

WINNIPEG SECTION

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In Association with
The Market Record and The Daily Grain Letter.

WESTERN MILLERS AMALGAMATE.

Million Dollar Merger, Head Office at Winnipeg— Real Estate Market—Winnipeg's Finances.

Monetary Times Office, March 4th.

During January and the early part of February, trade in the West was handicapped somewhat by the demoralized condition of freight traffic, but the congestion now is relieved greatly, and business shows a steady improvement with the approach of spring, which will enable the farmers to ship grain more freely.

Millers report trade brisk with demand good. The Western mills have been fortunate in securing an unlimited call for low grades for shipment to the Orient. Hardly a week passes without large orders being booked the latest being for nearly one hundred thousand sacks to be supplied by the Lake of the Woods and Ogilvie Milling Companies.

Amalgamation of Country Mills.

The country millers of Western Canada held a well-attended meeting in the city last week for the purpose of considering the advisability of co-operation and consolidation in the effort to improve the milling trade of smaller mills, and to compete with the larger industries.

The matter was brought to a successful issue and a stock company formed to be known as the Canadian Consolidated Flour Mills, Limited, with an authorized capital of \$1,000,000. The head-office will be at Winnipeg. The capacity of the amalgamated mills up to the present time is about 3,000 barrels per day, with an elevator capacity of over 1,500,000 bushels, thus insuring the handling of a total of at least five million bushels annually.

The advantages of the amalgamation will be the saving in expenses of selling flour on the different markets, and the reduced running expenses of the separate mills.

Winnipeg real estate continues active, and lots in the new subdivisions surrounding the Grand Trunk Pacific shops location are being rapidly disposed of. At present this class of property is detracting attention from the more central investments. There is every indication that 1907 will be a record year in every line of business, not only in Winnipeg, but in the whole of Western Canada. Already 130 building permits have been let for a total of 146 buildings, at an estimated cost of \$242,125, and many large structures are now under way. Among those now in course of erection are the Imperial Bank, the Grain Exchange, the Bright & Johnston warehouse, and the T. Eaton addition. Several other structures that were begun last year are nearing completion.

Winnipeg's Finances.

Any anxiety that may have existed as to the condition of Winnipeg's credit were dispelled by the offer of £97 5s. 9d. for each £100 from an English firm for over a million and a half of the cities four per cent. debentures. This offer indicates without a doubt the fact that the status of Winnipeg ranks high in the money market of the world, and there is no reason to be alarmed at the financial future of the Western Metropolis.

As a result of fraudulent dealings of the Canadian Stock and Grain Company, which concern has been doing business in the West for some months, the Winnipeg office was raided by the police last Friday, and Geo. W. Wood, president and manager, arrested. At the preliminary trial, the matter was gone into by Magistrate Daly, and it was proven beyond the shadow of a doubt that the business methods of that concern were of a very suspicious character. The case was adjourned and the defendants allowed to go on bail, that of Wood being \$3,000. In the "Market Record" of Oct. 12, attention was drawn to the unreliability of the Canadian Stock and Grain Company, and its readers were warned against dealings of any kind with that concern. After the publishing of the first article the manager threatened to take proceedings against the paper. He later recognized the uselessness of taking up a hopeless case. In later issues the "Market Record" gave its readers a few facts concerning bucket shops, and more particularly the Canadian Stock and Grain Company.

The total wheat crop of the Saskatchewan last season was thirty-seven million bushels, an average of 20.40 per acre, an increase of eleven million bushels over the preceding year, only 5 per cent. of the available land being cultivated.

WESTERN COAL SITUATION.

The special committee appointed by the Edmonton Board of Trade to inquire into the coal situation have presented its report. They could not define the extent of the coal areas of the district, but it was found that coal deposits are very widespread throughout the locality; that the supply of coal immediately about the city and in the near vicinity is very extensive; that the coal lies near the surface, as compared with coal camps in other sections of the continent; that the seams are of a thickness and of a regularity of formation that permits of easier and cheaper working than elsewhere in Canada.

