

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

Owing to the state of the road business has been quiet during the week. Grain quotations are: Wheat, 68 to 75c; rye, 38 to 40c; barley, 45 to 50c.

Mr. Ryan has opened a branch of his boot and shoe business at Moose Jaw. He has removed his business here to the building formerly occupied by J. C. Ball on Main street.

P. McArthur of Winnipeg is having built a boat 140 feet long to ply on Lake Manitoba. His base of operations will be at the mouth of the White Mud River, to which point it is understood a branch of the P. W. & N. W. Railway from Westbourne will be built. Mr. M. then expects to supply the Portage with wood from the timber districts on the lake.

EMERSON.

A number of the leading citizens of this place are asking for incorporation as the "Emerson Milling and Elevator Company." The capital stock is placed at \$100,000, divided into 1,000 shares of \$100 each. The first directors of the company are to be: W. H. Nash, W. W. Ireland, J. I. Johnston, J. W. Whitman, C. S. Douglas, R. S. Chalmers and A. W. Stiles.

The old traffic bridge over the Red River is receiving its finishing touches, and will be ready for opening before the ice breaks.

Large numbers of immigrants are arriving, and the customs and railway officials are kept busy attending to them.

Work on the new railway and traffic bridge is progressing favorably. In a few days the number of hands employed will be largely increased.

The International plant was purchased at the end last week by B. B. Johnston for \$885.60. The business is to be continued with Mr. C. S. Douglas, the former proprietor, as manager and editor.

No danger by flood is anticipated this spring.

KEEWATIN.

Messrs. Dick, Banning & Co. have shipped west all the lumber they had in their yard here.

Zimmerman & Co. have built a coffer dam at the inlet to their mill pond and are busy taking out rock and deepening the water way.

Mr. Peter Lever has sold his handsome residence to Robert Allan, who will enlarge and open it as a private boarding house.

Mr. Joseph Guerette has completed his new store and is now engaged transferring his stock from his old premises. He has also received a billiard and pool table, purchased from Samuel May, of Toronto, through his agent, Mr. Andrews, of Winnipeg, which no doubt will prove a source of amusement, minus the profit to the young men about town.

BRANDON.

The mild weather has removed all the snow in this section. Ploughing and seeding are

now going on, which keeps the farmers employed. Immigrants are arriving in large numbers, and are scattering in all directions. Trade is rushing and merchants are happy.

Messrs. H. Meredith & Co. have opened out this week. Their stock is large and well chosen. Their new store is one of the finest in the city, and their future prospects are good.

Messrs. Cole & Sanderson, merchant tailors, have opened out a large stock.

W. A. Macdonald, one of our leading lawyers, has purchased the building lately occupied by the Imperial Bank, and now occupies the best law office in town.

Building is being carried on extensively, both in the town and the country around. The lumber dealers are all well supplied, and there will be no lack of material.

Messrs. Geo. Ripple & Co. have purchased a lot on Rosser avenue, between Ninth and Tenth streets, on which they intend erecting a large store, their present building on Eighth street not being large enough.

D. Scott is building a large furniture warehouse on the corner of Princess avenue and Ninth streets, and will employ thirty hands.

Tribute to a Banker.

On Friday evening, Mr. Duncan McArthur, late manager of the Merchants' Bank in this city, and the pioneer bank manager in Manitoba, was entertained by his numerous friends at a banquet in the Grand Union. The gathering was large and representative. The mayor occupied the chair, and the vice chairmen were Messrs. James Mulholland, H. M. Howell and Amos Rowe. After the table had been cleared the Mayor read an address to the guest of the evening, which referred in complimentary terms to Mr. McArthur's success as manager of the bank he had for twelve years represented in this city. Accompanying the address was a handsome life size portrait of Mr. McArthur. An address was also read from the board of directors in Montreal and New York, accompanied by a magnificent present in the shape of a costly silver service. Mr. McArthur replied in a very able address in the course of which he reviewed the whole history of banking in the North-west up to the present time. Mr. McArthur will still continue to act in the capacity of local director for the Merchants' Bank.

Help Your Town.

We quote the following article from an exchange, and recommend it to our readers for perusal: "It is a well established principle that the people make the place; not its facilities for business. It is true that an energetic and prosperous people may be kept back by a lack of natural advantages, but this is not often the case. A thousand towns are kept in check by the greed and lack of public spirit of the people, where one is kept down by the location. Push and energy overcome all obstacles; greed and want of energy will kill the most promising locality. So our town is to be just what we, its citizens, make it. If its landowners hold its lots so high that manufactories are

kept out, this will act as a weight to keep it down. What is wanted is for the people to be united as far as public good is concerned. Patronize each other as far as possible, any new enterprise, especially manufactories, give a warm greeting to any new settler, and give aid so far as may be in everything that shall tend to the public good. If this policy is pursued our town will rapidly grow, and become a prosperous and thrifty city. If, on the contrary, the citizens refuse aid to every enterprise, unless they are to get a big slice of the profits, look upon every new arrival as a pigeon to be plucked, and patronize their neighbors only when they cannot do as well or better somewhere else, then our town will grow slowly if at all. Our natural advantages will go to waste, and count as nothing in the question of prosperity."

The Paper Trade.

The number of paper mills in the United States has increased largely during the past year, so much so that the increased production has led to inquiry whether the business has not been overdone. Lockwood's Directory for the Paper Trade for 1883 shows that there are 1,051 paper mills in America, and of these 1,018 are in operation. Since March 1, 1882, sixty-eight new mills making paper and pulp have started up, and thirty-seven other mills are in course of construction. The extension of the industry to so marked a degree led the publisher of the Directory to invite opinions from paper makers in all parts of the country, as to the conclusions to be derived from this growth. The Paper Trade Journal of last Saturday printed a great many answers to the inquiry, and while the general tone of the answers is not sanguine, and is, in some cases, even of a gloomy nature, the condition of the paper trade does not appear to warrant foreboding if care and judgment are exercised. That the mills are capable of producing more than the demands of home consumption require is evident, but there are several methods of keeping manufacture well in hand which paper makers can utilize if they so desire. Paper is cheap enough to-day, and we do not know that there is any call for lower prices. If there was, it would require sacrifices which probably cannot be conceded without detriment to the general body of trade. Weakness once established in one line of business or manufacture is apt to extend to and affect other and diverse interests. Among the suggestions offered for keeping an excess of goods from coming on the market is the export outlet. This is not new, and has been urged time and time again. Some of our manufacturers have secured a foreign market for their goods, and they have not, so far as we have heard, regretted that they sought it. The increase in production caused by the new mills is not in itself alarming, inasmuch as it has been chiefly in the manufacture of fibre and of the lower grades of paper. The mills making the finer grades are generally able to keep their output well sold up. While, therefore, the paper trade situation is one which calls for the exercise of prudence, it does not justify alarm.