

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

Wm. Lyons has leased the Portage House to Mr. Stinson.

W. A. Prest has been re-appointed secretary-treasurer of the town.

Ruling prices for grain are: No. 1 hard wheat 72c; No. 1 frozen 40c; oats 15c.

James Goldie, of Guelph, one of the most extensive millers in Ontario, is about to place a buyer at this point.

The oatmeal mills have to run day and night to supply the demand. Two car loads of meal are shipped weekly to Winnipeg.

During 1883 the stamps sold at the Post Office amounted to \$2,017.59. Money orders received and despatched amounted to \$72,351.33.

The indebtedness of Portage to the banks has been reduced during the year from \$93,000 to \$31,500. and the municipality still holds debentures to the amount of \$10,000.

The boot and shoe firms in the city have agreed to close their stores at 8 p.m. in the future. It would be a wise thing for all our merchants to follow their example.

During the month of December 25,000 bushels of wheat were shipped from Portage. The first two weeks of January 17,700 bushels were shipped. Buyers say there is a less proportion of frozen wheat coming in now than during the earlier part of the season.

EDMONTON.

From the Bulletin:

Barley flour is in good demand for trading purposes.

The Edmonton mills stopped gristing on the 12th inst.

It is estimated that 400 tons of coal will be consumed in Edmonton this winter.

Edmonton is well fixed for steam power. The engines in the town and vicinity have an aggregate of 229 horse power.

Hardisty & Fraser's shingle mill is to be set to work near the outlet of Long Lake, about seven miles from town.

Fish are reported plentiful at Pigeon Lake at from \$3.50 to \$4 per hundred, the price depending on how "well fixed" the Indian is for grub.

The export trade of Edmonton is beginning to assume definite shape, W. F. Bredin having taken about 700 fish and a quantity of fresh pork to Calgary last week.

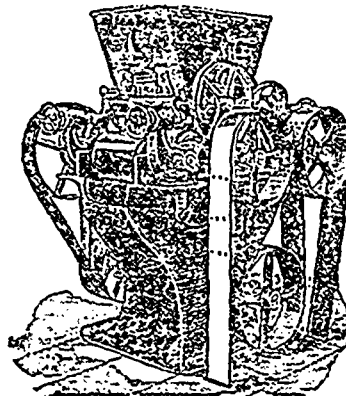
Flannel is being manufactured at St. Albert Mission Orphanage from home grown wool, which is carded, spun and woven by hand; the orphans being taught to put it through the different processes.

The fish being shipped from Pigeon Lake to Peace Hills farm by the H. B. Co., on Indian Department account, are being refused by the latter on the ground that they are unfit for food, having been caught in the fall and damaged by the following warm weather.

Practically nothing doing in grain trade and no present prospect of anything being done. Buyers and sellers are as wide apart in their views as ever. There is at present not even a local demand to set the prices. Merchants are afraid to speculate, not knowing what next spring may bring forth in regard to the supply of flour from Winnipeg. There is an absolute

certainly that good Winnipeg flour will be laid down here at from five to six dollars a sack and owing to the superior quality of the Winnipeg mills, this flour would probably command from 50c to \$1 a sack more than the native article. This would leave the native flour at from \$4 to \$5 a sack and the former figures would not allow the farmers \$1.50 per bushel for their wheat at the rate of three bushels to the hundred of flour, which is a fair return. Consequently millers and merchants do not like to buy at that figure and the farmers who can see plainly that there is a possibility of the wheat being worth more, are disinclined to sell. Good wheat, however, is being taken in payment of accounts by the H. B. Co. at \$1.50, but very little is being brought in. Seventy-five cents is nominally the price of barley and any sales that are made are at that figure, but very few sales are made. Oats are nominally worth \$1.50 per bushel. Potatoes \$1 to \$1.25. Beef 13c by the half carcase and 16c by the cut. Had the late warm weather continued some beef, killed in the fall for use during the winter, might have been spoiled. Fresh pork is 15c to 20c per pound. Little demand and not much offering. Hay is plentiful as yet. Dry wood sells at \$2 to \$2.50 per cord, and coal at \$3 to \$4 a ton. Eggs for Christmas have been selling at \$1 per dozen. Home made butter very scarce at 50c a pound. Trade generally is dull, considering the season of the year, and since New Year especially so.

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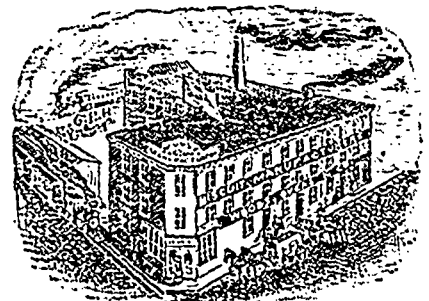
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