

ALONG THE NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY IN MANITOBA.

A Manitoban conversing about this province to an outsider speaks of it usually as a great wheat and stock country, the fishing, lumbering and mining industries being referred to as of secondary consideration, but aside from a commercial standpoint people are inclined to think of it as rather an unattractive country to live in, being one vast treeless prairie. While a large portion of it is lacking in beauty of landscape, still there are some pretty localities and among others is the portion tributary of the Northern Pacific Morris-Brandon branch, between Miami and Wawanesa and west along the Souris branch. A few miles west of Miami the railway enters the Pembina mountains and from there to within a few miles of Baldur the scenery is quite pretty. The country is well wooded and hilly with numerous small lakes in the intervening valleys. From Baldur the country is rolling prairie until within a few miles of Wawanesa when the valley of the Souris river is reached. This spot is without doubt one of the prettiest in Manitoba, and Wawanesa has quite the prettiest site of any town in the province. Ninette, which is in Lang's valley, west of Belmont on the Souris branch, has also a very fine situation and the view of this valley, taking in the town and two or three lakes, would be considered very fine in almost any country. When this section becomes better settled, the farm buildings and grain fields will give it even a more attractive appearance.

From Wawanesa the track runs south for 40 miles along the Red River valley to Morris, from which point it branches first west, then northwest to Brandon—145 miles in all. After leaving Morris the first town reached is Roland, Lowe Farm and Myrtle, two small villages, coming between. This is a good farming section and as the country around Roland, in particular, is well settled, that town has become an important business centre. It is well supplied with stores, the stocks of goods in which are a sufficient evidence of the large amount of business transacted.

Rosebank is an important grain market and ships out large quantities of wheat. There is a general store, a hardware, lumber yard, etc.

Miami is another important wheat market, having four standard grain elevators. Doing business here there are two general and two hardware stores, a furniture warehouse, lumber yard, butcher shop, drug store, three implement warehouses, bakery and confectionery, jeweller, private bank, etc.

Altamont, Somerset, Swan Lake, Mariapolis and Greenway are surrounded by brush land and for that reason are still small places, as settlers do not seem inclined to take up brush land when prairie homesteads are so plentiful. This section is, however, settling up and in the clearing of the land large quantities of cordwood are cut and sold along the line east and west. At Altamont there are two general stores, a lumber yard, hardware store, etc. Somerset has two general stores, owned by J. A. Decosse and Girouard Bros. At Swan Lake D. W. Flack and Jas. Ritchard have stores and P. A. McBeane one at Greenway.

Baldur is the next point reached. This town has made good advancement during the last few years. Last fall we had to report the erection of the Fowler block, a large brick building, and this year P. F. Curtis, general merchant, is erecting a brick store, 33x51 feet, on the opposite corner to the Fowler block. This new block is of two storeys, the ground floor being used by the owner as a store while the upper flat is to be a public hall, with seating capacity of from 250 to 300. Band & McDonnell have a flour mill here, J. Smith & Co., P. F. Curtis, W. J. S. Waugh and Wm. T. Bremner general stores, J. Playfair & Son, a furniture shop and lumber yard, a private banking business conducted by F. Schultz, a butcher shop, harness shop, hardware, bakery and confectionery and a local newspaper. During the last year Mrs. S. C. Bell, general merchant, sold out to Wm. T. Bremner. C. Schaffer opened a meat shop, and W. J. Cousins put in a small stock of boots and shoes. There is a large settlement of Icelanders near this town, who are

reported as doing very well and are, as a rule, now in comfortable circumstances.

Belmont is a divisional point and the commencement of the Souris branch. It has three general stores, drug store, harness shop, bakery, private bank, one grocery, a hardware stock owned by F. F. Sparks, confectionery and grocery, G. F. Naider, butcher shop, James Bulger, lumber yard, W. Fargey several implement warehouses, etc. C. Drummond Hay, implement dealer, is erecting a solid stone building, which he will use as a show room and office. McIntyre & Casteln have purchased the general store business of Standing & Co.

