NEWS OF THE DISTRICT

VEGREVILLE.

Bulletin News Service.

This morning about 8.30 the fire alarm was rung. The fire brigade soon responded and discovered a small blaze in the laundry building at the Alberta hotel. It was not necessary to use the chemical engine as the hose in connection with the hotel was sufficient to put out the blaze.

The fire originated from the wood box behind the stove. Something hot was thrown into it causing the paper and rubbish to ignite and the fire got in between the studding. The damage was light and fully insured.

A. E. Wilson, of Martins, who sold out, left today for Arrow Lake, B.C. Mr. Wilson intends taking in the fair at Portland, Oregon.

The Hairy Hill baseball team has issued a pre-season challenge to Vegreville. Hairy Hill has a star player from Fort William, who will do the twirling and any team that will run up against the nine will wonder what they have hit.

Charles Collett and family left for Vancouver, B.C., last week. It is his intention to go into fruit raising, having received his education in that line in England.

A social time was spent at Eli Turner's last night, when the neighbors gathered in and sprang a surprise party on Mr. and Mrs. Turner, who are about to depart for British Columbia.

The Farmers' Association met in their hall this afternoon. Quite a number were out notwithstanding the busy season of the year. The committee appointed to see after the chilled meat plant of the government, brought in their report, which was in favor of the government plan and was unanimously accepted by the Association. Beattie's tender for binder twine was accepted. G. T. Gascoigne is to give an address on Socialistic Attainments at the next meeting.

Vegreville, April 24.

ARDROSSAN.

Bulletin News Service.

D. Ross has returned home after spending the winter in the United States.

Rev. J. M. Fawcett was in Fort Saskatchewan last week writing on his examinations.

Jas. A. McDonald has purchased the north east quarter of section 14 5 3-21. As his homestead is the south east of 12-5 3-21 he now has a half section of splendid land.

On account of the muddy state of the roads the saw mill company have been unable to get their engine in yet.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Riley, who have been residing in Edmonton this winter, have returned to their farm here.

An enthusiastic meeting of the farmers in the vicinity of Ardrossan was convened at Begg's store on Wednesday evening. Several topics of interest were discussed. Wm. S. Beggs acted as chairman and Rev. W. T. Hamilton as secretary of the meeting. A committee, consisting of councellor Lackey and Messrs. Wm. S. Beggs and Geo. A. Clapp, was appointed to organize a board of trade and to get all information necessary for a good working organization.

Miss N. M. Vance, who has been visiting at Vermilion for the past two weeks has returned home.

Some school girls discovered a fire burning in the corner of the Fairmount church on Thursday morning. They managed to extinguish it before any damage was done. The fire had started from burning grass the day before.

Ardrossan, April 24.

RED DEER.

Bulletin News Service.

Mrs. A. J. Evans and son Harry returned this week from England where they spent the winter.

G. G. Maynard, of the Bank of Commerce staff, has been moved to Fort Francis, Ontario. F. G. Matkin, of Bawlf, takes his place here.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Putman, of Vancouver, B.C., are the guests of their daughter Mrs. F. S. Simpson for a few days.

A permit has been granted Messrs. Strickland & Reed to add another story to their hotel, which will be proceeded with at once. This improvement will give the Windsor fifteen more bedrooms and several other rooms.

The executors of the estate of the late H. S. Stent have sold the Steam Laundry to Messrs. Lesaunier & Lerouge who have had a great deal of experience in this line of business.

Supt. McLaurin, of Calgary, and twenty-five members of the Home Mission committee for Alberta of the Baptist church are in session in Red Deer this week considering grants, the filling of vacancies and drafting a program for the annual convention which will be held in Ponoka the first week in June.

E. W. Dowsett, who has been assistant in the town secretaary's office for the past year, leaves the end of this month to engage in farming n the Pine Lake district. A. G. Ayres will succeed him in the town office.

Red Deer, April 24.

PEMBINA.

Bulletin News Service.

The weather here has been cold with an occasional flurry of snow. The ice has not left the river yet. The roads are very bad. Practically no roadwork has been done in these parts by the local improvement districts, except to have roads brushed out and culverts put in in a few bad spots.

