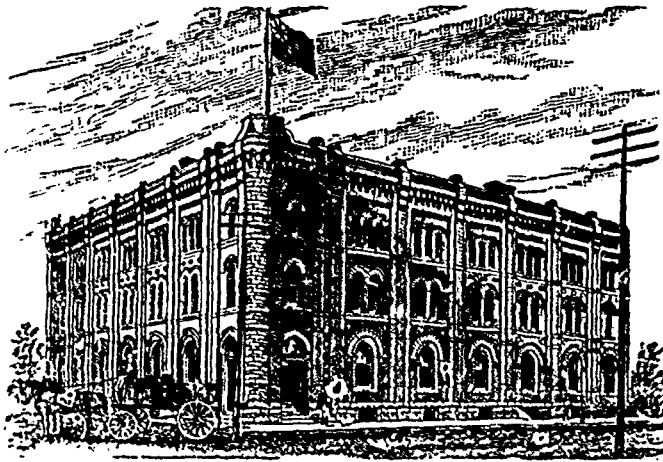


GOODS SOLD TO THE
TRADE ONLY.GOODS SOLD TO THE
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G. F. & J. GALT,

DIRECT IMPORTERS

TEAS, SUGARS, WINES, LIQUORS and GENERAL GROCERIES
CORNER PRINCESS AND BANNATYNE STREETS, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

Two Weeks on the M. & N.W. Ry.

(Continued from last week.)
SHOAL LAKE.

A town 115 miles west of Portage la Prairie and 23 miles east of Birtle. A year ago last September this place was almost wiped out by fire. All the places of business on the north side of the railway were burned and the merchants and residents greatly inconvenienced for a while in consequence. It has now, however, fully recovered and in every case the new buildings erected are a decided improvement on the old ones. One of the oldest and best established business houses in the place is that of R. Scott, general storekeeper, it is now over eleven years since he opened out. He was one of the unfortunate ones the time of the fire, his entire stock being destroyed, but almost before the fire had ceased to burn he had a new stock ordered and a building secured in which to open. C. Christie, general storekeeper, has been doing business here for nearly five years, but has only been handling dry goods and clothing part of that time. When he opened his stock consisted of groceries and provisions only. The Hudson's Bay Company have a branch store here with M. S. Beeston as manager. The year just passed was a very satisfactory one to them, the amount of business done exceeding considerably that of any previous year. Geo. Manson is also in the general store business at this point.

Dr. A. Lawson, who was formerly in business in Ontario, opened a drug store here on the 20th of May last. He has a large stock of drugs on hand and reports a very good business doing. W. R. Thomas was also in the drug business, but has disposed of his stock to N. H. Jackson, of Winnipeg, and intends returning to the old country. Under the title of the Shoal Lake Carriage Works, C. H. Greenshaw conducts his wagon and carriage making business. He also does the furniture, undertaking and lumber trade of the town. He too suffered the time of the fire but that only proved to be a temporary check as he is now established in a new building and handling a much larger stock of goods. A. S. Arnold, butcher and cattle dealer, is now in business for the second time. It is four years ago since he started first, but he disposed of that business

and went away. After an interval of about a year he came back and opened out again, and is now doing a large trade not only in the town but in the surrounding country as well. The Queen's Hotel is at present the only one in the place. It has recently changed hands, being now under the management of A. M. Cameron. There is also a good boarding house on the south side of the railroad kept by Andrew Marshall at which first-class accommodation can be had. Mr. Marshall is also in the grain business, buying wheat and all kinds of grain for shipment.

The flour mill which is located here is one of the largest on the line, it having a capacity of 150 barrels per day. There is an elevator in connection with it. Both are the property of the Shoal Lake Milling Co. The end of the year 1890 found the business community of Shoal Lake in a much more prosperous condition than did the close of 1889. It speaks well for the town that it was able to recover so quickly from the reverses which met it during the closing month of that year. The fire, coming just at a time when merchants had in large stocks of goods in preparation for a good fall trade, left the majority of them in a very unsettled frame of mind, not knowing whether to build again or not. Then to make matters worse the crops turned out shorter than was expected, and necessitated the carrying over of a number of debts, which, had they been paid, would have been barely sufficient to set the town on its feet. At the close of 1890, however, not only had the lost ground been recovered, but an actual advance has been made in the number of stores doing business.

The returns of the last week in December, 1890, show that over 15,000 bushels more of wheat had been marketed up to that time, than was marketed altogether from the 1889 crop and it is probable that, taking the outside estimate, not more than two-thirds of the 1890 crop was in at the time those returns were made. The country lying to the north of the town was the only part which had any frosted wheat to speak of last fall, the other districts being comparatively free and much of the wheat from them was of an exceedingly good quality, the bulk of it grading No. 2 hard. The largest yield to the acre obtained was from

the land lying to the south of the town, the crop off this being equal in volume and quality to anything in the province.

Wheat.

Wheat appears to be sick indeed. Following the opening of what was generally supposed would be a crop year of high prices, values have gone down, down, down, and the recovery, which it was expected would come as soon as the financial situation eased up a bit, appears as far off as ever. (At least this is the case at the time of writing this article. If there is any change before the week is out, our market reports on another page will show it.) It is now so late in the season that even the most sanguine are beginning to be doubtful of higher prices. Wheat is grown over an immense area of the earth's surface. Harvesting is going on somewhere in the world about every month in the year. At this season of the year future crop prospects are an important factor in governing values. Though the statistical situation for the balance of the crop year is certainly straggling, yet big crop prospects for the future might overbalance this situation. Australia, Argentine, Chili, etc., have their new crop on the market in January. The following is the forecast of the *London Miller* for January:-

"January is not likely to greatly advance prices with hard weather, or greatly to reduce them with thaw. The limits within which trade can move are somewhat rigidly defined. The price of the finest white wheat may be reduced 1s. by big shipments from California and Australia, but from 37s. 6d. to 36s. 6d. is the utmost alteration at all likely to occur. On the other hand, Russian and Roumanian red wheat may easily rise 1s., especially as Russian reserves are smaller than usual at the ports, and the bulk of the Roumanian surplus is understood to have been already exported. Indian wheat will continue to be ruled by the silver exchange, but no price change, either up or down, seems to be very imminent. The new Chinese and Argentine wheat crops are likely to be put upon the market at prices leading to a fair trade, but the total offered will hardly be sufficient to depress Mark Lane. Farmers (home) have sold freely at a 32s 3d. level for wheat, and therefore we have to look for fairly liberal offers at the country market, despite the weather.

At a meeting of the ratepayers of the municipality of Oak River Man., held recently, a resolution was adopted condemning the action of the G. N. W. Co., in not operating their road. It was agreed to send a petition to the governor-in-council at Ottawa, setting forth this grievance, also showing that they have 25 to 30 miles to draw their grain, causing a loss to the farmer of at least 10c per bushel, and praying that the petition may receive the careful consideration of the government, and that it may use its influence in getting the company to operate the road.

Notice is hereby given that an application will be made to the Legislature of Manitoba at the next session thereof for an act to incorporate "The Manitoba Hail and Fire Insurance Company" (Limited) with the object of doing a general hail and fire insurance business. The chief place of business of the company will be at Portage la Prairie.

Philip E. Durst, jeweler, Brandon, is reported giving up business.