

# THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters pertaining to trade and progress in Western Canada, including that part of Ontario west of Lake Superior, the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Territories.

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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. The Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, JANUARY 10, 1901.

## BUTTER WRAPPERS.

Complaints have been numerous of late from both consumers and dealers in dairy butter that the quality of the paper being used for wrapping rolls and prints is not what it ought to be and that the appearance and quality of the butter is being adversely affected thereby. The paper being used by producers for wrappers is a thin, light, tissue paper, which is improperly prepared for this purpose and adheres to the butter in such a way that it cannot be removed without disfiguring the roll and often taking part of the butter with it. The effect of this upon the selling qualities of the butter may be easily imagined. This defective paper comes mostly from the United States, but some of it is produced in Canada.

The kind of paper which is recommended as being most suitable for butter wrapper is the heavy Belgian paper of about 45 pounds weight which is properly waxed and prepared and can be removed from the butter with ease, leaving the package in perfect shape. This paper is easily obtained, being kept in stock, we understand, by most of the Winnipeg wholesale houses, which handle dairy or grocers' supplies. The slight extra cost will be more than made up to the butter producer by the improved price which may be readily obtained for the butter. Not only does this heavy paper make a better package, but it is a better preservative agent, being practically air tight, which keeps the contents in good condition for a comparatively long time. It is by paying attention to such little details as these that some makers of dairy butter are able to secure in the open market at Winnipeg to-day a better price for their goods than the careless producer's butter will bring when sold in small quantities in a retail way.

## A Growing Concern.

One of the most enterprising jobbing concerns in Winnipeg is the seed house of J. M. Perkins, which is located in premises on Market Street, opposite the city hall. It is a number of years now since this business was established by Mr. Perkins on South Main Street on a capital which was less than \$25. To-day it is a business the annual turnover of which is larger than that of many more pretentious concerns and it is growing larger every year. Last year the turnover increased more than a third. The lines handled consist of garden and field seeds of all kinds, garden tools

and implements and poultry and bird supplies. An annual catalogue is issued which gives a complete list of the stock, prices, etc., and directions for planting and handling seeds. This year Mr. Perkins is making a specialty of onion sets and a very large stock of these is now in store. Podder corn is another big line. In the way of field seeds he has speltz, barley, oats, peas, broom grass, etc. Some of these seeds are brought in by Mr. Perkins in carload lots. His garden seeds are of the best quality, some of them coming from Germany, France, Holland and Great Britain. A traveler is now on the road for orders for this house and will cover before spring the main line west to Moose Jaw and all the branches in Manitoba.

## A Fine New Business Block.

The illustration shown herewith is a cut of the new block erected last year by The Stovel Company, printers and publishers, Winnipeg, part of which is now being occupied by them with their printing, engraving and lithographing plants, and the remainder is rented to tenants or offered to rent. This building is perhaps the most important business block erected in Winnipeg last year. It covers all the space on McDermott avenue, from Arthur street to King, a distance of 100 feet, and is 60 feet deep. It contains in all about 3,500 square yards of floor

Speltz.  
In reply to an inquiry from The Commercial, Supt. Bedford, of the experimental farm at Brandon, writes as follows regarding the grain called speltz, which has been introduced into Manitoba during the last year or two and about which considerable inquiries have been made:

This species of wheat is said to be more hardy than common wheat. The spike is fine but almost solid, the spikes and chaff adhere firmly to the grain and cannot be separated by the ordinary threshing machines.

This wheat was grown by the aboriginal Swiss and by the ancient Egyptians and is still cultivated in the colder mountainous districts in Europe. The kernel is somewhat larger than the ordinary wheat of commerce and the flour from it is said to be especially suitable for pastry, but owing to the difficulty of removing the chaff from the grain they are generally ground together, and the product fed to the stock. The grain with the chaff adhering usually weighs 40 pounds to the measured bushel.

Two plots of this grain was grown on the experimental farm during the past season. The grain on one of them was left uncut for weeks after it was ripe but the straw did not lodge or break, the grain did not shell but towards the last a few heads broke off. The yield from the 1.20 acre plot was at the rate of 5 1/2 measured bushels



The New Stovel Block, Winnipeg.

space, is four storeys high with basement, and fitted throughout with modern conveniences. In addition to their own extensive printing outfit the Stovel Co. have reserved commodious offices on the first floor for the Northwest Farmer, and among the tenants already in the building the Macdonald technical school is perhaps the most important.

## Growing Flax Seed.

The Commercial has received a letter from Northern Alberta, asking for information about flax seed, and stating that there is a movement on foot to grow flax seed in that section. The rich land of Northern Alberta should be particularly well adapted to the production of flax seed. The crop is one which is believed to be particularly well adapted to bread in northern land, and as a large area of new land will annually be prepared for crop in Northern Alberta for some years to come, no doubt considerable flax seed could be produced to advantage there. Flax can be grown to advantage where wheat, oats and barley flourish. There is always a good market for flax seed. In fact there is less liability of a depressed market for this commodity than for almost any other farm product. This being the case, it will undoubtedly be found a profitable crop in Northern Alberta, as well as in other grain sections of our western prairie country.

per acre, weighing 40 pounds per bushel. Red Fie sown at the same time yielded 23 bushels of 60 pounds, per acre.

