

Immigration.

The steady stream of immigration which has been flowing into the North-west during the past six weeks has now attained its full volume, and is all that the most sanguine friends of this country could desire, so far as the number of new arrivals is concerned. Each train from the south brings its scores at least, and sometimes hundreds of immigrants, and the hands of Captain Grahame, the government immigration agent, and his assistants are certainly full, attending to them all. A year ago, when the first rush of immigrants arrived in the North-west, the country was in a sorry state with floods, and it was impossible in many cases for the new arrivals to make their way further west than Winnipeg, or at the furthest, than Brandon. As a natural consequence Winnipeg, which had been overcrowded more or less all the previous winter, was packed with floating population. Then last spring Brandon was the western terminus of the C. P. R., and all the incomers who had to seek a temporary location in any town, were compelled to remain in the towns east of Brandon. The number of places to receive them was therefore limited, and this was another cause of the overcrowding of this city. This year the C. P. R. extends as far west as Swift Current, and in all the towns along the main line some kind of preparation has been made for the reception of these new arrivals. The fine weather and absence of floods all over the country enables all with a definite destination west of here to proceed at once to the same, and numerous others make their way without stopping over, to some point further west, and nearer their probable future home. It is a noticeable fact this spring, that the class of immigrants who are arriving here is made up principally of people coming out to look up a permanent location, and comprises very few of the class who were attracted a year ago by the news of the great real estate boom, and the possibility of making a fortune in a few days, or a few months at the furthest. There are fewer customers for the Winnipeg bar-rooms among the new arrivals, but there are more of them who will expend labor, money and brains in the development of the resources of this wonderful country.

Strange to say there are some complaints from mercantile circles in Winnipeg, that immigration has done very little as yet towards improving trade in the city. There is no doubt some truth in this complaint, as the immigrants who are arriving are, as a rule, supplied with almost every requisite for their immediate wants, and have for some time no necessity for patronizing any retail merchant outside of the grocer. As soon, however, as they settle down to whatever calling they are going to follow, their numerous wants will become known to them, and the demands upon merchants will commence. Winnipeg as the business centre of the North-West must be the largest participator in this increasing trade, the best feature in which is that it will be an ever increasing and steady volume. The complaint of dealers is therefore uncalled for, and is indicative of a very great want of patience. Whatever may be the disappointment experienced regarding

the present immigration, we have reason to feel gratified that it is made up almost entirely of settlers, who will add to the producing power of the country, and who have no time to loaf around any of our cities or towns in such numbers as to make these unhealthy from overcrowding. As an appendix to this we might add that the high rents demanded by property owners has no doubt a little to do with this state of affairs complained of by a few of our merchants.

The Snide Advertiser.

Up to the present date it has generally been supposed that all parties seeking advertisement through the press of the North-west were bona fide, and good for the payment of their bills as soon as the work of advertising was completed. Until very recently this was the case; but within a few weeks we have heard of some parties on the south side of the international line, who have been trying some sharp practices upon the country press of Manitoba, the most lenient interpretation of whose conduct is, that they are not prepared to pay their advertising bills. Only a few isolated cases of this class have as yet come to light, but as it becomes known what a wide field for trade exists in the North-west the number will assuredly increase. The parties who carry on this business are numerous in the eastern United States, and they have practiced upon the country press west of the Mississippi for years back. They are usually parties whose goods are sold through dealers, who purchase not from the advertisers directly; and in many cases the game is tried to get a cheap celebrity upon some patent article, which has not yet found a footing in western markets. The circulars which such persons send to country newspapers usually offer much better payment for ads. than the ordinary manufacturer of some staple patent medicine, and country publishers are only too ready to jump at their offers, without making any inquiry as to the standing or reliability of their liberal patron. When the first quarter's advertising bill falls due, the policy then pursued is to pay no attention to the publisher's requests for payment. All that unfortunate individual then has against his advertiser is a claim against a firm, real or imaginary, in some distant part of the country, to collect which, even if the debtor was good for the amount due, would cost more than it was worth. The only way for country publishers to do to avoid being gulled in this manner, is to make careful inquiry through a mercantile agency regarding parties at a distance asking for advertisement, and unless the same is beyond question to refuse to insert their ads. The value of the country press of the North-west as an advertising medium is rapidly becoming known among solid houses both in the eastern Provinces and States, and there is no necessity for pioneer journalists inserting the ads. of worthless parties, who will never pay them. Reliable parties will be ready to avail themselves of the use of their columns, if the advantages are lucidly explained to them.

There seems to be a great amount of discussion at present regarding the fixing up of Main

street into decent condition for travel. There seems to be a strong feeling against Mayor Mc Micken's graveling process, while no person seems to have courage enough to propose any other scheme. A gentleman informs us that a good method would be to lay the center portion of the street, say sixty feet wide, with tamarac poles, corduroy fashion, and spread soil and gravel on top until a level surface is secured. He says the scheme has been tried and worked well in Toronto, and should work here. The durability of cedar or tamarac in the ground is well known, and as the latter is plentiful in this section of the country, the undertaking would not be an enormously expensive one.

The Commercial office was favored yesterday with a call from Mr. Richards, representative of the Chicago Times, who has come for another sojourn in the North-West, and is keeping an eye upon mining affairs in Keewatin. During his last visit Mr. R., besides making a thorough examination into the business affairs of this city, investigated closely into the mining prospects around the Lake of the Woods, and his report in the Times of January 1st was not only extremely favorable to the North-West, but elaborate in detail. He informs us that New York and Chicago stock exchanges are becoming aware of the mineral wealth of the North-West, and manufacturers of mining machinery are looking to this country as a valuable field for the sale of their goods. Mr. R. has made many friends in this city, and is meeting with a hearty welcome back among us.

The numbers of private buildings which are to be erected during the present season in Winnipeg will be far in excess of that of any previous year, and several will be great architectural ornaments to the city. Several public buildings are also to be erected, among which will be the new Parliament House and the general hospital. The contracts for the latter are already let, the brick work to Gill & Atkinson and the carpenter work to W. Simson. The cost of the whole structure will be little short of \$50,000 when finished. The contracts for the Parliament House are to be let to-day, and there will no doubt be some keen fighting for the different contracts, as many have put in their estimates.

The construction of the main line of the C. P. R. westward is now commenced for the season, and over one hundred of Landgon & Sheppard's men are now at work west of Swift Current. Operations are not yet in full swing owing to the season not being far enough advanced, but after another week of fine weather this firm will put on their full force, and track lying to the Saskatchewan River will be completed by the middle of June at the furthest. At the same time gangs will be at work grading west of that, so that there will be by the coming fall an immense stretch of track ready for grading. There will be no let up on the part of the C. P. R. Syndicate until the road is through the Rockies, unless when severe weather compels rest.