

EMERSON.

Business during the past week has been considerably better than any time since Christmas. The merchants are getting in their spring importations and are preparing for a large trade.

Notwithstanding the brighter prospects, one of our dry goods firms has been obliged to make an assignment. The firm is Messrs. Creighton & Cattenach, successors to A. B. McDonald. A meeting of their creditors will be held on the 26th day of March.

It is reported that Messrs. A. B. Sabine & Co. are in difficulties. It is likely they will come out all right.

At last the lease of the Carney House has been transferred. Mr. Carney has assumed charge and Mr. Davidson, the late proprietor, has gone to Rat Portage to try and purchase the Rideout House.

Wm. Akins has retired from the firm of Killer & Akins, dry goods merchants, and is now manager of the firm of Jerry Robinson & Co. Mr. Killer has sold his interest in Jerry Robinson & Co.'s establishment, and now has a business to himself.

The length of the docket at the county court on Tuesday indicated that the town had passed through a period of depression.

Messrs. Cowan, Robins & Co. have opened out an agricultural warehouse in town, in the store next to Carney & Watson's lumber yard.

The indications are that there will be a flood in the spring.

The Provincial Government have notified the town that they will give the \$4,000 still due from the amount placed in the estimates last season.

A government engineer will arrive soon from Ottawa to superintend the construction of the new railway and traffic bridge.

The project of uniting Emerson and West Lynne under one name and corporation moves very slowly, but will eventually be consummated. The citizens on both sides of the river are enthusiastic on the question, but as yet no legal step has been taken.

The Emerson House did not change hands, as was reported in your columns a short time ago. Robinson Bros. are still the proprietors.

The receipts of grain during the week have been about as usual. Prices remain unchanged at wheat, 75 to 80c; oats, 35c.

WEST LYNNE.

We are in the Indian's Goose Moon and notwithstanding the severe weather we had in the beginning of the month, our native weather prophet promises geese and ducks for Easter Sunday, and consequently an early spring.

Trade generally has shown marked signs of improvement during the past week, and a large quantity of wheat, oats and flax has been marketed. Prices for the week were: Wheat, 75c; oats, 32 to 35c; flax, 85c; barley, 40 to 42c; corn wood, 88; eggs, 35c.

It is rumored that the Hudson Bay Company will soon start their grist mill again. Although not a roller mill, it has turned out flour, under able management, second to none in the Pro-

vince, and while idle it has been a great loss, not only to the company itself, but also to the town generally.

Hens are now busy filling their Easter contracts, and are sending in eggs in large quantities, which retail at 35 cents.

W. B. Robertson, who was obliged to call a meeting of his creditors last month, has arranged a compromise with them at 30 cents on the dollar secured.

The agricultural implement men are getting their houses ready for an anticipated good trade this season. Robert Johnson has gone to Manitoba City to take charge of the Cochrane Manufacturing Company's business at that point, and Albert Shaw has left for Pilot Mound to fill a similar position for the Massey Manufacturing Company. Mr. Sherriff will in future represent the Watson Manufacturing Company in Southern Manitoba, with headquarters at West Lynne.

There is a good opening at present for a doctor in West Lynne. Dr. H. H. Gardner had built up a good practice, but unfortunately was compelled on account of his health to remove to a warmer climate.

We notice that several agricultural machine concerns are going begging for agents this year to represent them. Considering the inducements that are offered this may seem strange to any one acquainted with the business, but we are informed, however, that it takes an agent only a short time to find out that "his lot is not a happy one." His first trouble is to get a sufficient quantity of machines furnished him, so as to keep his orders filled, his next to get any parts in case of breakage, and finally he has to make so many promises about repairs, which are never fulfilled, that he soon gets discouraged with the business and looks out for pastures new.

Mr. Long, the efficient representative of Messrs. J. & J. Livingston, flax men of Baden, Ont., is about closing his purchase for the present season, and is now busy distributing seed flax for spring sowing. When we contemplate the immense quantity of flax seed that this firm alone purchases in this market and consider that the straw that bears it is not utilized as in other places, but is only burnt, it seems a pity. We hope soon to see some enterprising capitalist come in and start the first tow factory. The labor for such an enterprise could easily be had in the Mennonite villages.

BRANDON.

Mr. J. W. Horne has returned from the south, and is again busily engaged in building. He is about to erect two large blocks, one on the corner of Rosser and Tenth streets, the other on the corner of North street and Rosser avenue.

Mr. George B. Day has been in town for the past few days soliciting subscriptions for stock in the North-west Fire Insurance Company. He secured \$75,000, and there is every prospect of him increasing this before he leaves town.

The proprietor of the Johnson estate intends erecting a number of houses on his property in the spring. This part of the city is being

built up rapidly, and there is quite a boom in town lots.

Messrs. Leask & Rose have erected a large warehouse on Eleventh street.

Mr. James Blackhall is building a store on Twelfth street, which he will use as a piano and organ depot.

Business is still improving, and everything promises well for a large spring trade.

Immigration has begun to flow in.

The price of wheat and oats still remain unchanged.

P. Waam, grocer, is seeking a compromise at 30 cents on the dollar.

Bowerman & Centre, in the lumber business at Brandon, have sold out to J. A. Christie.

Souris Coal.

Mr. George Pocock, of West Lynne, has recently received some very important news respecting his coal claim in the Souris district from his brother and partner in London, England. A very extensive coal firm in the latter city are being negotiated with to assist in the development of the enterprise. Important questions have been asked and answered satisfactorily, and the matter now solely depends upon the extension of the Southwestern railway from Manitoba City to the coal district, or the making of the Brandon and Souris branch. There is every likelihood of a strong company being formed in South Wales, who will send over a mining engineer who has had considerable experience there and in New England, if the London parties fail to come to terms. Appended is a letter sent to a friend of Mr. Pocock's who sent a sample of the Souris coal to be tried by an expert in the county of Carmarthen-shire, South Wales. The facts speak for themselves and will set at rest the idea that the coal is unfit for use. The following is the letter referred to:

CWMANNAN, Carmarthen-shire, Sept. 15, 1882.
To F. C. Abel:

Dear Sir—The sample of coal you sent me, as far as I can judge from a small quantity, is very fine, and has a remarkably good flame, such a coal as we require for puddling or heating iron, where it is important to avoid oxidation. If this is from the surface, the coal under the surface would of necessity be better and stronger. This having been exposed would contain less gas and bitumen than unexposed coal would. My impression is that the quality is well worth working.

Yours very truly,
W. A. EVANS.

Mr. Hugh R. Robertson, of St. John, N. B., telegraphs from Boston that he is organizing a company in that city to open a gold mine in the Lake of the Woods, or Lake Winnipeg districts. Mr. Robertson has had considerable experience as a practical miner in the Provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, also in the gold and tin mines of Australia. He commands large capital in Boston and the lower Provinces, having recently been employed in selling and superintending the erection of mining machinery for firms in the eastern States. Mr. Robertson a few years ago negotiated the sale of a tin mine in Australia to Messrs. Bolitho, tin smelters, Penzance, Cornwall, England.