

Brandon Board of Trade.

At the recent annual meeting of the Board of Trade in Brandon the report of the council showed that there were 149 traders in the city, classified as follows:—

Grocers and fruit dealers (wholesale and retail) 15; horse dealers, 15; grain dealers, 12; general stores (merchants) 11; implement agencies, 9; dry goods and fancy goods, 8; hardware and tins, 6; lumber dealers, 5; butchers and cattle dealers, 5; blacksmiths and carriage makers, 6; contractors and painters, 8; coal dealers (and wood) 3; transfer companies, 3; bakers, 3; milk dealers, 3; harness dealers, 3; auctioneers, 2; sewing machine agencies, 2; fruit dealers, 2; wholesale liquor dealers, 2; real estate agencies, 2; planing mills, 2; pump factories and dealers, 3; tobacco dealers, 2; machine shops, 1; flour mills, 1; oatmeal mills, 1; saw mills, 1; pork packers, 1; market gardeners, 1; cabinet makers, 1; breweries, 1; jewellers, 3; druggists, 3; stationers, 3.

The estimated amount of business transacted, excluding real estate transfers and hotels, returns of which have been procured, amount to \$2,426,300, divided as follows:—

General trade not classified	\$1,159,000
Grain	432,600
Agricultural implements, binder twine and fence wire	400,000
Horses, cattle and pork	222,900
Lumber	100,000
Building contracts	80,000
Fuel, coal and wood	31,800

Total \$2,426,300

During the year 666,000 bushels of grain were purchased and shipped, comprising 576,000 bushels of wheat; 80,000 bushels of oats; barley 10,000. There have been purchased and exported 570 head of cattle and 964,000 lbs. of pork, dressed and live. The total exports in grain and stock amounted to \$485,050. Owing to the short crop of 1886 there was imported into the city 60,000 bushels of oats and barley. Horses have been imported during the year to the number of 1,060, the selling value of which at \$150 per head was \$160,450. 1,500 cords of wood, 675 tons of Saskatchewan coal, 1,500 tons of anthracite, to the total value of \$31,800. There has also been used 200 tons of blacksmiths' coal.

Resolutions were passed respecting postal service, and it was decided to petition the Dominion Government on behalf of the establishment of the farm in the vicinity of Brandon. Some discussion also ensued about the establishment of a creamery and the question of branch railways. Mr. Fraser took up the question of branch lines of railways. During his remarks he urged on the Board of Trade the necessity of having the Local Government call parliament at an early day, and grant charters to lines running to the boundary to the south of us. Mr. Smart urged strongly the getting of a charter for a line from the city to Rapid City. Messrs. Stewart, Fraser and others also spoke in favor of getting a charter for such a line. The following officers were elected: J. C. Robinson was elected president; Mr. Larkin secretary-treasurer; Mr. Smith vice-president, and Messrs. Bawden, Whitclaw, Durst, Pilling, Kirkpatrick, More, Fraser, and Adams were elected councillors.

Grain and Milling News.

Considerable grain was marketed at Crystal City, Man., last week.

The Shoal Lake roller mill has been completed and put in operation.

The pioneer oatmeal mill at Portage la Prairie has been supplied with new motive power and other machinery.

Wm. Waller has leased the Birtle grist mill (stone) and will commence operations as soon as the creek is open.

It is reported that the grist mill at Crystal City has been purchased by a party who will fit it up with roller-process machinery.

At a meeting held at Alexander Station, west of Brandon, it was decided to ask the municipal council to submit a bonus granting \$5,000 in aid of the establishment of a roller mill at Alexander.

Bran sells for \$12 per ton, and shorts at \$15 per ton at points along the railways in Northern Dakota; 62c is paid for wheat delivered at the mills at Grand Forks, Fargo and some other points.

The upper flat of N. Bawlf & Company's grain warehouse at Rapid City caved in one day last week, indiscriminately mixing a large quantity of oats and barley with the wheat stored below. The warehouse was full at the time.

The London *Miller* says: "The winter wheat is of good promise in France, Germany, and Austria, while Russia has had, on the whole, a mild winter. In India harvest will soon be beginning, and large crops are expected in the northwest provinces."

