

Manitoba.

W. Walker has opened a dentistry at Carberry.

Adam Madill will open a harness shop at Plumas.

Duncan & Manning have bought the Roland News from E. Stanley.

A. Wilson is opening in the gent's furnishing business at Oak River.

Nunn & Kayercroft will open a bakery, confectionery and fruit business in Baldur.

R. G. Wellwood has sold his harness business at Plumas to a Gladstone man.

C. S. Touchbourne has purchased the drug business of G. H. Davies at Alexander.

W. Charlton is making arrangements to open in the baking business at Crystal City.

J. Simon, formerly of Portage la Prairie, is opening a watchmaking business at Swan River.

L. Bohn is establishing a newspaper at Napinka to be known as the Standard. Bohn will be editor.

It is stated that another elevator will be built on the Northern Pacific railway at Emerson this year.

Smith Bros., of Morden, are reported to have purchased the Victoria hotel property at Crystal City.

F. Lush, formerly of Napinka, is starting a paper at Deloraine to be called the Deloraine Saturday Night.

A man living in Southern Manitoba has been fined \$200 for smuggling in tobacco from the United States.

Clerk Whitehead is authority for the statement that the population of Brandon is approaching the 6,000 mark.

A. E. May, implement dealer, Carberry, will erect a 30x80 brick warehouse on the principal business street of that town.

A. S. Walker and Peter McNeill have purchased the stock of the Dauphin Furniture Company at Dauphin and will continue the business.

Certain changes in the prize list of the Winnipeg Industrial exhibition, mainly relating to the live stock classes, are being announced.

J. H. Oldfield and W. H. Gardner, real estate agents, Winnipeg, have entered into partnership. The firm will be known as Oldfield & Gardner.

The Northern Pacific Railway Co. has surveyors out working on the line of the proposed extension north-westerly from Portage la Prairie.

Some large buildings which it was intended to erect in Winnipeg this year, may be delayed until next year, owing to the scarcity of building material.

W. D. Ruttan, of Manitou, has bought out the printing plant of the Mercury at that place and will continue the paper and job printing business.

Bathie & McLarty, machinists, of Hartney, have bought the business of Watson & Whimster, Portage la Prairie, and will move to the latter town.

Work has been resumed on the Pipestone branch extension of the Canadian Pacific railway. The 20 miles graded last year are being ironed, and the grade will also be extended.

The Northern Pacific Railway company appears to be in earnest about the proposed railway to be built westerly from Portage la Prairie, north

of the Canadian Pacific railway. It is said from 75 to 100 miles will be built this year. Several survey parties started locating the line this week.

F. H. Hesson has arranged to purchase the remains of the Brandon felt factory, burned some time ago, from the city council, which owns the property, and to re-establish the industry. The council has stipulated that the factory must be running again in six months.

Letters patent have been issued incorporating the Winnipeg Trunk and Box company, limited, Winnipeg, having a capital stock of \$75,000 divided into \$10 shares. The premises will be on Lombard street where the plant and good will of W. Jordan's box factory have been acquired. It is proposed to manufacture all classes of trunks, valises, boxes and crates. E. F. Hutchings is president of the company, Geo. Leary vice-president, W. D. Pettigrew, secretary-treasurer, and W. Jordan, managing director.

A board of trade has been formed at Elkhorn, the organization of which will be completed at a later date. Provisional officers have been elected as follows: President, F. W. Clingan, vice-president, G. Silvester; secretary-treasurer, J. M. Malcolm.

Alberta.

W. G. Richardson & Co., are opening in gent's furnishings at South Edmonton.

The Advertiser, of South Edmonton, J. D. Skinner, publisher, is the latest addition to the list of Territorial newspapers.

Considerable activity is being manifested this spring by Calgary business concerns in the way of enlarging their premises.

The Calgary council is encouraging the planting of trees and for this purpose has contracted to furnish Manitoba maples at 15 cents each to all who wish them.

