

There are now two general stores, one hardware and one grocery store here. At Plerson there are three general stores, one hardware and furniture store, lumber yard, etc. This is a very good grain market, some 200,000 bushels of wheat having already been marketed and it is estimated that there are 150,000 bushels still to come in.

Gainsboro is the first point on this line in Assinibola. R. B. Elliott and B. Burk have general stores here and Wm. Shearer owns a lumber yard. Two new businesses have been started recently, a general store by Barnes & Syer and a hardware by F. G. Elliott.

Carivale has two general stores owned by E. J. Condo and R. J. Gilliland, also two implement warehouses.

Carnduff is the most important point among those so far mentioned west of Melita. During the last season A. H. Foulds, hardware merchant, built a new stone block, part of which he expects to occupy shortly, J. B. Wilson, watchmaker, has also built a new stand. The new grist mill erected by C. C. Smith is now running and is sure to prove of great advantage, both to Carnduff and the surrounding country. G. H. Rodgers & Co., of Winnipeg, opened a branch here a short time ago, carrying a general stock. In addition to the above business places there are J. H. Elliott's and J. B. Frisdon's general stores and S. B. Lentine's harness shop.

At Glen Ewen there is one general store, owned by T. R. Preston.

Oxbow has a population of 250 and is the most important town west of Melita. It has three general stores, two hardware, two butcher shops, two lumber yards, a jeweller, harness shop, etc. M. Gray jeweller, started here last summer, coming from Wawanesa, Man. A large stone school house is just being completed, which is valued at \$6,000. It is of two stories and a basement, and will be divided into four class rooms. It is heated by two furnaces, the heating and ventilation system being approved by the educational department.

Alameda has been experiencing a rush of business lately, as it is the market town for a large wheat district, including part of the Moose Mountain district, and a great number of teams are engaged hauling the grain to the elevator. Alameda has three general stores owned by J. W. Willcox, Gibson Bros., and Hopper Bros., a hardware owned by J. J. Heaslip, a lumber yard of G. H. Knowling's, a butcher shop, implement warehouses, etc. Gibson Bros., started business quite recently.

At Estevan this line connects with the Soo line from the south, being the C. P. R. short route to the coast. The removal of the coal mines to Roche Perce and of the C. P. R. divisional point from Estevan has of course given it somewhat of a set back, but the merchants have managed to hold most of the trade of the mines and they report a very satisfactory season's business. M. H. King and P. C. Duncan have general store here, J. R. Stockwell handles hardware and crockery, and J. McLeod runs a butcher shop.

This completes a rough survey of the towns and villages which constitute the business communities and social centres of this promising section of the west. With regard to their general condition and prospects it may be said that they are sharing fully in the wave of prosperity which is sweeping over the country at present and have each experienced increases in population and wealth this year, which

reflects a similar and even more promising condition of things regarding the surrounding country. While perhaps not exp.encing as great a rush as some of the northwestern parts of Manitoba they are nevertheless receiving a satisfactory number of people of the right class year by year, and have added during the past season in a most satisfactory manner to their population, wealth and production.

The Commercial is indebted to The Paulin-Chambers Co. for a number of boxes of their choicest candy with Christmas greetings.

During the past year there were twenty-three steamers under contract or agreement, or by subsidy, plying between Canadian and British ports.

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The war in South Africa will no doubt have a considerable influence upon prices of wool. Cape Colony, Natal, the Orange Free State, and the Transvaal are all largely engaged in the production of wool. The supply from these countries will be more or less cut off by the war. Prices of Cape wools have already sharply advanced.

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