

THE NOR-WESTER.

WARNER & SON, Proprietors.

TUESDAY JULY 8 1884

THE DEPUTY MINISTER

The unfortunate accident which happened to Mr. Burgess upwards of two weeks ago, has entirely disarranged his plans. He was compelled to abandon his trip to McLeod, and for the same reason it will be necessary for him to forego his intended trip through Southern Manitoba. This is to be regretted, but it is unavoidable. Mr. Burgess has suffered a good deal from his untoward mishap but even in his distress he has endeavored to acquaint himself with all the facts of every question into which it has been his mission to enquire. He received, the other day, in his bed room, a deputation of miners (for since the accident he has been confined to his bed) who waited upon him with a petition asking for certain amendments in the mining regulations. When we visited his room for the first time after his accident we found him most anxious in regard to the mining laws, and during a short conversation with him on the subject we found that he possessed a thorough knowledge of the question, not a superficial one, as a mere theoretical acquaintance as a few persons interested in mining matters, at first, supposed—but a minute and comprehensive one. Upon the lease question he had also availed himself of all the information which it has been possible to elicit, and as he has gathered his facts from reliable sources and his powers of analysis are clear and keen, we have no doubt whatever that his report when it appears will be both accurate and impartial.

We do not in the least doubt that the Deputy Minister will recommend certain amendments in the mining regulations which amendments would be highly satisfactory to the miner and prospector. Upon the lease question we think that Mr. Burgess is enabled to see that there is nothing to prevent both farmer and leaseholder from prospering in this country. The present summer we have no doubt will prove that summer frosts in this district have been employed as a bug-a-boo designed to keep out the husbandman; but it is absurd to suppose that misrepresentation like that can be kept up successfully year after year. The success of the large leaseholders depends as much upon leasing farmers in the country as it does upon pasturage itself. The wisdom of the Government will doubtless be equal to any grievance that may exist. One thing our people may do to advantage; they may take a lesson from the "kickers" in Manitoba, and instead of acting blindly and with passion and prejudice so conduct themselves to command respect and attention. There is more to be accomplished by such a course than can be obtained by unpatriotic agitation against the government and the eastern provinces if it were continued for a decade. Mr. Burgess, we feel sure, will return feeling that whatever fault the people of this district may have to find with existing laws, they can make their complaints known in a rational manner and then trust to the Government for remedial measures.

A BANK WANTED

An attentive reader of the NOR-WESTER asks why we do not write about the urgent necessity there is for a bank to be established here. We agree with him. The business community here want a bank or a bank agency badly, and it is time that the project was materialized. About two months ago the sub-manager of the Portage la Prairie branch of the Bank of Montreal came here prospecting. He did not impress the people with any favorable ideas as to his business capacity and appearance. It seems that he was prejudiced against Calgary and he reported against it as a point for a branch. The impressions however, were mutual. If the Portage la Prairie sub-agent meant a sub-agency-bank he was quite correct for the people here don't want any sub-agencies or sub-agents. This will do well enough for towns and villages in Manitoba but Calgary has excellent prospects of not only becoming the capital of this district but also of becoming a commercial centre, and a sub-agency bank affair is of no use to the business public. A large amount of money is put in circulation here and the want of banking facilities is very much felt. Government cheques cannot be cashed, except as a favor from private parties. People who have to handle considerable sums are put to a great deal of inconvenience and risk. True there is a money order office and the accommodation

given is of great assistance to the public but its utility is limited to the business of receiving and remitting money. If none of the chartered banks will open an agency here perhaps some private banking firm will be found who will fill the opening. No place in the North west offers better inducements to a banking house than does our little town here. What with the mining resources to the west of us and which are being explored and developed, the ranching interests the farming and commercial interests we do not see how it is possible for our business people to wait any longer with out a financial concern of some kind. Will our business men take the initiative without further delay? Something beneficial will result from it we feel sure.

