

**Mr. Whyte's Trip to Russia.**

Montreal, April 24.—For some months President Shaughnessy, always on the look out for traffic for the Canadian Pacific railway and a new market for Canadian products, has been considering the advisability of sending a representative along the line of the trans-Siberian railway, who would go over the entire country from the heart of old Russia to the Pacific port of Vladivostock. He has finally decided on Mr. Wm. Whyte, of Winnipeg, as the proper man for the mission.

President Shaughnessy is under the impression that the agricultural possibilities of that greater Russia beyond the European border cannot be over estimated, and he sees an extensive market for farming implements of all kinds and other products of the Canadian mechanic and manufacturer. Should this opinion turn out to be a correct one, and many far-seeing men say it undoubtedly will, there will, of course, be a mighty avenue of trade for the people of this country. It was the president's wish that Mr. Whyte should leave immediately and meet Mr. Shaughnessy in London, en route for the Russian capital, but the former has certain business matters to arrange in Winnipeg, and it may be some weeks before he will be able to start on the mission across the Russian empire.

Mr. Whyte will go first to London and St. Petersburg in order to be properly and officially accredited to the various people with whom he will come into business contact, and it is understood that the trip will take three months, or perhaps a greater length of time. The trans-Siberian railway is not yet completed and will not probably be terminated for two or three years, but in spite of this, Mr. Whyte says he will get through to Vladivostock and come home by the Pacific ocean.

Mr. Whyte said he was very glad that his duties would not necessitate his leaving Winnipeg and the numerous friends he had here. Winnipeg is now a very important centre and the company evidently feel the requirement of having an official here to advise the president on matters pertaining more particularly to the west. The circular outlining Mr. Whyte's duties states that he will advise the president in all matters connected with the colonization extensions of the company's system, the development of industries along the lines, the establishment of new business connections and the administration of the company's lands, townships and other properties of that description.

"I will not sail for Russia," said Mr. Whyte, "until the return of President Shaughnessy from abroad. That means I will not leave before June 1."

"Whom do you take with you?" asked the reporter. "I am desirous of a companion to go with me in case I should be taken ill and also intend taking a secretary who understands the Russian language to act as interpreter. I expect to obtain one at the British foreign office."

From London Mr. Whyte goes to St. Petersburg and then across Russia and Siberia to the Pacific. His object will be to look into the opening of a market for Canadian goods, especially in the line of agricultural implements and similar manufactured articles. He will also see whether the prospects are favorable for the establishment of a line of steamers from Vancouver to Vladivostock.

Among the changes that will go into effect next month, with the transfer of general superintendents, will be the change of master mechanics. It is understood that Master Mechanic Ord, of the western division, has been offered the same position with General Superintendent Osborne of the Atlantic division. Mr. Leonard will take Mr. G. S. McKinnon, his master mechanic, to Winnipeg, and Mr. Timmerman will take Mr. Spragg now master mechanic at St. John to Toronto. Mr. Ord has been master mechanic at Winnipeg for a little over a year, having been previous to that in charge of the air brake instruction department. Mr. Ord is now on a trip of inspection in the west but is expected to return to-day.

On the opening of navigation for the C. P. R. passenger steamers on the great lakes a steamboat express will run from Fort William to Winnipeg every Thursday until the Imperial

Limited train is put on when the service will be daily.

**Siberian Railway Described.**

Washington, April 28.—An interesting description of the trans-Siberian railway is given by Lieut. E. P. Bertholf, of the revenue cutter service, in a personal letter to a friend in Washington. Lieut. Bertholf is now in Eastern Siberia on a mission for the interior department to obtain herds of reindeer for transportation to Alaska. He presented letters from this government to the Russian officials at St. Petersburg and travelled east over the trans-Siberian road. His letter is written from Irkutsk, Siberia, where he was received and entertained by the governor of the province. He expects to meet the revenue cutter Bear in the vicinity of Baronoskof bay, Siberia, about the middle of May. In the meanwhile he will make a sledge trip of about 800 miles to the head of Okhotsk sea, collecting reindeer, if possible, in that vicinity, to be shipped to Port Clarence, Alaska, on the Bear. He was executive officer of that vessel during the Arctic cruise last year, and is well-known as a member of the famous overland expedition to relieve the ice-bound whalers at Point Barrow in the winter of 1897-98.

