

55,000,000 lbs, against 100,000,000 lbs last year.

A Toronto report says that a 25-cents lot of "Horseshoe" brand canned salmon, last year's pack, was bought from a retailer by a wholesaler at \$1.15, but it is said this same retailer was subsequently offered \$1.30 by another house. This shows how strong the market is for canned salmon.

Letters from Japan speak of supplies of rice as fast disappearing and it is believed that stocks will hardly last for home consumption longer than the present month. It is more than likely Japan will be again a buyer in Burmah, with the natural result of firming up values for this grade.

The Montreal Commercial Gazette says: Buyers of teas are still stubborn as to price. They want teas at the same price as last year, and this is impossible, because owing to the United States tea examination laws, the Japs are no longer picking inferior teas as it does not pay for the trouble. There is no help for it then, but to pay at least 1c more this year. This plausible excuse for higher price, be it said, is not ours. It is the reason given by the trade in general by way of supporting higher price arguments. It is a little discomfiting to find that all accounts from Japan coincide in the one fact that whilst teas are higher priced than last year, the quality is worse. This last is ours.

The New York Commercial Bulletin says: The opening prices on 1898 packing of salmon have been announced by the Alaska Packers' Association, and appear to be somewhat of a surprise to the trade, who, in view of the short pack of other varieties and the speculative interest created by the recent Government demands for spot goods, had looked for prices considerably higher than those that have been named. The prices quoted by the Alaska Packing Association are \$1 for red, 97 1-2c for King, 90c for medium red, 70c for pink, and 67 1-2c for silver, all f. o. b. at the coast, less the usual 1 1-2 per cent discount. These figures are 10c above the f. o. b. prices at the opening of last year, but owing to the lower rate of freight, now prevailing are only about 7 1-2c higher than the lay-down cost in the east a year ago.

Development of the Lake of the Woods District.

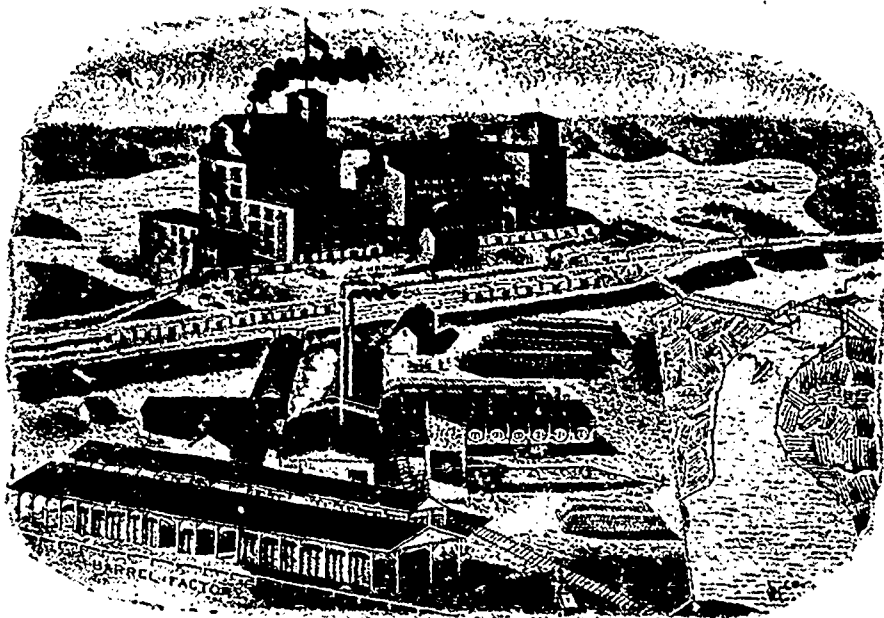
Recent issues of The Commercial have contained articles dealing with the progress and development of some of the rich farming and ranching districts of Manitoba and the adjacent Territory of Assiniboia which are doing so much to make Western Canada famous and to attract the attention of homeseekers and investors in every part of the world. The extensive fishing and trading interests of the northern part of Manitoba have also been touched upon in recent writings, and now we would turn the reader's attention in another direction and to some other industries which are also doing a great deal towards building up the west and attracting capital to it. We refer to the fishing, lumbering and mining industries at the Lake of the Woods. It is interesting to notice that within a radius of 150 miles from Winnipeg all of the above mentioned industries are to-day being carried on and on no small scale either.

It is now a number of years since the towns of Rat Portage and Keewatin, which are situated within three miles of each other on the Lake of the Woods at the point where the Canadian Pacific Railway touches it on its way across the continent, sprang into existence as a result of the advent of the railway and of the establishment of the lumber mills at these points. Since then they have made steady progress in all that goes to make up a prosperous modern town and to-day are as well equipped in a civic sense, having schools, churches, public buildings, thoroughfares, &c., as any places of similar size in Canada.

Necessarily one of two places which lie so close to each other as Rat Portage and Keewatin do must outstrip the other in the race for population, trading interests, &c., and in this case Rat Portage has taken the lead. It is practically the business headquarters for all the Lake of the Woods country and is now in every way worthy to rank among the leading towns of Canada. It has to support

schools, churches and the numerous adjuncts to every progressive town. It has a first-class electric light plant and is putting in a system of water-works this year. It can be imagined what an expensive undertaking this is when it is learned that most of the excavating has to be done in solid rock.

The Lumbering plant of the Rat Portage Lumber company, which is the only one operating at this point, consists of five mills in all—two at Rat Portage proper and three at its suburb—Norman. These are not, of course, all kept running all the time, as the demand for lumber does not warrant that, but three mills are now working night and day on lumber and a fourth is at work cutting ties. Over 400 men are regularly employed by this company in the summer at its mills and the amount paid out for wages alone is over \$1,000 per day. The logs are towed to Rat Portage from the Rainy River country and consist of white pine almost exclusively.



Flour Mill, Elevators, Barrel Factory, Machine Shop, etc., of the Lake of the Woods Milling Co. at Keewatin

it an extensive lumbering business, the gold mines which are now being developed to a considerable extent, a large fishing trade, the supply trade of the lake and Rainy River country. Its lake passenger traffic and the business which arises from the annual influx of large numbers of holiday-seekers, many of whom camp on the beautiful islands of the Lake of the Woods. The situation of the town is an admirable one and gives it a commanding view of one of the prettiest parts of the lake. Its streets are somewhat uneven, it is true, but the main business thoroughfares are excellently suited for all kinds of traffic and when the visitor gets accustomed to the inclines the unevenness in the residential parts loses much of its objectionableness and the extra effort of climbing is always more than compensated for by the beauty of the landscape that presents itself when the top of an elevation is reached.

Rat Portage is well equipped with business blocks, stores, hotels,

The mining industry around Rat Portage has attracted a great deal of attention to the town during the past two years. It has been determined that the rock found in this country will yield gold in paying quantities and that some of it is very rich in that metal and as a result nearly the whole country has been prospected and staked out into claims and now where the necessary money for developing can be raised that work is being energetically pursued and in some cases the mines are already paying satisfactory dividends. That this industry is bound in a few years to assume large proportions there does not seem to be much room to doubt and so long as it is pursued as a legitimate business and is kept free from the speculative and gambling element which so often enters into mining it will command the attention and good will of all who have the development of Western Canada at heart. This year has seen a very large amount of mining machinery imported by the