DISTRICT NEWS

VEGREVILLE.

Bulletin News Service.

At eight o'clock tonight a fire started in the tailor department at the rear of Mohr & Corbett's store. The origin of the fire is unknown, but is supposed to have started from a defective stove pipe. In two hours that frame building and the handsome Alberta Hotel, owned by J. McAllister & Sons, were burned to the ground. Everything in the store was burned, as the fire had too much headway before the fire was discovered. It was at the time that the most of the business men were at their evening meal. The loss on this building and contents is estimated at $7,000. The hotel and contents are said to be worth about $22,000.

As usual, the fire engine was broken and could not be worked. The gasolene engine would not work, and the bucket brigade had to be called into requisition. Men, women and boys and girls took hold of pails and carried water. A. J. Walker's office was only 12 feet away from the burning building, and it was there that the hardest and hottest work was done. Wet blankets were hung out, and great quantities of water were poured on the building that several times seemed about to go, but extra efforts by the fire brigade and other willing hands were put forth and the tide turned. The heat was so great that a rubberoid collar caught fire on one of the men on the building. No effort was made to save any of the contents of the hotel until after it caught fire. Then only a small fraction was saved. The billiard table and piano, a few pictures in the office and all on second floor and some in this kitchen was all that was saved. All the attention seemed to be directed to the store and office, and the contents on the second and third floors were not touched.

The buildings across the streets were all blanketed and water poured on, and at one time, when the front walls of the burning buildings fell in, they were in great danger.

The town council wired the Fort Saskatchewan fire brigade to come down on a special. The fire was all under control before they started, and the council wired them to that effect and they did not come.

The building used as a store and real estate office was insured for $1,350, the stock at $4,000. There was $4,000 insurance on the hotel, well distributed among strong companies. There was no insurance on the contents of the hotel with the exception of $1,000 on the wines and liquors and billiard table.

There were a great many young men rooming at the hotel, and all they saved was what they carried away on their backs.

The principal insurance companies which are interested were the Phoenix, of Hartford; The Great West, The Sun, The Law Union and Crown.

There was a two-cornered fight in the municipal elections. For the mayoralty, both candidates were out of election, but McNeill won out over McKenzie by a majority of 26. The three favorites in the councillor race were W. H. Ashdown, C. W. Field, and G. W. Walkr, who won out in the order named by votes of 90, 55 and 54. The election to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of McKenzie to run for mayor was not pulled off, owing to the fact that not enough time had elapsed since his resignation, so Reid Trump and Trenhail were left at home. The by-election will come off as quickly as possible.

Owing to the fire, the meeting of the council was postponed until tomorrow night. Some important work is to be done, such as the fixing of the date for the bye-election.

Vegreville, December 9.

LLOYDMINSTER.

Bulletin News Service.

Dr. Sparling of Battleford, is in town to-day. The doctor is a candidate for the Liberal nomination at the Convention to be held in Battleford on Jan 10th. Mr. Champaign, M.P.P., is his opponent.

H. Hopkins has just finished a fine house on E. Hamilton's farm south of the town.

Thos. Morrison sold his fine pair of carriage mares on Saturday to Marshall parties. The price was five hundred dollars.

Walley and Sidwell have purchased Dr. White's fine herd of beef cattle.

Sleighing is in full swing here now, and the weather is fine.

Mr. Rogers has gone east where he will spend the winter with his family.

Mrs. E. Marshall left for Edmonton on Saturday night to join her husband who has secured a good position there.

Jean Irwin is visiting her sister in Edmonton.

Robert Ramsbottom is busy preparing a history of picturesque Lloydminster. The photographs will be fine, nearly all the work of Mr. Foster.

The hard times do not seem to affect Lloydminster's poplation. There is scarcely an empty room to be found in town.

Our business men all report last week's trade as fair with a decided improvement in the circulation of money.

Ben Rodd is making improvements in the fittings of Scott Bros. Stock.

Lloydminster, Dec. 9.

PEMBINA.

Bulletin News Service.

