

able feature so far as large stocks are concerned. Another favorable feature is the quantity of grain held by farmers, which is believed to be larger than usual at this season of the year. There is also the prospect of a further large increase in the population of the country this year, by reason of immigration. Altogether there is nothing in the present situation to lead to the fear of any retrograde movement. At the same time the situation does go to show that there is still much room for improvement in the way retail business is done in our rural districts, in the matter of credit and collections. We have not heard so much about excessive credit business of late years, as formerly, but the evil of unduly free and long credits appears to still prevail to a much greater extent than would appear desirable.

TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

The war in South Africa has been the means of greatly increasing Canadian trade with that portion of the world. It is pleasing to note that of the vast quantities of goods required for the British troops in South Africa, a by no means insignificant portion has been supplied by Canada. Some orders for these supplies have found their way to our own city and province. Several lots of Manitoba flour, as well as other goods, have been sent to South Africa. It is this week announced that the Lake of the Woods Milling Company have received orders from the war office for twenty-five thousand sacks, equal to fifty carloads of their highest grade flour, to be shipped immediately to South Africa. Half of the order is now on the way to St. John for shipment and the balance will follow next week. This large order for Manitoba flour is alone quite an item, though only one of many smaller orders received.

When despotism is suppressed in South Africa and that country is relieved from the incubus which has rested upon it, we may look for a wonderful development in that region, bringing with it an increased international trade with other countries, in which Canada is likely to freely share. Our exporters should begin at once to prepare to take advantage of the opening for trade expansion, which South Africa will undoubtedly offer from this time forward.

Circulars are being sent out by the executive of the Canadian Manufacturers' association to all the leading manufacturers of Canada asking for their views on transportation problems, and inviting them to send in any complaints of specific acts of unfairness in the regulation of rates by the railway companies, with a view to obtaining redress.

DOING THE MAIN LINE

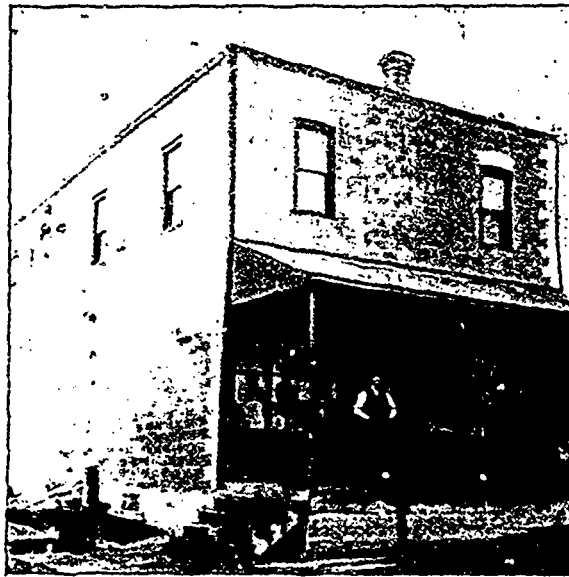
Notes of a Trip Westward from Winnipeg, by a Commercial Representative.

The trip along the C. P. R. main line from Winnipeg to Calgary would give a stranger a very faint idea of the resources of this country, as the impression he would most likely carry away would be of a vast and almost uninhabited prairie, broken here and there by bluffs of trees. This is partly the condition of the country along the railway track, as for various reasons the land is neglected by the settler for that a few miles further back, but if he were to break his journey and spend a day at a few of the towns along the line or could drive, the journey from Portage la Prairie to Moose Jaw by daylight, he would find instead of great stretches of wild prairie land large fields of grain and herds of cattle, and at intervals of ten or fifteen miles thriving market towns with a yearly business turnover that would

where a good living can be made more easily, and they are now quite satisfied to make this their future home and are building larger and more comfortable dwellings and outbuildings, and trying in other ways also to make their places more homelike.

As yet very little attention has been given to the planting of trees, which beside improving the appearance of their places, serve as a protection from the winds and storms of winter. In some of the older settlements this matter has been receiving attention, and no doubt in the course of a few years it will be general throughout the whole country.

Portage la Prairie is one of the largest and oldest towns in Manitoba and is the centre of an excellent wheat raising district. One need only look at the long line of elevators to be convinced of this fact. In addition to the grain elevators the Lake of the



Store of H. A. Scarth, Griswold.

hardly be credited. At each of these towns he would find from two to five or six elevators, each having a capacity of from 25,000 to 40,000 bushels, which are sometimes taxed to the utmost to handle the immense quantities of grain which these districts yearly produce. This is true of the country between Winnipeg and Moose Jaw, but west of that to Calgary, a distance of about 450 miles is one of the best ranching countries in the world.

The early settlement of this country was in some respects similar to that of the Klondike, only not quite so feverish. People came here with the idea of making a fortune and returning to their homes to spend it, but after living here a few years they are now realizing that a fortune cannot be made in a few days here, but that it would be hard to find a country

Woods Milling Co. has a large flour mill here and Thos. H. Metcalfe an oatmeal mill. During the past few years the appearance of the town has been improved by the erection of a number of fine buildings. The post office, which was completed about a year and a half ago, is of stone and is a very handsome structure. D. McKillop, furniture dealer, has this past year built a solid brick block adjoining the post office. It is 32x85 feet, two stories high, and cost \$8,000. He occupies both flats as in addition to his retail trade he also does a wholesale business, shipping principally to points on the Manitoba and Northwestern and Canadian Northern railways. A. McKillop is a manufacturers' agent, his principal lines being boots and shoes. Another block built this past year is that of T. & W. Millar, which