

TRADE IN MANITOBA--Continued.

Chalmers Bros. & Bethune and D. H. Graham, hardware and stoves, and Endicott & Preston, and MacLean & Co., general stores. These firms carry fair stocks in all lines. Their report of the state of things was hardly so cheerful as might have been looked for from the prosperous state of the surrounding country. There did not appear the energetic tone here, noted in other towns.

MANITOU.

From Pilot Mound the line winds down through the lovely Pembina Valley, one of the prettiest spots in Manitoba, to the brick town of Manitou. It is 18 months since your correspondent's last visit, and a number of new buildings were noted, more particularly residences.

Like Crystal City, Manitou is situated on open prairie. The surrounding country is as fine farming land as could be wished.

Extensive stock-raising is done in the district, and the line of huge elevators testify to the grain-raising.

Calls were made on P. Winram & Co., C. R. Gordon and Herald & Arnold, general stores, and Chalmers Bros. & Bethune, hardware and stoves. The reports as to trade tallied very closely with those of other districts. Yields were larger and samples better than had been hoped for, and they anticipated a good trade, once the wheat began to move.

MORDEN.

It was the intention to visit Morden, but time would not permit. However, from the report of farmers from that district, things were turning out very well. This district makes the proud boast of marketing 30 bbls. of fine crabapples this season.

THE WHEAT CROP AND PRICES.

Careful observation and close inquiry from reliable sources go to show that there will be from 12,000,000 to 15,000,000 bushels of wheat to be sold, after making due allowance for loss in sprouted wheat, moving shocks, etc. The smaller quantity has cost less to harvest and put on the market. Prices are so much higher that "no grade" is bringing more to-day than No. 1 hard brought last year. There will, therefore, be nearly as much money in the country when the stock is disposed of as there was last year.

DRAWBACKS.

The continued rains, delaying threshing, have curtailed the amount of ploughing to date, and how far this will be remedied by fine weather now is mere guess work. Business has been delayed anywhere from a month to six weeks, and merchants have had to pay interest for that additional length of time. When fall buying is delayed from October to November there is never quite as much done. The extreme slowness of collections has made money tight and interest high. Though there is no general failure of crop, there are small sections where it is a total failure, and in these sections the local merchants will have to carry the farmers, and the jobbing houses and the banks the merchants. We may say, then, that while there is no sense of failure or disaster, taking Manitoba and the Territories as a whole, 1900 will not rank as a banner year—neither will it have caused any general setback.

THE GAINS.

There are "no gains without pains," and equally there are "no pains without gains." The dry seeding and wet harvest

have sifted the good farmers from the bad as chaff is sifted from wheat. Crops that were planted by drill on well summer-fallowed land yielded good crops which matured and in many instances were garnered before the rain came, proving conclusively that it is more profitable to crop land once in two years rather than every year. Another lesson pressed home is the value of cows and dairying. In the districts where the farmers keep from 10 to 20 cows and send the product to the creamery and cheese factory they can largely afford to ignore the partial failure of a wheat crop. The wisdom of keeping more stock and more pigs has also been emphasized. In one word, that mixed farming is the only thing that will pay and pay well any and every year. And if this year has taught even 20 per cent. of our farmers that lesson it will be worth five times over any loss that may have been incurred.

In conclusion your correspondent is much indebted to the superintendents of the experimental farms at Brandon and Indian Head for valuable information, and to the local press for courteous notices of the magazines.

NOTES.

An increasing demand for women's ready-to-wear goods, especially in dresses, is a feature in Western trade.

Merchants in Manitoba and the Territories are more and more coming to depend on the Winnipeg jobbing houses for their supplies.

E. C. H.

DRY GOODS BUSINESS NOTES.

THE stock, accounts, etc., of W. F. Latimer, dry goods merchant, Gananoque, Ont., have been sold to George Taylor.

The stock of L. Houle, dry goods merchant, Montreal, has been sold.

Esther Gregory, dry goods merchant, St. Thomas, Ont., has assigned.

D. F. Jardine, dealer in dry goods, etc., Gorrie, Ont., has sold out.

The stock of Archambault Bros., Montreal, has been sold.

George Stevenson has opened a dry goods business at Harbor Grace, Nfld.

Jennie Komienksy, dry goods merchant, Digby, N.S., is about to sell out.

Ducoffe & Rukin have opened a dry goods business in Bridgewater, N.S.

Kerby & Co., dry goods merchants, Sarnia, Ont., have sustained loss by fire.

Purder & McKenzie have opened a dry goods and grocery business in Dutton, Ont.

Chas. H. Bailey, dry goods merchant, London, Ont., is retiring from business.

Joseph Gregory, dry goods merchant, St. Thomas, Ont., has assigned to E. A. Smith.

Miss Eliza Kerr, Lennoxville, Que., is advertising her dry goods and millinery business for sale.

R. A. Jones, dry goods merchants and grocer, London, Ont., has sold out to Burns Bros.

E. G. Hall & Co., dry goods and boot and shoe merchants, Rat Portage, Ont., have opened a branch store in Keewatin, Ont.