

NEWS OF THE DISTRICT

THOMASVILLE.

Bulletin News Service.
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Miss Letitia, who spent Christmas in Edmonton, returned home Wednesday. Rev. Mr. Davis, who has been in the east for some time, has returned and held service in the schoolhouse Sunday.

C. A. Wells, who went to McDonaldville Thursday, was delayed till Saturday by the storm which passed over this part of the province.

The school, which was closed Thursday before Christmas, will not start again till about the first of March. It is hoped that the district can again retain the services of Miss Paul as teacher.

Charlie Morro wand Mr. Blundell, from Glenfield, Saskatchewan, have been visiting with Mr. Morrow and looking for homesteads.

Thomasville, January 2nd.

FORT SASKATCHEWAN.

Bulletin News Service.
Ronald McLean is in the Edmonton hospital undergoing an operation for tonsillitis. His progress is satisfactory.

A new rural telephone line has been connected to the Fort, running through Pleasant View, Beaver Hills and Good Hope. As many as 18 farmers have availed themselves of the opportunity of being in touch with the outside world.

Mr. Belanger is around once again after a severe attack of sciatica. The Fort hockey team will be in good shape by Queen's avenue boys in the Thistle rink, Edmonton, on Saturday night, the score being 17-2 in favor of Edmonton.

Mrs. A. M. Sutherland is spending a few days in Edmonton.

Miss McKinnon, of Edmonton, is visiting Mrs. Staples, of Fort Saskatchewan. Mr. Berry, veterinarian, has opened an office in town under the Simmons Hall.

The Palmist Sisters played here Monday before a good audience. As usual, they gave an excellent performance.

School opened Monday, January 3rd. There was a good showing of scholars. Fort Saskatchewan, January 3rd.

WETASKIWIN.

Bulletin News Service.
At the regular meeting of Wetaskiwin Lodge No. 8, I.O.O.F., the following officers were elected:

Mr. Morris, N. G. Robinson, V. G.; Mr. Oulter, correspondent secretary; E. C. Chertsey, financial secretary; St. Andrews, warden; J. Ellis, chaplain; K. Kelly, treasurer. A good number of the members were present and a splendid time was enjoyed by all.

Word was brought to the city today that Mrs. Ballal, nee Miss Effie Eggleston, had died at her home at Sedgwick, N.D. Mrs. Ballal was married here at the home of her father, Mr. Wm. Eggleston, and went to live with her husband in Sedgwick, N.D. She was a native of Wetaskiwin and was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Eggleston. She was a devoted wife and mother and was well known in the community. She died at her home at Sedgwick, N.D. on Sunday, January 9th, at the age of 65 years. She was buried in the cemetery at Sedgwick, N.D. on Monday, January 10th.

The annual meeting of the Anglican Parish was held in the church last night. While there has not been an increase in church attendance there has been a decided improvement in the offerings of the people. The wardens report a floating indebtedness of \$100, with the amount of \$202 still owing the church by subscribers. A definite effort is to be made to secure this sum within this month.

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Negotiations are on foot to have the Methodist church removed from its present location to one recently purchased in Arndsson. After it is moved it will be thoroughly renovated and finished inside which will make it not only a comfortable place of worship but a beautiful one as well.

It is learned with regret that Fred Whaley has sold his farm here and intends shortly to move to Stettler, where he has purchased a farm. Mr. Whaley has for a number of years carried on an extensive dairy business and garden farming here. His removal will be a great loss.

Again the grim reaper has visited the community, claiming for his victim Mrs. James Murphy. She had been ill but a very few days, so that realizing that she was in a serious condition, and her death came as a sad surprise to many. Mrs. Murphy leaves to mourn her a husband and eleven children. The funeral service on Thursday morning at the house was largely attended by sympathetic friends. After the service the body was taken to St. Paul's cemetery for interment. Rev. Mr. Cameron conducting the funeral service.

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their proposed plans they could not have the school. Unwilling to be dictated to, the committee promptly arranged to move the ship to a more peaceful harbor and held the entertainment in the village of a couple of days the past week.