It is understood that the government is to start grading the road north of Weidrich's store along the 5th Meridian as soon as the frost leaves the ground. This is a much travelled road.

G. H. Letts has been erecting a stable on his scrip and will very shortly put up a house.

Herbert Hart is temporarily confined to his house, having sustained a rather painful cut in the knee with an axe.

Miss Jean Telfer, of Alberta College, spent her Easter holidays with her mother here.

Mrs. B. W. Allen has been confined to her bed for the past week with an attack of pleurisy but is now on the way to recovery.

Mr. Weidrich and Mr. Stanton, merchants, have been disposing of a great deal of machinery lately.

E. Brabazon had a house raising on his homestead across the river from here last week.

The C.N.R. surveyors are busy running a line north from Morinville to Athabasca Landing. It is understood that the line may run somewhat west of where it was originally located, namely through Clyde.

Stewart Hart and family, who have spent the winter at Fort Saskatchewan, are expected here shortly to again take up homestead life.

On Saturday, April 17th, the marriage of Harold Golder to Miss Wilson, sister of Ed. Wilson, all of Pembina, took place. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Mr. Harden.

Thos. Lett is building a new store near his residence.

There has been some talk lately of having the name of this post office taken from us. It seems that a certain town up the river by the name of Entwistle is desirous of being known as Pembina. Just why this new settlement should want to be known by this name is a question. The result is, a bad mixture of the mails. Besides the people here are strongly desirous of retaining the name Pembina.

Pembina, April 24.

RYLEY.

Bulletin News Service.

E. W. Thirsk returned from Bawlf on Tuesday.

Ben Bendiksen made a business trip to Camrose last week.

Wm. Elliott of Stratheona is in town last week.

It is rumored that track laying has begun this side of Battle River.

Anderson Bros., Ryley have the contract for lumber drawing for the Empire Lumber company.

Leon Thirsk is visiting at home in Bawlf this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Ole Andreson made a trip to Camrose and Pretty Hill last week. They returned on Sunday.

Large quantities of lumber are being brought in for both local yards.

Rev. M. R. Gordan is confined to his bed by sickness.

Nelson and K. Jasuers expect to begin enlarging their store soon.

Geo. F. Fuller of Saskatoon, general manager of Empire Lumber company, for Saskatchewan and Alberta was in town Wednesday. Ryley is to be a supply headquarters as this town will have transportation facilities which other G.T.P. towns have not.

C. J. Burchard Saskatoon, one of the lumber firm of The Empire Lumber company, was in town Wednesday. The Burchard Lumber company having sold out to the Empire.

E. E. McKenzie, of Strathcona has made his appearance on his homestead again. Ed. is making good improvements. He is accompanied by his partner Jas. Blain.

Wm. Killian of Thule school settlement was the first to sow grain in the district as far as known. He sowed twenty-five acres Thursday and Friday last week.

F. H. Garvey, of Minneapolis, has been appointed resident manager of the Empire Lumber company.

Ryley, April 26.

FORT SASKATCHEWAN.

Bulletin News Service.

On Friday evening in the Town Hall, Professor Alexander of the Strathcona University gave a lecture on "Sir John Franklyn," and not on "Jeremy Bentham" as had been advertised. There was a large audience and the interesting lecture was most attentively listened to. This was the first of a series of lectures which are to be given in the Fort by the teachers in the university. The next one is to be given by Dr. Tory in the course of a week or ten days, and no doubt much interest will be taken in the course. At the close of the address on Friday night Professor Alexander was tendered a hearty vote of thanks.

The Fort Saskatchewan Curling club gave their first ball on Friday night at which there was a fair crowd. The hall was tastefully decorated. Musicians from Edmonton furnished the music, and those present enjoyed the evening.

There is a slight improvement in the condition of D. Nelson, who has been so seriously ill for a couple of weeks with pneumonia, and some hope is now entertained for his recovery.

Quite a good representation of the Fort Lodge I.O.O.F. went to Edmonton on Sunday to attend their anniversary service, which was held in Westminster Presbyterian church.

A heavy snow accompanied by high winds came up on Sunday afternoon, and from present indicotions the ice on the river will not break for some time.

