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Moosomin.

Moosomin is generally regarded as one of the solid towns of the territories. It is the third largest town on the main line of the C. P. R. west of the Manitoba boundary, being only exceeded in size by Regina and Calgary. In the matter of trade, Moosomin has a larger agricultural trade from the country surrounding than any other town in the territories. The quantity of farm produce, grain, stock, etc., marketed here, exceeds any other point west of Manitoba. The country around is fine rolling prairie, with rich soil, and well adapted to grain and stock. Plenty of hay, water, etc., while occasionally clumps of trees give a park-like appearance to the country.

The Ogilvie Company have a large receiving elevator here, capacity 35,000 bushels. Jas. Sharp is in charge of this, and he estimates that about 400,000 bushels of wheat will be marketed at Moosomin this year. The elevator has two receiving hoppers, car weigh scales, and is one of the companies best. There are other grain buyers on the market besides the Ogilvie company.

There is also the flour mill, carried on by Smith & Brigham. This mill has been improved some recently, and the buildings have been added to. Three new Pyc scalpers and graders have been put in the mill; also steam heating has been put in. A new building has been erected, size 24x46, two stories, for flour and feed storage. The capacity of the mill is 125 barrels per day. It is the most westerly mill on the railway in operation this year. The mill works with E. P. Allis rolls, and Geo. J. Smith cleaning and purifying machinery. A fine Whelock engine has been put in to replace the one first in use. The size of the main building is 30x40, four storeys, separate engine and boiler room, of solid stone, two storage warehouses, elevator, etc. J. R. Brigham is in charge. The wheat taken in at Moosomin runs

2 hard, 2 northern and 3 hard. Some No 1 hard has been received, but very little comes up to this grade. The average yield of wheat is placed at 27 bushels per acre.

One great help to the Moosomin district is the fact that the farmers around have gone in largely for stock, instead of depending upon grain alone. The influence of this can be noticed at once, as compared with sections where the farmers go in for grain only. Where farming is more diversified, there is more money in circulation and generally a better feeling. In the same locality, farmers who raise more stock get ahead better than those who go in for grain alone. South of Moosomin, where the farmers are some distance from the railway, they have given their attention largely to stock, and they have done very well. If they had been closer to a railway perhaps they would not have succeeded as well, as they would have neglected stock for grain. The merchants say that the sales of stock keep money moving during the summer, where with grain it is a feast for a few weeks, and then a famine for many months. W. J. Tudge, dealer in stock and meats, reports that about twenty cars of cattle were shipped eastward from Moosomin the past season, to Montreal and other points. About seven cars of sheep were shipped to the Winnipeg market. Farmers have been going more into sheep, and it is expected there will be 20 to 30 cars to ship next year. Four years ago there were not enough sheep for local use. Now there are 20,000 sheep in the district. The cattle averaged farmers about \$30 per head. Hogs and poultry have been scarce, and 8 to 10 cents per pound has been paid for dressed hogs.

Moosomin suffered from fire last spring, and a number of new solid brick and stone buildings have been put up to replace those burned. Six or eight new stores have been erected all in a row, and make a great improvement to the place. A fine brick hotel, three storeys

and basement, has also been erected, and is now nearing completion. Miller & Co., hardware dealers, have the job of placing a furnace in this building.

F. G. Lewin, general dealer, who was burned out last spring, has erected one of the new stores, which he has just moved into. This is a fine stone and brick building, two storeys and basement, size 25x60 feet. It is being fitted up in first-class style, with the latest improvements and conveniences applicable to a store of the kind, large plate glass windows, etc.

Miller & Co., hardware, have the foundation down for a new store to be erected next season. It will be 35x60 feet, stone basement, with brick superstructure, and will be two or three storeys high.

W. H. Maulson, general merchant, occupies his old stand on the corner. R. D. McNaughton was also safe from the fire, with his fine building and large stock of general merchandise. Richard Tees, general dealer, who was burned out, occupies a stone and brick store, erected for him by J. Carson. M. Narvolonsky, general dealer, reports that he is working up a good business. P. Ross, who started in the grocery and confectionery line last spring, is also satisfied with the outlook. The amount of building going on has kept W. H. Barton, the lumber dealer, busy supplying the demand. T. F. Carman, drugs, stationery, etc., has his store well filled up with holiday goods. The harness trade is represented by J. Smithers, who carries considerable stock in his line. Mrs. T. B. McAlpine is also stocked up for Christmas in fruits and confectionery, etc. The Grosenor house, the principal commercial hotel, kept by Geo. Perry, is doing a lively business, and rooms are not long unoccupied. One of the buildings in the new row has been occupied by O. Smith, publisher of the Moosomin Courier. Moosomin business men have felt the want of a chartered bank, and this they have now secured,