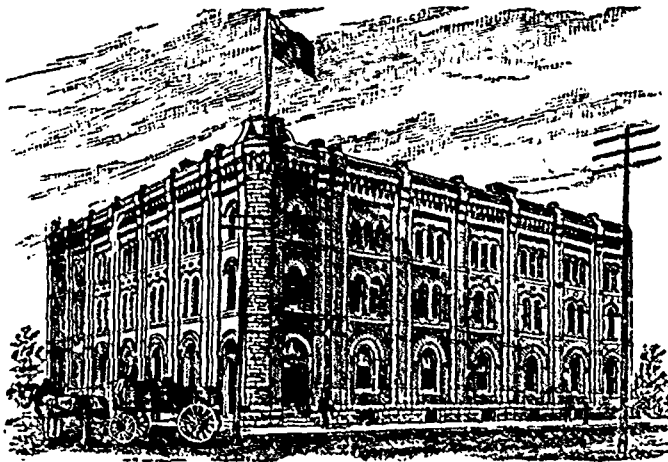


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Virden.

There are six or seven grain buyers on the Virden market this year. The elevator capacity of the place has been increased by the erection of an elevator last fall by the Lake of the Woods Milling Company, and this, with the Ogilvie and McBean elevators, makes three in all, of about 35,000 bushels capacity each. With this number of buyers and elevators, Virden should be as good a primary market as any other place in Manitoba.

In addition there is also the roller flour mill, operated by Koester & Son, which adds to the importance of the place as a grain market. About \$1,000 worth of machinery was added to the mill previous to commencing operations for the season. This included Waterous centrifugal reels and Richmond cleaners.

Among the recent additions to the business institutions of the place is the branch of the Commercial Bank of Manitoba, lately established, with Robert Adamson, who carries on a private banking business at Virden, as manager. The opening of this branch, of a chartered bank, will be a great convenience to the business men, and the size and importance of the town fully warranted the opening of such an institution.

Several other additions have been made to the business places during the year. These include the general store opened a couple of months ago by Ramsay & Clingan. Mr. Ramsay, who came from Toronto to Manitoba a few months ago, liked the country so well that he decided to remain, and finally located in Virden, his partner being an old Virdenite.

W. C. Edgar, merchant tailor, is another Ontario man, from Walkerton, who has been in Virden long enough to make up his mind that he likes the country and has come to stay. He carries a nice stock of cloths, and Virden people will not need to send east for their ordered clothing, when they can get them done by an eastern man on the spot.

R. S. Mackenzie, who carries on a tent, awning and matras factory, is another addition to the place within the year. Mr. Mackenzie commenced business in this line at Virden last spring. He also manufactures overhauls, shirts, pants, etc.

R. Steel, who carries on business in drugs, stationery, tobacco and fancy goods, has been in Virden about a year, and was formerly in Howard's drug store, at Winnipeg.

E. A. Stanley, who was in business in Virden some two years ago, has recently opened out again in groceries, boots and shoes, crockery, etc.

Among the older established business places there are the general stores of Wilcox & Co., J. J. Danlop, J. S. Young and Jos. A. Merrick & Anderson, and the hardware business of Frame & Miller. R. E. Trumbell does a wholesale business in liquors and cigars, and does quite a business shipping on permit into the Territories, as Virden is well situated for this trade, being near the territorial boundary. T. & J. Jones and Mullins & Mitchell carry on business in meats. In the hotel line there are the Virden house, kept by Wellington Elliott, the Central, conducted by Samuel Swanson, and the Ottawa house.

Oak Lake, Man.

Leitch Bros., of the Oak Lake flour mill, have sheeted their mill building all over with iron and made some general improvements before starting up for the season. This is one of the largest and best mills in Manitoba, being only exceeded in size by the Winnipeg, Portage and Keowatin mills. The mill building is first class and there is elevator storage in connection for 30,000 bushels of wheat. Four grades of flour are made, including patent and bakers' grades. Shipments are made regularly to eastern Canada and also westward. There are four of the Leitch Bros. all working together, each one having his own department, and in this way they can pull to the best advantage. Their business is carried on on business principles. Leitch Bros. are shippers and wholesale dealers in all kinds of grain, feed, etc., as well as millers. The mill was one of the first to start grinding on new wheat this year, and has been running night and day since September 12th last. The first car load of new flour shipped east this year was from this mill. The firm is buying grain this year at Routledge, the next station west of Oak Lake.

It is expected that 350,000 to 400,000 bushels of wheat will be marketed at Oak Lake this

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season, and a great deal of it is of very good quality, despite the unfavorable weather for harvest. A good deal of damage resulted from bleaching, but some very fine samples of wheat are shown nevertheless, a few grading No. 1 hard, and one sample was taken in recently at the mill quite equal to extra Manitoba hard. Ogilvie has an elevator here.

Oak Lake is a splendid stock region. Hay is abundant, and there is plenty of wood and water. The place derives its name from the lake close by and from the bluffs of oak trees in the district. J. R. Hood is the local stock dealer and butcher.

Dr. Wright has erected a new building, which he has recently occupied with his drug and stationery business, and he has put in quite a stock of holiday goods.

J. E. D'Aoust, from Quebec, has opened a general store recently, south of the track, and he expects to work up a trade with the French speaking residents, quite a number of whom are settled in the district.

Hollinquest, who started in the general store trade about a year ago, has formed a partnership with C. W. Cavanagh, a commercial traveler.

Wm. Thompson continues the well known Thompson house. The Leland house, which has changed hands so frequently, is now in charge of P. J. Flanagan.

John Horseman, who has been in the hardware trade for some years, is gradually extending his business.

A. Cameron and Thos. McNicol are doing a large trade in the general store line. Robert Neill has had a good season's trade in the lumber line. The private bank, started by Jas. Andrews, is one of the recent additions to the business institutions of the town.

The daily receipts of grain at Minnedosa, Man., says the *Tribune*, are very large, much more so than in any previous year.

Chas. Oppenheimer, a pioneer of British Columbia, and brother of the Oppenheimers at Vancouver, died recently at San Francisco, where he has resided lately.