

C. H. GIRDLESTONE, manufacturer, Winnipeg, has purchased the plant and stock of Woods & Sons, broom factory, and will operate the same.

THE Vancouver, B.C., News says: The machinery for the New Westminster woollen mill has arrived, and in a few months we may expect to see home-made blankets and tweeds on the counters of our merchants.

GEO. CRAIG, general storekeeper, Brandon, and also trading under the style of J. E. Thomas & Co., at Portage la Prairie, has bought out the dry goods stock and business of Parkes & Co., at Winnipeg. He will assume possession about the first of February, and will probably discontinue the Brandon business.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE has suffered from its third visitation from fire within a very short time. The following losses have been occasioned by the last fire, on January 1st; R. P. Campbell, furniture, building and contents destroyed; loss \$9,000, insurance \$4,000. George Murton, clothing; loss \$6,000, insurance \$2,000. Wesbrook & Fairchild, agricultural implements; loss \$2,000, insurance \$1,200. Mackenzie & Campbell, harness; loss \$1,000. B. M. Canniff, drugs; loss \$3,000, insurance \$2,000. D. & G. Cassels, bakers and confectionery; Mrs. Woods, confectionery; and Miss Taylor, milliner, also suffered to some extent.

**Clearance Sales.**

This is the time of year when, in all parts of the country, the retail trade "breaks out," so to speak, and posts its front doors with paper blotches announcing "sacrifices" of the most alarming nature. No one pretends that this mode of pushing business lends itself to the artistic display of goods; indeed, most of its votaries apparently vie with each other in an attempt to convey the idea of cheapness, by assumption of a certain vulgar neatness, which is by no means praiseworthy. Probably the retail shoe dealer is the best judge of the style of display best calculated to "fetch" a wary public. We do not, therefore so much deplore the want of taste on the part of the public itself, who can only be convinced that a bargain is worth buying when the bargain is dirty. The boot trade does not stand alone in this respect. All other tradesmen dealing direct with the population find the same disposition to combine the word "dirt cheap" in a way not properly intended by the expression. If a furniture dealer wishes to get a more than usually tall price for more than usually rickety goods, he forthwith places them outside the door, where, after a little exposure to the elements and the splashes of passing vehicles, they speedily become as "second hand" as the most fastidious could desire. Similarly a draper who finds his piece goods hanging fire, often tempts the sluggish public to pay an extra penny per yard for his stuff after he has been to the trouble of cutting it into lengths and throwing it promiscuously into a box marked "remnants." Even the dealer in edible goods, in regard to which the public might be considered fastidious, has his own special way of clearing parcels of more than usual size. It is small wonder then that the retail boot trade has found it convenient to take measures for the reduction of surplus stock, "to make room for autumn goods."—*Shoe and Leather Recorder.*

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