

The Commercial

A Journal of Commerce, Industry and Finance, especially devoted to the interests of Western Canada, including that portion of Ontario west of Lake Superior, the provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Territories.

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Publisher.

The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much larger circulation among the business community of the country between Lake Superior and the Pacific Coast, than any other paper in Canada, daily or weekly. By a thorough system of personal solicitation, carried out annually, this journal has been placed upon the desks of a great majority of business men in the east district described above, and including Northwest Ontario, the provinces of Manitoba, and British Columbia, and the territories of Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, DECEMBER 2, 1895.

Manitoba.

J. N. Macgee, grocer, Brandon, is out of business.

Jean Sibut, general dealer, Rathwell, has assigned.

Jos. Quinn has opened in the flour and feed business at Brandon.

L. Magnasson has commenced business at Brandon, as dealer in boots and shoes.

D. E. Sprague of the Winnipeg saw mill has about sixty men engaged in his camp on the Rosseau river taking out logs.

Wm. Cowan, private banker, Brandon, is giving up business and moving to Winnipeg, where he will take the management of a loan company's business.

A Brandon correspondent writes: So far this season the merchants in Brandon have done an excellent business, and everything promises for a good season ahead.

H. R. Brown, who formerly kept the Morden House at Morden, has bought the Queen's Hotel at the same place from G. Herrington.

An Application has been made to quash the early closing by-law in Winnipeg, on the ground that the law is ultra vires of the provincial legislature. The argument will be heard on December 9.

Assiniboia.

Geo. Macgee, hardware, Estovan, has sold out to J. R. Stockwell.

Alberta.

The Calgary board of trade gave its first annual dinner on Wednesday evening of last week. About forty attended the banquet and the event was in every way a success.

Jos. Cressman, tailor, of Lethbridge, has been sent down for five years for setting fire to his premises. A woman accomplice got three years. Cressman had his stock insured for \$800 in the Commercial Union.

Wheat Stocks.

The visible supply of wheat in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains, for the week ended Nov. 23, 1895, shows an increase of 1,895,000 bushels, against an increase of 1,862,000 for the corresponding week last year and an increase of 530,000

bushels the corresponding week two years ago, and 2,229,000 bushels three years ago.

The following table shows the total visible supply of wheat on the dates named for four years, as compiled by the Chicago board of trade and includes stocks at most important points of accumulation in the United States and Canada, east of the Rocky Mountains. There are some important points not covered by this statement:

	1895.	1894.	1893.	1892.
	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.	bushels.
Jan. 2...	88,681,000	80,223,000	81,238,000	45,907,000
Feb. 5...	83,376,000	79,833,000	81,390,000	43,181,000
Mar. 4...	78,765,000	75,509,000	79,088,000	41,555,000
April 1...	74,308,000	71,458,000	77,634,000	41,036,000
" 8...	72,705,000	70,702,000	77,294,000	41,177,000
" 15...	70,487,000	69,217,000	76,090,000	42,055,000
" 22...	68,626,000	68,425,000	74,869,000	39,149,000
" 29...	65,776,000	66,583,000	75,027,000	37,930,000
May. 6...	62,106,000	65,166,000	73,069,000	36,190,000
" 13...	59,623,000	63,510,000	72,082,000	35,190,000
" 20...	56,481,000	62,044,000	71,392,000	30,697,000
" 27...	54,244,000	61,329,000	70,159,000	29,522,000
June 3...	52,229,000	59,394,000	71,080,000	27,910,000
" 10...	49,739,000	58,211,000	69,662,000	26,950,000
" 17...	47,717,000	57,005,000	68,376,000	24,006,000
" 24...	46,325,000	55,822,000	68,031,000	24,501,000
July 1...	44,010,000	54,637,000	62,310,000	24,362,000
" 8...	43,350,000	51,114,000	61,819,000	23,130,000
" 15...	41,237,000	53,164,000	59,328,000	22,439,000
" 22...	40,497,000	53,771,000	58,901,000	23,068,000
" 29...	39,233,000	57,144,000	59,319,000	23,221,000
Aug. 5...	38,517,000	60,010,000	59,424,000	26,079,000
" 12...	37,839,000	62,321,000	58,269,000	23,233,000
" 19...	36,592,000	63,900,000	57,812,000	31,775,000
" 26...	35,088,000	64,771,000	57,240,000	31,950,000
" 31...	35,438,000	66,942,000	56,891,000	30,380,000
Sept. 7...	36,764,000	69,168,000	56,140,000	33,760,000
" 14...	38,091,000	66,214,000	57,331,000	44,411,000
" 21...	39,385,000	70,189,000	58,693,000	44,937,000
" 28...	40,768,000	71,413,000	60,528,000	49,901,000
Oct. 5...	41,832,000	73,614,000	63,276,000	51,250,000
" 12...	41,491,000	75,074,000	65,139,000	55,060,000
" 19...	46,190,000	76,639,000	68,978,000	59,402,000
" 26...	50,456,000	78,190,000	69,337,000	61,634,000
Nov. 4...	52,990,000	80,047,000	71,396,000	64,717,000
" 11...	56,036,000	81,240,000	74,032,000	67,203,000
" 18...	60,326,000	82,302,000	76,768,000	69,638,000
" 25...	62,821,000	83,964,000	77,253,000	70,765,000

