

Lumber Cuttings.

Joseph Riley has opened a lumber yard at Cypress River, Man.

An important transfer of milling property is reported from Victoria. W. P. Sayward's mill property in that city and his timber limits on the northern coast have been sold to a syndicate of local capitalists for \$265,000.

An investigation by officials of the Ontario Government reveals the fact that the deficiency in the accounts of A. F. Dulmage, Crown timber inspector at Rat Portage, will amount to over \$20,000. Dulmage's whereabouts is unknown. Liquor helped out his fall.

Business in British Columbia.

Business is fairly active and the merchants are satisfied with the condition of the money market. A large quantity of freight has been brought to the city during the past week both by rail and water. Very little new produce has been placed on the market, except Spalumcheen flour and Manitoba eggs.—Vancouver News.

The following were the quotations at Vancouver last week:—Flour—Manitoba patents, \$6.75 per bbl; Manitoba bakers', \$6.35; Oregon family, \$5.50; Columbia Milling Co. patents, \$6; Columbia Milling Co., 3 star, \$5.50; Columbia Milling Co., 2 star, \$5. Oatmeal—Standard, 98 lb. sacks, \$3; granulated, \$3 15; rolled, \$4. Potatoes—\$8 to \$12 per ton; cabbage, \$45; carrots, \$20; parsnips, \$20; onions, \$25; beets, \$20; turnips, \$15 to \$20; sweet potatoes, \$6 per cwt. Feed—Bran, \$24 a ton; shorts, \$25; chopped stuff, \$30 to \$32; oats, \$24; wheat, \$35; hay, \$14. Dairy, etc.—Butter, 18 to 25c; eggs, in case lots, 18c; cheese, 12½c per lb. Fruits—Sicily lemons (strictly fancy) \$7 per case; oranges, Riverside Navale, \$5.50 per case; Riverside seedlings \$4.50; California, \$3.37; apples, per barrel, \$5.50. Fish—Cod, 8c; salmon, 10c; Labrador herring, \$14 per bbl; Finnan Haddie, 15c per lb; Georgia Bank cod, 12½c per lb; Ya. mouth blousters, \$3 per box.

Manitoba Experimental Farm.

We visited the farm on Wednesday and went over it with S. A. Bedford, the manager. The teams were busy plowing for barley, the wheat, oats and peas having all been sown. About half the barley crop will be sown now, and the balance in two or three weeks. The ground has been in excellent condition for all seeding operations and the work has gone on without interruption, which will be a great advantage to the farm this season as so much time is required in measuring and taking out the separate plots of ground for the different varieties of seed. These plots are of various sizes and range from ¼ acre to 5 acres, a space of three feet being left between the plots to prevent the mixing of seeds. Forty-two varieties of spring wheat have been sown, each variety was sown on a different date. The standard for all is red fife, and on each day that wheat was sown a small plot of red fife was put in so as to test the ripening qualities of the new varieties by red fife, with which all Manitoba farmers are acquainted. The wheat has all been sown in the same field

and all varieties have an equal chance. All grain has been sown with the same seeder, which is a two horse seeder like all farmers use. None of the grain is given any extra advantage more than our practical Manitoba farmers would be inclined to give their grain. Twenty-five varieties of oats have been sown, the Tartarian and Welcome varieties being used as standards. Twenty varieties of barley will be sown, the ordinary four-rowed barley being used as a standard. Eight varieties of peas have been sown. All varieties have been sown both by drill and broadcast seeder to test the advantages of the one over the other. Already the drill has shown a great improvement over the broadcast, in standing the recent heavy windstorm, while much of the grain is exposed where sown broadcast, not a grain can be seen where the drill has been used. The grain sown on the 2nd March is about 2½ inches above the ground, and that sown on the 25th is almost as far advanced. The condition of this grain after the wind is much in favor of that sown with the drill also, as it only appears to place the fine soil up close to the grain, doing it as much good as hoeing. In vegetable growing not a great many experiments will be tried, as it is an established fact all vegetables can be grown here and of a size and quality which cannot be surpassed. Mr. Bedford will plant his garden in long rows the entire length of the field so as to be able to do all the cultivation with a horse hoe and to show the farmers how they can grow all their farm produce with a much reduced amount of manual labor. Several hotbeds have been built and many of the plants have gained considerable size already. An experienced workman from the east was busy planting apple trees in the centre of a bluff on the south side of the hill where a plot has been cleared of scrub and well cultivated. This plot is intended to give the trees the most favorable treatment possible. Other trees will be planted with an exposure to the north and protected from the early sun. Twelve men are employed on the farm, and the work is going forward in a most satisfactory manner. The straightening of the creeks which run zigzag across the farm has made a great improvement, and the land has all been in excellent condition for seeding. This season will see the farm in thorough working order. Great credit is due Mr. Bedford for the manner in which he is putting the work forward with such a small staff of men.—*Brandon Times*.

