

A planing mill and lumber yard. The Hon. Thos. Greenway also built a one storey frame building, 22x28 feet, which is occupied by himself and Dr. Middle as offices, and in addition to these at least ten dwelling houses were built. The bricks used in these buildings are made near Clearwater station, five miles from Crystal City. Although it is estimated that the crop in this neighborhood last season, would not average more than five or six bushels to the acre still it is not expected that the town will suffer any set-back as the farmers are for the most part reported to be in good circumstances and quite able to stand a poor season.

Between this point and Killarney there are four stations, Clearwater, Lather, Cartwright, and Holmfeld. The first two are very small places, but Holmfeld is considerably larger, and Cartwright is quite an important point with good prospects of becoming a large town. A. Hicks, general merchant, Holmfeld, has sold out to Wm. Hodnett, and has gone to Killarney to manage the business of the Killarney Trading Co.

During the summer months, at least, Killarney is an attractive and pleasant place in which to live. It is within easy walking distance of Killarney lake, a beautiful expanse of water, surrounded for the most part with high and rocky banks. It affords good bathing, boating and fishing and is attracting each year a large number of picnickers, for whom comfortable cabins have been built on the lake shore. A distinguishing feature about the town is the number of handsome brick and stone buildings to be seen. This last season the crops around here were light, in common with other parts of the country, the average being estimated at about eight to ten bushels per acre. South of the town the crops were very fair but to the north considerable damage was done by hail. In addition to the grain quite a number of cattle are raised and as the farmers have been living here for a number of years the majority of them are now in good circumstances, and can stand a hard year. Some business changes have taken place during the past year. Cross & McQueen, general merchants, have dissolved partnership, the business being continued by Cross & Co., A. McQueen going into the confectionery and grocery business. The business of S. Moule, general merchants, has been acquired by the Killarney Trading Co., and John Sidore has started a harness shop. There are five general stores here, owned by W. A. Bingham, Cross & Co., T. J. Lawlor, The Killarney Trading Co., and R. Rollins, all of which are doing a good business, as is shown by the large and up-to-date stocks of goods carried. The flour and grist mill owned by Young & Buck has been the means of drawing a considerable amount of trade to this town.

The town of Ninga, as seen from the train, presents a long row of store buildings, lining the north side of a street paralleling the track. In these are located three general stores, one hardware, furniture warehouse, butcher shop, etc. Among the business men located here are W. P. Landon, hardware; Miller & Halner, and D. C. McArthur, general merchants; J. Hicks, butcher, and Thos. Vanderburgh, harness maker. This is in a good wheat section, as is evident from the three large grain elevators strung along the side track.

At Bolssevain we find a great many handsome stone buildings, not only business blocks, but public buildings and dwelling houses. This gives to the town a look of stability which a further acquaintance with the business community fully bears out. This is in a very good farming section and as it is one of the older settlements the farmers are now in comfortable circumstances. The wheat yield for last season only averaged in the neighborhood of ten bushels to the acre, but the majority of the farmers will have some stock to dispose of which will help them considerably in meeting their accounts. There are no new businesses to report this year, but on the other hand one or two stores have been closed. This, however, must not be taken as indicating that Bolssevain is losing ground, but is due rather to the fact that there were too many engaged in business here. There are at this point two hardware, four general stores, clothing store, grocery store, boots and clothing business, several confectionery and fruit stands, two bakers, two hardware shops, drug stores, two lumber

yards, two weekly newspapers, a branch of the Union bank, a flour mill, etc. W. Hanley, butcher, has bought the butcher business of J. McCausland and has taken in a partner, the business being now known as Hanley & Burgess.

At Whitewater there is one general store owned by F. D. Peters. This station is at Whitewater lake, a shallow body of water which is a favorite feeding place for wild geese and has become far famed among sportsmen.

