

post was established twenty years ago by Stobart, Eden & Co. This business is continued under the style of Wm. Stobart & Co., with H. Mitchell as manager. The store has been moved over to near the railway station, as has all the other business places of Duck Lake. These other business places are the general store carried on as a branch of T. O. Davis, of Prince Albert, two hotels, and an implement agency of Massey & Co. Duck Lake is about six miles from Batocho, which place became known all over Canada during the rebellion of 1885. Batocho is located on the South Saskatchewan, and is not reached nearer by the railway than Duck Lake. At Batocho Geo. Fisher and Le Tondre have stores. At Carleton, on the North Saskatchewan, a few miles west of Duck Lake, Daniel Sissons has a store.

From Duck Lake to Prince Albert the distance by the railway is thirty-six miles. This portion of the distance the country is dotted thickly with bluffs of trees. There is scarcely an acre of ground without clumps of poplar trees, while ponds and lakes are numerous. The soil is very rich, the cuttings along the railway showing a deep, black mould. Vegetation during the past season has been luxuriant, as can be seen from the heavy growth of hay. The country between the forks of the river from Duck Lake to the juncture of the two streams, is well settled, and the appearance of the country indicates a very valuable region for mixed farming and raising stock, the three principal requisites for settlement—wood, water and hay—being everywhere abundant.

Near the northern end of the track the descent into the valley of the North Saskatchewan river is made. We will have a good deal to say in the future about this wonderful district and its thriving capital town. It will be sufficient at present to say that Prince Albert is a surprise to those visiting the place. That such an apparently thrifty community has been built up so far from a railway, is a wonder to many.

### Brandon.

Among the many new business blocks which have been erected at Brandon this year is the fine solid stone and brick building put up by A. C. Fraser. This building occupies a commanding position on Rosser avenue. It is 35 by 65 feet in size, three stories high, with basement. The stone front of the building is constructed from the famous material quarried at Calgary. Mr. Fraser uses the ground floor and basement of the building for his large business, which includes dry goods, clothing, etc., principally, but groceries are also handled.

Another fine brick store is the one erected by J. A. Montgomery, which he now occupies with his grocery and crockery business. This is a double store, connected with an archedway, one portion being devoted to groceries, and the other to china, glassware, lamp, etc. The stock in each department is very neatly arranged, and the store presents an inviting appearance. The block has a frontage of 50 feet on Ninth street, and is 60 feet deep, two story's, with basement. The building has very large plate glass windows, is fitted with an elevator, for moving goods from one floor to another, and has other conveniences which makes the store one of the finest in Manitoba, both in point of appearance and the accommodation afforded.

A. Whitlaw, who carries on business in groceries and boots and shoes, in the large premises formerly occupied by the firm of Strome & Whitlaw, with which he was then connected, is going out of the boot and shoe line. The space devoted to these goods he will use for crockery. With the large space at his disposal he will be able to make a very fine display in the grocery and crockery branches. Mr. Whitlaw contemplates establishing a creamery next year. While there is always ready sale for good butter, he finds that the bulk of the stuff brought in is hardly fit to place on the market. The creamery would encourage the production of a better class of butter.

A new business in Brandon this year is the grocery business established a couple of months ago by W. J. Young & Co. The firm have a very attractive store on Rosser avenue and a fine stock. Mr. Young is well known in Brandon, having served several years behind the counter in other stores.

C. Emerson, the tent and clothing manufacturer, has been laid off for a few weeks by a kick on the knee from a horse. It is expected he will soon be around, though he received a painful wound.

Jos. Donaldson, who succeeds to the meat business of W. J. Anderson, is an old hand at the business, having been in this line in Ontario. Recently he has been living at Broadview, Assiniboia.

Three cars of live hogs from Ontario have arrived in Brandon this fall. Two cars were brought in by butchers, for their local trade, hogs being very scarce in the district. The third car was composed of stockers and breeders, and these went on to McCulloch & Herriot, of the Souris flour mill.