The committee suggest that the Provincial Government should ascertain the extent and location of the more valuable coal areas, and should secure to the Government sufficient coal areas of known value to be held in reserve for the public benefit. It is found that of the total number of men employed in the various mines, only an exceedingly small percentage are skilled miners, the great majority being inexperienced and unskilled men, not capable of producing as large an output as the same number of skilled miners.

It is thought that the small mines at present operating could by an expenditure of from \$4,000 to \$5,000 each effect such improvements in conditions as would permit them to produce three times their present output, and at less cost. The committee consider that the rates on coal at present in effect on the C.N.R., though no greater, and in some instances somewhat less than is charged for similar distances on other western roads, are excessive; and it is thought that in view of the greatly increased traffic that would follow an improvement in conditions in regard to coal production here, that lower rates could be made and still leave a margin of profit to the railway.

BOARDS OF TRADE.

Moose Jaw, Sask.—The Board of Trade has issued a pamphlet descriptive of the lands south and southwest of the city. In this district 29 townships were surveyed last season and will be open for homesteading in the spring.

Whitby, Ont.—A Board of Trade has been organized by the election of an executive committee of eighteen and the following officers: President, Dr. W. Adams; Vice-Presidents, James Rutledge and A. M. Ross; Treasurer, John Thomson; Secretary, Dr. John Waugh.

Arcola, Sask.—The citizens have re-organized the Board of Trade. The following officers were elected: President, A. Lowe; Vice-President, T. C. Yeoward; Secretary-Treasurer, Wm. Trant; Councillors, A. M. Matheson, C. R. Young, L. Vivian, C. C. Cook, A. D. McLeod, W. F. Youngblood.

Shoal Lake, Man.—The following officers have been elected: President, Jas. Macdonald; Vice-President, A. S. Arnold; Sec.-Treasurer, F. W. Wicks; Council, J. T. Rogers, C. E. Magrath, A. R. Teitelbaum, W. A. Findlay, R. Hickling, F. Langdale, D. Macdonald, W. J. Eakins; Auditor, W. M. Ingersoll.

Killarney, Man.—At the annual meeting J. W. Smail was re-elected president; G. B. Monteith was elected vice-president, and A. W. Nelles, secretary-treasurer. The council elected for the year is as follows: T. J. Lawlor, A. Finnen, Jas. McNaughton, A. E. Wilson, A. M. High, Geo. Winram, A. G. Hay, J. A. Percival.

Kamloops, B. C.—At the annual meeting a letter was read from the Vancouver Board of Trade asking for the endorsement of a resolution asking the Dominion Government to encourage trade with the Orient by erecting a grain elevator at Vancouver. The resolution was endorsed, except as to the location of the elevator, this being left open.

Edmonton, Alta.—The following officers have been elected: President, Wm. Short; First Vice-President and Chairman of New Industries Committee, A. C. Fraser; Second Vice-President and Chairman of Transportation Committee, J. C. Dowsett; Third Vice-President and Chairman of Civic Interests Committee, K. W. MacKenzie. Committee for the Promotion of Industrial and Commercial Enterprises:—A. C. Fraser (Chairman), W. H. Clark, Geo. Stockand, J. H. Morris, S. Gorman, T. M. Turnbull, K. W. MacKenzie. Committee on Transportation:—J. C. Dowsett (Chairman), F. M. Morgan, J. L. Studholme, O. M. Biggar, P. E. Lessard, A. T. Cushing, Theo. Revillon, A. B. Campbell. Civic Interests Committee:—K. W. MacKenzie (Chairman), J. A. McDougall, W. H. Clark, J. H. Garipey, E. T. Bishop, T. M. Turnbull, Geo. Stockand. Publicity Committee:—F. T. Fisher (Chairman), A. B. Watt, J. W. Cunningham, J. A. McDougall, D. Marshall. Convenors of Sections:—Wholesale, Geo. Stockand; Retailers, P. E. Lessard; Manufacturers, A. T. Cushing; Financial, T. M. Turnbull; Professional, E. T. Bishop; Grain and Milling, A. B. Campbell; Insurance, Jas. McGeorge; Real Estate, P. E. Butchart.

March 9, 1907.

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GRAIN

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It is expected Grand Trunk Rail summer.