The largest public meeting ever held at Pembina took place on Tuesday evening, December 3rd, at the new school house. The occasion resulted in an invitation that was extended to the local representative, Mr. H. W. McKenney, M.P.P. and certain government officials to attend a supper and mass meeting at Pembina. The idea was to express to these gentlemen the satisfaction that the citizens of this District feel towards the government in constructing roads into and towards this locality. Promptly at the hour of six o'clock Mr. McKenney arrived on the scene accompanied by Mr. McIntyre, first assistant engineer of the Department of Public works, and Mr. McIntosh, road inspector for this district. After partaking of a supper for which the ladies, who had charge of it, should surely claim a great deal of credit, adjournment was made to the school house where an interesting program was furnished. Mr. A. R. Brown occupied the chair for the evening. Mr. W. H. Clarke, of Pembina, was called upon first and responded giving an interesting account of the growth of this settlement, being himself one of its earliest pioneers some three years back. Mr. Clarke especially laid stress on the idea that the people of this locality should have a butter or cheese factory it being one of the quickest and surest ways for the farmer to get a cash market. This country being so abundant in natural hay this should certainly prove to be a good proposition.

Rev. A. Scheney, in a speech called the people's attention to the need of telephone communication. Being as we are some 60 miles from Edmonton we are in daily need of this modern necessity.

Mr. McIntyre, first assistant engineer of the Dept. of Public Works, in a short and appropriate speech dwelt upon the fact that the department helped those people who first helped themselves, and that if the district expected much financial aid from the government it was up to them to do their part of the work.

The speaker of the evening Mr. H. W. McKenney was received with rousing cheers. When he first visited this settlement a little over two years ago he had been received by a very small audience and had to speak in a private house. Now it was different. We have a supper to-night that would be a credit to a good sized town and an audience to harmonize. Mr. McKenney dwelt upon the fact that the government had seen fit to do certain roadmaking in the past few months and that it had been discontinued only on account of the frost. He stated that it would go ahead in the spring and be completed from Clyde to the Pembina River where there is a ferry in operation. Ferries are only the forerunners of steel bridges. He also stated that he had it that a telephone line would be extended our way next summer. He was also of the opinion that a railway line would reach us in the near future and that in all probability it would be the Canadian Pacific Ry. He stated that it had been the intention of Premier Rutherford to accompany him on this visit but that he had been unable to do so having to attend a convention in other parts.

Short speeches were also made by the Rev. R. Telfer and Quentin Golder.

The meeting was interspersed with music from W. Bangs, W. Norris, and B. W. Allen, also songs from Q. Golder, G. Wallen, Fred Huston and Norman Clarke, a recitation from Mr. Bennett and a violin solo from W. Bangs.

The meeting broke up with singing the national anthem.

Much credit is due the ladies and the committee in charge of the work, for making the affair such a successful evening. Mr. McKenney and the officials of the government were accorded a hearty vote of thanks for what they had done for us in the past and for their willingness in driving 50 miles to attend our supper. Many good things were said about the roadmaking that has been done on the base line, all of which is due to the roadmaker, Mr. J. A. Gibson, of Edison. No better road could be built with the material at hand than this one and Mr. Gibson takes pride and justly so in his work. During the evening Mr. Gibson made a short speech expressing his pleasure at being among us.

Altogether the evening was a success and it is to be hoped that Mr. McKenney will not prolong his next visit to us and that he may be able to bring Premier Rutherford with him as well as the other executive members of the local government.

Pembina, Dec. 9.

WETASKIWIN.

Bulletin News Service.

To-day the Supreme court opened. Hon. Justice Stuart presiding. Geo. B. Henwood, Crown prosecutor, and P. J. Nolan, K.C., of Calgary, are in attendance. The docket is quite large.

Mr. T. J. Wibray, one of the most prominent ranchers and horsemen of Western Canada, has been very ill with pleurisy. Mr. Wibray came here a year ago with his family and bought a large ranch at New Norway. Among his horses are a number of his world record prize winning animals.

Mr. McCullough, who has been in the employ of W. J. Stephenson left on Friday for the coast. E. W. Day of Daysland, is in the city to-day.

In the aldermanic contest, the vote in detail at the recent municipal elections was as follows:

E. H. O'Brien, 116; H. J. Montgomery, 104; A. G. Gross, 87; A. W. Anderson, 84; T. O. Felland, 61; Geo. Pollock, 44; Jno. Bleiler, 35. The first four were elected.