The Birtle board of trade is moving in the direction of securing the establishing of a roller flour mill at that place. Correspondence has been received from parties desirous of erecting the mill, but the trouble is about granting a bonus large enough to satisfy those willing to undertake the scheme.

The Moosomin (Assa.) *Courier* reports that the half-completed flour mill at that place has passed into the hands of Theodore Fletcher, and will be completed at once. An additional bonus will be asked to complete the mill. Fletcher formerly had an interest with another party in the mill, but owing to complications the work was dropped last summer, since which time the mill has remained in a half-completed state.

The Manitoba & Northwestern Railway Company is supplying farmers along the line of railway with Azof wheat. It is sold at 87 cents a bushel, with 21 cents off the two bushels if the bag is taken. The wheat came originally from the Black Sea, Russia. The Portage plains farmers got some of this kind a year ago. This wheat has only been grown as an experiment so far, and if it proves better adapted to the country than Red Fyfe, it will, no doubt, soon be largely grown. In appearance it compares favorably with Red Fyfe wheat.

A public meeting was held at Portage la Prairie last week, attended largely by farmers of the district, to consider a scheme for building a large public elevator at that place, which would be open to all farmers and shippers on equal terms. There is a strong desire

among the farmers to have an elevator under their own control. The following motion was passed: "That the farmers of Range 7 and part of 6, form a joint stock company, with a capital of \$12,000, in 250 shares, of \$50 each, and ask the council to submit a by-law for a bonus of \$10,000."

The last issue of the *Canada Gazette* contains an application for the incorporation of the "Lake of the Woods Milling Company." The amount of capital stock is placed at \$300,000, in shares of \$100 each. The applicants are: John Mather, Keewatin; Alex. Mitchell, Wm. Cassils and James Ross, of Montreal; R. G. Reid, of Guelph, Ont. This is the company which is to erect the 1,000-barrel mill at Keewatin, on the Lake of the Woods, where there is excellent water power. An elevator will be erected in connection with the mill, and branch elevators and warehouses will be established at points throughout Manitoba, for the purchase and storage of wheat. Keewatin is about three miles west of Rat Portage and 130 miles east of Winnipeg.

The European Outlook.

The one main factor "against things" is the dangerous political situation on the Continent. The prospect which now seems so cheerful, if peace were only assured, is undoubtedly clouded to some extent by rumors and apprehensions of war. The improvement, however, seems to be setting in so strongly that it is not likely to be checked, we should say, by anything short of the actual outbreak of war. The apprehensions will be sufficient to check some sorts of speculative enterprise, and to prevent contracts being entered into for very long periods ahead; but trade is more hard to mouth than it was, and this hard to mouth trade seems likely to go on increasing in volume unless checked by some such incident as the outbreak of war. We are inclined to think, moreover, so far as trade is concerned, that although the outbreak of war would have a great effect both immediately and while the war lasted, upon the prices of securities, yet the trade of a country like England, which is fortunate enough to keep out of quarrels and to stand neutral, would probably not be affected unfavorably at first by such an untoward event. Probably even it might be affected favorably for the moment, just as it was by the Franco-German war, through the check for manufacturing industry upon the Continent opening a large course to the markets here. The United States trade would also be affected favorably in the same way, and the trade of the world generally, which would all retract in our favor. Still, the beginning of a great Continental war would be the opening up a chapter of the unknown, and if it should be prolonged, as it is just possible, notwithstanding all the talk about wars in modern times being short, then the effect would undoubtedly be to arrest the progress of the present improvement in trade at a much earlier date than it would probably in the ordinary case be arrested. A prolonged European war would be a disastrous calamity in every way, from which, though we might ourselves keep neutral, we could not but suffer greatly on account of our many relations with the Continent. The prices of securities especially would go down heavily; enterprise in every direction would be checked; some of our best customers would be impoverished directly and indirectly, and so on. Should peace, however, be preserved there seems to be no reason why the present year should not be one of the most prosperous in our industrial annals.—*The Statist.*