

for the first 40 miles has been let to the firm of Grant & Ross, who are to complete it ready for traffic by July 15th next, and they are also to build the remainder as soon as this section is well under way. The present contract has been made with Messrs. Thomson & Co., a firm of English financiers, who have floated the undertaking. The line passes through a magnificent belt of agricultural lands estimated at several million acres. Besides this it will serve all the silver mines in the new Port Arthur silver district which is rapidly becoming famous and at the boundary it taps on both sides the finest kinds of iron ore lands, 1,700 acres of which have been purchased from the Ontario Government within the last month. The Government are also selling freely, principally to Americans, several thousand acres of the silver lands along the route. The board is composed of Thomas Marks, president; D. F. Burke, vice president; Mayor Macdonnell, Dr. Smellie, George T. Marks, Michael Dwyer, W. G. Smith and Allan R. Macdonnell, directors.

Senator Sanford of the well known wholesale clothing house of Hamilton, Ont., is in the city.

Oswold Bowie, of Morden, is to the front with the biggest cabbage yet. He has shown a big head of cabbage which turned the scale at 22 pounds.

A train of fifty-four cars of wheat pulled out from Portage la Prairie station on Wednesday. Two engines were required to pull the load to Winnipeg.

J. Giles, a Portage la Prairie butcher, has reduced the price of meat to the following scale: Boiling cuts, 3 to 5 cents; steaks, 6 to 8 cents; roasts, 5 to 8 cents.

Though late in the season, the banana has reached Macleod, Alberta. The *Gazette* of that place reports that the first bananas ever taken to Macleod, arrived there lately.

A correspondent writes: The end of the Russell branch of the Manitoba Northwestern would be a good point for some enterprising company to build a grain warehouse. Your correspondent would think there will be about 60,000 bushels of wheat marketed at that point this year.

Scaled tenders will be received at Regina, up to the 15th of October for furnishing Oats and Potatoes, to be delivered at the Mounted Police Barracks in the following places: Regina, 10,000 bushels of oats, also 800 bushels of potatoes. Maple Creek: 5,000 bushels of oats. Medicine Hat: 2,000 bushels of oats.

The C.P.R. land department sent out a special train on Friday, with fifteen teams of horses and a farming outfit, which will be employed on the experimental farms between Moose Jaw and Calgary. The area for crop next year will be extended. George H. Strevel has received the contract for the execution of the work.

Emanuel Ohlen, of the Dominion Government immigration office, Winnipeg, has gone to St. Paul, where he will engage help and purchase a plant with which to begin the publication of a Scandinavian monthly journal in this city, to be known as *The Canadian Scandinavian*. The first number will make its appearance in about two weeks.

The fall round-up is now going on at the western cattle ranches.

All this season's chesos of the Virden factory has been disposed of at good prices,

Prices at Portage la Prairie last week were: Wheat 54c; oats 20c; potatoes 25c per bushel; butter 17 to 20c per lb; eggs 15c.

The Crops.

C. N. Bell, secretary of the Winnipeg board of trade, has presented an estimate of the present season's crops, which is summarized as follows: In June last the crop reporters of the Department of Agriculture made returns of 432,134 acres under wheat crop. It was estimated before harvest, that the average yield would be about 24 bushels per acre, but on threshing it has been found that the actual yield has been fully 20 per cent. greater than that estimate. Grain buyers are practically a unit in declaring that thirty bushels is a sufficiently low estimate of the average yield of wheat for the province, the only difference being in the acreage under crop, some estimates being ten per cent under the amount returned by the crop reporters. But the test of the amount of binding twine sold to farmers this year proves conclusively that the Government reports underestimate, rather than over-estimate, the area of the wheat fields cropped. I have averaged the yield at 28 bushels, which, on the returned acreage of 432,134, give as a total, 12,099,864 bushels. Allowance must be made for a home consumption, for seed and breadstuffs, of 2,000,000 bushels, which makes in round numbers 10,000,000 bushels available for export.

The yield of barley for the province is estimated at 2,000,000 bushels, and oats at 5,000,000 bushels. Of flax the report says 12,000 acres will be harvested, with an average of 15 bushels per acre, giving a yield of 180,000 bushels. The acreage of potatoes reported reached 11,000 and a safe estimate of 250 bushels per acre may be used. This represents a total crop of 2,750,000 bushels.