For school trustee—Sheriff A. R. Dickson, 125; Dr. H. C. R. Walker, 114; C. E. Compton, merchant, 50; Barrister E. D. H. Wilkins, 25. The first two were elected.

There were only five spoiled ballots in the whole election, which was considered creditable to the electors' intelligence. Some disappointment was expressed that there was no contest for the mayoralty, as the fight would have been a close one.

It appears the death of Mrs. C. Youngberg was quite unexpected. Much sympathy is expressed for the sorrowing family.

Eliver Greenburg, who was unfortunate enough to break his forearm a few days ago while playing in the public school yard, is progressing nicely. The bone was set carefully, and the boy is able to be around again with his arm in a sling. It was a peculiar accident due to the position the arm took in the fall.

Mrs. E. A. Bailey started on her long trip to Cookshire, Que., last Monday evening, where she will spend some months.

E. Trowbridge arrived from Edmonton to act as court stenographer during the session here.

Alfred Pietrick, a student of Standard VII at the High school, has been subpoenaed as a witness in the case of Sawyer-Massey vs. Pietrick.

The Nelson family of this place are removing next week to Strathcona to reside.

W. Gould, of the C.P.R. station, is on a trip to the southern states and will, it is expected, bring back his wife with him.

At the last metieng of the old school board before the new board comes in for 1908 ,many items of importance came up. The chief was the decision of the board to make the kindergarten free after the New Year, to the children of the public school district, and to have only a morning session till 12 noon, instead of the two as before. In view of the large amount of work done by Mrs. Terry, a specialist in kindergarten, music and drawing, it was felt her remuneration was inadequate, and her salary was increased from $600 to $750 per annum. The school term will close on Friday, December 20th, the new term opening Thursday, Jan. 2nd, 1908.

Wetaskiwin, Dec. 11.

MINBURN.

Bulletin News Service.

Service was held Sunday for the first time in the new hall.

Miss Crysler is visiting friends in Harland.

Mr. Riley is stopping a few days in Harland. Before returning he will visit friends in Sedgewick.

A meeting of the council was held on Saturday.

Miss Astley is stopping a few days at Mr. Hilliker's.

Miss Berners, who has been visiting her friend, Miss Hall, has returned to Mannville.

The "Syndicate" threshing outfit is working in this vicinity.

C. J. Spratt is spending a week at Innisfree.

The Literary society held a very interesting debate at its last meeting. The subject was "Resolved that money will accomplish more than love." The decision was given in favor of love.

Minburn, Dec. 9.

CAMROSE.

Bulletin News Service.

The latest evidence of Camrose's progress is the formation of a Canadian club with seventy-five members. The membership fee is $25 per year. Palatial club rooms are being fitted up with billiard and pool tables. The social rooms will be furnished in mission style with Spanish leather upholstering. The rooms will be open to members seven days in the week, and a luncheon will be held once a month, when prominent men will speak on the live questions of the day.

The municipal elections came off very quietly. At first it looked as though there would be a contest for mayor, the nominations bringing out the following names: A. Code, Capt. Thomas and Frank Layton. Mr. Layton dropped out through the week, and on Saturday night before the election a meeting was held in the town hall, for the purpose of giving the candidates a chance to lay their platform before the people. Capt. Thomas was the first speaker and withdrew from the contest and asked the meeting to make Mr. Code's election unanimous. There were six candidates voted on for councillors and the following were elected: H. Burgar, Frank Farley, R. L. Rushton and N. Gullekson. The first three were elected for two years.

G. W. Smith, of Red Deer, was in town on Tuesday.

Mr. Roger returned from the Capital on Friday.

Camrose, Dec. 9.

STRATHCONA.

The Methodist church was crowded to the doors last night to hear the lecture by J. R. Lavell, on a "Tour from London to Edinburgh," illustrated by stereopticon views. The lecture was based on a trip on wheels made between those points in the summer of 1897 by Mr. and Mrs. Lavell, and the slides were from photos taken by the tourists. The interesting points of Oxford, Birmingham, Chester, Liverpool, Carlisle, Glasgow, Dumbarton and the Trossachs were eloquently depicted by the lecturer. The chair was occupied by H. S. Denmark, president of the Epworth league, who also manipulated the stereopticon. At the close of the lecture a unanimous vote of thanks was passed.

