

THE COMMERCIAL

A Journal of Commerce, Industry, Finance and Insurance, 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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D. W. BUCHANAN,
Publisher.

The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much larger circulation among the business community of the vast region lying 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 the majority of business men in the district designated above, 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 27, 1897.

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON.

This number of The Commercial is issued one day earlier than usual, Saturday being a holiday, we have printed on Friday. All our readers we wish a merry Christmas.

This is the last number of The Commercial for 1897. The next number will be dated January 1, 1898, and thereafter The Commercial will be dated Saturday, instead of Monday. This change is made to make the date of the paper correspond with the date of the market reports. Our market reports are complete up to the close of the markets on Saturday of each week. As this is the last issue of this journal for 1897, we take the opportunity also of wishing our readers a Happy New Year.

STEWED TEA.

Since package teas came into use a great deal has been written in the way of giving directions how to properly infuse teas. Package teas are now very largely used, and directions for infusing tea are usually printed on the packages. Vendors of package teas have also in other ways advertised and published instructions for making tea. Notwithstanding all that has been said and written, very few people observe the simplest rules in making tea. At a church social in

Winnipeg, it is said a large wash boiler was used in which to make the tea. This vessel was filled with water and a couple of pounds of tea were dumped into it and allowed to stew without any regard for time limit. More tea and water was added to keep up the supply as required. This would make a decoction almost fit to poison a pup, and utterly lacking in the fine flavor of a good cup of tea, no matter how choice the original quality of the tea used. It indicates, however, the general disregard for reasonable care in making tea. We will have to train up a new generation of women before this careless habit of stewing tea can be got rid of. In the meantime there will be much reason for the complaint that tea is a cause of dyspepsia and indigestion, for stewed tea is anything but a healthy beverage.

TIN CAN SOCIAL.

One of the fads of the day is the tin can social. Each person attending is expected to take along a tin of canned goods for charitable purposes. If the price of the can of goods were given in cash, and the money invested in flour and beef, far better results would be obtained. While canned goods are wholesome and reasonable in price, they are rather too much of a luxury to be made a basis for charity-giving. The cost of the canned goods, turned into beef and flour, would give vastly better service to people in need of charity.

OUR NATIONAL HIGHWAY

There have been a good many complaints in this country against the Canadian Pacific Railway company, and The Commercial has at times been obliged to condemn some of the rules of the company. At the same time we believe there are very few Canadians who will not rejoice to learn of the prosperity of our great national road. Particularly will this be true of Western Canadians. The prosperity of the Canadian Pacific railway means the prosperity of the country at large, and if there are any who cannot wish the company prosperity in a broad, generous way, they can do it from a selfish point of view, seeing that the company could hardly be prosperous unless the country also were prosperous.

Then we have the question of freight rates. A prosperous company would be more likely to reduce rates than if the balance were on the wrong side of the profit and loss account. Indeed, it is not improbable that the recent important reductions in freight rates has been brought about, to a considerable extent, by the prosperous season which President Sir William Van Horne recently referred to, in an interview at Montreal.

PROSPEROUS FARMERS.

Large numbers of Manitoba farmers have been going East during the past few weeks, to spend the holiday season with old friends. A party who came in on one of the local branch line trains recently, said that there were seventy-five farmers on the train who were all on their way East. This is certainly an indication that the farmers of Manitoba are prosperous. If they were not so, they could not afford to make this long and expensive trip East, to spend the holiday season.

A CARELESS CUSTOM.

The custom of sending sample packages of patent medicines around to private houses, should be condemned, if it is generally followed the way it is done in Winnipeg. These sample packages are often thrown into a doorway where they are left to be accidentally discovered, and if there are any small children about the house, they are likely to be the first ones to find the packages. Sometimes the samples are even handed to small children who may be playing about the yard. While many of these medicines may be harmless, some of them are certainly not so, and they should not be left where they are liable to be discovered and possibly swallowed by young children.

AN HONEST MAN.

In these days of commercial looseness, the example set by Samuel L. Clemens, in paying off the creditors of a company in which he was a partner, is as a refreshing oasis in a vast desert. Mr. Clemens, better known as Mark Twain, was a member of the publishing house of Chas. L. Webster & Co. When this company failed Mr. Clemens handed over his private resources to the creditors, and as this was not sufficient to meet the liabilities in full, he started out on a lecturing tour of the world, though an old man, in order to earn sufficient to make up the deficiencies. He visited Australia, South Africa and Europe, and it is now announced that he has earned enough to pay off all claims in full. This last effort of the famous entertainer and writer should earn him greater renown than all the doings of his busy lifetime heretofore, great as his achievements have been. Few people would have the ability to earn money as Mark Twain has done, no matter how great their desire to do so. At the same time, assignments, compromises and clearances can never alter the moral responsibility to pay 100 cents on the dollar, provided those who have not done so are able to do it. The world will speak of Mark Twain as an honest man—The noblest work of God.