

## BRANDON.

The steamer Alpha will begin running this week, as the ice is well out of the river.

Considerable property changed hands during the past two weeks.

Messrs. Bower, Blackburn, Mundle & Porter intend branching out more extensively in the wholesale business.

H. Crosley is also moving to the center, having taken the store being erected by William Wood on Ninth street.

Mr. E. Hughes has sold his private dwelling on Eighth street and contemplates building a handsome residence shortly.

Coombs & Stewart have purchased the north-east corner of Ninth street and Rosser avenue from J. W. Horne, and will erect a large store at once.

Business promises to improve. At present it is too good for complaint, but the merchants with heavy stocks think they could stand some improvement.

Geo. Ripple & Co's. new store on Rosser avenue is fast approaching completion and will shortly be occupied by that firm; their stock of hardware is one of the largest in the city.

D. Scott & Co's. warehouse and store is finished and they are taking in one of the largest stocks of furniture in the North-west. They intend doing a wholesale and retail business.

Dr. Cornell, one of the proprietors of the Beaubier House, has sold out his interest and this favorite hotel will now be conducted by Messrs. Beaubier & Ferguson, who intend to run a first-class house.

A grist mill, oat meal mill, elevator and foundry are about to be erected on the Woodworth estate. It is also expected that the court house will be built at the east end of the town, notwithstanding that several more central locations have been offered.

## SELKIRK

H. B. Hodgins, chief of police, is starting a livery stable.

The farmers are all busy preparing for a big summer's work.

The weather for the past week has been fine, the roads dry and business good.

Messrs. Robert & Peter George, together with Messrs. Stewart & Smallie, propose starting a stock farm on an extensive scale in the vicinity of Netley Creek, a few miles from Selkirk.

The sub-contractors on the Selkirk Branch commenced work this week, and are making good progress. If we have anything like an average spring they will have the whole road ready for track laying before the first of June.

The river opened up without doing any damage worth mentioning. A large quantity of Hugh Sutherland & Bro's. logs (it is stated 2,000) came down along with the ice, and Mr. James R. Sutherland, who is here looking after them, is talking of building a saw-mill here this summer to manufacture them into lumber.

The steamers Colville and Victoria came out

of their winter quarters Thursday, the first-mentioned bound for Lower Fort Garry and the latter for Winnipeg, to which place she intends making regular trips until navigation opens on Lake Winnipeg, which will be about the first of June. The Victoria returned Friday night from Winnipeg with a large quantity of freight and a number of passengers.

## REGINA.

The following list is, by actual count, the correct one of business places in Regina: General stores, 15; hardware stores, 5; drug stores, 3; bakers, 2; lumber yards, 5; chartered banks, 2; private banks, 1; lawyers, 16; doctors, 3; harness makers, 3; hotels, 15 all told; books and stationery stores, 10, besides an endless number of boarding houses, real estate offices, implement agents, blacksmiths, &c., &c. We must not forget the printing office or churches, of which latter we have three.

The all important question of water supply for Regina has been settled. The test well which was put down by Searth & Co. and the Town Commissioners has proved a grand success. On Tuesday, the 24th, abundance of water was struck at a depth of 97 feet. In a few minutes the water rose 67 feet, and on the following morning the water was near the top. On the following day one of the Winnipeg papers arrived, with the statement that the well was down 200 feet, that over \$1,500 was expended, and no signs of water. When the article was written there might have been little or no signs of water; but the writer must have known that the rest of the report was incorrect. The daily papers of Winnipeg have gone considerably out of their way to malign Regina. They publish false statements about the quality of the land, and quantity of water, and exaggerate other matters; but they have not the manliness to publish corrections sent from here by citizens who have lived here since town was started. This is the most cowardly kind of journalism.

## Mining Affairs.

There has been quite a little stir in North-west mining circles during the past week, and interest in the mines of this country is now greater than ever before. The necessarily long term of expectation, during which those interested in mining affairs had to depend upon assayees, has come to an end, and actual production has taken the place of assayees' certificates and quartz exhibits. To the Winnipeg Consolidated Gold Mining Company belongs the credit of producing the first gold bricks from the Lake of the Woods district, although we understand that the race between this Company and the Argyle has been a very close one, and has left no room for a handicap.

On Tuesday evening three small gold bricks were received at the office of the Winnipeg Consolidated, which had been forwarded direct from their mine, and great interest was manifested by all connected with mining affairs in their arrival. The three weigh 41 oz., 7 dwts. and 12 gr., and are valued for about \$775. The gold is in quality pretty near that of the Nova Scotia mines, and is considered purer than Cal-

ifornian. From the Secretary of the Company, Mr. J. B. Berryman, we have received the following report of the ratio of production per ton of quartz, namely, \$25.83 secured, and \$16.61 still left in the tailings, all of which can be saved as soon as the Company get their new amalgamating pans at work.

At the office of the Argyle Mining Company we were informed, that within a week a brick will be forthcoming from their mine, if it is possible to cross the lake to Rat Portage. The officers of the company assert that they will show a brick at least twice the value of what has been produced by the Winnipeg Consolidated, and it is a well known fact that the machinery they have at work is by far the best in the Northwest.

From the other mines there is very little news, owing to the state of the lake making communication with the mainland so dangerous. But there is activity in every company, and every effort will now be put forth to prove the mineral wealth of the Lake of the Woods district.

In the city, mining stocks generally have received quite a boom, and holders are beginning to think they own stock that will soon go above par. Sales have not been so numerous as might have been expected, owing to holders being unwilling to sell at present, in the hope of securing higher figures very soon. There can be no doubt but this production of the Winnipeg Consolidated has done much to restore confidence to many who had begun to doubt about the chances of returns from mining investment, and with the opening of lake navigation this confidence will, no doubt, be still more strengthened.

## MANITOBA CITY.

An unpleasant rumor has been in circulation for some time about one of our leading grain dealers, which we are glad to be able to say has not a particle of truth for its foundation.

Large quantities of wheat and oats are still being held by farmers throughout this part of the country, many holding for an advance in price. We believe they are making a mistake.

Immigrants who appear to be of the right stamp are arriving almost daily, and proceed from here to various points of Southern Manitoba, a large number going to Rock Lake and Turtle Mountain districts. Some who have taken up and improved their homesteads are now bringing their families to live with them in this land of promise.

Messrs. Fennel & Co. have got their large livery stable in order, and have quite a number of first-class rigs, which are in constant demand. They purpose in a few days placing a stage on the road to run from here to Pilot Mound, Crystal City, Clear Water and other western points. This will be a great convenience to the traveling public.

Competition in the general store business in this place is so great that syrup which is sold in Emerson or Winnipeg at \$4.25 to \$4.50 per keg of five gallons, is sold here for \$4, and many goods are sold equally regardless of profit.