The city council was in session last night in consideration of the gas franchise agreement with the Morinville Gas Co. There were in attendance Mayor Mills and Aldermen Elliott, McFarland and McKenzie. Manager Williams and Mr. Watson of the company, as well as Solicitor E. B. Williams, were also present. Some hours were spent in discussion, and the agreement was finally adopted with some points left in abeyance and to be arranged by the solicitors of the company and the city. No date has yet been set for the submission of the by-law to the people, but it will likely be voted upon early in the new year.

In connection with the "Church of Christ" on Walter's Flat, the opening services in the new hall will be conducted on Sunday, December 22nd. There will be morning meeting and worship and the breaking of bread at 11 a.m. and gospel meeting at 7 p.m. Special music will be rendered under the guidance of Mr. Brown. All are invited. All parties wishing to be visited by the elders will kindly leave their names with Mr. D. Brown at the store on the flat. A musical social to which admission will be free is to be given in the near future.

The Ladies' Aid of the Methodist church are arranging for a fancy sale on the afternoon and evening of Saturday, December 21st. A hot lunch will also be served.

Rev. Dr. Duval, who is to preach at the opening of the new Presbyterian church next Sunday, is expected in the city to-morrow, and will be the guest of Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Lewis. The ladies of the church are getting up a supper and entertainment for Monday evening. Supper will be served from 6 to 8, after which the entertainment will take place.

The open-air skating rink in Allen's lake has been removed to the lot at the rear of the Iroquois hotel, where the fence is now set up. The rink will be ready for use in a few days.

The Cymmrodorion Male Voice Choir are arranging for an appearance in the Strathcona Opera house on Thursday, December 19th. The choir is composed of twenty-four Welsh gentlemen of the two cities. Ex-Mayor Davies will preside.

Messrs. H. Duncan and J. C. Wainwright have leased the auditorium of the Odd Fellows' Temple for five years.

The new Presbyterian Church in Strathcona is to be opened to-morrow. Rev. Dr. Duval, of Knox Church, Winnipeg, is to preach morning and evening. A programme of sacred music and a lecture from Dr. Duval on "Elements of Success" will follow a good supper on Monday evening.

The first preaching services held by the Strathcona Presbyterians were conducted by Rev. Dr. McQueen (then plain Mr.), of Edmonton, many years ago. They were held first in the old station, then in the bar-room of the Strathcona House, and later in the Immigration Hall. The old church, to which a tender farewell was said last Sunday, was opened in December, 1892.

Among the ministers who have served this congregation were: Rev. Mr. Munro, now in Orkney Isle; Rev. W. W. Peck, now of Arnprior, Ont.; Rev. E. C.Gallup, minister at Saskatoon; Rev. Mr. Dickie, now of Selkirk, Man.; Rev. C. D. Campbell, B. D., at present in charge of the Ruthenian work in this district.

The present minister, Mr. Flemming, is the first inducted pastor of the congregation, having come to Strathcona in 1900. In addition to the elders at the present time a number of good and useful men have rendered great service in the making of this congregation. Among others, Mr. D. S. Maskenzie, Deputy Minister of Education, was for a number of years an active elder. Mr. D. C. McEachern, now of the Land Office, and Mr. Fred Kerr, who last summer acted as Mr. McQueen's assistant, shall long be remembered in Knox Church.

The new building is a beautiful square structure, with corner pulpit, having spacious provision for choir and organ on the left. The floor is bowled, the seating circular, and a gallery on both sides overlooks the main floor. The lecture room in the basement is capable of seating some 500 or more, while the auditorium capacity gathers 750 around the pulpit. The contractor, Mr. Richards, Sr., and Sub-Contractor McHardy have done their work in a most thorough manner.

A sacred concert will be given in the Strathcona Opera House to-morrow evening, commencing at 8.45 o'clock. The following is the programme prepared:

Overture, "Le Diademe," Orchestra
Solo, "Jesu Lover of My Soul," Miss Pinckston
Violin Solo, "Cavelleria Rusticana," Mr. J. T. Richardson
Entr'acte, "May Queen," Orchestra
Duet, selected, Miss Pinckston and Mr. H. G. Turner
Overture, "Le Caliph de Bagdad," Orchestra
Solo, Eternal City," Mr. H. G. Turner
Euphonium Solo, "Violets," Mr. W. Green
Solo, "Oh, Promise Me" Miss Pinkston
Romance, "Poppies," Orchestra
"God Save the King."