Visitors to the Capital on Saturday's local were Mrs. H. H. Wright, Mrs. Gauf, Misses Minnie Simmons, Nettie Asher, Mabel McCauley, Ruth Staples, Alice Daniel, Amy Stacey, and Lulu Carscadden.

Mrs. Wm. Cameron of Edmonton, spent a couple of days in the Fort this week, visiting Mrs. D. Simmons and returned on Saturday afternoon.

Miss Wilson, of Strathcona, returned Saturday afternoon after spending the week in the Fort visiting Mrs. Wilkin.

Canon d'Easum, of Calgary, returned on Friday, having spent a few days with old friends here.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Shaw mourn the loss of their infant child, which died on Friday morning and was interred in the cemetery here on Saturday. Rev. W. J. Howard conducted the burial services.

Fort Saskatchewan, April 26.

HAZEL BLUFF, PEMBINA.

Bulletin News Service.

Herbert Hart was seriously hurt several days ago while working on a log building. An axe he was using cut his leg the full width of the blade, causing a very ugly wound.

Mrs. B. W. Allen is slowly improving.

A very pretty wedding took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Quin Golder on Saturday, April 17, when Harold Golder and Miss Bessie Wilson were united in wedlock by District Superintendent Rev. Harden, of Independence. Both of the contracting parties are well known and highly respected young people in this community. They will make their future home on the farm owned by the groom north of Pembina.

Prof. H. A. Haynes, of Eastburg, was a Hazel Bluffs visitor on Sunday.

A petition is being circulated by local church-goers to be presented to the Methodist conference in May, asking for the return of Rev. D. H. Telfer to this charge.

J. Chas. Bell, of Clyde, spent Sunday with friends here.

W. Wiedrick, of Clyde, was a business visitor here this week.

Robt. Bryden, of Edmonton, is a Pembina visitor this week.

Steware Hart and family, who have spent the winter at Fort Saskatchewan, will return here soon to live.

J. Graveston was called out on Saturday to repair a break in the telephone line which occurred between Marshall's and Halfway station.

H. E. Stauton is engaged in hauling lumber for the Hazel Bluff school district.

Robt. Wheatley is making extensive improvements on his barns located on the Hazel Spring farm.

Mrs. F N. Bunce is reported as being ill.

Rev. D. H. and Andrew Telfer left for Edmonton this week to procure shingles for the new church.

The Ladies' Aid society met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. Evans on Thursday last and a very pleasant time is reported.

T. A. Lockhart, of Edmonton, made a flying trip to Pembina this week and made arrangements for the erection of buildings on his homestead.

H. A. Tiegs, of Manola, was a Hazel Bluff visitor this week.

John McRae returned from Strathcona this week.

Hazel Bluff, Pembina, April 26th.

VEGREVILLE.

Bulletin News Service.

A. E. Bradford, Edmonton, is here distributing telephone poles on the local lines. With the C.N.R.'s surveying gangs and the telephone construction outfit, there is great activity in and in the vicinity of Vegreville.

W. L. Gillespie, circulation manager of the Bulletin, was in town today.

Wheat sowing has commenced. There is not much oats sown before the month of May. By the first of next week seeding will be in full swing.

W. A. Fife, of the Twin City Manufacturing Company, of Edmonton, is in town today

A. W. Robson, of the W. H. Clark Co., Edmonton, was in town on business.

S. A. Richardson, rancher near Warwick, has purchased a fine black Percheron stallion. The animal is one that was syndicated at Fort Saskatchewan a few years ago. He is still in his prime, only eight years of age.

The Board of Trade met in the council chamber, but not much business was done apart from the grist mill proposition. There was nothing definite done about the proposition.

Miss E. M. Kennedy, of Wetaskiwin, has been engaged by the Public School Board to teach room 2.

Miss Rena Cochran, of Warwick, left this morning to visit her sister, Mrs. J. Rupert, of Saskatchewan.