The result of the election shows that the electors of this electoral district prefer to have a representative who has something at stake in the country than one who has nothing to lose and everything to gain. The wisdom of this decision cannot be questioned. In the newer portions of the Dominion "men of straw" endeavor to come to the surface in representative positions by the sheer force of what is popularly termed "cluck". If these men possessed pre-eminent ability there might be some reason in their ambition but devoid of either ability or property what can they do for the electorate? Applicants for every little office in the gift of the council, those men should be taught the lesson of "keeping their places and that it is the height of absurdity for them to aspire to positions which belong to their superiors. We have to return our sincere and hearty thanks to the sturdy settlers of Fish Creek, Sheep Creek and High River for their almost unanimous verdict in support of Mr. Geddes. We can assure them that every effort was made by Mr. Oswald and his supporters here to break down their votes. To this end the "half breed" vote was secured solid for Mr. Oswald, through misinterpretation and other occult influences were employed to boom Mr. Oswald, but in vain. In spite of every undue advantage in his favor the cause of the bona fide settler triumphed and the man of straw was sent to Coventry, and we trust that the lesson will be an instructive one to him and his supporters.

Important amendments are needed to the Act respecting elections in the North-west Territories. For instance, under the present law a freeholder who is a non resident has no vote. This is simply ridiculous. It is the property owner that pays the taxes, hence demanding a resident qualification from him is unjust. Everybody cannot reside where he may own property. The terms "resident" and "householder" if not vague are misleading and they should be substituted by the words "freeholder" and "occupant" the other qualifications being properly defined as in the provisions.

We may remark that we care nothing for threats and less for those who make them. Bulldozing in any form we will resist. We shall respect private character always; but those individuals who undertake to discharge public duties must expect that the lash will be applied to them when they deserve it. We will never wilfully criticize unjustly the acts of a public official, but when they deserve it we will not hesitate to expose them. Our mission is for the people and with the people. Those who threaten will find that we are equal to the occasion and that we can defend what we dare maintain.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We do not for a certainly know who is to blame for the delay which exists in the summer term of the District Court. One thing however is certain, and this is that the delay is a great hardship to suitors. Not long ago we enjoyed the pleasure of listening to Chief Justice Wallbridge's address to the Grand Jury at Brandon. Speaking of the time of holding court there His Lordship said he was most anxious to hold court when it suited the people, and he asked the Grand Jury particularly to advise him because so far as the judges were concerned it was their duty to sit and to suit the people in regard to time. A correspondent, whose letter appears in another column, refers to the delay in justice here, and we must say that his letter fully reflects public opinion in this quarter.

Oath number 1 which had to be taken the other day by those whose names were put on the list by the Returning Officer, and those who were challenged, reads as follows:— "You do swear that you are a bona fide male resident and householder within the polling division of this Electoral District, that you are twenty-one years of age, that you are not an alien or unfranchised Indian, and that you have resided in this Electoral District for at least twelve months immediately preceding the date of the issue of the writ for this election. So help you God."

Now a member of the Mounted Police force in active duty can take such an oath, even if he is a freeholder, we cannot understand. The insertion of the word "freeholder" would cover the case of mounted policemen as well as that of non-residents.

NOR-WESTERS.

MacLEOD.

The past week business was considerably brisker than it has been for some days past. There were many strangers in town, and the main street presented quite an animated appearance, especially on Friday and Saturday last.

The old buildings belonging to I. G. Baker & Co., and lately used as the post office, has been pulled down and re-erected. It was slightly out of joint before, and it is now quite a good building.

The sitting of the Civil Court was advertised to be held last Monday, but as the stipendiary magistrate did not arrive that was impossible. The North-west Council meets on the 3rd July, so the chances are that no court will be held until August. In the meantime, it has been indefinitely postponed until notice is given by advertisement.