There will be no service in the Baptist Church to-morrow morning and in the Methodist Church in the evening, on account of the opening of the new Presbyterian Church.

A fancy sale conducted by the ladies of Holy Trinity Church in the Orange Hall on Thursday night, at which over $100 was realized is being continued to-day in the office of A. M. Fuller & Co., Whyte Ave. W.

Oscar Johnson, who was drowned at Wabamun Lake a few days ago was a former resident of Strathcona. The remains have been brought to the city and the funeral will take place to-day, Rev. J. Flemming officiating.

The Strathcona hockeyists had the first practice of the season on Thursday night at the open-air rink on Allen's Lake. The boys were showing good form.

Lloyd McGhan, who killed a silver grey fox a few days ago near his home at Clover Bar, sold the skin for $125. The fur was worth considerably more but was damaged by a soft nose bullet.

"In the work of the Lord," will be the subject of the sermon by Rev. T. J. Johnson in the Methodist Church on Sunday morning.

The annual Christmas examinations are now in progress at the city schools and the meetings of the Literary Society have been abandoned until after the holidays.

RANFURLY.

Bulletin News Service.

The Ranfurly Literary and Debating Society's meeting on Wednesday evening was a success, and the building packed to the doors. The debate was "Resolved that the pulpit influences the people more than the press." The affirmative was taken by Messrs. Austin, Johnson and McDougal, and the negative by Messrs. Pittman, Duffus and Wood. The judges were Messrs. Reid, Parent and Camp.

The debate lasted over an hour, and when the judges handed in their decision it was for the affirmative. An intermission of fifteen minutes was given before the programme commenced which was as follows:

Duet, Miss S. Parent and Mr. Duffus; recitation, Miss L. Fitzpatrick; solo, Mr. W. Reid; recitation, Mr. Francis Austin; song, Mr. A. W. Goodenough. Then came the reading of the Ranfurly Echo, the official organ of the society, which was enjoyed by all present, and congratulations must be given the editor, Mr. S. M. Pittman and Mr. Chas. A. Johnson on their editorial ability.

The programme committee handed in the programme for next Wednesday, Dec. 18th, which was as follows: 1, Debate "Resolved that pursuit is preferable to possession." Affirmative, Messrs. Thompson, Johnson and Duffus; negative, Messrs. Parent, Reid and Camp; 2, the programme of songs, readings and recitations and instrumental music.

The meeting closed with the singing of the national anthem.

The station is now completed, and the station agent is expected to arrive shortly.

Mrs. A. C. Wittmann had the misfortune to step in a hole and sprain her anskle last week.

The snow is still light and another fall would improve the sleighing, which is not very good at present.

A. C. Wittmann, merchant, has just received a large shipment of groceries and hardware.

William Ogilvie is erecting a large warehouse and intends buying grain here.

J. M. Strange has returned from Vermilion, where he has been on a visit for several days.

Ranfurly, Dec. 12.

LLOYDMINSTER.

Bulletin News Service.

The town council will hold their last meeting of this year to-night, when all the unfinished business will be cleared off the slate and preparations made to receive the incoming council for 1908.

Messrs. Crittendon and Elliott, of Ribstone G. T. P., are in town on a business trip.

Mr. and Mrs. George Jinkins will leave for the east to-morrow, where they will spend the winter.

Denny Famey has purchased a fine black driving team.

The Kenney-Harvey entertainment, given under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church, in the Masonic Hall last night was a success, the attendance large, and the entertainment was perhaps the best ever produced in the town.

Religious services will in future be held in the Blackfoot public school house at 11.30 Sunday morning.

Considerable grain is now being brought into the elevator. The most of the wreat is of low grade, but some very good samples of oats and barley are offered. The Canadian Elevator company are handling all that is offered, thus the farmers are able to turn their crops into money.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dunnaway have taken up housekeeping in Jas. Huddlestone's house on Fifth Street.

W. B. Rowels has re-opened his art gallery on Broadway.

W. Johnstone has purchased a fine car load of fat cattle and sheep at Mannville.

Dr. Monkman is in town this week in his dental office at Medical Hall.