Bradstreet's report of stocks of wheat in Canada on November 18 is as follows:

	bushels.
Montreal.....	255,000
Toronto.....	71,000
Kingston.....
Winnipeg.....	165,000
Manitoba elevators.....	2,100,000
Fort William, Port Arthur & Keewatin.....	2,772,000

Total stocks in the United States and Canada as reported by Bradstreet's were as follows, on November 18, 1895:

	bushels.
East of the Mountains.....	84,589,000
Pacific Coast.....	9,651,000
Total stocks a year ago were:	

	bushels.
East of the Mountains.....	110,488,000
Pacific Coast.....	13,180,000

Bradstreet's report for the week ended Nov. 18, shows an increase of 4,853,000 bushels in stocks of wheat east of the mountains, making the total 84,589,000 bushels on the latter date.

World's stocks on November 1, (United States, Canada, in Europe and afloat for Europe) were 153,033,000 bushels, compared with 178,682,000 bushels a year ago, 173,225,000 bushels two years ago, 154,272,000 bushels three years ago, 188,641,000 bushels four years ago, 91,150,000 bushels five years ago, and 109,117,000 bushels six years ago.

The Big Lumber Trust.

Victoria, British Columbia,
November 26, 1895.

Every mill in British Columbia will join the big Pacific coast lumber trust, which is about to materialize after a year's arduous toil. Mr. D. H. Bibb and E. J. Holt have recently left British Columbia, where, under assumed names they induced all the lumber manufacturers to join them. Messrs. Bibb and Holt, both of San Francisco, will be president and secretary of the gigantic combination, which represents \$50,000,000; and includes the 50 or 60 mills

and all the retailers on the coast, not a single retailer or mill being left out.

The details of the scheme, while very elaborate, are perfected to such an extent that there is no possible chance of any disagreement. The combine will be known as the Central Lumber Co. and all business will be done through the central San Francisco office, but shipped direct to each mill. The business of the syndicate will be done for the present exclusively on the coast, and between retailers and mill owners professional graders will be employed and there will be no more selling long clear lumber at rough lumber prices and vice versa, for the work will be centralized and will be directly under the eye of the central office. The idea that the scheme is to be consummated has acted like a hypnotic suggestion on the lumber trade here and the pulse of the timber business which was weak and thready last year has grown stronger and a hopeful spirit pervades the trade. Generally speaking the scheme from a financial standpoint is as follows:

It being apparent that there was no money in lumber on the coast, that immense capital was being worked to no advantage, and that the cause of this was unreasonable competition, a cure was looked for in better prices for lumber, but an increased demand did not bring better prices, and the one remedy was to get all the mill owners to sell only at an advance. Men of great executive ability were approached with the idea of having them arrange some scheme by which all the mill owners and retailers on the coast could be stock holders of one company called the Central Lumber Co., with headquarters in San Francisco. The problem was pronounced impracticable by several of those who attempted to solve it, but a scheme has been finally suggested that satisfies the promoters that the idea is not only feasible, but should the mill owners be once in, the machinery of the concern will be easily worked.

The exact capacity of every mill has been obtained and according to their capacity they receive so much stock. Each mill supplies lumber to the order of the central office, at a scale of prices for all mills agreed upon as cost. Three times each month a dividend will be declared according to the stock held by each mill company. Even if they do not ship a stick of timber to the order of the central office. The supply and demand will be nicely adjusted at San Francisco. Should a retailer refuse to come in he has no place to buy his lumber, should a wholesaler refuse to come in he has no Pacific market to sell his lumber in.

The trans-Pacific and eastern trade will not be considered this year, but it is thought that Chili, Australia and the U. K. when they see that they are not getting the consideration and attention they got before the combine they will be willing to pay for more consideration at the hands of the Pacific coast mills. The mills here are being crowded by importers who are anxious to lay in their supply of lumber before the price advances.

British Grain Trade.

The Mark Lane Express of Nov. 25, in its weekly review of the British grain trade says: English wheats have been dull, with an average decline of 6d. Duluth cargoes quoted at 25s 8d and California at 26s. Flour, barley and oats depressed to-day. Foreign wheats were better supported, with the exception of American, which was 8d lower. Flour, both English and American declined 6d.

A terrific storm raged over the country from Chicago eastward on Monday and Tuesday. All the wires out of Chicago were down. At Detroit the storm was very heavy, the wind blowing 72 miles per hour, and throughout Ontario the gale raged. Grave fears were entertained for lake shipping.