

Western Trade Notes.

New police barracks will be erected at Calgary in the spring.

Michael Oxhart, of Maple Creek, is on his way to the Old Country, to purchase a number of thoroughbred stallions for use on his rancho.

The C. P. R. have for the past two weeks been busily engaged in unloading the R. R. V. R. rails at Morris. The section men from Rosendfeld and Morris are doing the work.

Calgary Tribune. Mrs. Major Butler brought some samples of coal from Cochrane for our inspection. She informs us the Major has discovered a very rich deposit and proposes going into the business of mining it.

Lake Dauphin district is likely to come to the front with another product. It is said that the lake abounds with white fish and pickerel, and several of the settlers are thinking seriously of bringing down a couple of car loads for export.

A sale of land for arrears of taxes in the town of Rapid City took place there recently. There was a very good attendance of buyers. Outlying town lots were not in much demand but some farming land included in the town plot was sold at good prices.

Hugh Sutherland, president of the Hudson's Bay railway, has made application to the Dominion Government for a guarantee of bonds to the extent of five and one-half million of dollars, giving as security a first mortgage on the Dominion land grant outside the province besides the prospective earnings and the road itself.

A rather alarming disease has appeared among some of the horses in the Macleod country. Mr. LaGrandeur lost four, and these are the only fatal cases heard of so far. The disease starts with a swelling in the fore legs, which extends up to the chest. Horses that are fat when they get it are skin poor when they die.—*Macleod Gazette*.

A correspondent says: The business done at Manitou during last week was very satisfactory. There was a large amount of grain brought into market, and the stores were crowded with customers from morning until late at night. Many of the business men report the amount of their trade this season far in excess of any former years. Farmers are paying up their store bills very well indeed, and there seems to be an air of satisfaction, and contentment throughout this neighborhood.

The half-breed commission has returned to Ottawa from the West. It has been engaged two seasons settling the claims and has now concluded its work. The commissioners will prepare an elaborate report to the Government. It is estimated they travelled thirteen hundred miles by wagon and fifteen hundred miles by boat last summer. The majority of those settled with were half-breeds who had hitherto taken treaty with the Indians. Heads of families were awarded \$160 worth of scrip; children of half-breed heads of families enjoyed the option of a certificate for 240 acres or a scrip note of \$240. The original white settlers or descendants not being half-breeds were given \$160 worth of scrip.

Dr. Barnardo is preparing to emigrate 200 boys to his Western industrial farm the spring.

The Wood Mountain & Qu'Appelle railway is applying for an extension of time in which to build its road.

The Winnipeg council has arranged with the Historical society for the establishment of a public library.

A party to go to the Yukon next spring is being talked of at Edmonton. The idea is to go down the Athabasca and Mackenzie and up either the Liard or the Peel river to reach the waters of the Yukon.

Edmonton Bulletin: Stocks of holiday goods in town are larger and more complete in all lines than ever before, and trade is fairly good considering the hard times. Last year the Christmas goods arrived about the second week in January.

The Edmonton Bulletin says there is a large quantity of telegraph wire and apparatus at that place, remaining over from the construction of the lines through the Saskatchewan country this season. It advocates that this be used in the construction of a telegraph line from Edmonton northward to Athabasca Landing.

The C. P. R. company are laying out the site of a town at a point on the line three miles east of where Pense now stands, to which place Pense will be removed, and it will doubtless be followed by the business places of the village. The reason of the removal is the total lack of water at the present site of the station.

A Strathclair, Man., correspondent writes: The town is booming, there being two more new general stores erected within the past two months. The new comers are Galbraith & Moore and McLunes & Irwin, all doing a thriving trade. A. Watson, buyer for Roblin & Atkinson is doing the grain trade, and seems to be kept busy, as quite a quantity of grain has been shipped from here, but owing to the famine in cars the bulk of the grain is stored.

An Oak Lake correspondent writes: Fully 8,000 bushels of wheat were marketed here last week. The Ogilvie Milling Co. handled somewhere about 6,000 and Mr. Moore fully 2,000. Prices ranged from 48 to 53 cents. It is expected that Leitch Bros. will commence buying right away. They have quite a stock of flour and other milled stuffs on hand which were waiting cars when the mill was burned. This they now hold with a view to supplying the district. We have just heard that another buyer from the east is expected this week.

At the late annual meeting of the Whitewood Agricultural Society, the directors submitted their report showing that there was a balance in hand of \$149.25. The meeting elected the following officers for the coming year: Alex. McKenzie, President; Francis Cisgrave, J. P., 1st Vice-President; Robert Nicholson, 2nd Vice-President; Henry Newmarch, J. P., Secretary Treasurer; and the directors: Phillip Curry, Thomas Farrell, Robert Higginbottom, Daniel Hunter, Thos. Howard, David Rodgers, John Street, Joseph Breckon, John Callin, Robert Munn, Jas. N. Cowin.

The Dominion Government through the Department of the Interior, is supplying a well-

boring apparatus for the use of settlers in Assiniboia. It is now in the Qu'Appelle district. The Government at present provides the settler with the machine and a man in charge of it free, and the settlers provide the motive power and any assistance required.

During the month of November \$275,013 were paid into the Winnipeg city treasury for taxes. A rebate of ten per cent. was allowed on payments made during the month.

At a meeting of the Medicine Hat board of trade N. F. Davin, M. P., explained his course in the House and views. At the close of the meeting a vote of confidence was carried unanimously.

Manitou Mercury: It is expected that the sale of School Lands which takes place at Manitou on the 20th January next will attract quite a crowd of purchasers. We understand there are about three hundred parcels in the Dufferin District to be disposed of, which will be offered at an upset price of from \$5 to \$9, according to location and quality. The terms are one-fifth cash, the balance in four equal annual instalments with interest at six per cent. In regard to improvements, the settler must prove that he was bona fide residing upon and cultivating the land, in ignorance of the law, on the 1st of October last. This just above means that claims for improvements will not be allowed.

The *Empire*, the new Conservative organ published at Toronto, has made its appearance. In the salutary it says: "The *Empire* has been called into being because of the desire universally expressed by the Liberal Conservatives of Canada to have a journal which would represent the principles and aims of the Liberal-Conservative party in all their integrity. As to the form of assistance that the *Empire* will extend to the Liberal Conservative party will take, will be dictated by the circumstances of the hour."

Respecting the statement that the Elder company of Glasgow had contracted to build three steamers for the Canadian Pacific railway's Pacific service, a despatch says no contract has yet issued. The Imperial subsidy is neither granted nor accepted. The Imperial executive merely assented on general principles to subsidize a monthly service to the extent of £45,000 annually, the details of which, necessary to a contract, have not yet been settled. They will be settled shortly and then the company will arrange for construction.

Sloane, an oil expert of Pennsylvania, is at present prospecting in parts of Clarendon and Bristol townships, county of Pontiac, and has come to the conclusion that a vast reservoir of gas underlies a portion of the Ottawa valley. Several springs of water in that locality are largely impregnated with gas, so much so that an unpalatable odor from the gas, which boils up through them, prevents the use of the water for drinking purposes. One of the richest veins of iron ore in Canada is now being developed in Bristol. Three hundred men are at present employed at the mines, and if gas be discovered in sufficient quantity to be used for smelting purposes, it will prove a bonanza to that part of the country.