

Western Business Items.

P. R. Carroll is opening in the crockery trade at Brandon, Man.

C. H. Des Forges, butcher, Carberry, has sold out to John Stemmmon.

Ira Bates, of Bates & Emerick, general store, Carman, Man., is deceased.

A. C. Houghton, implements, Belmont, Man., has sold out to C. Drummond-Hay.

F. W. Thompson, manager of the Ogilvie Milling Co., left for Fort William on Thursday.

L. Black, hotel, Griswold, Man., has sold out to P. J. Flanagan, who takes possession in May.

E. Hallonquist has succeeded John Cobb in the Leland Hotel, at Napiwaka, Man. Cobb is reported moving to Melita.

W. A. McLeod, manager of the Stuart-Arbutnot machinery company of Winnipeg, left on Wednesday on a business trip to southern cities.

Thos. E. McGirr has disposed of his interest in the firm of McGirr & Hinton, of Emerson, Man., and has entered as partner in a business at Neepawa. G. W. Hinton takes over the business at Emerson.

Mayor Horace Wilson, manager for Clare Bros. & Co., Winnipeg, has returned from a business trip east. Mr. Wilson reports that business with eastern manufacturers is very brisk, factories in every line being oversold.

J. Bousfield & Co. have purchased the old school room of Knox church at Portage la Prairie, Man., and will utilize it as premises for a creamery.

W. F. Lawrence is starting a sash and door factory at Maple Creek.

The Canadian Pacific Railway land sales for the month of January show as follows: In January, 1900, 31,486 acres were sold for \$100,853; in January, 1899, 14,718 acres were sold for \$45,411, an average of about \$3 per acre in each year.

The harness makers of Winnipeg have formed an organization under the name of The Harness Makers' Union, which has been affiliated with the International Association, Kansas City, and also with the Trades and Labor Council of Winnipeg. The new union has a membership of fifty-four.

Auction sales of goods saved from the Manitoba Produce Company's fire have been going on in the city this week. They have been well attended and the goods have generally realized fair prices. The company have not yet decided whether they will continue the business or not. Suitable premises are not obtainable. The loss on the old stock has not been finally adjusted.

Sales of Flour Mills.

The Farmers' elevator and flour mill property at Portage la Prairie, Man., has been purchased by A. Brown & Co. of Toronto. Brown & Co. secured a month's option on the property in December, and they are now completing the transfer, the price being about \$12,600.

Thos. Robertson, for a number of years head miller in the flour mill at Holland, Man., is now proprietor of the same, having purchased it from Mr. Hebert.

The flour mill at Selkirk, Man., has been purchased by Rodk. Smith, who it is said, intends putting in further improvements. J. W. Judd is spoken of as one interested in the new deal. —Selkirk Journal.

Winnipeg Board of Trade.

The final meeting of the council of the board for the current year was held yesterday. The matter of the recent changes in freight classification was discussed, but was finally left over for the new council, as were some other matters. Joseph A. Carman, commission merchant, and Geo. K. Crowe, grain merchants, were elected members of the board.

Freight Reduction.

The Canadian Pacific railway gives notice that on and after Feb. 1, the rate on grain, flour and millfeed, from Fort William to New York, Boston and St. John, for export, will be 26c per 100 lbs. The rate was formerly 29 1-2c.

British Columbia Notes.

Weeks & Hogan, hotel, Phoenix, have dissolved.

H. A. Brown, hotel, Revelstoke, has leased his business.

McLeod & Coote, dry goods, etc., Vancouver, have dissolved.

H. S. Wallace is offering his book and stationery business at Roseland for sale.

Wm. Turpel & Sons, shipbuilders and marine railway, Victoria; Wm. J. Turpel, Jr., is dead.

W. L. Tait & Son, shingle mills, sash and door factory, Vancouver, is burnt out; partially insured.

Cox, Johnstone & Dabberley, Fairview Sash and Door Factory, Vancouver, are burnt out; no insurance.

