

REGINA.

J. W. Smith, hardware merchant of Bridgen, Ont., is building a fine store on South Railway street.

The contract was let last Saturday for a block of four stores to be built on Broad street by Messrs. Mowatt Bros. and John Dawson.

As an evidence of the activity in building we might mention that one of the seven lumber merchants sold \$13,000 worth of lumber during the forenoon of Monday last.

J. J. Campbell & Co.'s new store on Broad street is rapidly approaching completion. It will be one of the finest buildings in the territories when completed.

The Regina Leader has made its appearance. It is an excellent looking journal, and is a credit both to the town and its founder, Mr. Nicholas Flood Davin.

W. B. Scarth's agent has sold all the available lots on Broad and South Railway streets on building conditions, which means an engagement to erect over \$100,000 worth of buildings (mostly business places) during the coming spring. This, with the buildings under contract, independent of Scarth's building conditions, will make the value of the season's improvements over two hundred thousand dollars.

It is quite amusing to read the effusions of some of the paid maligners of this place, particularly in the matter of water. One paper tells us of the frantic efforts of the citizens during a snow storm, of the rottenness of Pile of Bones water, and many other things of a like nature. It is true that the citizens depend on snow for water, but it is not because there is no water in the ground. If the people have no well water it is because they have had no time to put down wells. The town was started after the frost set in last fall, and it could not be provided for a population of 2,000 people in so short a time. Besides people are in no hurry to put down wells when they have plenty of snow at their doors. The C. P. R. put down a well at the depot and got a flow of water at 90 feet. Gov. Dewdney got plenty of water at 40 feet, and a farmer close to the town reserve has procured enough water for fifty families at 32 feet; a fourth well, sunk 50 feet, in the center of the town, is about to be taken over and completed by the city commissioners, who intend to show to the world that it is not necessary to go 400 feet for water, as is the case a few miles west on the line of the C. P. R. There have been four wells tried; three are completed and three are successful, and what more is there wanted.

SELKIRK.

Mr. Barnes, hotel keeper, East Selkirk, got into trouble by selling liquor to Indians, and has taken leg bail for security, but is expected back as soon as his friends get matters smoothed over.

The demand for houses to rent has caused several of the largest property holders to bestir themselves, and preparations are being made

for several new buildings as soon as material can be had.

Selkirk people are agitating to have their town made a port of entry, and purpose asking their representative at Ottawa to take the necessary steps towards securing that end.

The election for Mayor and Council for the newly incorporated town of East Selkirk took place on the 7th inst., which resulted in the election of R. J. Brown, Esq., as Mayor, and eight councillors, two for each ward.

Messrs. R. J. Short, J. G. McDonald, M. Smith, Howell & Hunter, W. Prudens and F. Fulcher are each getting out large quantities of wood in the neighborhood of Selkirk, employing altogether about 300 men, and will aggregate about 30,000 cords. These extensive operations in wood, together with other contracts for ties, piles, etc., have given quite an impetus to the trade of the town this winter.

Since the weather moderated wood, hay and grain have commenced to come in freely, and prices are in consequence on the decline. Merchants are in good spirits, and say that the trade of February exceeds that of the same month in last year.

The lumber manufactured on Lake Winnipeg this year is expected to amount to about 35,000,000 feet, contributed as follows: Brouse & Wood, 2,000,000; Dick & Banning, 5,000,000; Brown & Rutherford, 3,000,000; Drake & Rutherford, 4,000,000; Walkley & Burrows, 6,000,000; H. G. Stubbs & Co., 3,000,000; Jonasson & Frederickson, 2,000,000; Shore & Co., 2,000,000; Schneider & Co., 3,000,000; with two mills to hear from.

Mr. Bell, chief engineer for the North-west Navigation Company, has taken up his residence in Selkirk, and is busily engaged in taking the machinery out of the side-wheel steamer "Glendevon," which is to be forwarded to Lake Manitoba and replaced by the machinery of the tug New Brunswick. The latter is to be used as a barge in future.

The North-west Navigation Company intend, as soon as the freshest subsides, to build dockage at Selkirk sufficient for unloading three barges at one time of a capacity of from 80,000 to 100,000 feet each. They calculate with three such barges loading, three on the way and other three unloading, to do the lumber carrying trade to the satisfaction of the manufacturers. They also purpose erecting a large warehouse on the slough at Selkirk, suitable for the transferring of their through freight from river or flat-bottomed to lake-going boats.

Messrs. Brouse & Wood, who have a saw-mill and timber limit at the mouth of Bad Throat River on Lake Winnipeg, are getting out tamarac piles from 20 to 52 feet long, some of which are for the docks at Selkirk, and the balance will be left here for sale. There are also getting out 20,000 ties for the Winnipeg Street Railway and 1,500 cords of wood for the North-west Navigation Company, together with 4,000,000 shingles, 500,000 laths and about 5,000,000 feet of lumber, which will be disposed of at Selkirk.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

Edward Morton, harness dealer, has removed to Carberry.

Business keeps steadily improving. Money is easier and merchants are hopeful.

Prices of grain have not changed from last week. Wheat is still quoted at 70 to 75c; oats, 45 to 50c; barley, 35 to 37c. Potatoes are worth 80 to 90c per bushel.

There is still considerable grain to be threshed in the Big Plains district.

E. E. G. G. Hay is enlarging his foundry. The moulding shop is being doubled in size and a large blacksmith shop is to be built.

The Council has offered the P. W. & N. W. Railway \$35,000 to assist in purchasing land, etc., for their workshop.

The Portage Milling Company have during the past three weeks shipped over 2,250 barrels of flour. Their wood account during the months of January and February amounted to \$5,000.

At the last meeting of the Council it was decided not to dig a drain from the slough to McIlvaine's paper mill in order to supply water for the factory, but to sink a well on Pacific avenue, instead, and allow Mr. McIlvaine the use of it.

BRANDON.

Deacon & Hopper, general store, have dissolved. Mr. Hopper continuing the business.

All the tanks have been filled and the fire engine is doing well. We therefore are moderately well protected against fire.

James McNichol, shoemaker, Brandon, has made an assignment to W. H. Cuthbertson, of this city, for the benefit of all his creditors. As his stock is well assorted and good, the creditors will not sustain a heavy loss.

The Railway Committee had a meeting last week and sent a deputation to Winnipeg to consult with the officials of the C. P. R. regarding the Souris branch. The city and country are alive to the necessity of making this a railway centre, and will offer large bonuses to obtain more railway communication.

Mr. Friend, tobacconist of Winnipeg, has been unfortunate. He sent a traveler west who has acted somewhat crooked, and that gentleman is now after him, fortunately before much loss has been made.

Mr. McQuarry has been elected alderman in the place of Mr. L. M. Fortier resigned. There is a rumor that he will not take his seat on account of not being properly qualified.

A dining hall will be erected near the new passenger station, and when this has been done the office will be removed from the shanty now used as the passenger station. If it takes as long to build this dining hall as it took to complete the station, the greater part of the year will have passed before the officials are properly housed. Business has greatly improved this week, in fact it has been the best week business men have had since Christmas. Grain has been coming in large quantities, more having come in during the week than in any previous three weeks.