The stock question on the tongues of the citizens of Vegreville during the last week has not been "How do you like the weather," but "Are you the man from Nevada?" Although this is a peculiar question, the explanation is very simple. Some weeks ago the Knights of Pythias Dramatic Club got down to work and decided to begin preparations for an amateur theatrical night. The name of the play chosen was "The Man from Nevada." The unusual interest centring in this effort is accounted for partly by the popularity and general high esteem in which the actors are held and also because Vegreville always boosts hereself first. The play is to be presented on the evening of Friday, April 30, and the indications are that the spacious Town Hall will be filled to the doors. A full account of the evening's entertainment will appear in these columns later in the week.

Vegreville, April 27.

WABAMUN.

Bulletin News Service.

No teacher has as yet been obtained for the Wabamun school.

A fine school valued at $1,200 is to be built in the Tomahawk district, on section 11, township 51, range 6. There are 18 children in the township. Lumber for this school is already on the ground. There were sixty voters at this point last election.

Four hundred and one logs have been taken out for lumber for the new Methodist church.

The ice in the lake is still strong enough to stand the strain of freighting.

On Thursday last three Stony Indian boys and one girl were taken from Paul's Reserve to the Red Deer Industrial School. They were taken to Strathcona by Jacob Didymus and Jose Susan. There they were taken in charge by Mrs. Pattison, who, in company with her daughter, Nora, will visit the school. Two more boys were picked up on the way to Strathcona. The children were all anxious to go on account of the good report given by the boys from the reserve already in the school. Some of the Stonys have returned from rat hunting and report the catch poor. For some years four beaver unmolested have been building a city on the White Whale Creek on the reserve. This winter word went around that it was legal to kill beaver, and now three of the four are dead. These were the only beaver known to exist any place near here.

As soon as the frost goes out a bridge will be built over the creek at the old stand of White's saw mill. The council have decided to put through the government road allowance to the Lac Ste Anne trail.

During the past few days R. Clegg, Methodist minister of Onoway, has been writing examinations at the Methodist Parsonage, Wabamun. He will exchange pulpits with Mr. James on Sunday, May 2nd. On this Sunday will be held the anniversary services of the Pine Ridge Methodist Church, when Mr. James will preach and administer the sacrament at three o'clock. On the following Monday, at three o'clock, there will be held the final meeting of the Quarterly Official Board for the year. At 7.30 in the evening a concert will be given and the new organ, the gift of Mr. Musselman, in memory of his late wife, will be accepted. Mrs. James will speak on church union.

J. W. Wright has finished his examinations and will at once move from Rexboro to Entwistle. Plans are being discussed there for building a church or parsonage on the lots recently given to the Methodist Church by Mr. Entwistle, senr. Mr. Wright will open up services at Tomahawk and the country further west.

J. R. Davidson, B.A., hardware merchant of Camrose, visited S. W. Eakins last week. Messrs. Eakins and Davidson were college chums at Victoria University, Toronto.

Mr. P. Preston has returned home with his bride, who was formerly Miss Brown.

Wabamun, April 26.

VERMILION.

Bulletin News Service.

W. J. Rutherford paid a business trip to Edmonton on Wednesday.

G. Powell returned from a visit at Edmonton on Thursday.

Mrs. C. E. Henry, of Wainwright, spent several days with Mrs. G. Powell last week.

Owing to the latcness of the season the directors of the Vermilion Creamery association have decided to defer the opening of the creamery until the 10th of May. A meeting of the directors was held Saturday.

Dan Bigham, station agent at Lavoy, is a visitor in town this week.

John McLay was a visitor at Edmonton this week.

W. Goodbody returned from Seattle no Monday to resume his homestead duties.

Geo. Featherstone returned from a trip to Ripley, Ontario, on Monday.

Steve White, of Pincher Creek, is renewing old acquaintances around town this week.

Wm. Radditz is confined to his house with an attack of pleurisy.

Jas. Mooney, of Isley, was a visitor in town on Tuesday.

E. B. Ebbett, of Mannville, was in town on Tuesday.

A. Jones left for Battleford on Saturday to start work at painting and decorating the C. N. R. depot there.

A. M. Chisholm, of South Bay, Manitoulin Island, is visiting his sister, Mrs. I. Winters.

A very sad death occurred at the immigration hall on Saturday when Mrs. E. Kerr, late of Barrie, Ontario, and who was suffering from a severe cold, contracted on the journey from the east, suddenly passed away. The deceased who was all alone was not aware of the seriousness of her illness and would not accept medical attention until too late. The funeral was held on Monday afternoon, a short service being held in the Methodist church before the remains were removed to the cemetery.

