

The Drummer and His Grip.

Though the rain and sleet are falling,
And the roads are "awful muddy,"
Though all men "hard times" are bawling,
Though a fellow's nose gets ruddy,
Though the rivers may be frozen
And the frosts may bite and nip,
They can never stop the advent
Of the drummer and his grip.

Though the trails may all be smashing
Though the horses all go lame,
The drummer, like the bed-bug,
Will get there, just the same,
And when his time is over,
Will come smiling from his trip,
For he always "makes connection"
Does the drummer with his grip.

Ah, he teaches us a lesson
With his energy and grit,
Things that "paralyze" most people
Don't astonish him a bit.
And he's ever bright and cheerful
And a smile is on his lip.
He's a daisy from away back
Is the drummer with his grip.

Give him a kind word always
He'll give you back the same.
For the doings of some "black sheep"
Don't give the whole tribe blame.
For down, clear down to Hades
Some so-called "good men" slip,
While along the road to Heaven
Goes the drummer (with his grip.)
—F. M. Gilbert, in *Beauville Evening Tribune*.

Lumber Cuttings.

The saw mills at Westminster, B. C., are running full blast and are turning out immense quantities of lumber daily. The number of men employed at present is greater than ever before.

The Royal City Planing Mills Co., of New Westminster, B. C., have determined on continuing the yard in Calgary on the premises lately occupied by the firm of S. J. Hogg & Co., with Mr. Coffin as agent.

Rat Portage News: The Norman mills will commence operations directly the lake breaks up, and it is intended to turn out more lumber this season than any previous year. Everything points to a busy time this coming season. All the empty houses are being occupied fast.

Vancouver News. Although the legal papers completing the transfer have not yet been signed, it is understood that one of the largest transactions which has taken place in Vancouver, is practically concluded. It is the purchase from the present owners of the business carried on by the company known as the Hastings Saw Mill Company, and the transfer includes the extensive mill, with the site on which it is located, the steamers, timber limits, etc. We believe the price is in the neighborhood of \$160,000. The purchasers are a wealthy American syndicate, at the head of which is Mr. Freeman, the large capitalist and operator, of San Diego. The new owners contemplate making very great alterations and improvements in the property they have acquired, which will really amount to erecting a new mill.

Grain and Milling News.

The Minneapolis Foundry Co., recently organized with \$30,000 capital stock, will remove the old Pray foundry to a site up north, and begin business about June 1st. O. A. Pray will act as manager of the company.

Owing to delay in getting machinery through from the east, the proprietors of the mill at Crystal City have been unable to commence operations as soon as was expected. Everything

is now in place except some shafting which has been on the road since about 1st January.

Fort William Journal: It is reported that as soon as the Banff hotel is finished, which will be some time next month, R. J. Russell, who has the work in charge, will commence the erection of an elevator at the Fort. The necessity for more storing capacity at this point has been apparent for some time.

Macleod Gazette: A meeting to discuss the mill question took place yesterday, when several communications were read from tenderers. It was found that there was not enough stock subscribed yet to warrant the commencement of operations. A strenuous effort is to be made to raise the balance, and it is to be hoped those who have not yet subscribed will do so.

Hon. George A. Pillsbury, of the great Minneapolis milling firm bearing that name, has offered to donate \$50,000 under certain conditions toward the erection of a \$100,000 college at Owatonna by the Baptists of the State. He gave \$25,000 a year or two ago to insure the building of a boarding school at the same place, and the institution is known as the Pillsbury academy.

Emerson, Man., Times: A movement has for some time been on foot, having in view the erection of a grist mill at Emerson. The want of a mill has been much felt in town, and in the country east and west adjacent, since the closing down of the old mill here. Recently the movement has taken practical shape, and a joint stock company will, it is likely, be formed with capital sufficient to erect the mill, put in the machinery and start the undertaking.

The Department of Indian Affairs is inviting tenders of supplies of flour at the various agencies in the Territories. In order to provide a market for wheat grown in agricultural districts in the territories special consideration will be given to samples of flour made at local mills nearest to the points at which the flour is required, provided the samples are satisfactory to the department. The department desires to introduce the use of barley flour among the Indians and ask for alternative tenders for it also.

Great dissatisfaction exists at McGregor, Man., over the mill scheme. About a year ago \$6,000 were voted as a bonus to aid in the establishment of a flour mill. One Hughes of Winnipeg, attempted to establish the mill, but has apparently failed. The mill was to have been completed last October, but so far only the building has been erected, and in this state it has remained for some time. It is one of the evils of the bonus system, that irresponsible parties, without sufficient capital, frequently undertake the establishing of an industry, which often results in a botch and an injury to all concerned. When bonuses are granted, it should only be to persons who have sufficient capital to render success reasonably certain.

Port Arthur Sentinel: Among the knowing ones it is positively asserted that as soon as the new grain shed at Fort William is completed the C. P. R. authorities will at once proceed to erect another of the same size at that place. Property holders on the banks of the Kaministiquia profess to have received information that the company will begin work on two large new elevators on the river early in the coming sea-

son. It is also rumored that another large elevator is to be erected here early in the spring; also that the C. P. R. will either enlarge their dock by adding 500 feet to it or build a new and larger one than that now in use.

Thomas Nicholas has just completed a 60,000 bushel grain warehouse at Glenboro, Manitoba, which was soon nearly filled from the wheat piled in the streets and from new deliveries. There are eight buyers in the Glenboro market, which will give an idea of the importance of the place as a grain market.

Northwestern Miller: On the Manitoba particularly, though the cars were kept moving night and day, it seemed impossible to raise the blockade. On this, as on other roads, both the commission and the officials united in strenuous efforts to obviate the trouble. The system of marketing grain in vogue is largely responsible for these blockades. The remedy is for each farmer to build his own granary and market his wheat at his leisure. Suitable granaries can be built at 2 cents a bush. The adoption of this scheme would take the control of the wheat market out of the hands of speculators, and farmers could clean their own grain, thus saving dockage and other expenses. A general system of private granaries would enable the farmer to place his wheat on the market so gradually that wheat dealers would have purchasers at his door instead of being obliged to beg elevator men and railroads to take his grain. It would advance the price on Dakota wheat at least 10 cents a bushel.

The "boneless codfish" packing business brings out in a startling way the general utility of the cod family. The meat goes into oiled paper and is in brisk demand for food; the skins are sold by the ton to the glue companies for glue, \$24 a ton being paid for cod skins and \$22 for hake; the bones and scales are sold to fertilizing companies for \$5.50 a ton.

William Ewan & Son, wholesale clothiers, of Montreal, have suspended payment. They owe directly \$98,000 and indirectly about \$85,000. It is learned that a settlement will be arrived at whereby the business will proceed unchecked and report states that it is based upon the probable acceptance by the creditors of 60 cents in the dollar of their claims spread over twelve months, but without security. The concern dates back several years, and was formerly in trouble under another title.

Calgary Tribune: The country to the south of the town is now pretty well settled up and when new comers arrive and apply at the land office for vacant lands there is only a comparatively small amount for them to choose from. But the opening up of the magnificent country to the north on which there is an abundance of wood will direct settlement to that district. The whole of the country from Calgary to Red Deer is first-class and is well adapted to mixed farming. Tons of butter and cheese should be sent from this district to supply the eastern, western and Old Country markets as well as supplying them with beef, mutton and pork. The timber and coal resources of the country are illimitable and only await the hand of the settler to develop and prove a mine of wealth, the like of which has not been seen in the whole Northwest.