

local newspaper, The Sentinel, is now the property of D. Stewart & Co., and continues to be an attractive, well printed sheet under the management of R. Campbell, formerly of Winnipeg.

LaRiviere, the station between Pilot Mound and Manitou, is prettily situated among the hills on the west side of Pembina mountain. An excellent grist mill and two elevators attest the fact that wheat is a staple product and article of commerce there. The nature of part of the surrounding country makes it very suitable for cattle raising and mixed farming.

#### MANITOU.

On the eastern slopes of the Pembina Mountain, Manitou is situated, with streets inclined sufficiently for good drainage, and making an elegant location for a townsite. It is a well built town, residences and business places alike being of a substantial character, some of the former being really superior structures in appearance and value. Manitou has not experienced much increase in building of business stores this past season, a block 27x40, two stories high built by G. Stevenson, jeweler, and H. N. Ruttan & Co., being the principal addition. An implement warehouse for the Massey-Harris Co., was also erected. Many of the merchants and business men are old timers indeed, having been continuously engaged in trade in Manitou almost from the first. John Wooton, opposite the Ellis house, is one of these. He has a good stock, and has in his long experience built up a good business. D. Gunn, hardware merchant is another old timer. He is thoroughly a practical man, and is doing a good trade. Ruttan & Co., have held the mercantile line down a long time and been pretty successful too. Mr. Ruttan talks some of dropping out, and taking a rest. The firm of Chalmers Bros. & Bethune, dealers in hardware, lumber and grain, have a long and successful experience. They carry a great stock of hardware in their store here. R. McKenzie, implement and carriage dealer, has been a long time in Manitou, and thoroughly contented to stay. This winter he had his warerooms full, an exceedingly handsome display of cutters and sleighs being the chief feature, and some of them were works of art. P. Winram & Co., is the style of the firm, formerly De Pencier, Winram & Co. They have a large and well-kept stock of general merchandise. So has the Farmers' Store Co., Ltd., of which G. W. Robinson is manager. The local paper, the Mercury, owned and published by R. H. Spedding has recently been enlarged and improved and is a very carefully edited and neatly printed sheet. The office is well-equipped with modern presses and printing material and is one of the

tidest in the province. Mr. Spedding, unlike many country editors, shows every sign of prosperity, and in fact, would appear to have made printing pay, which he deserves, if hard work and long years of "staying with it" count.

W. Bradley & Son have a neat grocery and butcher shop on the principal street. H. Toohy has a large livery business and also sells farm machinery. J. Kerr, an old-established furniture man, sold his business to Saunders, Hill & Co., and closed up his furniture business this winter, having decided to devote his time wholly to the undertaking business, which he owns in the city of Winnipeg. Cruthers & Co., private bankers, have sold their business to the Bank of Hamilton, which has established a branch here. Mr. Cruthers expects to remove from Manitou. The hotels of Manitou The Ellis House, R. H. Shore proprietor, and the Cassin House are first-class and well managed places, a credit to the town. Four elevators handle the wheat marketed at this point and not over 200,000 is the estimate put on the total return for 1897. The building of an elevator and extending of bonding privileges at Hannah on the Langdon branch of the G. N. R. only twenty miles away had the effect of drawing away some wheat this year.

Thornhill, six miles west of Morden, has three elevators now and as much as 150,000 bushels of wheat of 1897's crop was expected to be delivered at that point. Being so close to Morden business development is checked. Kilgour & Jordan have a store with a large stock of general goods.

#### MORDEN.

The town of Morden is the centre of an agricultural district which, it has been predicted, will produce more wealth than any other equal area of farming land on the continent. This may be rather a large order. It is at least safe to say that there is no more prosperous farming community on the continent to-day than that surrounding Morden. The land is practically all in the hands of farmers, resident, and as it is valuable, little land is for sale in the district unless at fancy figures. The acreage under cultivation is increasing every year and the results are such that it is only necessary to state that Morden farmers do not need to go to the Klondike. The yield of wheat in the past season averaged up fully as good as any other part of the province, but the loss from hail in '96 made the beneficial effects seem less. Business in Morden has been good this fall and winter, though. Most of the business houses are old established firms. J. T. Acheson is a new dry goods and clothing merchant who opened out this year. Schultz & Hansen, one of the oldest firms, are no

longer in business, though Mr. Hansen still resides in Morden. Melke & Coppinger still flourish and their handsome store is filled with an A 1 stock. Toblak & Co., and D. Kilgour, are also still in general business, though Mr. Kilgour advertises selling off as he talks of going to the Klondike. In hardware, etc., A. P. Brown and Geo. Ashdown are the principal dealers, each having a very extensive stock. Scott & Rutherford have a large furniture stock. The H. B. Co. has an extensive general business, of which Mr. C. D. T. Bocher is manager. J. A. Hobbs and G. W. McLaren are the druggists; the latter carries books and stationery as well. Mr. J. H. Smith formerly editor of the Morden Monitor, is also in the book and stationery business. He carries a large stock and is prospering. The Chronicle is the only Morden paper now, having absorbed both the Monitor and the Herald. Nell Fox, formerly of the Herald, assists J. F. Galbraith who is editor and manager of the Chronicle. They have just moved into a substantial stone building newly erected specially for the printing office. No local paper in the province now has better quarters. The building is strong and the one floor is used for both press room and composing room. The basement is occupied by a furnace and by the stock room. Many of Morden's principal stores and public buildings are of stone, a few of brick. The Manitoba hotel is a large three storey brick building opposite the depot. J. Kennedy is landlord, and with the excellent management and appointments the house is a favorite with the public. The Union bank, M. Dunsford, manager, is located in a neat stone building. The Masonic hospital is a large brick building well situated and thoroughly equipped. The appointments of the institution are first-class and the management, the best. It is a great benefit to the community.

The Canadian Pacific R'y Co. have just completed a very neat frame depot, which is a big improvement on the box car that has done duty since the old depot was burned. The building is of a rather striking style of architecture, but quite attractive. Six tall elevators stand in a row by the tracks at Morden and these with a capacity of some 200,000 bushels handle nearly a million bushels of grain some seasons. This year the yield is not up to the average, however. McMillan & Lane, lumber and fuel, merchants, have their office at the west end of the railway yards, where they have been located many years. Alan M. Stewart is also a large lumber dealer, and besides controls the electric lighting plant, a very complete and up-to-date apparatus. Byron Fraser is the proprietor of the Morden flour mills, capacity 100 barrels. This is a very good mill and