

Gas and the Electric Light in England.

An English exchange says: The telegraph Construction & Maintenance Co., Limited, Greenwich, has recently furnished the Nottingham corporation with a specification for the lighting of that town by electricity. The manager of the company's electric-light department, Mr. Gordon, has published a few statistics relative to this specification, so as to afford the public some idea as to the price for which "a responsible manufacturing company will undertake to erect the plant and guarantee its successful working." Mr. Gordon writes as follows: "The estimate is for a plant for 60,000 20-candle Swan lamps, and includes condensing engines, boilers, dynamos, street mains, buildings, etc., and the successful working of the plant for 30 consecutive days and nights. The current is to be supplied from five dynamos of 15,000 light capacity each, four being at work and one with its engines and boilers in reserve. The dynamos run at 150 revolutions per minute, and are without belts or rubbing contacts. The mains are to be such as to allow the current to be supplied at a pressure of 70 volts. Our price for the whole is £220,000. We have worked out the estimated working cost, as compared with gas, at 2s. 6d. per 1,000 cubic feet. Steam coal in Nottingham being 10s. per ton, we find that, including depreciation, coals, oils, wages, rates, renewal of Swan lamps, etc., that if a 20-candle Swan lamp is supplied at the same price per hour as a 14-candle gas burner, the profits will pay 23½ per cent. on the £220,000 capital, or that, if the corporation are content with 6 per cent., they can supply electricity, lamp for lamp, at 60 per cent. of the price of gas; or, allowing for the difference of candle power, at 42½ per cent. of the cost of gas, or considerably less than half. We hope, therefore, that electric lighting is now in a fair way to become a practical success, and not only a scientific one. Of course, it is only by working on a large scale that such results as these can be obtained."

MANITOBA CITY.

It is reported on good authority, although not yet officially announced, that the C.P.R. Company have at last decided to locate a station at this place. We believe they also purpose making this the end of the first division on their South-western branch, and to erect a round-house and repair shops here. Should these reports prove correct, and we believe they will, this will make Manitoba City one of the most important points in Southern Manitoba. But business men should not forget that there are enough general stores here now to supply the wants of all the settlers in this section of country for some time to come.

The Messrs. Bethune intend erecting a large store here and moving their business from Archibald to this place. We will then have four general stores with large stocks and if more come profits will be sure to be cut down until there will be no margin left. There are good openings here for grain warehouses and for men who can handle large quantities of farm produce, as there is likely to be a large amount of grain and other agricultural products marketed here during the coming fall and winter.

EMERSON.

Trade news of every kind is scarce, and the only report that can be given is, that a decided improvement has taken place in business.

There have been no business changes in town during the past week, and no trade misfortunes are to report. There has been one addition to the number of business institutions, namely the liquor business of Amey Bros., which has been opened up in the storeroom formerly occupied by J. H. Fleury as a harness shop.

Since last week there has been decided improvement in business both in this town and West Lynne, and the merchants are correspondingly hopeful. The beautiful weather which has so much improved the crop prospect is the main cause of the trade revival, but other causes have been at work, and the improvement is expected to be lasting.

At the last meeting of the town council the town clerk was instructed to inform the solicitors of the C. P. R. that the town of Emerson had no part in the application for re enactment of the Emerson and North western charter now before the Provincial Parliament, but was prepared to fulfil its obligations ament the construction of the branch line to Pembina Junction. The movement had no opposition in the council, which shows that all faith in the E. & N. W. construction is about dead.

RETAIL TRADE PROTECTION.

To the Editor of the Commercial.

DEAR SIR: In your last issue there appeared a letter from a correspondent at Portage la Prairie on the above subject, which wakes up a question well worthy of the consideration of the retail merchants of Winnipeg as well as Portage. Your article in the same issue and on the same subject, I am of opinion, does not give a fair estimate of the business ability of the retail traders of the North-west, while I must admit, that many men ignorant of trade principles have got a footing in mercantile life in this country. I believe it is only the want of organization which prevents retail traders in this or any other North-western town from having as complete a system of protection from dishonest customers as wholesale traders possibly can have, and I for one will gladly join in with any movement for such a purpose in Winnipeg. It is needed very much, and the longer it is delayed the greater loss must come to merchants in this city. Some people may tell us that there are mercantile agencies which will do our business in that line. But these mercantile agencies are of very little value to traders who sell only to consumers; and I have been long enough in trade to find out that they are generally worked in the interests of wholesale merchants, bankers and such like, and are mostly spies upon the retail trade, and their secret information is not always reliable, but often accomplishes the business ruin of struggling men. I cannot help thinking there is something cowardly and treacherous about the professional private inquiry man, and for that reason more than any other I agree with your suggestion, that any protection organization of retail traders should

be strictly mutual. I hope there will be some move made in this affair in Winnipeg, as no city has greater necessity for it, and the movers may calculate upon the hearty cooperation of

Your obedt. servant,
STORREKKEPER.

KEEWATIN.

Mr. B. B. Rideout has erected a tent which he will use as a restaurant.

The water is very low in the lakes, and all mill owners complain of scarcity of power.

Mr. Hall, of the Northwestern Telegraph Co., has been in town for the past week, looking for cedar telegraph poles.

Mr. Atchison, who has been employed for some time with Dick, Banning & Co., has resigned and engaged with Mr. R. J. Cole, as general factor.

The steamer N. Mosher, Captain McMurdie has brought in three tows of logs and one tow of telegraph poles during the past week for the Keewatin Lumber Co.

Messrs. Dick & Banning's drives, on Grassey and Pine rivers are lying up for the want of water, and will not come out this season, unless heavy rains come on during the summer.

The steamer Lillie Macaulay, with a tow from Hungry Hall for Dick & Banning, was caught in a storm in the Grand Traverse and had to abandon the raft. The logs were all swept into Buffalo Bay, and are a dead loss, as it would cost more than they are worth to collect them again.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

Mr. Newman & Finnerty, of the west end, have shipped their furs collected during the past season, amounting in all to over \$11,000 in value, and numbering over 30,000 skins.

There have been no business changes in town during the week, if we except the sale of the grocery stock of W. Sutherland to D. S. McDonald. The latter intends shortly to move into Sutherland's premises.

All the government red tape arrangements are now completed in regard to raising Portage la Prairie to a customs port of entry, and Mr. J. N. Morton has been appointed customs' officer here. This will be found a great matter for the facilitating of business generally.

A second oatmeal mill is offered to be built in town, by J. W. Pratt, on the same advantages being granted him, as were granted to the party making a similar offer some time ago. The question is now before the town council whether to accept Mr. Pratt's or Mr. Johnson's offer. The council have agreed to allow the ten year's exemption from taxation of the elevator proposed to be erected by Messrs. Ogilvie & Co.

The past week has done much to make every person in and around this town more hopeful. The refreshing showers and warm genial weather has made great improvements on the growing crops, and the oldest settlers assert that never in their day did the prospect of a good crop look better at this season of the year. The effect of this has been to liven up business in every branch, more or less, and there is probably a more hopeful feeling among business men now than has existed for six months past.