Deloraine is one of the largest and best business towns on this line. It is surrounded by a good farming country, in which wheat growing receives the most attention, although considerable stock is also raised. The stores in Deloraine are both large and numerous and a very fine class of goods is carried. Several changes in business circles have occurred in the last year. Rockett & Co., harness dealers, have sold out to T. G. Oddie, D. E. Trainer, clothing and men's furnishings, has retired from business; Evans & Stovin, general dealers, is now Evans & Co. Alexander & Lusk, proprietors of the Advertiser newspaper, have dissolved partnership, Frank Lusk continuing. Snider & Glass now have charge of the flour mill in place of Snider & Barber. J. J. Cochrane has opened a real estate, loan and insurance office. A new enterprise, and a very important one to the travelling public, is the opening of a second hotel. A new building was erected for the purpose, and in the "Palace," under the present management, Deloraine has one of the best hotels in the country. The Union bank branch at this point is now occupying new and very comfortable quarters. Falconer & Martin own the hardware store here, Evans & Co., the Hudson's Bay Co., Montgomery & Colquhoun and O. C. Smith have general stores. W. H. Atkinson, lumber and implement dealer, J. Boyd, furniture and lumber, and J. S. Lochead, lumber. F. L. Kelbourne and C. E. Gutteridge handle confectionery, fruits etc., H. Mitchell and C. E. Stevens are the butchers. In addition to the Union bank, A. P. and F. T. Stuart have a private bank.

#### Labor Delegates Discuss Various Matters With Premier Roblin.

A deputation from the trades and labor council held a lengthy interview with Premier Roblin and his colleagues Wednesday evening regarding matters of mutual interest. The deputation was composed of A. W. Puttee, M. P.; William Scott, Boyard, Underwood, McKenzie, Raitt, Wallace, Dales, Nicholson and Fisher. They were received by the full cabinet.

Mr. Dales first spoke in regard to the factory inspection act. He acknowledged the appreciation felt by the deputation that the amendments suggested by them had been embodied in the new act, but complained of one defect, in so far that no provision had been made for the enforcement of the act.

Mr. Roblin—"Well, that is rather a serious one."

Mr. Campbell—"You mean that no inspector was appointed?"

Mr. Dales assented.

In further discussion it was pointed out that the act was practically null, as no one had been appointed to see that it is carried into effect. Mr. Dales considered that the law is being broken every day, and asked to be assured that an inspector would be appointed, as the general opinion is that under the circumstances the act is entirely inoperative.

In reply, the premier stated that an inspector would be appointed so soon as the estimates are submitted and the money voted. He thought that the non-appointment was the result of an oversight.

Chas. Raitt was next heard from. He spoke in regard to the enforcement of the clause in the bakers act, having reference to the hours for labor. He contended that, contrary to the act, many of the employees are compelled to work over 12 hours a day and 60 hours a week, while others again are unable to procure employment. There was no inspector to see after the enforcement of this act either.

Mr. Campbell asked if the appointment should not be made by the municipality.

He was informed that the city had neglected to take any action in the

matter, although it had been brought to their notice. There was no official other than the health inspector to look after the enforcement of the act. It was pointed out that the inspecting would only take a short time each week, so that it was hardly to be expected that a municipal officer could be appointed for the purpose.

Mr. Raitt suggested that the administration of the act should come under the government of the factory inspector. Mr. Scott pointed out that the bakers do not want any amendment to the act, but ask that it be placed under provincial inspection for the purposes of economy.

A. W. Puttee, M. P., next took up the question of compulsory education. The labor men, he said, were deeply interested in the matter. They feel it is a question which needs early attention. He pointed out that in Winnipeg where the school population is increasing so rapidly the expenditure is always running ahead of the revenue, and the board therefore does not feel inclined to take the initiative. He deplored the fact that many children are growing up in absolute ignorance. So many immigrants are coming into the country, settling, and in time becoming entitled to exercise the franchise, that an uneducated electorate will result. The school board takes money from all, but it does not educate all the children. Mr. Puttee considered that if education is made compulsory in Winnipeg it should be placed under the control of an inspector and not under the school board.

Mr. Roblin—"Did you ever take into account the peculiar condition under which we labor and how sensitive it is, and if we were to compel certain of our citizens to send their children to what are known as the public schools, what effect it would have?"

Mr. Puttee asked whether he meant in the matter of creed, and being answered in the affirmative by the premier, he replied that he considered the state should not only provide that all are entitled to be educated, but they should insist on it.

Mr. Scott remarked that in Winnipeg there is a school population of over 12,000 with only accommodation for 6,000.

The premier told of a Galician church of which he had been informed where there were fifty children of school age who attended no school.

Mr. Roblin—"The introduction of a compulsory clause such as has been suggested would mean that the accommodation for school purposes would have to be largely increased, would it not?"

Mr. Scott—"Yes, there is accommodation for only about half the number."

The premier considered that the class not attending school would not be likely to receive any home training, but would rather grow up in ignorance and vice.

In this connection Mr. Campbell remarked on the increase in convictions at the police court during the past year, amounting to over 50 per cent.