A test is now being made on this farm with speltz as cattle feed compared with barley and other grains, and next year we hope to test the straw for fodder.

## Boundary District, B.C.

(From The Commercial Correspondent.)  
Greenwood, B. C. Jan. 7.  
The Boundary Hotel, Midway, with practically all its contents, was destroyed by fire early on the morning of December 28. The hotel was owned by Thomas McAuley, who had been in the hotel business at Midway for about seven years, and whose financial standing was generally understood to be good. The insurance on building and contents was \$5,250, divided between three companies, as follows: Phoenix, of London, England, \$1,000; Scottish Union and National, of Edinburgh, Scotland, \$1,000; British American, of Toronto, \$3,250. The total loss was between \$9,000 and \$10,000, so that Mr. McAuley is a loser to almost the same extent as the insurance companies. It is stated that a quantity of liquors were stored in a cellar away from the building, and that these were not destroyed. The front of the large livery stable across the street, 80 feet distant, was charred, but the efforts of a number of men, who formed a "bucket brigade, and pass-

ed water along from the river, 500 feet away, were successful in preventing its destruction as well. Mr. McAuley may rebuild in the spring, but this is doubtful, the hotel business being out done at Midway, as is the case at present in all other Boundary district towns.

W. T. Hunter, of Fargo, North Dakota, who recently bought Mr. A. T. Kerr's interest in the Hunter-Kendrick Co. Ltd., general merchants, having stores at Greenwood, Phoenix, and Grand Forks, in the Boundary district, arrived in Greenwood about the first of the year to take charge of the local business of the company. Hunter-Bronson, who are associated with this company, who are associated with this company, have besides, extensive business connections as merchants trading in Rossland, Sandon, and other West Kootenay towns. Mr. C. S. Slawson, of North Port, Washington, a member of the Hunter-Kendrick Co. Ltd., paid a brief business visit to Greenwood.

The proposed amalgamation of the business of Messrs. W. M. Law & Co., Russell Hardware Co., and Campbell & Lamont, all of Greenwood, has not yet been carried out, but the principals anticipate being in a position to effect this combination in February. There are stated to be a number desirous of putting money into the stock company proposed to acquire these several business concerns, but just now their capital is otherwise employed. Particulars of this project were published in The Commercial several weeks ago.

Mr. F. W. Peters, of Nelson, the popular assistant district freight agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in the Kootenay and Boundary districts, having been promoted to the position of assistant general freight agent of the Pacific division, with headquarters at Vancouver, in place of Mr. Allen Cameron, who has accepted a position at Hong Kong with another company, his place has been filled by the promotion of Mr. H. E. Macdonell. The freight business of the Boundary district will still be in fully capable hands. Mr. Macdonell having an intimate knowledge of the whole district and a personal acquaintance with most of the freight consignees. Messrs. Cunningham & Anderson, electricians of Greenwood, lately installed an electric light plant at the Standard Pyritic Smelter Co. smelter, now approaching completion and situated near Greenwood. Motive power for 180-light Siemens & Halske dynamos will be obtained from the engine that will drive the blower for the blast furnace. A small plant, consisting of a 3-horse power Comstock upright engine and a 25-light Warner dynamo has just been put in by the same firm at one of the Yale-Columbia Lumber Company's sawmills near Greenwood. The British Columbia Copper Company has received a comparatively large dynamo for its smelter at Greenwood and the work of installing by the above named firm. Several of the district mines already have their own electric light plants in regular operation and there is a prospect of this being more generally used as the district develops.

## Live Stock Trade Notes.

Stewart & Burton, ranchers, etc., of Fort Macleod, Alberta, sold 42 head of heavy draught colts from their ranch at Guelph, Ontario last week. The prices ranged from \$40 to \$120 each.

It is proposed to establish an Imperial ranch in the territory of Alberta for breeding horses for the British army service. It is claimed that the Canadian ranch horses proved their superiority over all others in the South African Campaign, through which a lot of them have recently gone and that they are in every way splendid cavalry animals.

John McWilliams, the signal service officer at Water Point, whose experience of the lower river covers a period of some twenty-four years, considers that winter navigation on the St. Lawrence is practicable as far as Quebec at least. Under ordinary conditions, the river channel, he says, is as clear in winter as in summer. The shore ice maintains its hold and does not drift into the middle river, and, when moved by the winds at all, remains on the shore. Snowstorms would be the drawback causes of detention, but as the river in winter is free from fog, the drawback would be no greater than that caused by fogs in the summer season.