

An Interesting Interview.

One of the recent arrivals in Winnipeg from the east was H. Shragge, the well-known scrap merchant of Winnipeg, who has been visiting in centres of the iron and steel trade in both Canada and the United States, and who has been in this country on business. This winter trip was a regular thing with Mr. Shragge, in as much as the extent to which his business here is growing. Mr. Shragge gave The Commercial an interesting interview on his return. As a result of his talks with leading manufacturers in the United States, he has come to the belief that iron prices are bound to go still higher this year. The market for scrap iron, he thinks, will be very tight for some months. The European situation will, of course, have much to do with the future course of prices, and it seems more than likely that Germany and perhaps other countries in America this year. Already Mr. Shragge says one Canadian consuming scrap is located in Montreal has consumed for 15,000 tons of iron scrap in the last year. The market for scrap is depressed and prices lower, otherwise scrap materials are all sold at the highest possible prices.

While in the States Mr. Shragge had his attention repeatedly attracted to the fact that so many Canadians are meeting in that country. He says that Canadian visitors are everywhere every time when situations are open and they are almost invariably successful. He has seen a number of young men who have been born in the United States are always ready to return to Canada.

When applying for positions Canadians are hardly ever asked for any. This is an unfair source the more so in view of the fact which he could not help noticing that the business element in the United States is to a large extent hostile to everything British. Mr. Shragge found them almost invariably the product of their own sympathies and almost unalike in their attitudes to Great Britain.

While in New York city he was struck with the large extent to which Jews are in control of the wealth and the general affairs of that great city. Nearly seventy-five per cent of the wealth of New York is in the hands of Jews, according to this observer. This fact is having effect upon Russia and Germany in their treatment of the Jewish portion of their populations as these countries are beginning to see the advantage of the commercial supremacy of their two great trade rivals. Great Britain and the United States are in the commanding position of this people. Mr. Shragge expects to see a radical change in the attitude of Jews by European nations before many years, and instead of driving them out the new policy will be to encourage them.

Brandon Horticultural Society.

This society held its annual meeting in the city of Brandon last week, and the gathering proved successful in every way. The treasurer's report showed the society to be in good financial standing. The outstanding fact that it receives no grant from the provincial government. The work done during the year 1901 was reviewed by the secretary in his report, and was shown to have been of great assistance. A special mention was made of a wild flower show held in June and the July three days' contest. The annual exhibition held in August was a very successful affair. In the fruit section of this exhibition over 400 entries were made by 85 competitors. The secretary's report having been adopted, the election of officers was proceeded with, and resulted as follows: Honorary president, H. McInnis, M. P.; first vice-president, J. McKinnis, M. P.; second vice-president, J. A. Osborne, P. F.; first secretary, J. F. Wadje, treasurer, H. S. McInnis, Middleton, auditor, W. Warner, representative to the W. A. S. A. and W. Warner, botanist, J. F. Wadje, entomologist, H. W. G. Beger, executive committee, Messrs. Dyer, Patmore, Cooke, Campbell, Hensley, Bedford, Brad, Sheriff, Anderson, Morrison, Finlay, Williams, McPherson, Talbott, Riggs, Robertson, Noland, S. C. Clement and Hutchinson.

Several wharves are to be built on Lake Manitoba this year at Big Point, Sand Bay, Gypsumville and other points.

Yukon Governor Interviewed.

Hon. Jas. H. Ross, governor of the Yukon Territory, passed through Winnipeg this week on his way from Dawson City to Ottawa. He left Dawson on the 4th of February, and has made a quick trip out. Being interviewed at Winnipeg on conditions in the Yukon, he stated in the matter of the Treadgold concessions he thought that a very good bargain had been made by the government. It will be remembered that by this arrangement, in consideration of providing a certain water supply to work the hydraulic and placer mines, and to wash out the Treadgold syndicate to receive certain claims in Bonanza Creek district, in the state of reverted claims. That is, claims abandoned by miners, which have become the property of the government. Owners of claims are to have the privilege of working properties with the aid of the Treadgold water supply, but must pay a reasonable amount, set by the government, for this privilege.

