

koopors, will dissolve partnership, and each will continue separately. Lepper will take his son into partnership and occupy new quarters, which he is building. Dr. J. H. Morrison, has a drug store in connection with his practice, and a second drug store will be opened by Dr. A. B. McKinnon. E. H. Irish, is doing a good trade in the harness line and F. Patterson, carries on business in furniture. Besides these there are several other business institutions, such as blacksmiths, butchers, implement agencies, hotels, etc., and a newspaper, the *Observer*. In manufacturing there is a grist mill, run by water power, for which there is ample supply for eight months in the year on the Bird Tail Creek, Mr. P. Barclay, the proprietor, contemplates changing to the roller process. Mr. D. W. Cummings, has had the saw mill in operation during the summer the logs for which are floated down the Bird Tail whilst the water is high in the spring. Grant Bros. have a flour mill some distance up the town, which is run by water power. Unlike many other places Birtle has secured the railway without going into debt for a heavy bonus. In this respect the town is in a better position than many of the older towns of the Province, and its citizens would do well that they are not carried away by too glowing expectations for the future and endeavor to keep expenses down. By keeping the town out of debt, they will be much more likely to have new industries established among them, as manufacturers are not likely to locate in a place carrying a heavy debt. An issue of \$10,000 debentures has lately been voted for local improvements, but these have not yet been taken up, and it is understood it will not be placed unless a good offer is received. We would advise the people of Birtle to go slow in this matter. The only improvement that is actually required at the present time is a shorter and better road to the depot, and this could be constructed at a cost of about \$2,500. This amount, added to the floating liability of the town, (now something like \$8,000 or \$9,000, would make a total liability quite heavy enough for the present, or until the population increases considerably. Birtle, like the other older settled districts, has suffered from second homesteading, which has left many farms vacant. The Government auction sale of unoccupied lands in the Birtle agency in 1882 has also worked great mischief. The boom was at its height about this time, and the lands were bought up readily by speculators, thus checking settlement. The crops north and west of Birtle are perhaps the finest in the province this season, and promise an excellent yield around, harvesting was going on actively during the last week of July. To the south in the Beulah district the outlook is not so good, the drought and gophers combined having caused considerable damage.

To the south of the M. & N. W. Ry. and 20 miles from Minnedosa lies the old town of Rapid City. A few years ago this place was one of the most prosperous in the province, but lack of railways has nearly ruined it and many houses are now vacant. A great many farmers in this district sold out to speculators during the boom, land having gone as high as \$25 per acre in the vicinity of the town. Many

of these took up second homestead west. The removal of these farmers has greatly curtailed the trade of the town and several of the merchants have been compelled to give up business. The people remaining are very anxious for a railroad, which they think would bring in settlers to the unoccupied lands. There is a cheese factory here, managed by Mr. A. Patterson, which is supplied with the milk from 200 cows. The product is marketed in Brandon and has so far brought 10½¢ per pound, which speaks well for the quality of the article. A bonus of \$10,000 has lately been voted by the municipality of Saskatchewan, for the erection of a roller flour mill and woolen mill at Rapid City, and if this work goes on it will likely greatly benefit the district. The district is a good stock and grain section. Mr. D. McNaught has some fine bred cattle, and has just imported a splendid specimen of a Holstein bull calf.

Taken altogether, the country along the line of the M. & N. W. Ry. is the best mixed farming region in Manitoba. It is well wooded and watered throughout, and the natural grasses are rich and luxuriant growth even during this dry season. It undoubtedly leads the province this year in the excellence of its crops, having suffered less from the drought than the more open prairie districts to the south. There is no such a thing as a short crop at any point along the line this season, and hay is also abundant notwithstanding its scarcity this year in some sections. The railway itself is doing a good business carrying agricultural machinery, settlers' effects, etc., which goes to show that the country is settling up and being brought rapidly under cultivation. A good many settlers have gone in this summer beyond the present terminus of the road. In the fall and winter the road is kept busy hauling the grain and products of the region to market, and we are creditably informed that it is already a well paying piece of railway property, thus proving that there is room for independent railway lines in the province of Manitoba.

### Mistake of Sticking too Closely to Business.

Many business men make the mistake of sticking too closely to the office. They should become acquainted with outside affairs, should know what their neighbors are doing, and familiarize themselves with their mode of business. We frequently speak of such and such a man as an "old fogey;" in other words he is out of date is like last year's almanac. He is always too late for the train; always behind time; some other person has preceded him, and the early worm is gone, and the next thing we know the shutters are up, and "Sheriff's sale" posted on the door. Fault is often found with the travelling men because their sales are small, when the fault really is with the houses. There is a lack of familiarity with the wants of the trade; the goods are out of date, or prices too high to compete with other houses. The proprietor should take a little time now and then, to visit the trade, study their wants, become acquainted with them, and if he has any doubts as to the efforts put forth by his travelling men, let him try his own hand a few days

and we think the result would prove very beneficial, and all concerned be better prepared to avoid meeting face to face that familiar, though unpleasant word "failure."—*Ex.*

R. H. BRATNOBER, saddler, of Prince Albert has opened a branch store at Battleford.

REPORTS from Medicine Hat and other places in the territories state that an order has come from Regina, prohibiting the further sale of cider manufactured by Blackwood Bros., of Winnipeg.

There is estimated to be forty-six million tons of iron ore in sight on Big Island, Lake Winnipeg of the highest quality, that can be placed on the market at Winnipeg for \$13.50 a ton. There is found also red oxide of iron or mineral paint, yellow ochre, and fire brick clay.

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