

# From Winnipeg to Morden

Special Correspondence The Commercial.

There are really two districts included between Winnipeg and Morden, the first reaching as far as Morris, about 42 miles south of Winnipeg, and the other taking in south central Morris to the Dakota line, and ending at Morden. A large part of this section is known as the Menominee Reserve.

Leaving Winnipeg one finds the first settlement along the line rather disappointing. The land is low, heavy and covered generally with yellow, scrubby patches are broken up and cultivated, and these are not very frequent. As long as the more open prairie could be easily obtained, the farmer was inclined to spend his money in clearing and ditching. This condition is gradually changing, however, since most of the prairie land within reasonable distance of Winnipeg is settled and at prices below the reach of the average settler. We are told that some of the immigrants are buying farms here, intending to get them under cultivation, and once a good beginning is made, it is only the matter of a short time till it is fully occupied, and in large part at least, cultivated.

It is only when we reach Le Salle, about 18 miles from Winnipeg, that the country assumes a settled appearance. Here good sized fields of grain are evidence of longer settlement and more vigorous farming. With occasional stretches of scrub land, the country gradually becomes more and more attractive, until at Morris we are in a genuine grain-growing section.

From Morris a branch of the Canadian Northern railway leads off to the west, while the C. P. R. holds somewhat to the southeast and branches off at Rosedale, the one line continuing south and joining the Great Northern railway at Gretna, near the international boundary, and the other running west and parallel with the boundary at a distance of from 12 to 15 miles.

Both these branches pass through country particularly adapted to grain farming. On all sides one sees the country green now with the young wheat and a harvest prospect fully equal to either of the two preceding seasons. The recent rains have done much good and with anything like favorable weather to come an immense yield is assured. Throughout the country generally open prairie and for most part, but having toward the south a slightly rolling character.

Trees are scarce except where they have been planted by the settlers, but they apparently grow well, and most of the farms have quite a little grove of trees and shrubs, adding materially to the appearance and comfort of the place.

Most of the people are of German origin, and even in the towns the German language is more in use than English. There are very industries and also very careful of the proceeds of their industry, consequently the farms almost all in prosperous condition. They have fine farms and good horses. Indeed, scarcely anywhere else in the province can be found a farming community where the average is so high a standard.

One of the chief difficulties in some places is the serious disadvantage. Truly it is necessary for a farmer to have several miles of fence, not only his own use, but for his stock, as the fences are increasing in height, and it is necessary to have a fence from one to two hundred feet high, then not always with an electric current. Possibly this difficulty may be overcome, but at present it is a consideration.

At Morris the first village of importance, suffers from the lack of a good hotel, and the hotel at the hotel, however, the town is quite a local business centre, and a large amount of the travelling public is excellent. The Commercial Hotel, owned by Jos. Jarrett, Mahon & McKenna's general store and the milling interests of the town

are deserving of notice. All branches of business are found here, and all are fully patronized.

At the junction of the line, is hardly up to expectations. There are, however, several good business places, the largest being the hardware and lumber trade of Stewart Bros.

The branch to the south has two villages, Altona, a brick little place, where the elevators are most in evidence, and where a very lively trade with the farmers is carried on. Gretna, 13 miles south of Rosedale, is a very attractive town. Rows of trees along the streets are mostly to its appearance. It possesses some very striking residences, and some very fine business houses. Of these we can only mention a few. In the lumber trade, Friesen & Son do a large business. C. Pieper is representative of the implement dealers. Fennell & Co. are engaged in the general store business, and John Ritz, of the Anglo-American hotel, keeps a good hotel.

Coming west on the main branch about nine miles from Rosedale and

senative of them are the establishments of H. Melkie, T. E. McGirr and B. Tobias.

The Canadian Elevator and Lumber Co. have secured some of the lumber interests of the town and when they assume full possession, will be a great addition to the business section.

The hospital deserves a word. This one, its existence to the Masonic order, though it is now supported by a government grant, in addition to that of the municipality and of the Masons. It is proposed to increase the accommodation very soon by adding a new wing, and inflicting a disease. From the hills on the west Morden presents a striking picture, lying half hidden among avenues of fresh, green shrubs and trees, with here and there a church spire or gable reaching above its neighbors and suggesting the town screened from view by the foliage.

This part of Manitoba has long had a name, being one of the best wheat districts in the province. Whether this is altogether exact or not we cannot say, but we can well believe that the people have excellent grounds on which to base their opinion.

## MILLERS AND RECIPROcity.

The following is the resolution adopted by the Millers' National Federation at Detroit, Mich., demanding the

"The Millers' National Federation, assembled in mass convention at Detroit, Mich., represents a manufacturing industry embracing upward of 10,000 separate establishments, having a combined annual production of over \$200,000,000, and a labor expenditure of over \$20,000,000.

"This industry is the one conspicuous exception to the general universal manufacturing prosperity.

"Existing conditions are largely due to the exclusion of American wheat from any important foreign countries. This exclusion results from discriminating duties imposed by the government of the United States, Canada, and the British Empire, in favor of wheat and against flour. The government of the United States, by a liberal and comprehensive policy of reciprocity with these countries, secure the removal of this discrimination.

"The enormous and steadily increasing surplus of Canadian grain wheat thrown upon the markets of the United Kingdom depreciates prices abroad, enables the foreign miller to undersell his American competitor and lowers the selling price of the entire wheat crop of the United States.