Vrmilion, April 27.

STRATHCONA NEWS.

Miss Clara Ferguson, Leduc, who has been spending several days in Strathcona visiting her sister, Miss Margaret Ferguson, returned home Monday afternoon.

The ice between Edmonton and Strathcona is breaking up rapidly, but there are still a few venturesome ones who have crossed between the power houses during the past few days. On Sunday evening, while J. Runders was walking over he broke through near Walter's ferry, but with the assistance of a comrade and a piece of board he was rescued, no worse off for his experience than the wetting.

The work of deepening the wells at the Strathcona power house which has been in progress for some weeks under Contractor Deity, has been finished and a full report will be submitted to the city council this evening. Considerable difficulty has been experienced owing to the quicksands which made a cave-in hard to prevent.

The Strathcona board of trade are making arrangements to meet F. W. Peters, of the C. P. R., during his visit to Edmonton and Strathcona. The board wish to discuss the question of the enlargement of the system in Strathcona with the C. P. R. assistant to the vice-president.

Mayor Duggan and several members of the Strathcona council had a conference Tuesday afternoon with F. W. Peters, of the C.P.R., and discussed the question of the crossing of streets and avenues by the railway line leading to the high-level bridge. It was decided that the permission to cross be given, subject to a reservation that at any time in the future overhead bridges and subways might be asked for from the Railway Commission wherever desired.

The question of opening up First avenue north, across the railway track, was also considered, but a decision was left over until the arrival in the city today of A. Price, Calgary, western superintendent, under whose jurisdiction the matter comes. At the present time there is no crossing over the C.P.R. right of way between Whyte avenue and Fourth street north. The proposed crossing would give direct access to the east from the fire hall.

Mr. Peters was asked about the high-level bridge and he stated that he was perfectly willing to have a traffic section constructed on the bridge. He would make an announcement on the question when the negotiations for the right of way were concluded.

Presentation to Mrs. Broadus.

The last meeting of the season of the Ladies' Reading club in connection with the university extension courses in Strathcona was held Monday afternoon at the home of Mrs. James Blain. An interesting feature of the occasion was the presentation to Mrs. Broadus, who has been largely instrumental in the success of the club, of a huge pillow of roses, donated by the other ladies of the club. The presentation was happily made by Mrs. Rutherford and was acknowledged briefly the recipient. This club has met weekly during the winter and has added greatly to the enjoyment and profit of the regular university extension lectures.

INCREASE IN INSURANCE RATES IS THREATENED.

Secretary-Treasurer of Western Canada Fire Insurance Underwriters Sends Letter to Strathcona Council—Permission Given to C. P. R. to Cross Streets and Avenues of the City.

Strathcona city council had a lengthy session Tuesday night, not adjourning till after eleven o'clock. Mayor Duggan occupied the chair and all the aldermen were present but Messrs. Sheppard and Baalim. Probably the most important item was the letter from W. H. Birch, secretary-treasurer of the Western Canada Fire Underwriters' Association, Winnipeg, calling attention to recent violations of the fire limit bylaw and stating that unless it were more stringently observed the fire insurance rates would be again increased. Several of the aldermen protested strongly against what they said was the misinformation that the secretary-treasurer had received and a committee was appointed to write.

As a result of a conference in the afternoon with the C.P.R. a resolution was passed giving the company permission to cross all necessary streets and avenues in their line to the high level bridge. This does not prejudice the city's right to appeal later to the railway commission for overhead bridges or subways.

The plan of a new subdivision in River Lot 1, west of the university grounds was submitted. Considerable time was also taken up in discussion of a complaint of Ald. Lendrum that his subdivision of Beau Park had been too nigaly assessed. The assessment committee reported against his contention, however, and he threatened to carry the matter to the courts.

Threatens Insurance Increase.

The secretary of the fire underwriters' letter was as follows:

"Dear Sir,—We have been advised that a frame building situated in block 67, Goad's plan, No. 32, north side of Whyte avenue, has been moved some twenty-five or thirty feet to the east bringing it within the first fire limits and exposing the buildings on the corner of Whyte avenue and Main street. According to your by-laws, as we understand it, this is a violation of the same.

