

Along the C.P.R. West of Portage.

Along the C. P. R. in Manitoba a prominent feature of the many towns large and small, is the number of large grain elevators. Even the smallest have two and three, and that sometimes where there are not a dozen other buildings at the station. Their existence attests the rapid and steadily increasing growth of the grain production of the country. From Portage in the west there are from two to seven or eight elevators at every station. Burnside in the midst of a good wheat growing country has three. Bagot, recently turned out, had two, and this point only a few years ago was not counted on as much more than a point for the shipment of cordwood west. This industry continues, though the recent fires have destroyed some of the best woods. The cultivation of land for wheat has been slow but it has steadily increased and there are many fine settlements round this point.

From McGregor west almost to Carberry was at one time pointed out as one of the districts the great Canadian highway should not have run through because it was looked on as of little value. True there is a considerable range of sand hills, and the road still passes through them and they have not changed, but there has been a mighty change in the country outlying from the line. There are now large well settled and prosperous communities; to right and left the whole way, and that they exist is indicated as well as by the trade which has built up, and is continuing to support the solid little towns at the railway stations. McGregor has probably the best land lying close to the town of any of these along the section named. The land is all taken up and farmed, and while the farms and fields are not so large owing to the fact that the growth of poplar and scrub must first be cleared, the farmers as a class are as prosperous as any of the more popular wheat growing plains in other parts of the province. They have the additional advantage of not depending solely on wheat, as mixed farming is more suited to the locality.

McGregor has a creamery that this year turned out in the neighborhood of 25,000 lbs of butter netting some \$3,000 to the patrons. It was operated this season by the late Mr. Hettlo and the buttermaker was F. Lutley, who attended the dairy school at Winnipeg last winter. A cheese factory, owned by a joint stock company, was also started this year, but was not in operation the whole season. Some 6,000 lbs of cheese was turned out in one month. The estimated quantity of wheat tributary to this

point this year is about 100,000 bushels. There are four elevators, Rogers Bros., who own the grist mill, having erected a 25,000 bushel elevator in connection. The mill is a very good roller process, capacity 125 bbls, is operated day and night. Mr. H. Rogers is the resident partner and manager. The Lake of the Woods Milling Co., Northern and Dominion Elevator companies are also on the market. Merrick Bros. and Wm. Knox have good stores, carrying large stocks of general merchandise. There are also two hardware stores. J. H. M. Carson is now proprietor of one of these, having bought Hy Byer's stock on Sept. 15th. H. Hurdman carries a stock of groceries, fruit, and a small stock of dry goods, also has a bakery; Peter Martin is in the grocery and boots and shoe business, having purchased R. Martin's stock two months ago. E. E. Turner has a very neat butcher shop and does a business in buying stock to ship. He has shipped out this season some half dozen cars of hogs, about 100 head of fat cattle and has shipped west to the ranches 400 to 500 head of stock-ers. McGregor has now a newspaper the Herald, published by E. A. Bailey. There are two temperance hotels. Drs. Haworth and Pamelather are located here. Each has a drugstore. There is a pumpmaker, G. Matthew, and several smaller businesses. The postmaster is Mr. T. R. Vardon, who is also clerk of the municipality, and a general insurance agent. Mr. Vardon has been here from the time that he was almost the sole business man of the place. McGregor is a substantial little town and while not likely to be a metropolis is assured of a steady and increasing trade, depending as it does on a prosperous surrounding settlement.

The village of Austin has also a considerable grain trade, with three elevators and a good grist mill, the latter owned and operated by Hon. Walter Clifford. Mr. Clifford has been in business at Austin a number of years now and is a progressive, public-spirited business man. He is also proprietor of a large general store doing a good trade. J. C. Stinson owns the other general store in Austin. A good hardware stock is kept by J. Stinson. W. D. Duncan is proprietor of the hotel. There are two butchers, E. Creamer and J. Gray. A fruit store, boarding house and two livery stables and the usual blacksmith shops complete the business places of the village. The land immediately surrounding Austin is not so good as that further back. The country is becoming well settled up and the farmers are engaged in mixed farming, which is the safe line in agriculture.

Sidney and Melbourne, the next two stations have now two elevators each,

some of them erected this year. John McElreath is a general merchant at Sidney and a village is beginning to grow up at this point. Some of the new elevators erected this season are fitted with gasoline engines, a small brick building being erected some distance from the elevator in which the engine and gasoline tank are located, a shaft connecting with the elevator machinery.

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, Oct., 25.—Business is generally fair, though wholesalers in grain, flour and feed report things rather quiet, with a downward tendency in prices. The grain and flour men don't anticipate any large immediate development in the direction of exports to Japan via Vancouver and through themselves. The trade is too strongly entrenched in the Puget Sound ports to be readily or easily captured despite the sanguine hopes of Mr. Anderson, Canada's trade commissioner to the land of the Mikado. Wholesale provision men report business good, and a better feeling generally existent throughout the province. In dressed meats prices are slightly lower in some varieties. Plums are out of the market, and in fish the Sockeye salmon have been replaced by the later running cohoes, not quite so highly esteemed. There is much home shot game, including venison, now on the market, retailing at very easy prices for consumers.

A very buoyant feeling as to the early future, here generally prevails, in view of the promise of Sir Wm. Van Horne and the visiting Canadian Pacific railway directors, that by the establishment in spring of a first-class steamship and railroad service between Vancouver, the Stikkeen River and other points, en route directly to Klondyke and Yukon gold centres, they will make Vancouver a big entrepot for Yukon outfitting. As one result, the Hudson's Bay Co. is here preparing to get in a complete and very costly stock of Yukon supplies, representing probably at least \$50,000 as a first outlay. Another matter halled with much local satisfaction, is the promise of the C. P. R. to extend largely the present inadequate company's wharfage and erect an unusually fine range of depot, storehouse, office and other terminal buildings along the city's harbor front and next the station, also to increase freight delivery facilities by many new side tracks. The great railway company asks the city in return, to concede some tax exemption, which will probably be arranged and ratified by the necessary majority of voting citizens, on a basis of the complete or almost complete exemption from municipal taxation of the