Speaking of the prospects of the Yukon, the governor said that he considered a good supply of the Yukon for fifty years. There seem to be lots of exploration work yet to be done, and the new fields are making fine returns.

The new electric railway up the Bonanza Creek, and the Stewart River will open up a big area of new country, and will be of great service to the miners, if they can get fuel and supplies right at their claims. The recent reduction in White Pass Railway rates is giving great satisfaction. The new telegraphic service to

Insurance Notes.

The Home Insurance Company, of New York, City, has entered the Dominion of Canada for business and has made the necessary deposit at Ottawa. A. C. Archibald has been appointed general agent for Manitoba and the Territories and Western Ontario.

The Confederation Life Association is extending its field of operation to take in Mexico and the West Indies. F. W. Green has been appointed from its managing staff to go to Mexico and explore the ground, and R. H. Tilley will represent the association in the West Indies. We may also note while speaking of the company that it has recently announced a change in its Western Canada organization by which Joseph B. Doherty, of Winnipeg, becomes manager for Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and British Columbia, and Thos. E. Kerr, cashier, Winnipeg, becomes treasurer for the west.

The eleventh annual meeting of The Provincial Mutual Hail Insurance Company of Manitoba was held in the office of the company, Strand Block, on Thursday, the 29th inst. Mr. J. O. Renton, of Deloraine, the president, in the chair. The annual report, which had been printed and circulated among the members, was held a read, and on motion adopted. The following were on a vote by ballot, elected directors for the year 1902: John Renton, Deloraine, Frank M. Bennett, Elgin, W. H. Bewell, Rosser, C. J. Thomson, Virden, W. F. Sirett, Glendale, James B. Bell, Rosebank, T. L. Morton, Gladstone. All of whom

Railway and Traffic Matters.

A survey has been made for a branch from Dinosaur to the main line, 19.5 miles west of Port Arthur, north to Lake Minnetonka, 11.5 miles.

A survey has been made for the construction of a branch from Raleigh, on the main line, to the extension, 10.5 miles west of Port Arthur, to Bunting Lake, 18.5 miles. This branch would open up some timber lands and also a source of supply for ties.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association executive has been in opposition against handling the Intercolonial Railway over to the C. P. R. to operate, and favouring the extension of the government road so as to secure direct connection with the West.

It was reported on Wednesday that the British Columbia government has decided to aid the construction of the Canadian Northern Railway, from Seattle, to the extent of \$1,800,000 cash and 8,000,000 acres of land. The east terminus of the road will be Butte, Mont.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company will erect a new three-story traffic agent's office in London, this year, the building to be one of the finest on the continent and the largest in the city. It will be used not only for business purposes but also as a sort of advertising office.

"Railway" is the original word for a highway operated by steam, and is part of the legal title of the great majority of the transportation companies in English-speaking lands. In the United States, the title "railroad" is used. In Porto Rico, Canada, Mexico and Cuba, no less than 652 miles are legally designated by the word "railway."

Wm. Whyte, assistant to the C. P. R. president, was interviewed this week with regard to the new lines the C. P. R. propose to build during the coming summer. He stated that the roads projected in the various parts of the province would aggregate in length about 290 miles. The roads are as follows: From a point between Elkhorn and Moosehorn running in a north westerly direction to the mouth of Qu'Appelle river at Scissors Creek, to Pleasant Hill, a distance of from 30 to 100 miles. The road would require necessary facilities for the settlers north of the Qu'Appelle River, to reach the railroad, which has already been a great source of trouble in the past, owing to the necessity for crossing the river. The road from Waskada to Lyleton, which has already been graded, will be finished this summer. The distance is 25 miles. The road from Snowflake to Mowbray, a distance of 10 miles, will also be finished in the spring. A line will be constructed from Forest to Lenore, through the municipality of Daly and Woodworth, a distance of 12 miles. Ten miles of a road has been graded from Wellwood to Brooklin, and this road may be extended to Forest, the whole being a distance of about 32 miles. Rails will be laid on the road graded from Selkirk to Winnipeg Beach, a distance of 20 miles, as soon as the season for this work opens.