The Souris branch extends from Belmont to Hartney, a distance of 51 miles, the few miles left unfinished between Elgin and Hartney having been completed this year. A freight train with two passenger coaches attached, makes tri-weekly trips between Brandon and Hartney, connecting at Belmont with the Winnipeg-Brandon express.

The first town on this line is Ninette, situated in the valley at the head

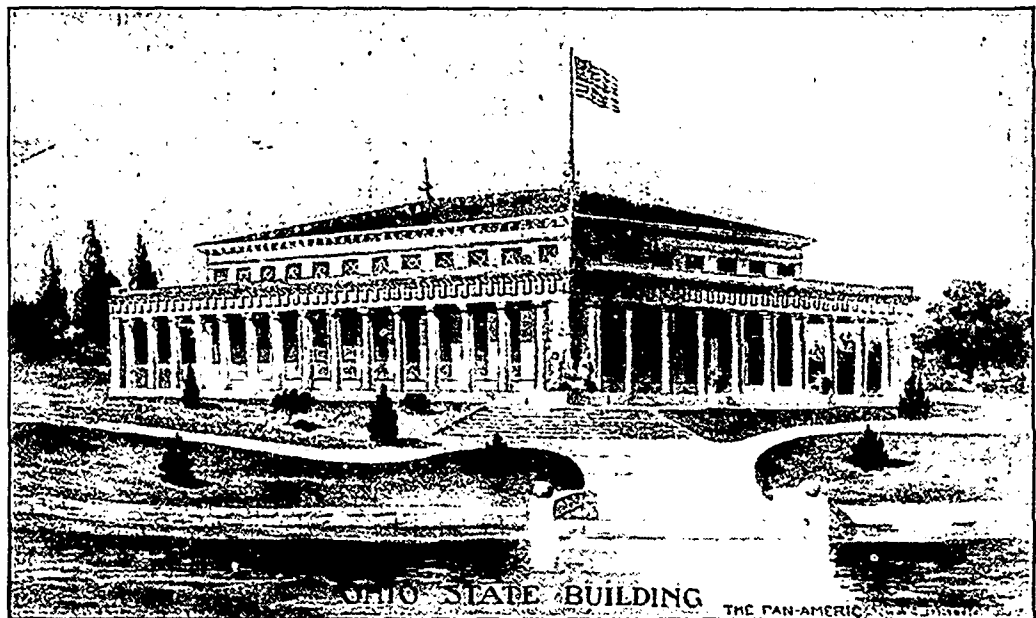
owned by Hettle & Graves, in which a large stock of goods is carried.

Elgin, until recently, was the last town on this line which, possibly, is one reason for its having grown to much larger proportions than the other towns started about the same time. There is at present a population of about 300 here and the prospects for continued growth are good. The business places are two general and two hardware stores, one bakery and confectionery store, one grocery, men's furnishings and shoe store, jewelry store, drug store, butcher shop, harness shop, several implement warehouses and lumber yards and also a newspaper "Public Opinion," started this year by W. F. Young & Son. The Presbyterian congregation recently completed a neat and attractive looking brick church. T. P. Jackson, general merchant, has added a second storey to his store building and enlarged the ground space to twice its former size. Fitzpatrick Bros., implement agents, are erecting a new warehouse and it is reported that a curling and skating rink will be built this fall.

The towns on this line, although not yet two years old, already do a surprisingly large amount of business. The neighboring country is among the best settled portions of Manitoba, so that the merchants who located at the several towns did not have to wait for the country to develop, as is usually the case where new towns

school was started this fall in a new building erected for that purpose. This neighborhood is well settled, and from the station platform an extensive view is had of a pretty landscape, dotted with farm houses, surrounded by stacks of grain and hay.

