

Manitoba

A great deal of fall plowing has been done this year in some districts.

A. T. Andrews, of Gladstone is opening a branch store at Plumus, a town on the Dauphin railroad.

The contents of E. A. Ward's fancy and children's goods store, Winnipeg, were damaged by fire on Wednesday. Loss about \$500.

D. A. Ramsay has purchased the business of Nicholson Bros., general merchants, Dauphin, and is taking Mr. Philip into partnership.

C. C. Macdonnell, dairy commissioner, of Manitoba, will visit the Dauphin district next week, where he will address a series of meetings. Efforts are being made to establish creameries at Ochre River and Dauphin.

The municipal safe at Altona was blown open on the night of Nov. 14, and about \$2,500 stolen. The money taken includes \$1,100, taxes of the municipality of Rhineland; \$300 of the Northern Elevator company, and \$200 belonging to private parties.

Joseph Grenon & Son, fishermen, Winnipegosis, have sold their business to Hugh Armstrong. The business will be carried on by Mr. Armstrong on an extended scale. Joseph Grenon will go into the fish commission business elsewhere.

John A. Roberts, dairy inspector, Winnipeg, has submitted a list of thirty-seven persons who have paid their license fees, but had signified an intention to cease selling milk, owing to the stringent license regulations.

A charter has been issued to Thos. Hazlewood, Andrew Grievie, Harriet E. Keys, William Leeson and A. L. McLean, all of Winnipeg, giving them power to do business as the Winnipeg Trading Co. They will carry on a general mercantile business. The capital stock is \$2,000.

The estate of Robt. Paul, general merchant, Winnipeg, recently deceased, will be sold by auction on the 21st inst. at 12 o'clock. The estate consists of: groceries, \$1,750.31, dry goods, clothing, furnishings, boots and shoes, \$374.05, fixtures, etc., \$775.95. H. Sandison is administrator of the estate.

Returns of the amount of butter made in the Manitoba creameries this year will show about 1,000,000 lbs. Some creameries reported an increase and others were not so favorable. The average price received was 18 1/2 cents, according to the dairy commissioner.

W. W. Bole, druggist, late of Moose Jaw, has arrived in Winnipeg to take an interest in the Bole Drug Co., as recently announced in The Commercial. Before leaving his late place of residence, Mr. and Mrs. Bole were presented by their friends with a very valuable silver service. The Moose Jaw and Regina papers give Mr. Bole a very flattering send-off, while expressing the general regret felt on account of his departure from his late western home. Mr. Bole took an active interest in public affairs at Moose Jaw. He was president of the board of trade there and for several years served on the school board and in other public capacities, so that he will be greatly missed by that community.

Northwest Ontario.

Head & Co., architects, Rat Portage, has been dissolved.

E. Brown is making arrangements to establish a vinegar factory at Rat Portage.

Several parties are out locating the Ontario and Rainy River railway extension, which road is to connect with the Winnipeg and Southeastern, forming a through line to Lake Superior.

Alberta.

Geo. Gilmer is erecting a grain warehouse at Edmonton.

Kelly & Beals, of Edmonton, have bought out Jos. Bougie's carriage and blacksmith shop at that place.

A new trading company has been formed at Calgary under the name of the Calgary Clothing Company. They will open for business shortly.

Again Branching Out.

J. T. Griffin & Co., packers and provision merchants, Winnipeg, have made another move in the direction of reaching out for the trade of the west. They have established a branch at Nelson, B. C., which will hereafter be headquarters for their business in the Kootenay. Robert Robertson, who has for some time been connected with the Winnipeg business of the firm, has gone to Nelson to take charge of the new branch. Mr. Robertson is thoroughly posted in the produce trade, and besides this qualification is a very estimable person, and he will certainly become popular in the Kootenay country as soon as he becomes known there. A full stock of the manufactures of the firm will be carried at Nelson, besides a stock of general produce. A smoke house will also be established there at once, and meats from the factory here will be smoked on the spot, so as to be always fresh. It is the intention to make the Nelson business a permanent branch, and the erection of a warehouse is contemplated for the near future.

Among the Retailers.

Winnipeg retail dealers in the boot and shoe trade are having considerable trouble in explaining the advance in rubber goods to their customers. Of course the same story has to be gone over to each and every customer, who drops in to buy a pair of rubbers, as said customer is sure to remember that he paid something less for his last pair than he is now asked, and it is often difficult to lead them to accept the statement that the advance in prices is general and necessitated by an increase in the first cost of the goods.

Crude rubber, it is well known to the trade, has been advancing in price for years, and is now held at very high figures. Manufacturers of rubber goods have accordingly been compelled to advance the prices of their wares. Last spring they made an advance on rubber footwear, but this was not put into effect by the retail trade at the time. Winnipeg retailers, however, decided to put the advance into effect on winter goods for the fall trade, and hence the trouble with customers. The advance amounts to about five cents per pair on children's rubbers, ten cents on ladies' sizes and fifteen cents on men's sizes. The advance is a legitimate one, as rubbers have been sold on a close margin, and the retailers are entitled to the prices now asked.

Territorial Butter.

The representative of The Commercial at Vancouver, in his report last week, made some disparaging remarks regarding the quality of butter from the government creameries in the Territories, which was being offered in the Vancouver market. This week our British Columbia representative again returns to the same subject. We have taken special pains to find out what there is in these complaints, and learn that they are not without cause. The root of the difficulty appears to lie in the system followed by the management of the government creameries in holding early made goods for the fall and winter market. The government creamery, now giving such unsatisfactory results at Vancouver, is early makes, including June goods. It is not to be expected that this butter could compete in quality with fresh, late made goods from Manitoba and Ontario, which is also offering in the Vancouver market. The difficulty is further aggravated by the lack of proper storage accommodation in the British Columbia markets. Creamery butter is a very delicate commodity, and will deteriorate very rapidly in quality if improperly stored. Butter that has been held in cold storage for four or five months, will deteriorate more rapidly than fresh goods which have not been so held. The Commercial has always consistently advocated the marketing of butter at current values, while it is fresh and sweet. Sometimes a better price can be realized by holding, but it is often secured at the expense of quality and reputation. This has proved to be the case in holding the government butter. It is questionable if it has not been penny wise and pound foolish policy on the part of the management of the government creameries, in holding butter so long, thereby obtaining such a bad reputation for territory butter. Mr. Kinsella, of the dairy department, was in the city this week and was interviewed on the matter. He lays special weight upon the lack of good storage at Vancouver, but this is evidently only part of the difficulty, which has its beginning in the holding system. We are quite prepared to believe that the butter was good quality of its class when it left the government storehouse, but if it had not been held so long it would have undoubtedly gone into consumption under more favorable conditions.

The Cigar Trouble.

Trouble has arisen between the factories and their employees in the cigar-making business at Winnipeg. The men have organized a union and adopted a bill of wages which means a radical increase over prices heretofore paid, and which would necessitate an increase of from \$4 to \$6 per thousand in the price of cigars. This bill the employers refuse to accept, and in consequence, a union cigar factory is being opened, but as this will only employ a few hands for the present it will not materially affect the situation in Winnipeg. The probabilities are that the dispute will be settled amicably after public discussion has taken place.

Mayor Andrews, of Winnipeg, has returned from his trip to Great Britain. He will make his report to the city council on Monday next, regarding the result of his trip in connection with the new waterworks bonds.