

Williamson & Son, fruits and confectionery, Regina, have assigned to James A. McCaul.

The Moose Jaw electric light, which has been in operation for two or three weeks is giving perfect satisfaction.

The farmers of Qu'Appelle district are being supplied with strychnine for poisoning gophers, free of charge, by the government.

Smith, of Moosomin, is refitting up his store at that place, and is putting in a full line of hardware in connection with his stove and tinware business.

The new farmers' organization, known as the Patrons of Industry, is taking root in the Territories. A number of lodges are being started in the Qu'Appelle district.

The Bank of Montreal has offered the municipality of South Qu'Appelle the privilege of purchasing the flour mill at Qu'Appelle station for the sum of \$20,000 payable in 30 years at 6 per cent interest.—*Vidette*.

Saskatchewan.

The first annual spring exhibition of the Battle River Agricultural society will be held on the 1st of May at Battleford.

A vote of the ratepayers of Prince Albert was taken on April 18 on a by-law for the purpose of raising \$7,000 to be expended in town improvements.

Jas. Taylor, assignee in the estate of J. M. Campbell, general dealer, Prince Albert, has declared a first dividend of 20 per cent. The assignee says that there will be no difficulty in paying all claims against the estate in full, within one year. Gross liabilities are about \$15,800, and assets about \$42,000.

Another Winnipeg Industry.

An industry which has existed in Winnipeg for some time, but about which very little has been heard, is the tannery and shoe factory carried on by Morton, Alexander & Morton. This business was started on a small scale, but it has grown steadily, and bids fair to become an extensive establishment in due time. The proprietors did not commence with a flourish of trumpets, but they went about their work quietly, to give the undertaking a fair trial, before making any noise. Hence the business has been carried on for some time without attracting as much attention as it otherwise would.

J. Morton was the originator of the idea of establishing a tannery in Winnipeg. Mr. Morton is a Scotchman, who came to this city a few years ago, bringing with him a thorough knowledge of the tanning industry. With a practical man at the head, one of the first elements necessary to success was guaranteed. Mr. Morton associated with himself, his son, T. Morton, and W. Alexander, and a tannery was established on Rachel street, near Point Douglas avenue and the C. P. R. track, with the object of testing the industry here. This was about three years ago. At that time the success of the undertaking was very problematical. Water is a very important item in tanning, and it was claimed by some that the water here, which contains considerable alkaline properties, would not be suitable. Experiments soon proved that the water was all that could be desired, though a little troublesome at first, until properly understood. In the absence of hemlock bark, extracts are used for

tanning, and answer just as well. Any increased cost of extracts is balanced by advantages for securing hides. In the first place, our western hides are of a very superior quality, being free from grubs and other imperfections, which afflict animals in the south and east. Only one grubby hide has ever been taken at the tannery, and that came from an animal brought in from the east. The extra quality of the hides is a point in favor of the tannery here. Then our surplus hides have to be shipped away east for a market, thus being subject to heavy freight charges, while leather brought in comes higher on the same account. Thus the freight is saved both ways by tanning the hides at home. The tannery will also assist in providing a better market for hides here.

First experiments were made with harness leather, and when this proved successful, calf was next tried. Mr. Morton has a secret process for calf, and he claims that his leather of this class is unequalled anywhere. It will wear better than French, is softer and more pliable, and equal in appearance. All other classes of leather are manufactured, but harness and calf are the principal kinds made. Furs are also tanned, for robes and other purposes, and quite a number of cow hides have been tanned, with the hair left on, for the manufacture of overcoats. A good hide makes a splendid overcoat for rough wear, and they are becoming quite popular. Deer and moose skins have also been prepared for the manufacture of mitts and gloves, and this is a branch which will probably be extended considerably, in both tanning the skins and working them up into mitts, etc.