The next point reached is Brandon, the terminus of this line. The crops throughout this section of the country were, in common with the greater portion of the cultivated area of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, very disappointing this year, and, as a result, business is very quiet. The fall plowing, threshing, etc., having been delayed by wet weather, prevented the farmers marketing what grain they did secure, but now that the fall work is stopped, business has improved considerably, but at the best the merchants are looking for only a small proportion of their out-standing accounts this year. It is a difficult problem to arrive at anything near a close estimate of what the wheat yield will be, as the thresher returns from fields even in close proximity to one another vary greatly. These returns give from one bushel to the acre up to thirty-five in a few special cases, but the average yield will not exceed six or eight bushels, and in some sections it will come far short of that. The wet weather during harvest also did a great deal of damage, lowering the grade of the wheat several points and causing a loss of



of Pelican lake, amidst beautiful surroundings, and the hope is expressed by many that it will, in the near future, become a favorite summer resort. Nor is this hope without good foundation, as the surroundings are, in many respects, such as would make it a good camping or picnicking ground. A small village has sprung up near the station, in which are three stores. Dunrea, the next town, is somewhat larger, having three general stores, owned by W. H. Lawlor, W. D. MacKay and J. H. Fawcett, a hardware and lumber yard, J. M. McNaughton & Co., lumber yard of A. Dunlop & Sons, drug store and a fruit store, Dr. Edmonson erected a new stand for his drug store this year.

At Margaret there are two general stores owned by Dalgleish & Co., and G. Morris. A large amount of grain is marketed at this point, necessitating the erection of two elevators.

At Minto, the next point on the line, two townsites were surveyed and a town started on the north and one on the south side of the track, leaving a wide space between, which rather spoils the appearance of the place. The stores here comprise three general stores owned by W. S. Grout, R. W. Franks & Co., and A. McTavish, a hardware owned by Jas. Johnson, furniture and fruit store, fruit and confectionery two drug stores, two butcher shops, two lumber yards, harness shop, three implement warehouses, etc. R. W. Frank & Co. built a new store this year in which they commenced business with a stock of general merchandise.

At Fakfax there is only one store,

are started. This section is given up almost entirely to wheat growing, and at every station there are two or more elevators of standard capacity.

Returning to Belmont and continuing along the main line the next town reached is Hilton, which has one general store, owned by A. S. Baker, and a hardware and grocery owned by Chas. Brown. Notwithstanding the fact that there are not many stores here this is an important shipping point, and there are large quantities of grain being shipped through the three elevators.

Wawanesa, as has already been said, possesses one of the most attractive sites in Manitoba, overlooking a beautiful valley scene. This is an important business centre, containing many stores, in which are displayed stocks of goods that are excellent in but few places. One of the most important enterprises here is the flour mill, run by Russell & Snider. Since our last visit a year ago, two business changes have occurred. S. Coppleman and W. F. Hartwell, general merchants, have formed a partnership under the firm name of Coppleman & Hartwell, and Robertson & Vall have bought the butcher business formerly carried on by J. A. Kennedy. Alex. Blain has built an addition to his brick block and the Massey-Harris Co.'s warehouse, which was burned this year, has been replaced.

Routhwaite has two general stores, owned by J. Martin and E. L. Shearer, a harness shop, lumber yard, and implement warehouse. There are two pretty churches here, a Presbyterian and an Episcopalian, and a

about 25 per cent. in cleaning, but notwithstanding all this the merchants are, as a rule, looking on the bright side of the situation, realizing that occasionally a year such as this must be looked for in an agricultural country.

Ohio Building, Pan-American Exposition.

Ohio will have a very appropriate and beautiful building at the Pan-American Exposition next summer. The design is plain Grecian Doric, the beauty of which will lie mainly in its classic proportions, and commanding position. Strength and simplicity are thus embodied in this concrete emblem, which will stand throughout the Exposition a monument to the importance of the Buckeye state. A colonnade will completely surround the inner house, which is designed exclusively for social purposes.

The size of the building will be 84 by 122 feet. A ten foot terrace walk will extend around the outside, being widened at the northwest corner to a circular form, thus providing an ample approach from the dock landing. The first floor will contain an assembly room, 30 by 63 feet, with a ceiling 24 feet high. This floor will also have a commission's reception room, ladies' reception room and private offices with a parcel room and post office. The second floor will contain a sitting room 23 feet square, with extra rooms for attendants and four guest chambers for the accommodation of state visitors.