Mr. Fisher next brought up the question of the Mechanics' Lien Act which he was not fully prepared to go into owing to the absence of a colleague. It was pointed out that the act as introduced by the Norquay government has been so altered as to be badly complicated. What is asked is that the priority of wages in the case of liens should be established.

Mr. Roblin endorsed this view. He said he had known many villainous robberies to come under the protection or want of protection of the act.

Mr. Scott then brought up the case of the dispute between Miss Young and the school board. The lady, he said, was not a member of the party, but it was their object to protect and advance the interests of all wage earners. He considered that Miss Young had been most unjustly dealt with by the board, and if her case is allowed to go without redress it will be a very serious prejudice to the teachers.

In reply to the deputation the premier expressed the thanks of himself and colleagues at being honored with their visit, and would be glad to have it repeated, as they recognized that the labor people take a deep interest in all social and economical questions. He regretted the anomaly of the factory inspection act, and promised to make the necessary appointment as soon as possible. He thought that the inspection of the bakers could be incorporated as suggested. He was glad to find that compulsory education was endorsed by the represented body, and said that although the

conditions in the province are such as to prevent the enactment of such a law as they would like, but something would undoubtedly be done. Attention would also be given to the lien act. He did not know a great deal of Miss Young's case, but considered she was an estimable woman, who had suffered by virtue of the school board's action. Consideration would be given to the suggestion that she receive the appointment to the model department of the Normal school.

#### British Columbia Trade of 1900

The business of the past year is reviewed as follows by R. P. Rithet & Co., of Victoria, in their freight and shipping report for January:—

"The general business of the whole of British Columbia has made rapid strides during the year 1900, and perhaps in no one year for a long time back has there been more satisfactory advancement and expansion in almost all directions than during the year just closed.

"Mining has been vigorously prosecuted both on the mainland and island, with gratifying results, and this industry continues to attract the practical miner as well as investors.

"The timber business has been remarkably good and our export mills have been kept fully and profitably employed. The difficulty of obtaining raw material is steadily increasing, and the low prices which existed a few years ago are not likely to be repeated. Freight has been high and tonnage scarce all through the year, and although a decline is looked for in the near future, there is so far very little indication of lower rates.

"Salmon packing has been very disappointing, the run of sockeyes in the Fraser river having been one of the worst on record. In other districts, however, good packs were secured, and more attention has been given to the full run. The total pack of the province was not so very far short of ordinary, and the market is in a healthy condition.

"The sealing business was carried on energetically, but while the average catch per schooner was smaller than in the previous year and the first cost greater, the high prices obtained at the annual sales enabled sealers to realize fair profits.

"British Columbia coal continues to be in good demand and a larger fleet of steamers and sailors have found employment carrying the product of our mines to foreign markets.

"The outlook for 1901 is exceedingly bright in all branches of business," his mothers wish

#### Comparative Prices of Staples.

Prices at New York, as given by Bradstreet's:

	Jan. 18, 1901.	Jan. 19, 1900.
Flour . . . . .	\$3.45@3.60	\$3.35@3.65
Wheat . . . . .	78	7½
Corn . . . . .	47	40½
Oats . . . . .	30½	29½
Rye . . . . .	54	60
Cotton . . . . .	9½	7 13-16
Printed cloths . . . . .	3½	3
Wool, Ohio . . . . .	24½	33½
Pork, mess . . . . .	\$13.75@14.50	\$10.50@11
Lard . . . . .	7½	6.20
Butter . . . . .	21	25
Cheese . . . . .	11½	12½
Sugar, gran . . . . .	5.60	5.05
Coffee, No. 7 . . . . .	7½	8½
Petroleum, red . . . . .	7.25	9.00
Iron, Besse . . . . .	\$12.50@13.50	25.00
Steel billets, ton . . . . .	19.50	35.00
Steel rails . . . . .	25.00	35.00
Copper . . . . .	17.00	18.25
Lead, lb . . . . .	4.37½	4.70
Tin, lb . . . . .	26.35	26.50

•Pittsburgh.

Some clerks never progress, they are destitute of the ability to grow in usefulness. Of course, there are instances where individuals are born salesmen, but this state of things is the exception. Some people are able to add to their knowledge and power to please a little each day, through experience, while others know at the end of the year exactly what they did at the beginning, and no more. Now, these things go to make or mar a clerk's usefulness in merchandising, as in anything else. A merchant has a right to expect value received in clerical assistance, the same as in any other commodity.—Buyers' and Dry Goods Chronicle.

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