Though the manufacture of leather has proved successful, the market for the product was not large, owing to the fact that nearly all our boots and shoes are brought in from the east. The firm were preparing to ship their leather east, when a happy thought dawned upon them. Why not work up the leather themselves, at home! The idea was acted upon, and the manufacture of boots and shoes was commenced about a year ago, premises having been secured on King street. This department was also experimental, but it has proved successful. It has been demonstrated that boots and shoes can be manufactured here at a profit. Thus it is seen how one industry leads to another. At first peg work was made, but later sewed work was undertaken. All the goods turned out in this department, are hand made, and are of the best class. As labor is more costly here, only the more expensive lines are made. The two branches—tanning and shoe manufacturing—have been found to work together to great advantage, and the business has grown steadily. A jobbing trade is done in the products of both the tannery and the shoe factory, and orders have been received as far west as the Pacific coast. In shoe uppers quite a business is done. The boots and shoes are made in sizes for men, women and children; and nearly all in calf. Some of the shoes examined appeared to be first-class, in style and quality. A quantity of dog skins have been tanned, and they make a splendid upper for calf bala, and have also been used for making shoes complete, making a very soft and pliable leather.

The business has increased to such an extent, that recently the demand has been in excess of the facilities for turning out goods. An addition will be made to the tannery, and more men are wanted for both the tannery and shoe factory.

There has been considerable difficulty in procuring help here when required. About 18 hands are now kept busy. Though the industry is yet in its infancy, it has been demonstrated that these lines can be carried on to advantage here, and it will prove a great benefit to the country to have our raw material worked up at home as much as possible, instead of shipping it east and bringing back manufactured goods. As stated, freight is saved both ways, the market for the raw material is increased in value, and employment is given to a number of people.

Alberta.

C. Ryan is starting in the bakery business at Macleod. He will also carry a stock of fruit and confectionery.

Linton Bros., books and stationery, Calgary, have moved into the store lately vacated by the Hudson's Bay Company.

The clerks of Lethbridge have presented a petition to the merchants of that place begging that the early closing movement be adopted.

G. W. Lafferty, late manager of Lafferty & Moore's Bank, at Moose Jaw, will in future have charge of the firm's head office at Calgary.

The partnership which existed between H. Douglas and A. Stirrett, under the name of the Calgary Cartage Company, has been dissolved. Douglas takes over the business.

D. M. Ratcliffe and W. B. Irving, of Calgary, who have been in the east since February, buying cattle and horses, have returned home with five car loads. Some very fine stock was purchased.

There is a strong probability that the Macleod district will have an agricultural society this summer. All necessary preliminaries have been gone through and at a meeting to be held on Saturday last it was intended to proceed with the election of officers.

Henry & Smith, of Ottawa, have signed their contract with the Dominion Government for the construction of a Howe truss bridge across the Old Man river at Macleod. The estimated cost of the bridge is \$30,000, and construction is expected to occupy six months.

H. S. Holt and D. D. Mann, contractors, arrived from Montreal last week, to be present at the resumption of operations on the Calgary and Edmonton railway. Mr. Holt states that work will be commenced beyond the Red Deer river this week, and it is expected that the road will be completed to Edmonton by August. As the contractors finish up their work on that section of the road, they will begin grading on the Calgary & Fort Macleod section.

The following from the Lethbridge *Semi-Weekly News*, would indicate that the merchants of that town at least are not very well satisfied with the manner in which the Mounted Police are enforcing the liquor laws: "Lately several of our citizens have made complaints of the action of the N. W. M. P. at stations along the C. P. R. in breaking open parcels of goods, destined for Lethbridge, in search of liquor. A very annoying example of the way the law is being carried out came to our notice this week. A firm of druggists in town received a consignment patent medicines a few days ago, which, when it reached Lethbridge, was found to have been opened at some eastern point. The bottles were not securely re-packed and the result was that a number were broken, and the remainder damaged by the spilled medicine so as to be unsalable. This is a matter that calls for investigation, and the firm mentioned would be perfectly justified in making a complaint to the department. This is only another instance of the bad results of the present territorial liquor laws."