Lieut. Bertholf describes the trans-Siberian railway at some length in his letter. He says that the road is much better in general equipment than is commonly supposed in the United States, and is bound to become a great factor in the development of Siberia, whither American eyes are now turned in search of important openings for our commerce.

An extract from his letter is as follows:

"The railway brought me here from Moscow in eight and a half days, 5,200 versts, which in America can be done in about five days. But the rails are light and they cannot make speed. The Siberian express is a fine train. Better (except for speed) than our sleepers. The car is one with compartments and an aisle along the side. The berths are sofas in the day time, and of course one can lie at full length; four berths in a room, two upper and two lower. I had a room for only myself and interpreter. Between the seats is a table that can be extended and meals can be served in the room. Heat and ventilation can be regulated in each room.

"Electric lights, with a portable one to put on the table, and one can read lying down at night. Good dining cars, meals from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at any time. In the middle of the car is a larger open compartment, with a table (two tables), sofa and easy chairs, for a lounging room. In one end of the dining car is a fine bath room, hot and cold water and shower bath and a bicycle exercising machine, dumb bells, etc.

"Everything was comfortable, but eight and a half days is a long time to remain in one car. It is not cold so far, not more than 15 degrees below at Reamur, but it will probably be much colder as we go farther north, and then the first part of May or the latter part of April, it will be warmer.

No. 1 buff hides have practically advanced 1/4c at Chicago although some reports still quote 7 3/4c. It is however admitted that no further business can be done on that basis as holders are asking 8c now for this grade. Some hides are still being delivered on old contracts at 7 3/4c.

The Winnipeg city building inspector reports that since the beginning of the year he has issued 140 building permits, the cost aggregating \$308,355. The same period last year showed seventy-nine permits with a cost of \$310,000. An increase of seventy-one buildings and cost of \$198,355, was thus shown up to date for the present year.

A steamship service has been inaugurated between Chicago and Europe. Four vessels of 3,200 tons each will be put on this service and will make regular trips during the summer. The first steamer left Chicago on Wednesday. In addition to a through cargo, 50,000 bushels of grain were taken to Buffalo. This will act as ballast for the lake trip and its unloading at Buffalo will lighten the steamer sufficiently to pass down the St. Lawrence canal, and additional freight will be taken on at Montreal for the ocean trip.

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**HOTEL LELAND**  
 Headquarters for commercial men.  
 CITY HALL SQUARE.
- DRYDEN, ONT.**  
**DRYDEN HOTEL**  
 A. R. HUTCHINSON, Prop.  
 Headquarters for commercial and mining men and the general public.
- RAT PORTAGE**  
**HILLIARD HOUSE**  
 LOUIS HILLIARD, Prop.  
 First-class accommodation for commercial men.
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**QUEEN'S HOTEL**  
 THOS. EVOY, PROP.  
 Headquarters for commercial travellers. Free bus meets all trains.
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 R. FENWICK, Prop.  
 Good accommodation; telephone connection with the station; sample rooms; inside closet. Livery in connection.
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 Good sample rooms and every accommodation for the general public. Heated by furnace and lighted by acetylene gas.
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 First-class accommodation for Commercial Travellers, etc.
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 M. E. NEVINS, Prop.  
 Best hotel on the Glenboro branch. Three large and first-class sample rooms.
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 B. HALLONQUIST, Prop.  
 First-class in every department. Sample rooms. Every convenience for the travelling public. Opposite C. P. R. depot.
- DELORAINÉ—**  
**PALACE HOTEL.**  
 LAIRD & MCGARVEY, Props.  
 New building, new furnishings, furnace heating, acetylene gas. First-class. Large sample rooms.
- MACGREGOR, MAN.**  
**THE STANLEY HOUSE**  
 E. WATSON, Prop.  
 First-class accommodation for travellers. Commodious sample rooms. Livery and feed stable in connection. All kinds of teaming attended to.
- GRISWOLD—**  
**WESTERN MANITOBA HOTEL**  
 T. B. McJONALD, Proprietor.  
 Good accommodation for the travelling public. Under new and greatly superior management.
- ELKHORN**  
**HOTEL MANITOBA**  
 W. J. DIXON, Prop.  
 New building. New furnishings. Furnace heating. Acetylene gas. First-class. Large sample rooms.
- FLEMING**  
**WINDSOR HOTEL**  
 W. GEO. CLEVERLY, Prop.  
 New management. Rates \$1.25. Renovated and refurbished. Commodious sample rooms. Heated by hot air. Livery and feed stable in connection. Inside closet.
- QU'APPELLE—**  
**LELAND HOTEL**  
 LOVE & RAYMOND, Proprietors.  
 Newly furnished and under new management. Good sample rooms.
- INDIAN HEAD—**  
**ROYAL HOTEL**  
 H. W. SKINNER, Proprietor.  
 Every accommodation for the general public. Heated by furnace; lighted with acetylene gas. Bus meets all trains.