A. Bramley Moore is expected home on every train from three months' trip to the Old Country, where he has been on important financial business.

John Murphy has returned from the G. T. P. and reports things as rush-ing along that line. He has contracted to move a large number of buildings along the line to the new townsites, and will return there next week to commence operations.

Rev. Mr. McLennan paid a short visit to town this week.

J. F. McNamara is in Edmonton, where he is putting through one of the largest real estate transfers that has taken place in this town for some time.

The local phone subscribers will be given a two hours' Sunday service hereafter from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

A good number are taking advantage of the cheap rates and are arranging to spend a holiday at former homes with friends.

The town council have granted Mr. Robinson, who had his hand smashed on the well-digger, $4 per week while he is unable to work.

Lloydminster, Dec. 10.

VEGERVILLE.

Bulletin News Service.

Last night a large and enthusiastic meeting was held for the organization of the fire brigade. The Chief, Geo. Walker, resigned owing to his election to the council board. First assistant, M. McInnis, was appointed Chief with T. Charlebois first assistant; R. H. Smith, secretary-treasurer. The following is the make-up of the different appointments: Combination gasoline engine, H. H. Halliday, W. H. Ashdown, H. McFarlane and F. Morrison; chemical engine, J. McFarlane, G. Gordon, C. Hinderlides and H. E. Swazy; C. N. R. train, H. C. Bruce, T. Cannon, P. Soarich, C. Rae, D. Ross and N. L. Parker; hook and ladder, H. E. Walker, Capt., R. H. Smith, R. Field, A. Reid, D. G. McGee, W. Smith, H. Grady, C. McGill, F. A. Morrison; hose, No. 1, G. M. Thompson, Capt., L. Gully, W. Assilstine, H. Meredith, H. Cunningham, C. Clements, W. Peters and R. Semens; No. 2, Geo. Walker, Capt., B. S. Roberts, M. Kennedy, George Ferris, I. D. Worth, A. G. Boyd, C. Spence, C. Lignew, H. Matthews; salvage corps, D. Trump; T. Shipley, T. D. Beatty, J. McNeil, W. Clements, A. M. Thompson, N. McIntyre, W. P. Perkins, Dr. H. S. Monkman, Dr. Field, J. S. Reid and Fred Erwin. The meetings and practices are to be held weekly. The first practice was held this morning and the boys showed up well. It is the intention of the council to purchase a hand pump to have in case of emergency.

The Ladies' Aid of the Presbyterian Church held a successful bazaar in the K. P. Hall. The proceeds amounted to $100. In connection with the bazaar there were lunch tables which netted a handsome sum.

Bob Smith, the humorist, has been obtained by the Ladies' Aid, and will appear in the Presbyterian Church on the 13th inst.

J. McAllister, of Edmonton, is down seeing after his interests in connection with the fire in the Alberta Hotel here.

Vegerville, Dec. 12th.

OLDS.

Bulletin News Service.

December 13th and not enough frost to make ice in the skating rink. This weather is the talk of the country, but how few there are who are complaining on account of its existence. Farmers are hauling heavier loads of produce than they were ever known to haul before, and the cattle are grazing in many parts. This is very "Sunny Alberta."

The finishing touches are being put on the fire hall, and the fire fighting apparatus is housed in the new quarters. The first floor contains space for the latter, also stable accommodations and two cells. The second floor affords sleeping rooms for the firemen, a nice large council chamber, uniform rooms and closets. The council room will also serve as a court room and a meeting place for the Board of Trade.

A meeting for organization of the Rosebud branch of the Alberta Temperance and Moral Reform League will be held in the Presbyterian church to-morrow evening. President J. D. Blayney, of Edmonton, will be present, and a full quota of officers will be elected.

The annual meeting of the Agricultural society was held in McKercher's hall last Saturday, and the officers elected for the ensuing year were as follows: President, George Rands; 1st vice-president, Robert Hainstock; 2nd vice-president, J. Whitely and R. Bowman Campbell, secretary-treasurer. A strong directorate was also named, and the society may look forward to another year of aggressive work.

Messrs. Fetting and Walrod have entered into partnership with the Central Alberta Land Co. having moved into the latter's office, and the Olds Realty Co. have moved into more commodious quarters on Fourth street.

