

Kelly and McLeod have dissolved partnership. The business will be continued by Luko Kelly alone.

A petition to have a post office located at Clover Bar is being circulated and numerous signed.

The Sturgeon river mill is running day and night, grinding on an average 100 bushels every 24 hours.

None of the timber men have succeeded in getting into the woods yet, owing to a hitch in the permission to cut.

The telegraph office has been removed from the H. B. fort to one of Dr. Wilson's buildings, near the Indian office.

A new hotel at St. Albert, a short distance west of the mission buildings, has been opened. Narcisse Beaudry is the proprietor.

Since the opening of an express office at Calgary, a large amount of matter has been forwarded addressed to parties in Edmonton.

The post office has been removed to the north end room in the building between the Hudson Bay Co's. business office and the store in the fort.

A seam of coal twenty-six feet thick occurs on the Saskatchewan near Goose encampment, about eighty miles up. The face of the exposure is clear and hard.

The farmers on the south side east of town have given up hopes of getting a threshing machine, and are beginning to tramp out their grain with horses.

Several self binders have been purchased in this settlement for delivery next summer. The price at Calgary is \$350, which would be about \$400 at Edmonton.

Osburne, Smith & Cameron have sold their interest in their coal oil claim on Lesser Slave river to the Winnipeg & Northwest Petroleum Company, of Minneapolis, for \$22,000.

The St. Albert Mission authorities will get out 1,000 logs, about 100,000 feet of lumber, from their limit at Egg lake this winter, to be worked up in the Sturgeon mill next summer. Mr. Mijean, of St. Albert, is the contractor.

J. Walter has received a license for running two ferry scows on the Saskatchewan, one at the H. B. Co. fort and one at the lower mill. The residents in the east end of town and on the south side will supply the wire rope necessary for the additional scow. The upper ferry will be 11x50, and the lower one 14x30.

Dinner & Edmonton are taking out timber for a boom to be put in the river next summer by the H. B. Co. to accommodate their saw mill. By using a boom and running their logs down loose a great saving will be effected over the present method of rafting, reducing the first cost of the lumber by from \$3 to \$4 a thousand feet.

J. Mitchell, of the Indian department, and wife arrived from Victoria and Saddle lake on Monday. The Saddle lake farm is being abandoned and the buildings will probably revert to the Indians. Mr. Carson, the farm instructor, is still in charge. Logs will be taken out this winter for the construction of a large warehouse and dwelling house, to be erected at the Snake hills steamboat landing about seven miles distant from the farm. This warehouse will be a

depot for the Indian supplies of Saddle Lake and Lac la Biche, which were formerly, landed at Victoria. Fish are very plentiful at Lac la Biche, the Hudson Bay Co. securing 7,000 and the Roman Catholic Mission 11,000 at the fall fishery. Rabbits and fur bearing animals generally are remarkably plentiful. There are four traders at Victoria, one at Saddle Lake and twelve or fourteen at Lac la Biche. All except those at Lac la Biche are supplied from Edmonton.

The cold snap of the early part of the week put new life into the coal business, which has been in a somewhat languishing condition all fall owing to the fine weather. Three pits or drifts are running now, one on the south and two on the north side of the river. The price which has held heretofore \$3 a ton at the drift and \$1 for delivery is being reduced at one pit to \$2.50 at the pit and 75c for delivery. As all the coal is of first-class quality this brings the cost of fuel to a very low figure, and completely bars out wood for heating purposes, although the latter is principally used for cooking as yet. Dry poplar wood costs \$2.50 to \$3 a cord delivered, and from \$2 to \$3 to saw and split, while for heating purposes a ton of coal is equal to at least two cords of wood. The stranger just arriving at Edmonton on a morning is scarcely reminded of Pittsburg and Newcastle by the too small of coal smoke arising from every chimney, and it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that before many years it may resemble those places, to some extent at least, in appearance and business.

BRANDON.

There are few business changes, and although money is more than tight no failures are expected.

"The Strike" has helped to make business quiet, although the line has been kept pretty well open between here and Winnipeg.

Munro & Warwick have purchased Wright & Wright's stock of stoves and tinware; the latter obtained a settlement some few months ago, but trade being so cut up, have been swallowed up by the larger house.

Grain receipts have been somewhat small this week and a general feeling exists among the farmers to hold, and those who are not being shoved by implement men and others only sell enough to keep themselves from want.

The new insurance tariff is giving good satisfaction to property owners as in a great number of instances the rates are lower than those charged before the "block plan" was made. So far the companies doing business here have made money, but the risk they run is very great, and great caution should be displayed on the part of the agents.

The business outlook for the winter is far from favorable. There are several reasons for thinking that merchants at this point will have much to contend against. The low price of grain, particularly oats, has made the farmers very poor. Although, in this district, they escaped the early frosts fairly well, they as a class, like men in business, expected that they would become rich in a season, and therefore became extravagant; they have bought expensive farm

implements, notes on which are now falling due, to meet which it takes their last cent; they have therefore to fall back on the business men to keep them alive for another season. This, of course, is a hard drag on those working on small capital, and to add to the evil the banks have become very tight, even unreasonable; in some cases the most reliable firms are made to knuckle down, and amongst merchants this was anything but a bright Christmas. Fortunately last year was a severe lesson for many of them, and they have not "stocked-up" the way they did then with the expectation of a big Christmas trade.

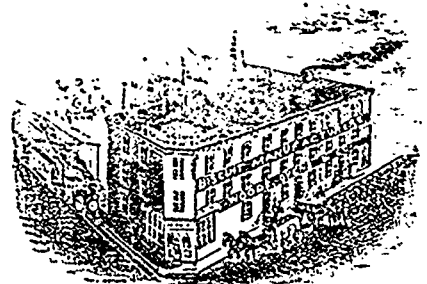
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