- ROSTERN—**  
**OCCIDENTAL HOTEL.**  
 H. A. McEWEEN, Prop.  
 New house. Up-to-date appointment.
- PRINCE ALBERT**  
**PRINCE ALBERT HOTEL**  
 DAVID FOLLOCK, Prop.  
 First-class accommodation. Good sample rooms for commercial men. Bus meets all trains.
- ROSTERN**  
**QUEEN'S HOTEL**  
 CAZES & POIRIER, Props.  
 Every accommodation for commercial travellers.
- MOOSE JAW**  
**THE MAPLE LEAF HOTEL**  
 EDW. C. MATHEWS, Prop.  
 Heated by steam. Lighted with acetylene gas. Hot and cold baths. Barber shop in connection. Commercial trunks moved from and to station free. Rates \$2 per day, including sample room.
- STRATHCONA**  
**STRATHCONA HOUSE**  
 W. H. SHEPPARD, Prop.  
 First-class. Opposite depot.
- EDMONTON**  
**ALBERTA HOTEL**  
 JACKSON & GRIERSON, Proprietors.  
 Sample rooms. Free bus. Livery in connection.
- MACLEOD**  
**MACLEOD HOTEL**  
 R. S. IRWIN, Prop.  
 Good sample rooms and every accommodation for commercial travellers and the general public. Rates \$2.00 per day. Bus to and from all trains.
- FINCHER CREEK.**  
**HOTEL ARLINGTON**  
 MITCHELL & DOBBIE, Props.  
 New Building, New and Commodious Bedrooms, Parlors, Bath Rooms, and Sample Rooms. Newly Furnished, Heated Throughout with Hot Air, Lighted by Gas. Electric Bells in every room. Cuisine second to none, and the best stock of Wines, Liquors and Cigars in Alberta. Miss Mitchell, Matron.
- CRANBROOK, B. C.**  
**CRANBROOK HOTEL**  
 JAS. RYAN, Prop.  
 Large and convenient sample rooms and good accommodation for commercial men. Rates \$2.00 a day.
- FORT STEELE, B. C.**  
**HOTEL WINDSOR**  
 Headquarters for commercial and mining men. All modern conveniences. Large sample rooms for commercial men.
- MOYIE, B. C.**  
**THE CENTRAL HOTEL**  
 V. DESAULNIER, Prop.  
 Headquarters for commercial and mining men. Sample rooms. Rates \$2 per day.
- REVELSTOCK, B. C.**  
**HOTEL VICTORIA**  
 JOHN V. PERKS, Prop.  
 Large and well lighted sample rooms. Hot air and electric bells and light in every room. Night Grill Room in connection for the convenience of guests, arriving and departing by night trains.
- NEW WESTMINSTER, B. C.**  
**HOTEL COLONIAL**  
 J. E. INSLEY, Proprietor.  
 Special attention given to commercial travellers. Charges moderate.
- NANAIWO, B. C.**  
**HOTEL WILSON**  
 GEO. R. RAYMOND, Proprietor.  
 Headquarters for commercial travellers. Well lighted sample rooms. Booking office Alberal Stage.