

## Morris.

This thriving town is located at the terminus of the C. P. R. on the west side of the Red River. It has had a wondrously rapid growth. The citizens are anxious that a thorough practical shoemaker should locate in their town, also an additional butcher. In fact merchants or manufacturers of any class or kind will find Morris a good point to locate.

Mr. Fraser who has lately purchased the *Morris Herald* is pushing his paper and shouting the town in a way very acceptable to the citizens thereof and surrounding country.

Real Estate and Commerce go hand in hand, and the value of property is upon a solid basis,

Good business and residence building are being rapidly erected, and the town is assuming city like shape and dimensions.

## Emerson.

The contract for the new bridge across the Red River, was awarded by that city's Council to the firm of Dean, Westbrook & Balfour. The superstructure of the bridge will be on the principle of the Louise bridge in this city, of wrought iron. The span will be 350 ft. long, with a roadway of eighteen feet clear. The superstructure will consist of one large centre pier, 28 feet wide and 100 long, with pile foundation. The abutment at either end will be built entirely on the bank, thus giving a clear channel on each side of the centre pier. This will give the ice a much better chance to move in the spring. A large ice-break will be built in front of the centre pier 20x100 feet long, and 40 feet above low water mark.

Work will be started at once, and the contractors expect to have it completed by March 1st, 1883.

The largest importation of glass ever made to Emerson arrived on Sept. 24, consigned to Walton & Bird, hardware merchants. There was a full car load, and it was for the Fairbanks, Burnham and Hepburn & Irwin buildings. The three largest sizes were 76x116 inches, 87x110 and 68x110 inches. The glass is British polished plate, three eights of an inch thick, and was ordered direct from England. The freight on the whole from Montreal amounted to about \$750.00

## Brandon.

Good weather has added much to the volume of trade done here during the week, and every class of business is in a healthy state.

The first shipment of new wheat was made by L. M. Fortier and Co. to the Ogilvie Milling Company this week. The quality was first-class, being Scotch Fife. The shippers are now erecting a fine elevator, of 50,000 bushels' capacity, and one similar will be erected shortly by Burnett and Johnson.

New wheat brings 75c. and oats 50c. Barley or buck-wheat have not yet put in an appearance. A rough estimate of the grain available for shipment this season would place the figures about 100,000 bushels. The quality so far is very good.

The purchase of a fire-engine and construction of a number of cisterns for fire

protection by the City Council, will be good news for insurance companies, and a lowering of premiums in Brandon may be expected. Another good move by the Council was the contract let to Fortier & Bucke, for a number of street lamps to light the city.

Among the business additions is a new weekly paper about to be issued by Charles Douglas, publisher of the *Emerson International*. Several new mercantile houses will be added as soon as Sheriff Richard's new block at the corner of Rosser Avenue and Sixth Street is completed. There is some talk of moving the Telegraph Office into this building, which would certainly be a great advantage to the business men of the city, as the present temporary office is very inconveniently located.

The most notable business change of the week is that which has taken place in the firm of Fisher and Co., of the Brandon Flouring Mills. Messrs. Fisher and Alexander retire from the business, and Messrs. Kelly and Sutherland continue the same.

The great work of city improvement is going on steadily.

The C.P.R. have shipped during the past week from this point 428 tons of freight, and received 2482 tons. The net receipts were \$27,195.00. These figures would indicate that Brandon is fast becoming an important railroad point.

## Portage la Prairie.

A representation of THE COMMERCIAL visited this City during the past week, and was forcibly impressed with the number and magnitude of public and private improvements. Huge manufacturing concerns employing large numbers of hands have been completed within the past few weeks, and are now turning out their products. Chief among the lately established and new industries can be mentioned the Portage la Prairie Manufacturing Co., organized for the purpose of manufacturing biscuits, crackers, and confectionery, with a capital stock of \$60,000, of which Mr. P. V. Georgen is Pres.; S. R. Marlatt, Sec. of Board Directors; and Mr. W. P. Niles, Manager. The Board of Directors is composed of the above named gentlemen with the addition of Messrs. T. B. Miller, H. J. Le Roy, E. W. Snyder and J. A. Little.

Through the kindness of Mr. Niles, THE COMMERCIAL's man was shown through the extensive establishment of which he is the manager. Mr. Niles was formerly engaged in the same business at Bellville, Ont., as a member of the firm of Legate Abbott & Niles and has for the past few years been representing the well-known manufacturer of "Soda Apparatus," James W. Tufts, of Boston, and during that time travelled in Canada from Prince Edward Island to British Columbia; in the United States, from Maine to Oregon; also represented the same house in West Indies, Mexico, Central and South America; so that Mr. Niles' experience in selling goods must be of great value to the concern of which he is now the manager.

The Portage Manufacturing Co., occupy a large building 40 x 90 feet in area, with four flats and basement of same size. Also large

ovens and engine house attached. It is fitted up throughout with the very latest improved imported machinery, driven by 35 h. p. engine, for the manufacture of biscuits, crackers, cakes, candies and confectioneries. The first flat is used for offices, of which it might be said there are few better arranged or more elegantly fitted up in the entire North-West, also as wholesale ware room. The 2nd story is used as the biscuit factory proper. 3rd flat as the confectionary department, and is divided into 4 departments, drying room, gum room, starch room and boiling room. The factory has the capacity of using 100 barrels of flour per diem, and gives employment to about 60 hands. The building is fitted up with elevator and all the latest labor saving improvements.

Such a manufacturing establishment as this is of vast benefit to the merchants and dealers generally in this new country, besides giving employment to local labor and creating a home demand for flour and supplying manufactured necessities.

Another new departure in the manufacturing line is that established by Mr. S. McIlvanie, in the shape of a large Paper Mill, for the purpose of manufacturing building paper, wrapping paper, &c.

Mr. McIlvanie's mill has the large capacity of turning out 4 tons of paper per day, and owing to the large local supply of straw and other materials, he is able to produce an article equal in quality and place the same on the market here for less money than the same can be imported or brought from the east. He has erected a new building and fitted it up with the best make of machinery which he has imported from Beloit, Wis., U. S. Mr. McIlvanie intends in the near future to manufacture news or print paper, of which about 1,000 lbs. is used daily by the printers and publishers in the Canadian North-West. This industry gives employment to from 30 to 40 hands. Mr. McIlvanie has sufficient orders ahead to keep his mill running steady till Feb. 1883.

The Portage Milling Co. have erected a large flouring mill on the roller principle, with the capacity of turning out from 300 to 400 barrels per day, also an elevator in which can be stored 100,000 bushels of grain. The Capital Stock of the Company is \$100,000, and owned by men deeply interested in the advancement of Portage la Prairie. The new foundry and machine shop erected by E. H. G. G. Hay, Member of Local House, is enjoying a large patronage and turning out considerable work, especially for the P. W. & N. W. R. R. The manufacturing and mercantile interests of Portage la Prairie are decidedly on the increase, and in future issues of THE COMMERCIAL we will continue to show up her rapid advancement.

We acknowledge the receipt of the prize list of the Ninth Annual Exhibition of the Agricultural and Industrial Society of Portage la Prairie, to be held October 11, 12 and 13. From the large number and value of cash prizes offered we should judge that the exhibition will be a decided success. No part of the entire Canadian North-West is better settled and developed agriculturally than the country surrounding the Portage, and the agricultural product should make a good showing for 1882.