A. E. Rea & Co. are doing a large business in shipping oats eastward in car lots.

### A Chicago Wheat Circular.

The following is a circular on the wheat situation, issued recently by E. A. Bigelow & Co., of Chicago:—

"The wheat market is in a position of phenomenal commercial strength, viewed from a supply and demand standpoint. Flouring mills throughout the west and northwest are sold ahead for thirty to ninety days for their full capacity; farmers' deliveries of spring as well as winter wheat have practically ceased; stocks in central as well as country warehouses are less by many million bushels than last year, and they were smaller then than at any time in many years previously on corresponding date; exports from both coasts since July 1 amount to 42,500,000 bushels according to Bradstreet's, a quantity that represents about two-thirds of the maximum surplus and at the rate wheat and flour are now leaving the country the remainder will be exhausted in about two more months; ninety-nine men out of every hundred in the grain trade among the merchant class are very friendly to wheat and believe in higher prices; the market has been subjected to every possible discouragement that can be urged against it short of a universal financial smash-up, and has only been kept from strongly advancing before this by the nervous tremors of the scalpers who are easily affected by commercial disturbances that would not be given a second thought had there not been a rich man's panic on the Stock Exchange, wheat bought for a turn being dumped on every little failure or

rumored failure that drifts along; foreign markets have a backbone that cannot be bent or broken and that stiffens and thickens continuously, and last though not least, the bulls are strong in their faith and are not loaded with more than they can take care of.

"The breaks in the market that occur now and again possess no important significance. They are merely short sellers' flurries and recovery from such breaks are inevitable. If there were large stocks of wheat the heavy carrying charges now ruling here might be a bearish feature, but with light stocks the handicap will not be felt and we expect to see cash wheat selling at full May prices before the first of February. Some of the greatest bull markets in the history of the Chicago grain trade have been in years when it cost 12 to 15 per cent. to carry the grain. Carrying charges are only a burden of the trade when stocks are heavy, reserves immense and the property in poor demand, rarely otherwise. This is an exceptional year, and the market is resting on the solidest kind of bed rock, consumers and exporters willingly paying the price asked for the wheat. It is a fact that wheat sold at Kansas City, Minneapolis and a dozen other points for shipment at Chicago, could be marketed to-day at home more advantageously than here, and that in many instances wheat has been bought in here to fill such contracts, the property itself remaining in the interior. Those who are bearing wheat on the theory that there is a great quantity hidden away somewhere to dump on the central markets, or that there are vast invisible reserves in the country are committing a grave mistake. Wheat will be an exceedingly scarce and high priced article all over the world, and particularly in this country before the next crop becomes available.

"There is 'big money' in wheat bought around current quotations, and investors who operate on business principles should take advantage of such flurries as that witnessed to-day to get cheap wheat. Don't procrastinate if it is your intention to buy wheat. It is seldom we feel like placing ourselves fairly and squarely on record as advising purchases or sales, but there is such an element of strength to wheat, and such a foundation to build on, and so much room for an advance that we do not believe we take any hazardous chances in advising purchases most emphatically now. We do not pretend to know what the fluctuations are going to be from day to day, but we do predict a 20% advance in the price of cash wheat inside of ninety days."

### Barley Culture.

The cultivation of barley, which can be grown between extreme geographical limits, will always be important, as it is an article of food for men and beasts, and is also employed not only in the manufacture of beer but in that of alcohol. The total production of barley in the world, says the *Journal of the Society of Arts*, (London), is estimated at 525,000,000 bushels. Of this amount Europe produces from 630,000,000 to 650,000,000 bushels, valued at £160,000,000. The following will show the average production for each country: Algeria, 60,500,000 bushels; Austria-Hungary, 88,500,000; Belgium, 3,665,700; Bulgaria, 15,125,000; Canada, 19,250,000; Denmark, 20,650,000; Egypt, 27,500,000; England, 90,750,000; France, 49,500,000; Germany, 93,500,000; Holland, 4,400,000; Norway and Sweden, 22,000,000; Roumania, 19,250,000; Russia, 124,250,000; Spain, 77,000,000; Turkey, 13,750,000, and the United States, 67,750,000 bushels.