

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

Business generally has been active in this town during the week and the receipts of grain have been heavy. Wheat has been selling from 75c to 80c, oats 45c to 50c, barley 45c to 55c, potatoes 65c to 70c. With the advent of snow for sleighing much heavier receipts are anticipated.

The Ontario Bank has been moved into much more commodious premises in the Lafferty Block on Main Street.

Thursday was observed in town as Thanksgiving and business was almost entirely suspended. Services were held at the different churches.

The Portage, Westbourne and North-western Railway is now so far advanced in construction, that regular trains will commence running between Portage and Gladstone during the present week.

The fire extinguishing facilities of the town are being supplemented by six new tanks at different parts, which are being constructed at a cost of \$500 each.

At a very early hour on Saturday morning fire broke out in the Bank of W. T. Adamson & Co., and before it could be got under communicated with the drug store of Dr. Macklin, and the general store of Mr. Patterson. Mr. Adamson managed to save most of the bank papers, but the building was destroyed and the others mentioned badly injured.

Philip Gagnon barber and dealer in cigars, pipes and so forth has sold out his business on Dominion Street to Alex. Leach.

Alex. Taylor dealer in books and stationery goods intends giving up business in this city.

On Tuesday morning a large and influential meeting of citizens was held in the Town Hall, at which the recent disallowance of Manitoba railway charters by the Dominion Government was denounced in strong terms. Some very strong sentiments were expressed by some of the speakers.

BRANDON.

The city has been placarded for several days calling a meeting of the citizens for the purpose of discussing the question of disallowance. The feeling does not run so high as in some of the other towns, although considerable excitement is felt about this question.

It is rumored that a large butchering establishment is about to be started here, three lots have been purchased for this purpose and a large drove of cattle is now on the way from Montana. The firm is supposed to be worth \$500,000 and it is the intention of its members to supply meat to the retail dealers at Winnipeg, Portage La Prairie, Regina and other towns along the C. P. Railway.

A number of commercial men from Montreal paid this city a visit last week and booked a number of large orders. Every indication points to a large business being done here this winter and next spring.

The Brandon club is to be opened this week. It is a very handsome brick building and will be of great benefit to its members who have hitherto lived at the hotels.

Ident. Osbourne is about to erect a couple of

stores opposite his present place of business near the postoffice.

It is expected that the price of potatoes will be very high next spring. Several enterprising parties have constructed large root houses for the purpose of holding, with a view of taking advantage of the expected rise.

Thanksgiving day was celebrated very generally. The stores were all closed and business suspended.

Mr. Noble, the contractor for the new skating rink, is progressing rapidly with his building. The C. P. R. station is also being pushed forward, as is also the new Imperial Bank of Canada's building.

Messrs. Fortier & Bucke expect to have the city lighted within a week with their improved street lamp. Something in this line is greatly needed.

Several of the insurance agents here have thrown up their agencies, as they find the general agents at Winnipeg too exorbitant in their demands. For example, a City of London Insurance Company's General Agent at Winnipeg demanded 5 per cent. on an isolated building in this city. As this city will soon have engines and tanks and a good fire brigade, it will be well for the companies to appoint direct agents for it is impossible for the business to be conducted under the present arrangements.

Messrs. Soles & Kavanagh have opened a butchering establishment in Sheriff Richard's block.

No change in the price of grain since last week.

Messrs. Atkinson & Quigley, general merchants have dissolved partnership, and the business in the future will be conducted by Mr. Atkinson.

EMERSON.

Strong feelings are expressed by almost every one in this city regarding the disallowance of the Emerson and North-western charter, and party politics are for once lost in local interests. The general determination is to put the matter to the test by an appeal to the Imperial Privy Council, and have the question of provincial rights clearly defined.

The river is gradually freezing over, and navigation may be said to be closed, although an occasional steamer still passes through the bridge. Boats will ply until blocked completely by the ice.

Business during the closing days of last week livened up very much and merchants are feeling correspondingly good. The freezing up of the roads and the snow that has fallen have given farmers better opportunities of coming to town, and grain receipts have materially increased. Wheat has been selling at 75c to 80c; oats, 40c to 45c; barley, 55c to 60c. Sleighing is now expected, and with it a further increase in the grain receipts.

The Menonite settlements being the only districts where the wheat crops have failed, considerable hardships will occur among that class during the winter. The Emerson *International* says that over 150 cases are now on the docket for next county court against those far-

mers, most of which are actions to recover the price of farm machinery.

A. Rinskoff is giving up his retail grocery business, and is going into the wholesale wine and cigar business.

Thanksgiving day was observed on Thursday and business in town was almost entirely suspended.

J. Johnston, baker, has sold out his business to John S. Crawford.

The heavy importation of glass by Walton & Bird mentioned in THE COMMERCIAL a few weeks ago, has come to grief. On opening the same it was found to be nearly all broken. The importers will suffer from delay, but will not lose directly as the consignments were insured.

MORE RAILWAY WAR.

For the last two or three weeks it was thought that the differences between the railways running from Chicago to Minneapolis and St. Paul were in the fair way of being amicably arranged and the former rates of travel had to some extent been restored. The lull was only the silence of a volcano before it again bursts out with a great eruption, and this week war has been once more declared, and entered into with determination by all the lines concerned. Passengers can now travel from St. Paul or Minneapolis to Chicago or back over any of the lines for \$5, and as we are going to press a rumour from a trustworthy source reaches us that the Rock Island or Albert Lea route are about to reduce their fares to \$3. The low rates are not only allowed to passengers who book from any of the stations mentioned, but at Winnipeg and other points of the North-west coupon tickets are issued at figures which give the purchasers all the advantage of the cut in rates. In freight rates the cutting will no doubt be introduced also, and a bitter war will no doubt be carried on.

In a former number of THE COMMERCIAL we stated that only two railway interests existed in the North-western States outside of the Northern Pacific and St. P. M. and M. The first, composed of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, and Chicago and North-western, has had a monopoly of a large portion of North-western traffic for many years; and the second, which is composed of the Rock Island and Chicago, Burlington and Quincy and other smaller corporations is the new candidate for the disputed trade. The Rock Island is ostensibly alone in the struggle but those who understand the railway affairs west of the Mississippi know that they have the secret help of the C. B. and Q. The struggle will decide whether the new combination shall receive their share of the traffic between Chicago and Milwaukee and the North-west, and as both combinations are very powerful, the struggle will be a determined one. While they are smashing each other the residents of the North-west have a chance to pick up some of the pieces.

Dr. J. F. ROLLS, wholesale and retail druggist of Winnipeg, has admitted H. E. Neelands as a partner. The latter has for a long time managed the business in this city, and his admission into the firm gives a fresh guarantee for the prosperity of the business.