The Methodist church had a very narrow escape from fire last Sunday evening just before church time. The stove exploded, sending burning coals out on the floor. Those hurrying to the scene managed to beat the flames out with their coats, mats and anything they could press into service. No alarm was turned in.

At the postponed meeting of the Olds Board of Trade last Monday, there was a heavy programme of business. The volume of correspondence which had piled up for consideration since the last meeting was surprising. On the customs depot at all the principal points and hail insurance questions, several of the other boards of the province have written the secretary, manifesting a desire to co-operate with Olds in bringing the subjects before the proper authorities. A number of the papers of the west have taken up the matter of Olds Board of Trade being so very much alive, and exerting such an activity in business lines throughout the proivnce.

Olds, Dec. 13.

FARM CROPS' TROPHY.

Farm Crops, a journal published in Winnipeg, has put up a trophy to be known as "Farm Crops' Trophy," valued at $100, and $100 in cash prizes for the best wheat grown in the province.

The conditions of the competition may be secured at the Department of Agriculture, Edmonton. The first prize winner will receive the trophy and $50 in cash. Thirty dollars in cash goes to the second and $20 to the third. The Department of Agriculture has decided to have the trophy competed for at the Provincial Seed Fair to be held in Lethbridge in February next. The farmer winning the cup three times in succession retains permanent possession of it.

Rice To Succeed Bryce.

Washington, D.C., Dec. 13.—It is reported that Cecil A. Spring Rice, envoy extraordinary to Persia, will succeed James Bryce, as British ambassador to the United States. Bryce has no particular heart for diplomatic work, and it is believed in the choice of a successor, the British government desires to be represented by a personal friend of Roosevelt.

SWITCHES

Made of the best, natural, wavy hair, and guaranteed to retain their attractive appearance forever. They give beauty where none is now possessed, and add to beauty already owned. Nothing artificial about their manufacture or use. Many buy them to relieve the scanty appearance of the hair as caused by illness, age or heredity. A hat won't stay on a bald head, and its hard to keep one on thin, poor hair. With a switch the difficulty is easily overcome. **A 22-inch natural, wavy switch for $6.50.** Having once worn one it becomes worth ten times the money to you. **Write to-day, now,** for our booklet, free upon request. It tells an interesting story. We want you to have it. A post card will do. **Remember, the booklet is absolutely free.**

BOUEY'S
MANITOBA HAIR GOODS CO.
Winnipeg - - Manitoba

PREFERENCE TO WEST INDIA.

Colony Desires Canadian Preference To Compete With Cuba.

Montreal, Dec. 11.—A special cable says: "Hon. W. S. Fielding is now considering an appeal from the West India committee here for Canada's assistance in improving the cable communications with the motherland and remodelling the Canada West Indian steamship services so that the times of steamers would fit in with those of the Royal Mail steamers from Southampton. The commissioners from the Canadian boards of trade who visited the West Indies last spring have hoped the outcome of the movement will be a new trade convention between Canada and the West Indies which the United States' preferential policy towards Cuba, Porto Rico and other colonies, makes peculiarly opportune."

Opium Den is For Aristocrats.

Turin, Italy, Dec. 12.—A big opium saloon, luxuriously fitted with all the traditional requisites, has just been opened here. The prices charged are high and the patrons are chiefly aristocrats, both women and men. People come from distant parts of the country to pass whole days in the place.

Record in Great Lake Traffic.

Detroit, Dec. 12.—With all the records in the history of the Great Lakes broken in traffic, navigation of the Soo canal practically came to a close yesterday. In round numbers the total freight tonnage was fifty-eight million tons, about seven million greater than one year ago. Marine men claim that had it not been for the financial crisis the total would have been sixty millions. The high mark record this season was in June when shipments through the canals aggregated 8,865,442 net tons, although in August and September there was more than 8,500,000, and in October it was 8,400,000 tons.

G. T. P. Will Buy Foreign Timber.

Vancouver, Dec. 13—Because the Vancouver saw mill men refused to cut prices, four million feet of ties and railway timber will be bought by the G. T. P., and the White railway from American mills on Puget Sound. A reduction of two and three dollars per thousand is obtained under the Canadian prices. It is officially estimated that there are a hundred and fifteen million feet of logs in the water in British Columbia.

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