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Muddling the Merchants.

Two young men were examined before the Mayor this morning on a charge of cheating G. H. Riley out of \$5 on Saturday evening. Riley stated in evidence that the two men went into his shop on Saturday evening about ten o'clock and asked the price of a pipe, &c., did not buy the pipe but bought two cigars and gave him a \$10 in payment. Reilly gave him in change a \$5 bill four \$1 bills a fifty cent piece and a quarter. His companion then asked for a hair brush and placed a quarter on the counter besides the \$4.75 in change saying in an off hand way 'maybe you want this small change' and asked for a five dollar bill which was given him. The second man kept on arguing about the hairbrush and Riley left the change on the counter. The man that bought the cigars then said he would give him the ten dollars in change that was lying on the counter for the ten dollar bill, which Riley was very glad to do as he had his suspicion that the \$10 bill was bogus. The man who was anxious to see the hairbrushes kept Mr. Riley busy until the other man went out, when he also left without buying anything. Riley thought something was wrong and on thinking the matter over and counting his money, he came to the conclusion that he had given \$15 and had only received \$10. He went at once to the chief of police and laid the particulars before him.

Mr. Ferguson also gave evidence that they had visited his store and played the same game with variations a little earlier in the evening with the result that he was \$5 out. Duncan, clerk in Trott's drug store, was caught in the same trap with the difference that one of the prisoners bought ten cents worth of salts. Duncan's explanation of the transaction was more clear. His suspicions were aroused for the reason that when he started to make change for the prisoners he had two \$5 bills four \$1 and some silver and when he was through he had only one \$5 bill. The mayor concluded that the prisoners should stand trial.—*Calgary Tribune.*

JAMES BRASS will commence the manufacture of brick at Moose Jaw, Assa., where there is any quantity of the best clay for this purpose.

Lumber Cuttings.

P. McLaren's new saw mill at MacLeod has started cutting. The balance of the machinery will be put in shortly and when in running order will prove a boon to the ranchers in that vicinity who have previously had to haul lumber forty or fifty miles.

The *Herald*, Vancouver, B. C., says:—It has been known for some time that the firm of McLaren & Co., of Ontario, had purchased large timber limits in this Province. They were said to be chiefly on the Island, but if the report be true that the firm has purchased the McInnes farm on the Fraser a short distance above Westminster, it would indicate that the company had limits on the mainland also. The report is that an extensive saw mill is to be erected on the property, and the manufacture of lumber commenced on an extensive scale. The value of the selection of the site for this purpose will largely depend on the Fraser being made navigable for sea going vessels.

The attempt to take logs from the Riding Mountains down the Bird Tail creek to the Assiniboine river, and thence to Brandon, has failed. A quantity of logs were cut in the Riding Mountains last winter, which it was intended to float down to Brandon for sawing. Of these logs the *Birtle Observer* says:—The owners of the saw logs that are now in the river have concluded to give up the attempt to take the drive through to the Assiniboine. The difficulty of passing the rapids has been too great and the men have been dismissed. It is understood that the logs will either be held over till next spring's freshet or a mill will be erected a short distance below the town and the logs cut into lumber here. It has now been made plain that Birtle has a monopoly of the great spruce forests of that part of the mountains drained by the Bird Tail. This supply of timber is almost inexhaustible and the fact that fifty or sixty thousand logs have been brought down the river and delivered at Birtle in three weeks from the start and that the logs refuse to go further shews that the town and this district has a valuable resource, such as few other places possess.

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