

## The Morris-Brandon Branch.

BY A COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE

The longest and most important of the branch lines of the Northern Pacific Railway in Manitoba recently acquired by the Canadian Northern Railway, is that known as the Morris-Brandon branch, extending from Winnipeg to Brandon, a distance of 186 miles. The country through which this line of railway runs is one of the best

down. Cameron & Co. started to erect a new stand which was nearly completed when it in turn was burned. Some of the places burned have been replaced and others are to be built shortly. The premises of Higgins & Webster, general merchants, which were completed nearly two years ago, are among the finest in this country. The building is 3600 feet, two stories and basement, all of which they occupy excepting a portion of the top

Swan Lake has been making good progress during the last couple of years, and has now a number of good stores, including three general stores, one hardware, a furniture store, two confectionery stores, two butcher shops, tinmith, drug store, harness shop, lumber yard, four implement agencies, etc. The Winnipeg Elevator Co. erected an elevator here this fall, making two grain elevators now at this point. Work has been commenced on a frame school house to cost \$2,000. This will have two stories and basement. W. F. Hactwell, general merchant, late of Wawanesa, has opened out here. Johnson McDole, of Cypress River, opened a butcher shop here last fall. There have been a lot of settlers coming into this district recently, and it is reported

handsome stone building, 38x58 feet in dimensions, and two stories high. A. W. Marquis opened a fruit and confectionery stand last February and P. Brown started a bakery and confectionery in the stand formerly occupied by the bakery.

The next station reached is Hilton, where there are some of the best hardware and grocery kept by J. C. Brown, and a general store by John C. Brown.

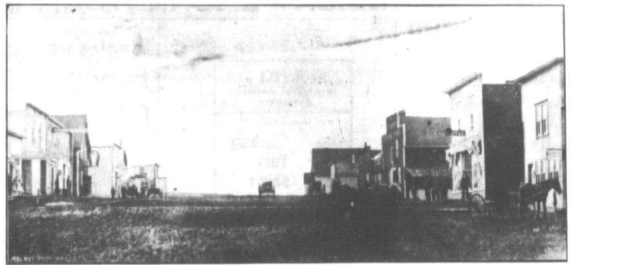
Wawanesa is the next town reached. This place was visited by a fire on the night of February 1st, which burned out several business men. One building has been replaced and there are several more being built in the near future. There have been a number of buildings erected here since our last visit. The Oddfellows' hall is now being built and is nearly completed. This is a brick veneer, 28x48 feet, with two stories. The ground floor is to be used as a public hall and the upper flat by the I. O. O. F. as a lodge hall. A new block has been built for Barclay Bros., general merchants, replacing the one burned. The Wawanesa Mutual Insurance Co. built a solid brick office building. The only one of its kind in the town, which was opened a short time ago. There are now two hardware and three general stores, a harness shop, harness shop, butcher shop, a branch of the Union Bank, a lumber yard, flour mill, printing office, watch maker, etc.

At Routhwater, J. Martin and E. S. Shover have started a stand. This is a good grain section and it is expected that a large amount of wheat will be shipped from this point. The next point reached is Brandon, the terminus of this branch.

There has not been enough threshing done yet to form anything like an accurate estimate of the wheat yield and as a result of this there is a wide difference of opinion as to how large it will be. Around Roland and Marlin it is generally thought that the yield will average about 20 bushels per acre, while further west around the Wawanesa and Brandon points it is estimated to be the amount of No. 1 hard wheat that was at first expected, as by far the most unthreshed is standing in the stack, and the wet weather of the past few weeks has done very much to materially, on an account of the heavy straw this season threshing is proving to be a much longer and more expensive operation than usual, and many of the merchants are now beginning to fear that when the farmer has paid for his twine, hired help, threshing and other expenses in connection with the harvesting of his grain there will not be a very large amount left over with which to pay his outstanding accounts. Unless the weather continues very wet and unfavorable, however, we may count on this being one of the best years in the history of the Northwest.

