

From Western Fields.

BRANDON REAL ESTATE AND BUILDING ACTIVITY.

The real estate and building activity hitherto unparalleled in the history of Brandon, which has been taking place this spring, received an added impetus this week when it was learned that Grand Trunk Pacific surveyors were busy around the eastern and southern parts of the city ostensibly making preliminary arrangements to come into the city over Canadian Northern tracks, and use the fine new passenger terminals to be built by the latter road this season at Ninth street and Princess avenue.

Winnipeg's Growing Population.

While the great spring cry of immigration has heralded the incoming of thousands of settlers for the Western fields and towns, there has been little attention given to the rapid advance of Winnipeg in the matter of population.

A famine in houses for rental purposes is making itself felt throughout the city. Rental lists contain practically nothing of high-class central properties and it is estimated that there are six tenants waiting for every central vacancy. Rents are not any higher than they have been for the past couple of years and it is possible to rent almost any kind of a house without delay.

Not only are houses in the central section scarce, but the apartment blocks are well filled and in the more suitable ones it is stated there are few if any vacancies. Lists of houses for sale or rent would be appreciated by almost any realty man in the city for the demand for each purpose is above the supply.

Winnipeg Horse Show.

The growth of the Winnipeg Horse Show has been phenomenal. In the six years in which it has been in existence it has developed from the small affair held just off Broadway, where a temporary structure was erected each year, to the great institution that it now is. The first show, although comparatively small, was a splendid success, so much so that it was resolved at once to make it an annual affair and since that time the entries have grown considerably and the prize list has become large enough to almost fill a volume.

Undenominational University for Calgary.

An effort is being made by some prominent people in Calgary to organize a large undenominational university in this city.

The Western Fuel Company, operating coal mines at Nanaimo, has given an option to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for the purchase of its properties for \$2,500,000, according to reports.

Vancouver Horse Show.

The third annual horse show was held at Vancouver, B.C., last week. Three thousand people were present the first day and the opening address was given by Hon. W. J. Bowser, attorney-general.

Kelowna makes Claim that Rates should be Reduced.

At the monthly meeting of Kelowna Board of Trade, C. C. Josselyn complained of the insurance rates, which, he said, were higher now than they

were three years ago, although owing to the number of fireproof buildings put up recently and the efficient water service, the risks were greatly reduced. In his own case, he originally paid \$4.50 per \$100, while it was now \$5.75.

It was decided, therefore, that the secretary write to the Mainland Board of Fire Underwriters, pointing out the efficiency of the city fire protection system, the high water pressure obtainable and the number of fireproof buildings already constructed and now being built, and urging that lower rates be charged.

LAURENTIAN INSURANCE COMPANY, OF CANADA, OBTAINS BROAD CHARTER.

The bill to incorporate the Laurentian Insurance Company of Canada, with headquarters in Montreal, caused discussion in the Banking and Commerce Committee at Ottawa. The company asked for authority to transact fire, marine, accident, sickness, liability, burglary, glass, automobile and other kinds of insurance business. Mr. Emerson objected to such a blanket charter and thought the company should specify exactly what business it proposed to do. Superintendent of Insurance Fitzgerald, in answer to A. Wainwright, who appeared for the bill, stated that, while it was true similar bills had been passed, such practices opened the door to the peddling of charters. Finally the bill was passed on the understanding that before it goes to the House some three classes of insurance sought must be cut out. Before commencing marine insurance \$250,000 must be subscribed and \$75,000 paid up.

MUTUAL LIFE OF CANADA.

We have received a copy of the 40th annual report of the Mutual Life of Canada, in booklet form, neatly and attractively got up, containing in addition to the proceedings at the meeting, a list of the bonds and debentures held by the company as at 31st December last, showing the amounts yearly invested in this class of securities as well as in mortgages since 1873. There is also a statement by years of the interest earned from 1872, which has more than paid the death losses since the organization of the company, by \$1,358,836. Altogether the report is a very satisfactory one, indeed, for the policyholders.

SOVEREIGN FIRE MAKES CHICAGO ITS UNITED STATES HEADQUARTERS.

The Sovereign Fire of Canada, which has had its general department in Chicago for western territory, will make that city its United States headquarters. H. S. Wilson, managing director of the home office, will divide his time between Toronto and Chicago. George B. Dykhous, assistant manager in Chicago, will remain in that capacity, while F. W. Smith, the secretary, will be in charge of the home office. It will soon enter New York state and will add \$50,000 to its United States funds, making the amount \$500,000. It will enter Tennessee and be represented in the general agency of D. Cliffe Stone of Nashville.