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PORTAGE AVENUE, WINNIPEG.

Western Notes.

MacLeod Gazette:—The total number of calves branded by the stockmen of the Little Bow range, Alberta, amounted to 1,330. The calves are now coming thick and fast and it is expected the fall branding will be a big one.

Portage Review:—Lots on Saskatchewan Avenue that could have been bought for \$300 or \$400 six months ago are now up in the thousands. If this is not another boom what is it, anyway! Evidently the Portage is not dead yet.

The contract for finishing Lee & Brealey's new hotel at Calgary, has been let to A. Kennedy, and work begun. It is expected it will be rushed through to completion. This is the building of which N. D. McDonald & Co., of Winnipeg, have secured the plumbing.

Moosomin Courier:—We are glad to welcome back Mr. and Mrs. Wyssman, old residents of this vicinity. They have been taking a trip to California, with a view of settling in that country, but did not seem satisfied with what they saw and experienced, and have accordingly come back to the Territories.

Birtle Observer:—A considerable number of persons are cultivating the native gooseberry in their gardens and find the bushes hardy, prolific and luxuriant. A large quantity of the berries are brought to market. No doubt the native gooseberry will improve in size and quality by continued cultivation.

Calgary Tribune:—The contract for sinking a shaft and levels at the Coal Creek mine, Cochrane, has been awarded to Mr. Ramsay, late of the Anthracite Coal Company. The work commenced on Monday, and the first 50 feet of main shaft and 200 feet of levels are to be completed within twenty days.

Brandon Sun:—Not for five years has there been so much money expended in building in this city as there has been expended this season. In every quarter of the town large and handsome private residences are being erected, and men with spare capital are placing it in buildings, with a good hope for a speedy return from their investment.

It is understood that the municipal councils in Southern Manitoba intend petitioning the Government to have them cancel all sales of odd numbered sections which are in arrears in payment and have them thrown open again for sale to the highest bidder. These lands were in many cases sold years ago at one dollar per acre and only one payment made to the Government and have remained ever since in the hands of speculators who hold them at big prices to the detriment of the settlement of the country.

It is said that on the North Saskatchewan River in the Northwest Territory of Canada, about 80 miles above the town of Edmonton, Alberta, there is an interesting example of naturally reduced iron. Along the river bank a lignite formation crops out for several miles, overlaid by clay shales and soft argillaceous sandstones containing nodules of clay ironstone. These nodules are similar to others found at Edmonton, and proved by analysis to be carbonate of iron, containing 3498 per cent. of metallic iron. The Saskatchewan seam of lignite has at some time been burnt, leaving a bed of ashes, clinkers and burnt clay, in places twenty feet thick, and now covered by a dense growth of grass and underwood. From the mass of burnt clay pieces of metallic iron can be picked out, weighing in some cases 15 or 20 pounds. They have evidently been reduced from the nodules above mentioned by the heat of the burning lignite. Most of the pieces of iron are much rusted, but when scratched with a file they show a bright surface. The observation is interesting, and to some may help to explain how primitive man originally discovered the reduction of iron ore.

The following officers were elected at the annual meeting of the Hamilton board of trade: President, Capt. J. B. Fairgreive; vice-president, E. A. Dalley; secretary, Richard Benner. Council—W. H. Gillard, T. H. Macpherson, Wm. Hendrie, Geo. Roach, John Knox, W. E. Sanford, Adam Brown, R. R. Morgan, James Walker, Alex. Turner, F. C. Bruce, G. E. Tuckett, W. H. Glasco, J. J. Mason, C. J. Hope, J. H. Park, W. F. Findlay, J. J. Stuart, H. W. Sewell, R. Thompson, J. Eastwood, John W. Murton, Jas. Stewart, David Morton, sr., and James Scott.

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M. Staunton & Co.,
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