### Fumigate the Hardware Stock.

A paper published in an Illinois town, in announcing the purchase of a hardware stock by a new firm makes this very suggestive remark: "The first thing the buyers did was to clean up and fumigate the building, which now presents a neat and clean appearance and shows the wisdom of the interested men." What a comment this language is on the store habit of the original customers continue to patronize, and requires fumigating is hardly the place where customers will willingly enter, and when the buyers of the hardware had made ready until a sale in bulk was made necessary. There are many sections in the Northwest, and everywhere, and every one of them is a blot on the fair name of the business with which it is connected. It is the delusion, and yet they are often found and the wonder is that even the few struggling customers continue to patronize a store where they are permitted to remain. No matter how well selected a stock is, it is no use having it in a store that has become a receptacle for dust, dirt, and other extraneous matter. It is no use having it in a store, all things, so that the business itself may be clean and not suggest the need for fumigation.—Stores and Hardware Reporter.



Main Street, Belmont

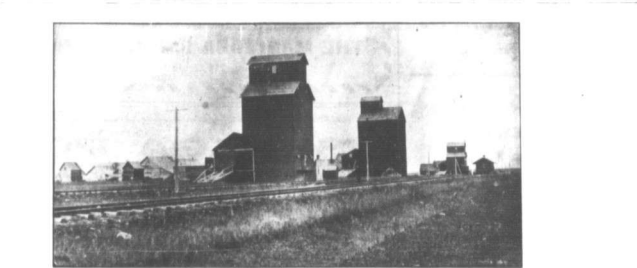
farming sections as well as one of the most picturesque portions of Manitoba and numbers of people travelling from Winnipeg to Brandon via this route in order to see the scenery. The country as far as Miami, 81 miles from Winnipeg, is level prairie, but after passing this station, the train commences to climb the grade of the Pemmican mountains and for almost the entire balance of the trip the scenery is varied and very pretty, hills and valleys, streams and lakes, bluffs and

flat which is used as lodges rooms. This town is the centre for a good grain district and a large amount of grain will this year be shipped through the four elevators.

Although Roland is built on the open prairie still care has evidently been taken to make it as attractive as possible as the houses are neatly painted and in many cases have been surrounded by trees which have now grown to a good size, making this quite a pleasant looking town.

that there has been double the amount of breaking done this season as in any former year.

At Marcella there is a small village containing two stores. A large hotel is now being built here. Balduf has some of the best store buildings of any town along this line. Several large brick blocks have been built during the last few years. Since last visit of a year ago, P. F. Currie, general merchant, has finished his handsome brick block. This is a



View of Elevator at Hilton, showing Part of town

open prairie following in rapid succession.

The portion between Winnipeg and Morris was touched upon in a similar manner a few weeks ago.

After leaving Morris the road branches off in a northwesterly direction. Lone Farm and Myrtle are the first stations reached. At each of these points there is a small village which will no doubt grow in time to good towns.

The town of Roland has experienced several changes during the last year. This town seems to be particularly unfortunate in regard to fires as it has several times been visited by fires which has on each occasion swept away several business places. On Christmas day Cameron & Co., furniture dealers, and H. S. Shilton & Co., general merchants, were burned out, and last March the premises of W. H. Debit, private banker, C. F. Boardman, baker, and Jas. Maxwell & Co., hardware merchants, were burned

At Rosebank, A. H. Baker has a general store, Legett Bros. a hardware and S. J. Sandy a harness shop. There are four elevators here through which 250,000 bushels of grain were shipped two years ago and it is expected that there will be nearly 300,000 bushels this year.

Miami has quite a pretty location, being built in a grove of trees. It is quite an important town as it is surrounded by a good farming district. There are two hardware, two general stores, fruit store, butcher shop, harness shop, drug store, furniture, lumber yard, watchmaker, several implement warehouses, a chop mill, etc. T. W. Stubbs bought out the furniture stock of W. Ferris last December and Jos. Lyons sold his butcher business to Alex. Lyons.

At Altamont and Somerset there are small towns, each having two or three stores. At Somerset the farmers of the district are now building a grain elevator.

two-story building, 81x33 feet, of very solid appearance. The ground floor and basement are occupied by himself and the top flat has been fitted up as a concert hall, and as such is equal in seldom seen in the towns of this country. It will seat comfortably 300 people; there is a very good stage, it is lighted with acetylene gas and heated by a hot air furnace and is very complete in all respects. There are four general stores here, a hardware, drug store, harness shop, furniture store, lumber yard, private bank, weekly newspaper, flour mill, etc. by courtesy of the Balduf, Ganette, we show cuts in this case of scenes at Balduf, Belmont and Hilton.

Belmont is a railway divisional point for freight crews and the Sarnia branch of the Canadian Northern railway to Hartney starts here. The different branches of the retail business are well represented here. Last fall C. Drummond-Hay completed his implement warehouse. This is a