Ocean Freights.

The demand for ocean grain freight from this port for spring shipment, says the Montreal Gazette, has so far been of a very lively character. It is said to be due to the fact that the rates being asked by steamship agents of the companies are very low. In comparison with those ruling from American ports, and besides the demand from United States ships, the demand is above export basis. The business that is being done in London, New York and London, and that for Canadian stuff. The aggregate volume of business has exceeded that of last year, and the prospects are encouraging for the future. The demand has been looked forward to by some in the trade. The asking rates at present are as follows: Liverpool, 10s 6d; London, 10s 6d; Glasgow, 10s 6d; Avonmouth, 10s 6d; Manchester, 10s 6d; Hamburg, 2s; Antwerp, 2s 6d; and a few other ports. 34; Leith, 2s to 2s 3d; Cardiff, 2s, and Rotterdam, 2s.

The Chicago hide market holds steady at the present time, with a few transactions spoken of at 75c. Storms in the west have delayed receipts some extent.

Manitoba Farm Homes—Residence of S. Potter, Spring Hill.

Dawson has also been reasonably satisfactory.

Mr. Ross is going to Ottawa on purely departmental business. He wishes to see about the appropriations to be made by the government for improvements in the Yukon. He will strongly recommend the construction of a wagon road from White Horse to Dawson, which will return north during next month, and hopes to go over the ice. With a winter such as has been here, and in the Yukon this year, I would look for a very early break up of the ice, and an early opening of navigation on the river," remarked the governor, in conclusion.

Spring Glove Styles.

There has been an unusually large demand for black gloves this season. Whites and greys in colored lines have sold better than any other shade. For Easter white gloves will form the bulk of the selling, and will have either the self or the grey embroidery. Greys of tones from pearls to slates, and modes, will come next in order of demand, with, of course, the usual aggregation of tans, browns and other shades. Black will continue in favor with those who do not wear white gloves, so long as the present style of black and white costumes remains. There is a growing demand for a new class of fabric gloves, such as real Lisle, with clasps and embroidered backs similar to the kid. Among the most recent developments is a tendency towards an increase in the demand for imitative leathers, which is likely to be one of the features of the coming season.—Shoe and Leather Journal.

are farmers.

The annual statement of the Hartford Fire Insurance Company shows it to have a larger business and larger reserves in America than any other fire insurance company. The statement announces total assets of \$12,559,074.45, including a reserve fund of \$6,728,564.45, and a net surplus of \$5,830,509.44. The net premium income during 1901 reached the remarkable total of \$9,652,782.93, which has never before been approached in the United States and Canada. One of the most prominent features of the Hartford's statement is its enormous reserve fund, absolutely pledged to protect the policy-holders, and which cannot be divided, as in the case of a surplus.

Following is the verdict in the Rat Portage fire investigation, in the case of the fire in Fraser's stables: "We, the Jurors, do hereby find, in connection with an incipient fire in Fraser's stable on the morning of Feb. 17, 1902, that said fire, by some person or persons unknown. We find that several fires of a somewhat similar character have started in buildings, and that there has been gross neglect on the part of the proprietors in not maintaining more efficient care and watchfulness to prevent such occurrence, and we are strongly of opinion that the proper authorities should take action to endeavor to find out who the guilty party or parties" Investigation of the other fires will follow.

A seat on the Montreal Stock Exchange was sold last month to L. G. Reaballen, for \$15,000, the highest amount yet paid.