

NEWLY INCORPORATED VEGREVILLE (Winnipeg Free Press)

What was merely prairie a few months ago, is now the site of bright, go-ahead Vegreville on the line of the C. N. R. 73 miles from Edmonton—very young, not twenty months old, but a bouncing baby—a most promising kid. Before the advent of the railway there was a small hamlet, about four miles south of this Vegreville, calling itself by this name also. This hamlet was isolated; related to no place, and the railway survey called in the loudest tones, you are not in it by four or five miles! Then the men of this little place, looking along the track as it made its way over the prairie, said, would not this be an ideal site for the Vegreville that is to make her mark? Their choice being its present site. Before the eyes of these men was nothing but the raw prairie, and the two parallel steel lines, but beyond the tangible was the cogent, potent, intangible filling them with resolution and cheerful optimism—and this is the spirit of the west.

It was evident, in the case in hand, that the mountain would not come to Mahomet, so Mahomet instantly decided to go to the mountain; the hamlet bravely picked itself up, and with all its goods and chattels, moved over to its new home, where it was no sooner settled than it began to grow and thrive, as it probably will continue to do, having everything in her surroundings that could be asked for to keep things going.

Vegreville has her streets regularly laid out, graded and sidewalked, necessities so often neglected until the last minute in new places. Her stores are commodious, and stocked with all that an up-to-date community could wish for.

There are two hotels, both built in generous proportions, and giving most satisfactory service. There are also two banks, the Commerce and the Merchants—the latter is building, at a cost of \$10,000, very substantial quarters of brick, with stone finishings; the contrast between this handsome structure and the shabby little frame shack, at present in use, is laughable.

Vegreville has a planing mill, which is kept in perpetual motion, it is so busy. It is not very large as yet, but is heading that way, and is a most snug workshop. Mr. Jacob Mohr is its proprietor.

Another mill is promised for the spring—a 150-barrel flour mill to be built by W. Parker & Co. This mill will look well beside the three large elevators standing so conspicuously in her midst. There are also here lumber yards, implement houses, livery barns and blacksmith shops; but, as the way of this world is, there is always something wanting, so this good town wants a dentist.

Steady employment is guaranteed to a skilful operator. There is also an opening for a steam laundry; the Chinaman has been and done all the mischief he can; his patrons would almost be willing to pay a \$500 poll tax to see him out of town.

A considerable amount of building has been done north of the track; six months ago there was not a house there, now there is quite a village; and the piles of lumber, and the beams of nails, and all the various needs of the men who build, that are to be seen in all directions, are evidence that many more homes and business places will soon be added. But where is the pain? Hastily the decorator with his brushes and his colors along, and let him take off the dreadfully wooden aspect of the place!

There are two creameries in the appearance of Vegreville when her sandstone quarries were opened up. With this valuable material close at hand—this light grey, easily worked sandstone it will only be a matter of a few years when she will be known as the Sandstone city, as Kingston, Ont., is called the Limestone City. It is all probably the legislative buildings at Edmonton will be built of this Vegreville stone.

Another new enterprise was started last June, with the shipment of a fine bunch of \$20,000 of cattle, for which the tidy sum of \$20,000 was received.

There are two creameries in the district, one at Martins, 12 miles to the south, and one at Warwick, the same distance to the north, and one in town all privately owned. A creamery always means a steady supply of ready money, and is therefore, a splendid adjunct to any town.

Water is found here in abundance—water that stands the test of the highest analysis, and is obtained by boring from 40 to 150 feet Artesian wells, with a flow of 200 barrels in 24 hours. The presence of alkali is only found in surface water.

Recent excavations, well boring, have revealed the presence of natural gas. No development work has as yet been done, but it is believed that as soon as sufficient capital can be secured for this purpose, an inexhaustible store of this very valuable commodity will be obtained. There are also valuable coal measures at Beaver lake, only eight miles

off. This coal can be put into the cellar of the Vegreville householder at \$5 per ton.

Applications for a franchise for supplying the town with electric light and power have been laid before the council, but the likelihood is that the town itself will own the electric plant, the general feeling being in favor of municipal ownership of public utilities.

The Alberta government is at present constructing trunk telephone system through the province, with which the local systems will connect, work on the latter (at Vegreville) is now under way. At no distant date the number of farmers who will be without telephones in their homes will be very small, and how this will facilitate business need not be dwelt upon here.

With a view to securing fire protection, the town has very wisely given most generous votes for the necessary appliances. A gasoline engine, a chemical engine, a hook and ladder truck, etc., and an \$8,000 hall to house them in, make a good instalment, and speak volumes for the progressive spirit of the men who direct the affairs of this burg.

For its spiritual and moral well-being there are at present two very commodious churches, Presbyterian and a Methodist; and the Roman Catholics are building a handsome edifice that will cost \$6,000.

A joint stock company has been formed for the purpose of putting up a rink, wherein the roaring game, as well as skating and hockey, will be encouraged. The sum of \$5,000 will be required for this.

For the sportsman who would enjoy a day's outing with dog and gun, this locality would afford endless pleasure, game is plentiful, a good bag is sure.

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Vegreville is now a regularly incorporated town, with a population of 800, and assessed property to the value of \$200,000, which was in 1905, nearly a month ago. Mr. W. Clements is mayor, and an active board of trade has been appointed with C. R. Morton, manager of the Merchants Bank, as president, and F. A. Morrison as secretary.