Julius Arschul, a German mineralogist, representing a European syndicate, returned to the village last week from Fort McMurray, where he has been upon a prospecting trip. He was greatly pleased with his trip but was very reticent as to the particular nature of his journey. He was greatly pleased with specimens of tar sands obtained, and states he will be back again in the spring. Incidentally Mr. Arschul picked up a few nice skins on his journey, including two silver foxes.

J. Record reports having secured four silver foxes in this district this season. It seems like old times with so much fur around. Rate, especially, are very plentiful.

A very pleasant dance was held New Year's eve by the bachelors of Eden Valley at the home of A. Gyle.

John Taylor, Murdoch MacGregor, Jesse Beaton and James Beaton, are working up north for timber for the John Zaczewski.

Clyde, Jan. 4th.

HORTONBURG.

Bulletin News Service.
On Tuesday, December 28th, a large number of the friends of Richard and Miss Annie Ottewill gathered at the home of Mark Latam, where they have been residing for some time. They presented Mr. Richard and Miss Annie Ottewill a beautiful looking chair as a token of their services and to show the high esteem in which the people of the neighborhood held them, both in the church and social work.

The residents all regret their departure. Mr. Ottewill and daughter are going to reside with his son, Albert Ottewill, at St. Paul.

Mr. Horton has completed his skating rink and has it in excellent condition. The young people on the rink have been skating for some time, enjoying themselves. Skating is on Tuesday and Saturday evenings and hockey on Tuesday and Saturday afternoons. Mr. Horton's rink is the regulation size and the residents expect to see some fast hockey yet this winter. The Horton boys have organized and are going to use Mr. Horton's rink. They have elected officers for the year as follows: President, L. Marler; secretary, W. Clark; executive, Frank Rice; Finn Marler.

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EDMONTON.

Corp. Schurer left Sunday by dog train over a patrol to Fort McMurray.

Wm. Ronnison, who has had charge of the Hudson's Bay Co.'s post at the village Saturday.

A. Beaudry and wife, of Grouard, returned to the village a couple of days the past week.

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CANADA'S FINANCIAL POSITION IS IMPROVED

Credit in London is Much Better Than a Year Ago—Accumulating Wealth and the War's Expanding Demand for Improved Transportation—The Financial Review.

Canada today is in a more satisfactory financial position than she has hitherto been. At the close of the year there is every guarantee for the unbounded feeling of confidence which has been so noticeable a factor during the past twelve months. That the situation year will be one of vigorous revival cannot be doubted even by the most pessimistic observer. The country has had the advantage of a bountiful harvest, which has been of higher value than usual. The agriculturalists are in an exceptionally good position, their cash receipts placing them in a position to get through the winter comfortably, and to supply themselves with all of the necessities and many of the luxuries of life. This means that money will circulate freely and every branch of industry will be benefited. With these facts in mind it is not difficult to forecast that the existing stock market will be the history of the country.

In the financial world of the Dominion one of the most outstanding features has been the placing of \$2,000,000 of Dominion government treasury bills bearing interest at 3½ per cent, the flotation going through with great difficulty. This gives good idea of the strength of Canada's credit abroad. At the same time the picture of the existing stock market is one of the most optimistic of the year. There is every reason for believing that the market is well pleased with existing conditions. Better traffic receipts and a tendency to harden the prices of railway shares, more particularly during the closing months of the year, the exception being the Quebec and Lake St. John railway.

Canada's Improved Credit. The credit of the Dominion in the British money market has been excellent for many years, but while the country as a whole has had a reputation for being a safe investment, the fact that the same market has appreciated the intrinsic worth of other Canadian issues may be the result of the fact that much of Canada, as the investors on the other side of the water. What ever may have been the case, the best class of industrial issues in Canada are not being so popular in Britain as similar and more hazardous positions of other countries within the empire, and many without, they apparently do not appear to exist now.

