

Commercial Travellers Meeting.

On Saturday evening a meeting of the North-west Commercial Travellers Association of Canada was held in the McCaskill House, for the purpose of electing directors for the ensuing year. Mr. Joseph Mulholland, president of the association, occupied the chair, and after the preliminaries of reading the minutes of last meeting and approving the same, the election was proceeded with. Messrs. Langridge and Walker were appointed scrutineers, and a ballot resulted in the election of Messrs. R. J. Whitta, A. F. Eden, J. Payne Dier, Fred. Chillcot and W. J. Georgeson. No other business of great importance was transacted at the meeting.

By the partial bursting of a boiler at the Silver Islet mine, Samuel McEachren, fireman, was scalded to death, and William Beatty, engineer, seriously injured. The works contain four boilers and are being rebuilt.

Capt. Mullet, Morris, has bought the bakery outfit of Mr. G. Cassens, including building in that town. Mr. Cassens retains a half interest in the bakery business and Capt. Mullet adds a flour and feed business on his own account.

The Trade and Navigation tables to be presented to the forthcoming parliament will shew that during the past year the export trade of the Dominion increased, and the import trade decreased, leaving the balance of trade in favor of the Dominion, a most unusual experience. In the United States and Great Britain last year the balance of trade was the other way.

Mr. William MacDonnell of Messrs. MacDonnell & Bro., merchants, Winnipeg, recently left with a well assorted stock of goods for Fort Calgary, where it is the intention of the firm to open up a branch of their establishment. This is the first Winnipeg firm to spread its operations so far afield and it is to be hoped that the reward which it merits will reward such enterprise.

The *Mark Lane Express* says:—"There are large surpluses existing in such important sources of supply as India and Russia. They must either sell or hold over, and so far as appearances go, the United States is the only country which can afford to hold its surplus. With regard to the United States, the question is not so much whether it can afford to hold two or more. This is a matter which affects Wall Street rather than Mark Lane, inasmuch as the experience of the past year, taken in connection with the present statistical position goes to show that Wall Street has not yet obtained 'the key,' of Mark Lane. Beyond all doubt No. 2 American red winter is the standard of value in the world's wheat market for the cereal year 1882-83, but the one fact not so clearly understood is that this standard rules almost as effectively *in loco* as *in transitu*. While supply is in such present and prospective proportions as it is now, American wheats may be scarce without being comparatively dear, and we might even get on comfortably without them."

In Great Britain and Ireland there were in 1871, 37,673 persons employed in flour mills.

EMERSON.

Trail Maulson & Clark have temporarily stopped buying wheat.

There is very little grain offering. Prices remain unaltered; for wheat 75c is paid.

Walton & Bird have taken the contract to supply nuts and bolts for the new bridge.

Mr. Rutledge of Pembina Croising is here closing out the business of Rutledge & McKay who have been succeeded by W. G. Evans & Co.

Messrs. Geo. W. Baker and Peter Kennedy, formerly with Ashdown & Co., are going into the commission business in Winnipeg.

INDIAN HEAD.

Owing to the mild days we have had this week, business in our town has been unusually brisk.

Mr. A. J. Osment is having a large building erected in which he will start a furniture store at an early date.

Messrs. Crawford & Robertson have just received another large stock of dry goods, groceries and provisions, which they are rapidly disposing of.

Mr. S. Inglis, who has contracted to freight a lot of machinery from here to Prince Albert, has just arrived with two carloads of horses for the purpose, and is now making preparations for the trip. He is also talking very strongly of running a stage line between here and Prince Albert early in spring.

BRANDON.

Mr. W. J. Craig, late of Portage, has opened a general store on Rosser Avenue.

Thos. H. Munson, druggist, of this city has gone west to Regina under very shady circumstances.

Fraser Bros. will erect a large brick store on the corner of Rosser Avenue and Tenth Street, this spring.

The city succeeded in raising \$30,000 through the Bank of Nova Scotia, and have paid off the contractor and laborers and now start with a clean sheet.

Messrs. Biglow & Cussick, of Virden have assigned to Robert T. Riley—manager for Sanford, Nail & Co., Hamilton—for the benefit of their creditors.

Wheat is still being held back on account of the low price; farmers expect a decided advance when spring opens. Wheat brings 60c to 65c. Oats 35c to 40c, and for pure white oats 60c is being offered.

Thomas & Somersall, of Millford, have assigned to J. H. Ashdown, and W. H. Pass, of Minnedosa, has also assigned to J. H. Ashdown. Some of the creditors of these parties will not agree to a compromise and there is a prospect of trouble.

Business has improved slightly since last week but is still quiet. Very little improvement is expected until immigration begins. A number of travellers have visited the city but they have not been over successful in making sales as the stores are overstocked with goods bought for the fall trade which was lighter than was expected.

REGINA.

The C.P.R. has imported another cargo of hard coal which is now selling at the station for \$16.25 per ton.

Mr. McQuarrie has sold out his general store to Finney & Lytle. The business will be carried on under the name of W. J. Finney & Co.

Messrs. Clankson & Tolhurst, of Winnipeg shortly open the Pioneer Tailoring Establishment. The branch here will be under the management of Mr. Chatwin, and will be carried on under the name of Clankson, Tolhurst & Chatwin.

Messrs. Baldwin & Shaffner, of Emerson are opening an extensive lumber yard here. They are daily expecting the arrival of their stock of lumber which was shipped some time ago but has been detained by the snow blockade on the C.P.R.

The incipient fire at the Criterion has been the means of reviving public interest in the fire protection schemes. A Fire Brigade is in process of formation and a large fund has been subscribed for the purpose of procuring the necessary equipment, and the C.P.R. authorities have granted permission to use the station tank for fire purposes.

RAT PORTAGE.

The all important question is the necessity of a bank. Will no bank take pity and establish a branch?

Work will also shortly be commenced on the mining location known as the Bonanza King, Lake of the Woods.

Any speculator that would build houses and stores in Rat Portage would find it to his advantage. Houses of three rooms command \$20 per month rent.

Business is brisk at present, and the town is all business in men supplying themselves with provisions from the different stores, leaving for the woods and mines.

The Mayor and Council of Rat Portage are now engaging their attention to the benefits and comforts of Rat Portage, as large numbers of people are expected to reside here during the next summer.

Messrs. Snow & Codd, Dominion Land Surveyors, have several locations in the vicinity of Hay Island to survey so soon as the weather will permit. They are at present engaged in preparing plans of the Rideout addition to the town of Rat Portage.

Mining and real estate boom is the general subject of conversation. Large numbers of men are daily arriving for the mines, and when the spring opens up Rat Portage will be largely increased in population. Main street lots are selling for \$3,000 and \$4,000. E. M. Rideout and others propose shortly to develop the White Feather and Pitsburg location. It is well known that these locations are rich in minerals.

The Prince Arthur's Landing *Herald* devotes four columns to a description of the Huronian mining company's property at Jack-fish Lake. Extraordinary reports are current regarding the richness of a silver mine called the Rabbit Mountain, now being developed in the Prince Arthur's Landing district.