We are informed by Mr. A. Walsh, Dominion Land Commissioner, that from what he remembers of the instructions, the lots in the new town will be sold for \$50 for corner lots, and thirty for others. The citizens who have already chosen lots will be given the opportunity of purchasing them at the old price, without competition. Next to the plan of giving the lots to the first bidder proposed last week, this is as it could well be.

EDMONTON.

The time honored and weather-beaten stockade at the H. B. forte is being pulled down to be replaced by the more modern brick building. Along the shores of Lake Pepin and the beautiful Mississippi River, to Milwaukee and Chicago. Its trains connect with those of the Northern lines in the Grand Union Depot at St. Paul.

These Smith returned from an exploratory trip to Victoria on Wednesday. He found the reported mica deposits very small, and of no commercial value. Samuel White, foreman of the mine, says that on B. I. he never without practical result.

Crops at Victoria look well except barley, which is badly injured by wet winds, in some places large fields are laid bare. Very heavy rain on Sunday night. The water is very low in all the creeks and marshes, the roads being in a better condition than he had ever seen them for six years.

BATTLEFORD.

The distance from Swift Current to Battleford has been fixed by Mr. King by a direct measurement at one hundred and ninety-two miles. It was variously computed by freighters, judging from the time occupied in making the trip, at from one hundred and ninety to two hundred miles—a very close approximation to the true distance.

J. F. Dyke Parker, one of the repairers on the western division of the telegraph, is in for provisions. He takes advantage of his opportunities to secure specimens in a natural history for the British Museum, and has just secured an invaluable specimen, one that will make the Saskatchewan Valley known throughout the scientific world as the home of gigantic living scorpions.

PRINCE ALBERT.

PRINCE ALBERT West, July 2.—Louis Rieli arrived at St. Laurent yesterday from Montana. The French and English land-holders are congregating there for a conference with a view to their grievances. There are various surmises as to the result of his visit.

If there is anything that points out the great necessity for this town being incorporated, it is the disaster to the mill last Sunday morning. It is only as far back as the 18th March, when the H. B. Co. mill was totally destroyed by fire, and now the remaining one has gone the same way. If the town was incorporated it would have a brigade and appliances for extinguishing fires, and as the fire at McKay's mill on Sunday morning broke out in the engine house and was confined there by the few hands hastily got together, for half an hour before reaching the main building, it may be reasonably presumed that had there been a properly organized fire brigade the mill would not have been destroyed. This calamity is not only felt by the proprietor but affects the whole district. Great sympathy is felt for Mr. McKay who after the burning of the H. B. Co. mill did not lose a cent of the price of flour, and was always so obliging to all. No doubt there has been negligence, if not a cheese paring policy, in not having a watchman to guard against such conflagrations, but even when such caution is exercised fires do occur, and a city is not safe without the means at hand to prevent fire from doing such great damage as it has here lately. Every year new buildings are being erected, and insurance companies must have extra premiums, when no precaution is taken against fire. Anyway it may be anyone's lot to be burned out of home and home, and we must look to the committee, chosen by the inhabitants, and to our member, Mr. Macdonald, to do all in their power to secure us incorporation; when Prince Albert will only then be come a fact.

In view of the rapid decline of Federal Bank stock during the last few days, and the somewhat paucity of feeling regarding bank stocks generally, the directors of that bank have obtained assurances from the other leading banks of any assistance that might possibly be required should depositors and bill holders become uneasy. We are speaking authoritatively upon this point. By the statement presented at the annual meeting the other day it was made apparent that the general business had been under circumstances of some months previously, and the reserves in excellent shape, so that it would seem all but impossible for the contingency to arise that would make it necessary for it to require the aid of other banks. It will be reassuring, however, to know that the bank is prepared for any possible emergency. —Free Press.

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I hardly know as I approach mightily across the bay to South for was about evening that heart of the peaks were which no pe but on the rag lined against the sky and we plumed recesses of the came grander wind swept to the very