We are further advised that this is not the only instance of such violation.

We would draw your attention to the fact that the recent rating of Stratheona is partially based on the fact that this bylaw does not allow any frame buildings to be built or brought into the first fire limits and, if the city cannot enforce this bylaw, it will be necessary for us to make an increase in the rates over the whole city corresponding to the reduction which was given for this particular feature.

An increase of a few cents in the rate on an individual risk does not sound very alarming but when put into force over the whole city it means a heavy tax on the citizens and we trust that the city council of Stratheona will see their way to having the by-law carried out, so that we will not be under the necessity of making any change in our present rates. There was nothing definite done about the proposition.

Trusting that you will place this matter before your council and that you will see that the official on whom the responsibility rests, does his duty in the future, I am,

Yours very truly,

W. H. BIRCH,

Secretary-Treasurer Fire Underwriters of Western Canada.

Ald Bush said that a prominent insurance man who was with him Monday had gone down Whyte avenue and looked over the building referred to and he said that the risk was decreased rather than increased by the moving of the building. Ald. Bush thought that whoever sent such information to the secretary of the firewriters was much to blame.

Ald. Baalim thought that steps should be taken to find out who was furnishing the information to the underwriters but another alderman pointed out that it was improbable that Mr. Birch would tell.

A committee composed of the Mayor and Alds. Bush and Tipton was instructed to write to F. W. Birch explaining all the circumstances of the case. Messrs. Bush and Tipton were appointed as both are insurance men and are particularly interested in the case.

Some Delegations.

R. H. Alexander of Edmonton appeared before the council and stated that a company of English capitalists, after their representative had visited Edmonton and Strathcona and had come to the conclusion that the west end of Strathcona would be a centre of population in future years, had purchased River Lot 1, which is made up of the flats west of the university grounds. It was the intention to put the subdivision on the market by the owners who would be known as the Edmonton-Strathcona Land Co. He asked permission of the council to lay out the proposed subdivision according to a plan which he submitted which provided for a roadway, 100 feet wide, around the bank forming a continuation of Saskatchewan avenue. Mr. Alexander was instructed to present the completed plan.

John S. Aitkin, Calgary, representative of the Canadian Fairbanks Scales Co., appeared and gave information with reference to the new ten-ton scales which the city purpose buying.

The Communications.

J. Gainer & Co., wrote with reference to increased water supply for their abattoir. The letter was referred to the water and sewer committee.

The city solicitor reported that in the case of Chief of Police Meehan vs. a bus driver, named Dunn, who was fined $10 for crossing the sidewalks, that in the district court in appeal Judge Taylor had reduced the fine to $5, owing to extenuating circumstances. The costs of the case were $18.50. In this case the bus driver had passed over the corner of the C.P.R. platform facing on Whyte avenue. Two other cases pending were ordered to be dropped.

Minneapolis Bedding Co. wrote with reference to the supply of goods to the new hospital. The letter was referred to the hospital committee for consideration when the time arrived for securing supplies.

C. C. Snowdon, Calgary, wrote that he was carrying a full stock of oils and greases which he would be pleased to supply the city at the lowest possible price. The letter was referred to the fire and light committee.

A number of property holders in the west end of Whyte avenue wrote calling the attention of the council to the fact that they had petitioned last year for granolithic walks along blocks 63 and block 66 on Whyte avenue west of the present concrete walks. They asked that these petitions be first taken up this year. These petitions were referred to the public works committee.

C.P.R. to Cross Streets.

A resolution moved by Ald. Bush and seconded by Ald. Elliott was passed permitting the C.P.R. to cross on the level all the streets and avenues as shown by the plan from the line near the station to the southern terminus of the high-level bridge. This resolution Ald. Bush said, did not prejudice the rights of the city to get overhead bridges or subways in the future.

The city assessor reported on the classification for business stands in the city. The classification which is the same as in Edmonton was adopted.

The council then went into committee of the whole with alderman Richards in the chair on the estimates. These were considered for about an hour before adjournment.

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