

Ira Monsees, on Thursday, Dec. 21st, lost his shack and contents by fire. The loss is considerable amounting probably to \$200. Ira, we understand, is going to remain and will put up another shack. The bachelors who are trying to pull through without wives should take a lesson. If Ira had placed a wife in his shack, she would have saved him \$200 - and cost him only the marriage license.

Mr. Jeffreys, from western Ontario, is expected to arrive soon with a car of settler's effects.

A car got on a Christmas toot and jumped the track, doing considerable damage to the ties. The "Y" was put in at the Birch on Tuesday, Dec. 26th. All the shunting, etc., will now be done there. This is now the temporary divisional point and is about 4 miles from the Birch. The railway storehouse, which has been located at Cowan, was brought up on Wednesday, Dec. 27th. A roundhouse is also being built at this point.

## SWAN RIVER

The outside world is very slow to realize that a new town and country has just swung into existence. We use the term "outside" advisedly. This future metropolis is over one hundred miles from a neighbor; the same distance from a church or school. Three months ago, timber wolves, renegade bears, silver foxes and moose roamed at their own sweet will and held undisputed sway over what has now almost miraculously been changed into a bustling business centre for one of the prettiest and most fertile valleys in the West.

Although the town has almost sprung up in a day, it is no "mushroom town". The substantial buildings that have been erected by its business men is evidence of their unlimited confidence in its ultimate destiny. It is situated on the banks of a magnificent river, the "Swan", which empties into Swan Lake, a distance from Swan River town of about twenty-five miles. The river here is about one hundred and twenty-five feet wide with a bank about twenty-five feet high. The reader will readily understand the value this natural drainage will be to a town situated as Swan River is on rather low and marshy soil. Almost in the heart of a valley richly endowed by nature, containing one million acres of land in what is known as the hard wheat belt, it will readily be seen the chief centre of this magnificent stretch of country, must in the very nature of things, blossom in the near future into a stately city.

Already there are sixty-five buildings in the town with nearly every branch of business represented. Many of the present business men have moved from what was known as the "Old Town" near Minitonas. A glance over our advertising columns will show the reader who our businessmen are. There is a good opening here yet for an A-1 tailor and a shoemaker.

Since the town site was surveyed and lots sold, the song of the hammer has been heard almost night and day.

We understand contracts are already let for a number of buildings to be erected next spring.

The new Conservative government, we understand, is disposed to be generous. There is no doubt if the matter of town drainage and good roads is brought to their attention, it will receive every consideration.