G. C. Robinson & Co. have bought out the business of A. Allan & Co., dry goods, Calgary. Robinson has been in the employ of Allan & Co. for a number of years.

Assinibola.

Denby, of Elkhorn, has opened a bakery at Sintaluta.

Jos. Battell has rented the livery stables of H. Bates at Moose Jaw, and will conduct a livery, feed and sale business.

Hargrave & Sissons, general merchants, Medicine Hat and Carlton, Sask., have dissolved. Jas. Hargrave takes the Medicine Hat business and Daniel Sissons the Carlton branch.

Northwest Ontario.

H. Harkness contemplates opening a butcher shop at Fort William.

O. Haquoff and Henry Rochon have formed a partnership at Fort William for the purpose of carrying on a contracting and building business.

The C. P. R. round house at Fort William was partially destroyed by fire on April 17. Through the efforts of the employees and others, several of the engines and the workshop at the east end of the building were saved, but ten of the stalls and seven of the best engines were consumed by the flames. The loss is about \$19,000.

At the annual meeting of the board of trade of the district of Rainy River,

held on April 10th, at Rat Portage, the following officers were elected for the year 1899-1900: President, Wm. Maigach; vice-president, Frank Gardner; council, Geo. Drewry, W. A. Weir, Robert Rogers, N. Schnarr, C. E. Neade, J. A. McCrossan, J. E. Rice, Walter Ross, and E. A. Chapman, secretary-treasurer.

City Meat Prices.

The advance in retail prices for fresh meats at Winnipeg has received as yet very little reliable explanation outside of trade circles and many consumers are possessed of erroneous ideas as to the reason for the higher prices. The lot of the city retail butcher is never a very easy one as regards maintenance of fair prices, and when such a substantial advance as that which has taken effect this spring has to be made it takes some time to educate consumers as to the reasons for and necessities of the change.

The late advance was almost entirely due to wholesale influences and retailers cannot be said to have any wider margin of profit than before. It was due partially to a scarcity of cattle caused by the heavy drains made by stocker shipments, and the close clean-up of beef cattle last fall, but more directly to a scare among butchers that a corner was being worked in stall-fed cattle for spring trade in this country. How much ground there was for such a scare it is difficult to determine, but that some fears of it were entertained seems certain since nothing else would have led to such eager searching for cattle and to such liberal prices being paid as were recently witnessed. The continued selling of large numbers of one and two year old beef animals for shipment to the United States and other parts is one reason for the scarcity of cattle. Whether the present range of values for beef will be maintained or not remains to be seen. When the range cattle begin to be fit for the market, which will be about June, there will be an easing off in prices.

It will be of interest to know just what Winnipeggers have to pay for meat at the retail shops at present. Following are the prices prevailing now: Porterhouse steaks, formerly quoted at 15c, are now selling at 18c; sirloin 15 to 16c; round steak, 10 to 12 1-2c; boiling meat, 6 to 8c. Roasts, shoulder, 10c, rib 12 1-2c, porterhouse 15 to 16c. Mutton and veal prices range now about as follows: Steaks 8 to 10c; roasts 12 1-2 to 15c; and chops, 15c. Pork, shoulder roasts and chops, 10c, loin, 12 1-2c. Spring lamb is retailing at \$1.00 to \$1.25 for front quarters and \$1.75 to \$2.25 for hinds.

Winnipeg butchers might with good reason take advantage of the changing conditions this spring to put their trade on a better basis as regards credit. Perhaps no other branch of retail trade has suffered so much from indiscriminate trusting as has the butcher business. A considerable percentage to the annual turnover of most of the city shops finds its way into the books and sometimes much of this stays there. It is reasonable to suppose that the customers who do pay must inevitably make good the losses on those who do not or else it comes out of the capital of the business. In either case it is bad business. Retail butchers should make a stand as other lines of trade are doing against long credits. Monthly accounts cannot perhaps in all cases be avoided, but to trust for longer periods is to court disaster.