SIR GEORGE STEPHEN and Sir Donald Smith have been re-elected directors of the St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba railway, at a meeting in New York last week. They were formerly directors of the road, but retired in 1887. This looks as though the C. P. R. and the St. P. M. & M. are likely to operate in harmony for some time.

THE Northern Pacific & Manitoba Railway Co. is calling for bids for building the branch from Morris to Brandon. This portion of the road will be pushed on at once, and it is also the intention to build 50 miles of the Souris branch. The iron has been purchased for 200 miles of road. The Portage la Prairie branch is about completed to the Assiniboine river,

near Portage, and the bridge will be constructed at once. Owing to the difficulty regarding the terminal grounds in Winnipeg, work has not yet commenced on the new depot and hotel which the company will build in the city. It is expected the trouble will be settled in a few days, when the buildings will be pushed ahead.

Prices to farmers at Brandon last week, according to the *Times*, were: Wheat—The market is very quiet with the price at 90c for No 1 hard. Oats—quoted at 25c per bushel. Cattle—There is a fair demand for cattle with the price varying from 3½ to 3¾c per pound. Calves—\$6 to \$12 each, with demand fair. Hogs—The market is firm with price at 5c per pound. Sheep—There is a good demand for mutton. Price from 5 to 5½c per pound. Butter—Runs all the way from 18 to 25c per pound. It must be extra choice butter which will bring the latter price, the ruling price being 20 to 21c. Eggs—Have still a downward tendency, 9c per dozen is all that is being paid now. Potatoes—40 to 45c per bushel is the ruling quotation.

The advantage arising from the work of well organized and active boards of trade was recently demonstrated in the case of the C. P. R. bridge across the Fraser river in British Columbia. The C. P. R. Co recently commenced the construction of a bridge across the Fraser river at Mission Station, a point on its main line east of Vancouver, where connection is to be made with a road running south to Puget Sound. Plans were prepared for a bridge with a draw span of only sixty feet. This soon came to the knowledge of the New Westminster board of trade, and a vigorous protest was at once made. New Westminster is, of course, the city most directly interested in the free navigation of the Fraser river. It was pointed out that so narrow a span in the bridge would be a serious impediment to navigation and a dangerous obstruction to place across the river. The C. P. R. Co. at first declined to change the plans of the bridge, and then sought a compromise. But the board remained firm, and insisted that the draw should not be less than 100 feet. The Victoria and Vancouver boards of trade followed up the action of the Westminster board. An appeal was made to Ottawa, and it is now announced that the C. P. R. has been obliged to give in to the demands of the boards. But for the timely action of the boards of trade, it is more than probable that a bridge would have been built across the river which would have proved a serious obstruction to navigation. Civic corporations cannot be depended upon to look sharply after the many questions of this nature which are continually arising, and besides in nine cases out of ten, a board of trade will carry more weight in a matter of this nature, than a town council. Town councils are often the result of wire pulling and political scheming, while this is not the case with a board of trade. The latter is invariably composed of the representative men of a place, while the former frequently is not. The board of trade is therefore as a rule better qualified to give an intelligent and unbiassed decision upon questions, than is the average civic council. British Columbia is to be congratulated upon her thoroughly organized and energetically conducted boards of trade.