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There is, also, a training school for Galicians in Vegreville; for the youths of the branch called Ruthenian, the terms begin in November and continues until the spring; there were 30 pupils in attendance last year, and a great many more are expected this year. The girls are trained for domestic service; and the boys for taking their positions creditably beside our native Canadian youths. This work, although under the auspices of the W. H. M. S. of the Presbyterian church, is in charge, in a patriotic but ecclesiastic, a strong under tone running all through, its teachings being "Canada first."

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The next meeting of the club will take place on Thursday, January 11th, in Houserton's hall, at 8 p. m. All Scotchmen cordially invited.

WESTWARD TO EUROPE AND ORIENTAL MARKETS (Wednesday's Daily)

John R. Boyle, secretary of the grain commission, who recently returned from the Pacific coast where the commission has been looking into the transportation phase of the grain trade, states that in his judgment within ten years millions of bushels of Alberta grain will be going to the markets of Great Britain and the Orient by the Pacific coast and he looks forward to the day when Vancouver will become one of the great grain ports of the world, with magnificent lines of freighters plying to every foreign market, and with a livelier grain exchange than Winnipeg has today.

Mr. Boyle is much in favor of the creation of a public terminal elevator at the Pacific coast. If such an elevator were built there would be only one terminal charge and no opportunity for the manipulation of the grades at a private elevator after inspection. This farmer on the prairie of Alberta would be able to load his wheat onto cars at the nearest sidetrack and deliver it right to the elevator without passing through a privately owned elevator or any other grain handling warehouse where the grades might be skimmed. For the matter of that, Mr. Boyle says, the farmer will be able to deliver his grain directly to an elevator without it ever coming into a private elevator and if he is shipping in large quantities he will be able to deliver his grain in the old country. The advantage of this would give the Alberta farmer who grows the finest oats and the best flat wheat in the world, a market for his produce.

Mr. Boyle predicts that within the next five years the Canadian West will be growing a hundred-million bushels of wheat, and that Alberta alone will be growing a hundred-million bushels of oats. He says that the fact that the grain trade is already getting so unwieldy as to tax the ligidity of the railroads to handle the crop by the great lakes and he says that, aside altogether from the advantages which a public outlet would afford, it is going to become absolutely necessary in the near future for the railroads to route the bulk of the grain to the west whether they want to or not.

At the present moment the whole situation in the hands of the R. R. and it depends altogether on the ruling spirits of that corporation how soon the Pacific coast will get its share. If they elect to enrich themselves in the trade before their rivals reach the Pacific coast, it will be a matter of a few years before the Pacific coast will get its share of the trade.

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Gray's Syrup of Red Spruce Gum For Coughs and Colds.

CUTTERS AND SLEIGHS. We now have in Stock a number of Cars of the Famous Henry & Tudhope Cutters and Watson's Sleighs.

KELLY & BEALS. FARMERS, we ask you just to give us a call and examine our lines. PRICES RIGHT. TERMS EASY.

USE EDDY MATCHES. Ask your Grocer for one of the following Brands—In Siphon, "Telephone," and "Telephone." In Paris—"King Edward," "Ed Colgate," "Eagle," "Victoria," "Little Comet."

There is Nothing Better Steel Stable and Sled Plow. Fitted with the celebrated "Garden City Clipper" Bottom. Made by David Bradley Mfg. Co., Bradley, Ill., U. S. A.

IF YOU ARE BUYING or IF YOU ARE SELLING..... for yourself who does the business every SATURDAY, AT TWO O'CLOCK On the Market Square EDMONTON. Cattle, Horses, Wagons, Harness, Etc. AUCTIONEER SMITH

Ralston's Three Beauties Combination Shoe Polish. BLACK, TAN and WHITE. Shoe Shine Parlor all use a combination, liquid and paste, Polish. It gives a higher and more lasting polish than paste alone.

ending, expressed in a few well words the appreciation by the children's progress under Boston's tuition, also their loss they were about to. This address was followed by a piano recital by the children, who were decorated and was certainly a most interesting and profitable evening. The distribution of prizes brought to a close a very pleasant evening.

concert held on Friday evening was also a gigantic success. After Jas McKernan again occupied the chair and discharged his duties with great satisfaction, the program was as follows:—

re—Pianoforte selection "I Love"—Mrs. P. Handley. —Hearts of Oak—Mrs. J. Keith. —Love's Old Sweet Song—Mrs. Nelson. —La Paimpolaise—Mr. R. Var-

Tease—Mrs. L. Smith. —Annie Laurie—Mrs. J. Forbes. —Roy Darling—Miss G. Reeve. —When Brown got His Hair—Mr. McKernan. —Thinking Eyes—Mr. R. Farrell. —Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond—Pellet.

The selection "Cavallera Rus-Mrs. P. Handley. —Extremes—Mr. M. Pellet. —The Carnival—Mrs. W. Rent. —Alice, Where art Thou—Mr. R. Var-

re—Solo—Mighty on the Mr. R. Varin. —State Eritania—Mr. L. T. —Ora pro Nobis—Miss G. Reeve. —Dulcinea del Toboso—Mr. J. Keith. —Excelsior—Miss McKernan. —Lullaby—Mrs. J. Keith. —The Milkmaid's Re- Mrs. G. Patterson. —Solo—La Gorgonzola—Mrs. McKernan. —The Death of Nelson—Mr. T. —Solo—Luce de Hamermeer—Farrell.

SPHYNX. COLEMAN'S. Offer. Patent Suit Case. Coupon COMPANY. MONTREAL, CANADA.