"The grinding of this wheat in American mills would place the regulating duties imposed by the United States on the export of wheat, in the employment of mill labor and reasonably profitable return to American flour manufacturing.

"Present conditions are favorable to and make highly desirable the fullest measures of reciprocal trade arrangements with the Dominion of Canada, the nearest and next to the largest market for American products, both of farm and factory, and in view of the early assembling of the United States and Canada Joint High Commission, we most earnestly urge the exercise of your strongest influence toward the successful accomplishment of this object."

## SIBERIAN FURS.

Mr. W. H. Holway, consul-general of the United States, St. Petersburg, writes, under date of April 3:

"The leading market for Siberian furs is Irbit, 1,000 miles east of Moscow, and 150 miles east of the Ural mountains and Niashino, Novgorod, where annual fairs are held. The fair at Irbit is held in February each year, and that at Niashino, in May and August. The former is much the largest, and the latter is the supply of fells consisting of bear, gibbon, lynx, elk, reindeer, stag, musk deer, fox, sable, marten, mink, ermine, polecat, squirrel, Alpine wolf, blue, silver and red fox, and one or two kinds of wild cat, and a large quantity of chitka. The Siberian black hare has become very scarce, as well as blue fox, which is becoming scarce.

"Although a Russian company enjoys the monopoly of catching Alaska seals, they are all sold in London, and none are to be found in the Russian market. It is claimed by the leading experts that unless Russia, the United States, England, Canada and Japan agree to put a stop to pelagic sealing, the seal fells will disappear from the market.

"Previous to September, 1902, Russian squirrel furs were only used as linings for ladies' shubas; but the demand for them has increased, and during that year was so great that the price increased, and the undesired skins (on which the Russian fur traders of America) sell from 10 to 30 cents each. It requires from 100 to 250 to make a jacket, 50 to 100 for a coat, and 100 for a boa, and 5 to 10 for a muff. Pale squirrel fells are sold at \$2.00 a pood, 38.12 pounds, and red dark squirrel at \$3.15 per pood. White foxes are sold at \$8.00 a pood, and sable skins sell from \$15 to \$200 a pood. It requires from 50 to 100 to make a jacket, 30 to 60 fells to make a coat, and 12 for a boa, and 2 to 6 for a muff.

"Sable and ermine remain the favorites for wealthy men who can afford to purchase the best.

"Local merchants at Irbitka purchase the furs in large quantities from hunters and trappers, as do all merchants throughout Siberia, which, if not shipped to the port of St. Petersburg, find their way to the annual fair at Irbit in February, when the best quality of furs from the world are represented by buyers."

The labor troubles in New York city are over for the time being, as that as the principal strike is concerned, named the furriers and tradesmen. The men have returned to work upon terms which have not yet been stated. Over 100,000 men were involved.

## STEPHEN STREET, MORDEN.

55 from Winnipeg, we reach Plum Coulee, a good-sized village, with a good supporting settlement. Here, as in nearly all small towns along the line, the long row of elevators is the most striking feature, especially when seen from a distance. The elevator business is by no means the only one, however, for we find here merchants carrying lines as strictly up-to-date as could be wished. The German language is much in evidence, although nearly all can use the English fluently.

Winkler, another, eight miles west, is in many respects a duplicate of Plum Coulee. It is a good trading town, and as an instance, the business done, we would mention that the Winkler Milling Co., owned and managed by J. Winkler, the general business of P. Loewen. Implements, hardware and lumber are also handled and the demand for all branches is large.

Just on the east side of the first rise of the Pembina range, about 81 miles by rail from Winnipeg. The population is now between 1,000 and 1,500. There are very industries in the third or fourth place in the province in point of size. In appearance Morden stands well to the front, all the town except the main business portion being liberally supplied with trees. Fine business buildings are frequent and of handsome appearance. Business houses are plentiful. Banking facilities are found with the Union bank, the Bank of Hamilton and the private bank of Haley & Sutton.

The Morden Woolen mills, owned by Mr. Schneider, on the west side of the town, do a large business in the manufacture of blankets, wool, etc., going throughout the province. Accommodation for the travelling public is excellent, the Arlington, Manitoba and Queen's being large, modern and well kept. General stores are numerous and repre-

speedy adoption by the national government of a broad, liberal and comprehensive policy of genuine reciprocity between the United States and Canada was especially favored and a memorial number will be forwarded to President Roosevelt was adopted.

"Whereas, extension of foreign markets affords the most feasible, if not the only practical solution of the grave difficulties which now confront the American flour manufacturing industry.

"Resolved, That necessity now compels the flour milling industry as a whole to demand the speedy adoption by the national government of a broad, liberal and comprehensive policy of genuine reciprocity, and the results of which will be the equalization of the import duties upon American wheat and flour by all importing countries, and thereby securing to the American miller entrance to a large number of foreign markets from which he is now effectually excluded, and be it further

Resolved, That we strongly recommend that each individual member, irrespective of party affiliations, shall exert every possible pressure to bring upon his local congressional representative that the United States senators and congressmen, and the candidates for national office as will commit them unequivocally to the furtherance of these measures both by voice and vote.

"Resolved, That we especially and most strongly favor the present possible measure of reciprocity between the United States and the Dominion of Canada, the nearest and next to the largest foreign market for American products and manufactures, and that in view of the early assembling of the Joint High Commission the following memorial be forwarded to the president of the United States.