreal paper of the 28th says:—Yesterday, one of the leading brewers of the city purchased a lot of 40 bales at 75c per lb., which is the highest price yet realized for a round lot of hops in this market.

It is understood that the Great North-west Telegraph Company propose laying a submarine cable across Lake Superior, which will make a connecting link of direct communication between Manitoba and Ontario. The line between the two Provinces will be via Owen Sound, Sault Ste Marie, and Thunder Bay, and its laying will be one of the greatest telegraphic undertakings of the American continent. It is much wanted at present, and will be another link between the two Provinces of the Dominion which have so many commercial ties.