

General Notes.

THE ranchmen of the far west propose forming a stock-raisers association.

MOOSOMIN residents talk of giving a bonus for the erection of a flour mill at that place.

WILSON & CARRICK are erecting a new building for their wagon and blacksmithing business at Brandon.

ALLAN McLEAN, of the Rossin House, Calgary, has fallen heir to an estate in Scotland, valued at \$100,000.

THE poles for the new telegraph line between Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan, will cost \$1.50 per pole, delivered.

MAYOR MURDOCH, of Calgary, has had a levy of distress placed upon goods in his store, in default of the payment of a fine.

MR. REIDLE, of Regina, intends bringing with him from Russia some black sheep, from whose hides are made almost the very best coats and hats.

THE total amount of the claim of the Bell Farming Company against the Government for transport services during the recent rebellion was about \$34,000.

THE Dominion Government has decided to supply the needy settlers of Prince Albert and vicinity with seed grain, and are calling for tenders to supply the same.

A LOT of goods intended to have been delivered in Battleford for the holidays only arrived last week, much to the disappointment of both importers and intending buyers.

A BILL has been introduced in the New York legislature forbidding telephone companies to charge over \$18 a month in cities of over 800,000 inhabitants, or \$7 in cities of less population.

REPORT says it has been definitely decided by the M. & N. W. Railway company to build the road to the Assinaboine next summer, a distance of forty miles. It is more than likely too that fifty miles will be completed.

MR. W. F. WILSON has purchased 250 feet of frontage on Rosser Avenue, Brandon, between 8th and 9th sts., paying about \$2,000 the price. He intends putting up a building in the spring to better accommodate his furniture business.

THE Portage la Prairie Farmers' Mutual Insurance Co. has 393 policies in force, representing an amount of \$427,441. The losses during the year numbered two, one of which was caused by lightning, the total amounting to \$159.

A PUBLIC meeting has been held in Wappela to discuss the advisability of erecting a grist mill. A scheme for forming a joint stock company with a capital of \$15,000 in shares of \$50 each was unanimously adopted. Shares to the amount of \$2,350 were subscribed for in the town.

THE Ontario and Manitoba railway give notice of an amendment to their application to Parliament as to enable them to change the name of the company to the Ontario, Minnesota and Manitoba Railway with power to cross Rainy River by means of a bridge into the United States.

THE distance from the present end of the M. N. track at Solgirth to the western boundary of the provinces is 40 miles. The Engineers of the Company are expected to begin immediately to permanently locate the road westward. Two new town sites with station grounds have been secured; one at Balmerino, at Silver Creek crossing, the other at the crossing of the Assinaboine.

TEN years ago a standard car load on all first class railroads was 20,000 lbs, the weight of cars being 20,500 lbs. In 1881, the load on most roads had increased to 40,000 lbs, but the weight of the car had increased to only 22,000 lbs. The master car-builders of the Pennsylvania railroad have now adopted cars to carry 60,000 lbs, while the weight of the cars will be very little increased. Instead of hauling more than 1 lb of car to 1 lb of freight, nearly 3 lbs of freight can now be hauled for 1 lb of car. The substitution of steel for iron rails has made the change possible.

THE Annual Report of the Committee of the Scotch Iron Trade Association of the production, consumption, exports and stocks of Scotch Pig-Iron for the past year is not so encouraging as anticipated, the increase of stocks in Scotland being larger than ever, the actual increase being 163,329 tons, which brings out a discrepancy of 60,354 tons, but this showing is partly owing to complete returns of the production and stocks having this year been received from the iron masters whereas for four years previously these were only estimated. This revelation was a general surprise and caused a fall of about 10d. per ton in the price of warrants.

THE grain trade of Montreal during 1885 compared favorably with that of 1884, the total receipts of all kinds amounting to 12,214,070 bus, against 12,066,004 for the corresponding period in 1884, showing an increase of 147,066 bus. The total shipments of grain of all kinds were 10,718,891 bus, against 9,729,770 bus for 1884, being an increase of 1,019,121 bus. The receipts of flour, however, show quite a falling off, the aggregate for the past year being 800,748 bbls, against 1,152,789 bbls for 1884, showing a decrease of 352,001 bbls. The shipments have also decreased 164,593 bbls, from 844,019 bbls in 1884 to 679,426 bbls during the year just closed.

A Toronto report says that the 1885 barley crop of Canada was short fully 3,000,000 bus. in yield and 2,500,000 bus of that raised was only fit for feed. In consequence of what was supposed to be an approaching war with Russia, the Canadian farmer put his fields largely into wheat, which accounts for their short barley crop. Their wheat, however, turned out poorly, the price was low, and had it not been for the barley crop they would have done badly enough. The prices they have received have been satisfactory and they have marketed freely, so much so, in fact, that their supplies now on hand are small. Canada had an unusually large trade with St. Louis this season, selling large amounts to the brewers.

THERE are probably few people who have a very correct idea as to the exact size of the Blood and Peigan reserves, or the numbers of the Indians. The area of the Blood Reserve is

417,000 acres, and that of the Peigan Reserve 180,000 acres. The total number of Indians in Treaty number 7, which includes the Woods, Peigans, Blackfeet, Sarcees and Stonies, is 6,417. The Bloods are from twelve to twenty-five miles south of McLeod; the Peigans about ten miles west; the Blackfeet about ninety miles north; the Sarcees ninety-five miles northwest, and the Stonies about 130 miles northwest. In the event of an outbreak, suppose that all these Indians took part, there would be something like 800 warriors. When it came to equipment, the number who would be fully armed would probably only amount to half of the above 800. This number might again be doubled by recruits from the other side of the line. We doubt if an outbreak among the southern Indians would put much more than 1,000 warriors in the field, exclusive, of course, of any northern Indians who might join in the uprising.

New Inventions.

While any business is liable to be benefited, no trade is safe from the revolutions brought about by new inventions. Theoretically, the invention and use of the bicycle is a direct slap at the saddle and harness trade, although it may not have practically done much damage, because the use of the bicycle takes the place of both horseback riding and driving, and the saddle of the bicycle is too insignificant to cut any figure in trade. Now comes a man and invents an artificial horse, not one that will snort and rip around, and kick and buck like the living animal; in fact, he does not move out of his tracks, except a sort of straight up and down, "marking time" motion, but still something that can allow a saddle and be ridden. The object of the invention is to furnish a movement to the body of the rider, similar to the healthful exercise imparted by riding a horse, for those who are physically incapacitated from indulging in the regular method of riding. The exercise is highly recommended by physicians, and as the saddle used is the regulation kind, it ought to receive the endorsement of the saddlery men.

Tremendous Stock of Apples.

Latest advices from Chicago are to the effect that the stocks in that city are unprecedentedly large, as holders there estimate that the accumulations aggregate between 150,000 and 200,000 bbls, for which there is comparatively no demand. Dealers state that their disposal is a conundrum very difficult to solve, as holders claim they have only 60 days more to sell them in. One Chicago firm sent men through the country last week to see if a few could not be placed, but at the end of six days not a sale had been effected. Another firm shipped small quantities to outside towns on commission, but very little of the fruit can be got rid of even in that way. Another difficulty with holders is that a large portion of the supply will not be kept over two months. Prices in Chicago are quoted at \$1.50 to \$2.25 for choice Northern Spies, and peddlers stock at 75 to \$1.10 per bbl.—*Ex.*