

RAT PORTAGE.

Mining and real estate is booming. Business places cannot be had at any price.

Mr. Hodder, of Winnipeg, will, it is reported, erect three large stores shortly.

Mr. Chadwick, hardware merchant, will open a new hardware stock next week, and expects to do a large business.

Messrs. Baker & Co. will shortly get possession of their new store. The building is a credit to the town.

The new store in course of erection for Jacob Hise will be a valuable addition to the new buildings on Main street.

Mr. James Gore has recently erected a new hotel which he has named the "Queen's Hotel." A few more hotels are very much required.

The Rideout House is overrun with business. Accommodation cannot be had at any price.

Messrs. Snow & Codd are at present engaged surveying several mining locations and town sites. The firm is fairly occupied with the amount of work on hand.

It is expected that the wants of the citizens will soon be supplied, as it is rumored a private bank will shortly be opened in town. Whether a private or chartered bank, it will be a paying concern.

The weather is splendid at present, and after the cold spell is much enjoyed. It is at present like summer weather.

KEEWATIN.

Mr. Joseph Guerelle, finding his present quarters too small for his rapidly increasing business, has commenced the erection of a two-story building, 20x24 feet. He will use the lower portion as a store and the upper flat as a dwelling house.

Messrs. Dick & Banning are busy laying out their booming grounds, and sinking large rocks with chain and buoys attached for holding the booms in position.

Mr. Edward Roberts has rented Joseph Guerelle's store and dwelling house. He takes possession the middle of April, and after making some necessary alterations, will reopen it as a restaurant.

Mr. Dick, of Dick, Banning & Co., was in town this week putting things in trim for next summer's work.

The recent mild weather has made the ice on the lake very unsafe for freighter's teams.

BRANDON.

Business improves rapidly, and business men feel that they have seen the end of hard times for some months.

The new passenger station is about completed, and it is expected the offices will be moved there in the course of a week.

The fine weather has caused quite a building boom, and the sound of the hammer is heard on all sides.

Work has been begun on Mr. Meredith's new store on the corner of Sixth street and Rosser avenue.

B. S. Blackhall has purchased a lot on Eleventh street, on which he intends erecting a private dwelling.

The fire engine has been doing good work since its return from Winnipeg, several of the tanks have been filled, and the town is better protected against fire than it ever has been before.

Real estate is beginning to move once more. Quite a number of sales have taken place during the past week, the best one being made by E. Hughes, who sold 25 ft. on Sixth street, next to the lots sold by him to Mr. Meredith last week for \$2,500.

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