

Brandon.

Gamache & Limoges have placed their stock of general groceries and glassware in the hands of Turner, McKeand & Co., of Winnipeg, for the benefit of creditors, as they intend giving up business.

Kerchoffer & Jamieson, of Plum Creek, are erecting a large sale stable on Twelfth Street. It will be one of the largest stables in the country.

The Equitable Mercantile Company of New York have opened an agency here, and have appointed Mr. W. A. Macdonald its attorney for this district.

Mr. W. B. Scarth's dwelling houses are progressing rapidly. Messrs. Angus & Lyon, the contractors, have under construction eighteen buildings for this gentleman.

The Brand Club is approaching completion and will be in full running order in a short time.

Messrs. Phippion & Winter have in course of construction a skating rink between Seventh and Eighth Streets.

Auctioneer Wolf held a sale here for two nights last week, and disposed of a large number of lots at good prices.

Mr. A. G. Paul has opened out a stock of guns, ammunition, and general hardware on Rosser Avenue.

Mr. E. Hughes is building a couple of large stores on Tenth Street. The new passenger station which is being built between Ninth and Tenth Streets on Pacific Avenue is giving the center of this town a boom.

Mr. Geo. Grant, of the Customs Department, Ottawa, paid Brandon a visit last week for the purpose of reporting to the Government on the subject of making this point a port of entry. He has been well satisfied that this is a large distributing center, and will report favorably to the Minister of Customs.

The Great North-west Telegraph Company have opened an up-town office on Eighth Street, which will be a great boon to the public.

Coal has taken a fall to \$18. Wood scarce. Potatoes, 80c; wheat, 80c; oats, 50c.

C.P.R. receipts for the past week were: Freight, 236 tons; net, \$639.26; forwarded, 1,614 tons, \$12,596. Passenger receipts, \$3,585.

Murder.

A murder occurred in this city on Wednesday evening last, which has awakened the citizens to the fact that the practice of carrying fire-arms has not been stamped out in Winnipeg, notwithstanding the frequent fines of \$20 and costs imposed in the Police Court.

The story of the murder is an oft-told one. Two men met at a bar and engaged in an argument. One struck the other with his hand, and in return was shot through the breast and died in a few minutes.

The law against carrying fire-arms if rigidly enforced will do much to prevent such tragedies as this, and we doubt not but after this fatal affair it will be strained to its utmost in Winnipeg. It might be well, however, to go a little further and see if some measures could not be adopted to regulate the sale of fire-arms. It

does seem an anomalous state of law when a man cannot purchase poison at a drug store without having the prescription of a medical man, even when the druggist is perfectly satisfied that it is required for mechanical purposes only, while mere boys can purchase with impunity a weapon, the careless use of which may cost a life at any moment. The subject is worthy of a little consideration at least.

— • —

Emerson and West Lynne.

The cold days of the past week have livened up business in both of the above towns and grain and produce are being brought in by farmers in much greater quantities. Prices have ranged during the week: Wheat, 80c to 84c; oats, 42c to 45c; barley, 60c to 75c; flax, 50c. Quite a few loads of the latter have been received at West Lynne, and some have been of excellent quality. Potatoes are very plentiful at present, as farmers wish to dispose of all they do not want to preserve for spring, before heavy frosts set in. Loads during the week brought from 50c to 63c.

Emerson is going to have another clothing store. Messrs. L. L. Wood, of Hamilton, and W. W. Lumsden, of Belleville, Ont., are arranging a stock in the Fairbanks block, preparatory to opening up next week.

Messrs. Ashdown & Co., one of the leading mercantile houses of Emerson, have, it is understood, sold out their retail branch, and will in future confine their business to wholesale and jobbing.

The Hudson's Bay Company's mill at West Lynne will be running in full operation during the coming week.

The timely discovery of a fire in the Priyn Block on Thursday prevented a destructive conflagration.

At the last meeting of the West Lynne Town Council a delegation was appointed to go to Winnipeg and inspect the fire brigade arrangements there, and report at next meeting, so as to post the Council in the matter of the purchase of a fire engine. Some prompt measures in this direction are necessary if a great fire is to be prevented.

Geo. Snook, of West Lynne, has sold out his harness business to Mr. Foster, who carries on the same line at Emerson, and who will conduct the same as a branch establishment.

— • —

THERE seems to be a hope of an early settlement of the war on rates between the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha, and Rock Island Railway Companies. It is rumored that the Rock Island is to be admitted into the pool on equal terms with other competing lines, and is to receive its full share of the traffic between Chicago and Minneapolis and St. Paul. Some parties who were looking forward to a long fight will be disappointed at this amicable arrangement, but the general public will probably not suffer thereby, as in the long run they are apt to pay dearly for any temporary advantages they gain from such a dispute.

A Newspaper Started under Difficulties.

We have been shown a letter from Mr. Thos. Spink, of Spink & Mabeetey, who have established the *Observer* at Prince Albert, which gives an account of the weary journey these gentlemen had with their plant from Winnipeg to their destination. The letter is dated October 3rd, and was written one day after their arrival in Prince Albert, and as they left Winnipeg in the end of August, they were over a month on their journey. Below Fort Cumberland they were compelled to leave the steamboat on account of low water, and hire a York boat and ox teams to finish the balance of their journey, a distance of over 350 miles. They had some companions in misfortune, as the party numbered thirteen besides the five Indian boatmen. Their plant and other goods were loaded into the boat, and the whole party had to walk on the river bank, and assist in towing the boat. Three weeks of this weary travelling and fifty miles by teams brought them to their destination, and supplied the people of Prince Albert with a press organ.

It would be hard to find a better proof of North-western enterprise than is furnished by this instance, and it shows that the members of the Canadian press are determined in spite of all obstacles to advance in the man of civilization over the great prairies of the North-west.

Fire!

Between two and three o'clock on Sunday morning fire was discovered in the Bank of Montreal block, one of the finest and most solid structures in the city. The fire had its origin between the private office of General Manager Van Horne and that of his assistant, and had made some headway before the alarm was given. The fire brigade responded quickly to the call and made every effort to extinguish the flames, which, however, they were unable to do, until the offices of the C. P. R., which are on the second story, were nearly gutted. The offices of the bank were also much injured and the furniture therein destroyed. Most of the valuable papers in the C. P. R. offices were saved, and nothing but the furniture of the bank was destroyed, as ample time was allowed for the saving of papers and such like before the fire made its way through to the street floor.

The loss in the railway offices is estimated at \$4,000, which is covered by an insurance policy of \$5,000 in the North British and Mercantile. The damage to the building is estimated at from \$8,000 to \$10,000, and will be repaired as quickly as possible. In the meantime both institutions will occupy temporary quarters in the old Knox church.

Last spring a fire burned a row of buildings adjacent to this bank, and it was only the fire-proof nature of the bank building that stayed the further spread of the conflagration on that occasion. There are various theories about the origin of the fire, none of which hint at incendiarism. It may be said to have had a purely accidental origin.