

A deputation of Ontario millers waited on Hon. W. S. Fielding at Ottawa this week to ask for an increase of duty on oatmeal.

A deputation from Carberry and vicinity were in Winnipeg this week to interview the provincial government. North Cypress wants consent to raise \$8,000 by debenture as a bonus to erect mill of 300 bbl. capacity to be built at Carberry, Man. The Carberry town council wish consent to raise debentures of \$2,000 for the same purpose, making in all \$10,000 bonus. The mill at this point, which was of a capacity of 150 bbls. per day and was erected in 1885 on a \$6,000 bonus, was destroyed last May by fire.

Manitoba

Hall & Co., bankers, Holland, have assigned.

Wm. McKittrick is building a block at Crystal City.

John Fowler has opened a grocery store at Methven.

A new hardware store will likely be opened at Holmfield.

Holden Bros., bakers and confectioners, Glenboro, have assigned.

Weldon and Broadbent are building a new implement shed at Thornhill.

Mr. Guittard has taken charge of the Grand Pacific hotel at Portage la Prairie.

George Walker, of Killarney, has opened a blacksmith and wood working shop at Holmfield.

Geo. Brad will build a cold storage warehouse at Dominion City, for the purpose of handling farm produce.

W. R. Kemp has taken over the wheat city bakery at Brandon from A. E. Bird and will add confectionery.

Mrs. S. C. Gilbert is opening in stationery at Carberry, and at the same place Miss Lee is opening in millinery.

The stock of liquors saved from the McIntyre block fire, valued at \$10,000, will be offered for sale by auction on March 23.

B. Gordon has been appointed agent in Winnipeg for the new steamship line to be established between Lake Superior and Georgian Bay ports.

Kilgour & Jordan, general merchants, Thornhill, have dissolved partnership. The business will be continued by C. Jordan.

The bakery and confectionery business of J. Bryce, at Dauphin, has been purchased by Cruise & McGratten, who will continue the same.

McRae & Ross, blacksmiths, Melita, have taken over the implement business formerly conducted by Bell & Thompson at that place.

Rockett & Co., saddlers, Deloraine, have bought the premises occupied by Ed. Maynard, and are making improvements in the building.

John Love has retired from the firm of Love, McAllister & Co., wholesale stationers, Winnipeg. The business is being continued in the meantime under the same name as formerly.

Brown & Woodill, of Minnedosa, have added machinery to cast small brass fittings for machines, and will shortly put in foundry facilities for small ironwork.

Hutchings & Davidson, Portage la Prairie, are clearing out their boots and shoes, and in future will confine their trade to harness and horse furnishings.

The roof of a storehouse belonging to the Scott Furniture company, on Fort street, Winnipeg, fell in the other morning on account of the great weight of wet snow thereon. Considerable damage was done to about \$2,500 worth of furniture stored in the building.

The Donaldson Trading Co., of Manitou have decided to open business in Vancouver, B. C., and have sold out the Manitou business to C. R. Gordon. Mr. Donaldson leaves at once for the coast to assume the management of the Vancouver business.

Williams Bros., of Gladstone, have bought out J. B. Birch & Son, hardware merchants, Plumas. Mr. Birch, junior, who has been in British Columbia for some time, has bought out a business near Comaplea on the Crow's Nest Pass railway, where he will continue business with his father.

Nineteen companies were incorporated in Manitoba last year under the joint stock companies act. One hail insurance company, and five fraternal associations were also incorporated under the laws governing each. Four companies incorporated outside of the province were granted license to do business in the province.

The Winnipeg Board of Trade has made an agreement with N. Bawlf for a ten years' lease of rooms to be provided in a handsome building which Mr. Bawlf proposes erecting, adjoining the Grain Exchange building. The Grain Exchange will also take quarters in the new building, which will be more elaborate than those now occupied. Work on the building will be begun at once.

Arthur Harper, of the firm of Stuart & Harper, dealers in machinery, Winnipeg, died on Tuesday evening, after a short illness from pneumonia. The late Mr. Harper was an old and highly respected resident of Winnipeg and has been connected with the machinery trade here for many years, formerly with R. Muir & Co. This business he bought out in 1891, in partnership with James Stuart, and it has since been continued under the firm name of Stuart & Harper.

Alberta.

C. W. Sheppard is opening in the hardware business at Leduc.

George L. Walwright, V. S., of Everett, Wash., has located at South Edmonton.

Piper & Postel, of Red Deer, have purchased McBride & Co's hardware business at that place.

Mrs. Skinner has purchased property at South Edmonton and will reopen her millinery and fancy goods business therein.

Another northern town is projected. The Hudson's Bay company has had the site of the Athabasca Landing laid out in town lots, and the company will shortly place lots on the market for sale.

Northwest Ontario.

J. A. Osborne, late of Rat Portage, has purchased the Rainy Lake Herald from Mr. Bowman.

Jacob Hose, hardware dealer, Rat Portage, has had plans prepared for a new three story block, for his business.

Mayor Savage and Messrs. Ross and Drenery have left as a delegation from

the Rat Portage board of trade for Toronto and Ottawa, to push for the improvement of Ash rapids, the new postoffice, Rainy River improvements and the completion of the Fort Francis locks.

Hardware and Paint Trade

English cements have advanced 6d according to a cable report.

The 5c advance on turpentine, reported by wire to The Commercial last week, is said to be due to excitement at producing centres.

The question of a combine in spades and shovels was discussed in parliament this week. The government promised to investigate.

A Montreal report says: The market for sisal and manilla rope is strong and present values are fully maintained. Advances on the raw material are decidedly firm, and manufacturers state they would not be surprised to see still higher figures for the manufactured article.

The Rubber Trade.

Mr. D. S. Johnston, manager of the Canada Rubber company, Winnipeg, returned from an eastern trip early this week. Mr. Johnston says business is particularly good in the east and the factories are all busy. This is partly owing to a general improvement in trade and partly to the special demand for the Klondike. The Klondike trade has made considerable business for the factories of Eastern Canada. While he was in Montreal, two buyers were there for the Alaska Trading company, the principal commercial concern of that country, and they were placing large orders. Another large Alaska company also had a buyer at Montreal. Speaking of the rubber trade, Mr. Johnston said that there had been no advances in rubber footwear, but there had been an advance in rubber belting and other kinds of rubber goods, owing to the increase in the cost of crude rubber. His company had paid out \$130,000 more last year than during the previous year, on account of the higher cost of crude rubber. The total amount paid by the Canada Rubber company last year, for crude or raw rubber, he said, was \$800,000, and all this was in cash, as the trade in crude rubber is spot cash. Owing to the increased cost of crude rubber, all kinds of rubber goods are very firm.

C. M. Rolston, lately with G. F. Stephens & Co., Winnipeg, has moved to Vancouver, where he will have charge of the office of the Imperial Oil Co.

Parliament has passed a bill to prohibit the importation of nursery stock from any country infected with the insect pest known as San Jose scale. The bill was rushed through at once on the plea of urgency, and will interfere with the usual spring importations of nursery stock.

Mr. Fortin, of Laval, has introduced an insolvency bill in the commons at Ottawa, as a private measure. Generally, it follows the lines of the bill introduced in the senate by Sir Mackenzie Bowell in 1894. It provides for compulsory assignment, and contains a discharge clause subject to a majority of creditors in number, and three-fourths in value.