During 1909, very few issues from Canada were received. This was especially the case with municipal bonds. The market for these has been very quiet, and it is probable that the next few years it will be still further increased. In like manner the C.P.R. and C.N.R. bonds, which are the backbone of the Canadian railway system, are doing a like service for the country in still other districts. By the end next year, the C.P.R. will have a few districts in the three provinces which are not within easy range of some point on the great railway systems of the Dominion.

In looking over the railway situation in Canada, the first thing which strikes the eye is the fact that the country depends almost entirely upon the expansion of its railway systems for its advancement, and looking into the future of the country, with the phenomenal development which has taken place in the past few years, the railways have done. In 1898 the total mileage in operation was 16,870 miles, the gross earnings were \$30,000,000, and the net earnings were \$10,000,000. As compared with this there were in 1909, total mileage, 22,000 miles, gross earnings \$107,000,000, net earnings \$30,000,000. The increase in the gross earnings must be credited to the western part of the Dominion, where the whole of the "provinces" have a hitherto great industrial activity during the period.

Coal and the West's Future. In looking on the present condition of Canada, there is one feature which cannot be overlooked. The wide-spread development of the coal fields of the prairie provinces have had a great influence, and have created an entirely different situation with respect to the future of this portion of the Dominion. This information has had a particularly marked influence upon the strengthening confidence in the future of the country. With the coming of the railroads more attention has been paid to these deposits, some of which have been known for years, and the results obtained where the seams have been developed have been most satisfactory. Very little consideration is needed to show of what immense importance these coal beds will be in the future development of this immense region.

But the wealth producing power of Canada is not confined to its agricultural districts. The production in this department is well illustrated by the comparative tables showing the production of this year and in 1909. The tables are as follows:

	1909.	1908.
Copper	\$3,000,000	\$2,000,000
Gold	27,906,153	9,599,274
Lead	3,760,261	1,900,467
Nickel	3,287,709	8,831,328
Silver	2,740,382	1,067,197

While this period shows no sensational increase in the total production, every department shows an increase but not where the falling off

has been tremendous. But in looking over the discoveries which have been made in the period covered, many of them of a most unexpected character, it cannot be doubted that the not distant future will see such a development of mining of both the base and precious metals in Canada as will far exceed anything which has happened in any other part of the world. Not only is the area available for prospecting so immense, but the incidental discoveries which have been made upon casually and with little attempt at systematic examination, point to incalculable stores of mineral wealth.

Canada's Trade. It is unfortunate that no systematic attempt is made to keep track of the output of the various Canadian manufactures, and statistics on this point are not available. But from the statistics on imports and exports some idea may be gained as to the general increase.

In 1909 the total exports of Canadian merchandise were valued at \$191,884,735, of which the home product accounted for \$186,702,200. In 1909 the twelve months ended March 30 the total exports were valued at \$242,693,585. Here we have condensed into a few figures the result of Canadian enterprise and labor during these nine years.

The great bulk of the exports are, of course, of agricultural products in the form of grain and flour. In 1909 it is notable that the value of the grain and flour exported amounted to \$16,837,554.

On the import side, the figures for 1909 were \$189,622,513, of which \$8,270,438 represents cotton and wool. In 1909 the total had risen to \$90,755,376, cotton and wool accounted for \$8,088,442.

When considering the probabilities of next year in Canada it is necessary to take into consideration two factors at least which may have a most important bearing on the expansion. One is the extent to which the soil and the minerals of the country can be put to use in the great expansion of the business revival which is taking place in the United States and abroad will effect the markets for Canada's products. The other is the extent to which the world's wealth, and the immigration which has taken place is an ample demonstration of this.

When Hon. C. W. Cross, attorney-general, was in the east recently, he interviewed the head office officials of the old line insurance companies to endeavor to arrange for a special policy to cover the requirements of the Workmen's Compensation Act of Alberta. Mr. Cross was successful in so far as securing the careful consideration of the companies to his proposal, but the negotiations have not reached as yet a conclusion.

In the event the old line companies taking up this branch of the insurance business, it is unlikely the Provincial Insurance Company will be organized.

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