The Revelstoke board of trade held its annual meeting on the 11th instant. The report of the council bore upon several important matters affecting the interests of the district. An effort is being made to secure a smelter. A vigorous advertising campaign is recommended. The following officers were elected for 1900: President, H. A. Brown; vice-president, H. J. Bourne; secretary, C. E. Shaw; counsellors: W. M. Brown; C. F. Lindmark, J. M. Scott, Jas. Gill, Robert Gordon, J. D. Sibbald, J. D. Molson, A. Johnson and F. McCarty.

The Vernon board of trade held its annual meeting on the 10th inst. A strong resolution favoring the construction by the provincial government of a road giving easy access to the town of Princeton was adopted. The election of officers resulted in the re-election of G. A. Henderson as president, W. R. Megaw, vice-president, R. J. Davies, secretary, and the following council: Messrs. Henderson, Appleton, Hankey, Matheson, Jacques, Ricardo, Megaw, Cameron, Muir, Smith, McKelvie, Shatford, McGinn, Chambers, Robinson, Muller and Billings.

Furniture Trade Notes.

There is talk of a further advance in furniture owing to higher cost of lumber and increase in wages. Some lines of furniture have advanced fully 25 per cent within the past year, the advance being more marked on the cheaper grades, for which prices were very close.

The proposed combine of Canadian furniture factories has fallen through. In this as in other branches, a great revival has been experienced and manufacturers have done so well the past year that they are satisfied to go on as they were. The combine idea was started before the trade revival set in, but the good business now doing has killed it for the present.

Glass and Crockery Ware High.

Glassware and lamps have advanced sharply at the factories in the United States and England. Invoices recently to hand show that prices are about 10 per cent higher.

On Feb. 1 an advance of 7 1-2 per cent went into effect on crockery and earthenware at the English potteries.

Government Control.

Toronto, Jan. 22. —At the city council meeting to-day Mayor E. A. McDonald gave notice that he will move at the next meeting of the council "that this council do petition the parliament of Canada at its next session to pass an act to authorize the honorable postmaster general to acquire all of the existing telegraph and telephone lines and systems, and make such extensions to and operate same in connection with and as part of the postal system of Canada, or in the alternative to construct a new system or systems of telegraph or telephone, and to operate the same as aforesaid, and that the co-operation of the cities, towns and other municipalities of Canada be asked to assist, so that an act may be passed for the purposes aforesaid."

New York Canal Improvement.

By all odds the most important proposition looking to the improvement of the canals in New York that has yet been made is that contained in the report of the canal commission and endorsed by Governor Roosevelt in a special message to the legislature of the state, says Bradstreet's in its last issue. Briefly outlined, the plan contemplates the construction of a large canal capable of carrying boats of a thousand tons capacity, which would cost in round numbers \$62,000,000. The commission, after a careful consideration of the whole matter, has reached the conclusion that any improvement of less extent than that proposed would be ineffective, and that the project suggested will result in a transportation rate across the state of New York as low as that by the St. Lawrence canals, and far less than any rate possible by railroad at any time within the immediate future, and, in fact, will furnish a complete and permanent solution of the canal problem. It is pointed out by the commission that the efficiency of the canals will depend upon their management quite as much as on their physical size, and the Governor joins them in urging that no further money should be spent upon the canals unless accompanied by measures which will secure their management upon a business basis absolutely. The report submitted seems to indicate that up to the present the people of the state have had a very inadequate idea of the cost of an effective canal improvement.

The statement of the visible supply of grain in store and afloat on Saturday, Jan. 27, as compiled by the New York Produce Exchange, is as follows: Wheat, 55,596,000, decrease 957,000 bushels. Corn, 14,526,000 bushels, increase 426,000. Oats, 5,332,000, increase 244,000 bushels. Rye, 1,163,000, decrease 50,000 bushels. Barley, 1,760,000, decrease 162,000 bushels.

P. K. Hook, who was so successfully carried Donald Fraser & Co.'s clothing samples for the past three seasons, is at present taking a holiday preparatory to his fall trip.