Regarding binding twine the secretary says: By actual returns obtained from all dealers in binding twine in Manitoba, I find that 1,816,130 pounds weight of that article were sold to farmers this season. Now, allowing 3½ pounds of twine to an acre of wheat, and 2 pounds to one of oats (though, as a matter of fact four-fifths of the oats, nearly all the barley, and a fair percentage of the wheat was bound by hand with straw bands or raked, owing to the shortage of twine in the market) we find the following result:

Wheat, 432,134 acres at 3½ lbs.....	1,512,460
Oats, 100,000 acres at 2 lbs.....	200,000
	1,712,460

This conclusively proves that the acreage harvested was over rather than under the area returns sent in to the department of Agriculture of Manitoba last June, and on which the average yields are based.

The elevator capacity in the province is placed at 1,600,000 bushels. With 10,000,000 bushels to handle, the farmers may be prepared to meet with delay in getting their grain taken off their hands.

The value of the year's crop which will be available for export is estimated as follows:

Wheat, 10,000,000 bushels at 55c.....	\$5,500,000
Barley, 1,000,000 bushels at 30c.....	300,000
Oats, 2,500,000 bushels at 18c.....	450,000
Flax, 150,000 bushels at 75c.....	112,500
Potato, 1,000,000 bushels at 25c.....	250,000
	14,650,000
It is safe to add for the value of dairy products, stock, vegetables, wool, hides, etc., available for export, not required in Manitoba.....	500,000
	\$7,112,500

An Ottawa despatch says: The C.P.R. has decided to adopt Esquimaux as the winter port on the Pacific for ocean steamers.

An Ottawa dispatch on Saturday says: Senator Clemow said to-day that work on the Northwest Central will be pushed until 50 miles are constructed this year.

Senator Clemow announces that fifty miles of the Northwest Central will be built this fall, and one hundred next year and that work will not stop till they reach Edmonton. The road will then be extended to the Pacific coast.

A meeting of the council of the Winnipeg board of trade was held Friday evening, Hespeller in the chair. The principal business transacted was the submission of a reply to Sir George Stephen's letter.

The stock of the late J. L. Coltart, of Winnipeg, will be offered for sale by tender up to Monday, October 10th. It consists of \$10,200 worth of clothing, \$1,000 furs, \$700 hats and caps and \$3,000 furnishings.

Jos. TEES & Co., music dealers, etc., Winnipeg, have moved into new quarters at 431 Main street, where they will occupy the handsome new store in the Bird block. The building has been fitted up in fine style, making one of the most elegant stores in the city.

According to the blue books just issued, the population of Manitoba on July 31st, 1886, by the census taken at that time was 108,640, of whom 59,594 were males and 49,046, females, and 20,238 resided in Winnipeg. Presbyterians were the most numerous of religious denominations, numbering 28,406, the Church of England ranking next with 23,206 adherents, then the Methodists with 18,617, and then the Roman Catholics with 14,651. More than one-half the population are returned as of British extraction, namely, 25,949 English, 25,676 Scotch and 21,180 Irish. There are 11,082 Germans, 6,821 French, 7,985 half-breeds, mostly French, 5,575 Indians and 2,468 Icelanders in the province. Manitoba can, indeed, claim to have the most mixed population in proportion to its number of any community in the world, for in addition to the nationalities enumerated there are Africans, Chinese, Dutch, Italians, Jews, Russians, Scandinavians, Spaniards, Swiss and Welsh within its borders. Nearly three-fourths of the population, however, were born in Canada, namely, 76,968. The agricultural class is, of course, the most numerous, 22,882, the industrial class embracing 3,715, the commercial 3,319, the domestic 2,224 and the professional 1,858. There are no fewer than 96 lawyers in Winnipeg, or one for every 200 of the population.

Young Bostonian, who has married a country wife—"My dear, I am going down to M. Arbesque's tonsorial parlors for a few minutes." "Oh, Charlie, dear! there isn't anything the matter with your tonsils, is there?"