

# The Commercial

A Journal of Commerce, Industry and Finance, specially 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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*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 the great majority of business men in the vast district designated 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, MAY 8, 1893.

## The Tomato in Cans.

Each year when fresh tomatoes first appear on the market in the large cities they are retailed at from 10 to 20c per pound. This, of course, is very early in the season, and their consumption is very limited, being confined to the comparatively wealthy class of people. With advancing season the price diminishes, as the supply increases, and retailers sell them in a city like Chicago at 5c per pound or equal to \$3 per bushel of sixty pounds. Very few people, however, when they buy a can of tomatoes at retail for 10c, the average price of the last few years, realize that it takes an average of sixty pounds of tomatoes to fill a dozen cans and that one can contains in the concentrated form five pounds, which in the fresh state would cost 25c. It seems marvelous that this can be and is really done. The explanation is simple enough. The packer contracts with the grower to take the crop grown on so many acres. The grower has a sure market near his farm and gets from 20 to 25c per bushel, 1/3 of a cent or 5-12c at most per pound, and the crop grown and delivered in this way, free of cost of freight, commission, shrinkage, etc., pays the farmer better than anything he can raise on the same quantity of land, giving him from \$10 to \$100 per acre as a return for his time and work in tending and delivering the crop. The packing gives employment to can makers, box makers, nail makers and a host of others, besides the gang of people employed in the cannery. The packer can still sell the three-pound tomatoes in cans from 80 to 90c per dozen to the jobber, and the jobber to the retailer at a small advance, so that the consumer gets the product of five pounds of fresh tomatoes for 10c, delivered in the kitchen ready for use at any minute and preserved so as to keep for ten years if so required. If sliced raw tomatoes are wanted, then canned goods won't fill the bill. For cooking purposes in any kind whatever the canned article is in every way

preferable, cheaper in actual cost and ready for use without any waste in time or work in peeling and preparing, without loss from green or rotten spots and with much less time in cooking. The flavor is better because the stock is fresher when canned than the goods that have been shipped and have lain around in a cellar or store for a week or more. In the cooked state the tomato retains all its wholesome and hygienic value the same as in the raw state. We scarcely attach to the tomato the full hygienic value as food which it possesses. In therapeutic virtue it will double discount "little liver pills," or big pills of any kind. The juice of the tomato is of an acid character, and is a veritable cleanser of the liver and purifier of the blood. It seems to dissolve fatty matter, and sweep away impurities of any kind. The writer saw this exemplified in a cannery, where a shute, used for slaughter house offal, was also used to discharge the skins, cores and refuse of tomatoes. The shute in question became clean and free from taint of any kind as soon as tomato canning season commenced, while at other times it was an abomination to the olfactories and a menace to the health of the people in its vicinity. The men working at the bench capping, etc., frequently used a tomato to get and extra "clean" pair of hands after specially dirty work. (Of course these tomatoes are not canned after being so used.) Well, this ought to be enough to convince a purblind skeptic as to the virtue of tomatoes as liver medicine. Strange to say there are only three million cases of these goods consumed per year, say seventy two million cans or one and one-tenth can per capita, about 11 cents worth in value, while we use sixty-four pounds of sugar per capita per year—value, \$3.75.

There is no fear of the tomato pack being too large unless speculative holders begin to prevent the consumption of the goods by booming and holding for higher prices.

At an average retail price of 10c or 12c per can, in place of a consumption equalling only one and a tenth cans per capita, the consumption ought and soon will rise to six cans per capita, requiring to meet it a pack of fifteen million cases per year, in place of three or four millions as at present.—Chicago Grocer.

## Pork Packing.

The total packing in the West for the week has been 190,000 hogs, compared with 170,000 the preceding week, 215,000 last year, and 180,000 two years ago. The total from March 1 is 1,220,000, against 1,495,000 a year ago—decrease, 275,000 hogs. The quality of the offerings is generally good. Prices have been further advanced, the average for western markets being about \$7.45 per 100 pounds, or 50c higher than a week ago.—Cincinnati Price Current, April 25.

## Canadian Pacific Railway.

The Shareholder, London, England, of April 15 says:—The company offers for subscription \$7,288,000 of bonds of the Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie Railway Company, on which the interest is guaranteed unconditionally by the Canadian Pacific Company itself. The bonds carry 4 per cent interest, run for 50 years, and are secured by a first mortgage on the line, in common with other bonds of precisely similar character. They are issued at the rate of \$20,000 per mile in respect of an extension of the main line from Hankinson to a connection with the Canadian Pacific at the international boundary. The length of line is 364 miles, of which 190 miles are already built, and the remainder is under contract for completion during the summer. This extension has been planned with a view to give short routes from the great cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul to the Pacific coast. With its

Canadian Pacific connections it will constitute a new through trunk line between the Atlantic and Pacific, which, it is asserted, will compare favorably with any other transcontinental line for distance gradients, curvatures, and the traffic yielding character of the country traversed. The revenue of the last year gave a satisfactory surplus of earnings over fixed charges, and everything goes to show that the railroad is a good solid property. The bonds are 1,000 each, offered at £187, payable by instalments, reaching to July 25. Interest runs from April 1, and a three months' coupon will be attached to the scrip. Making allowance for these circumstances the issue price will work out under 91 1/4 per cent, giving a return of nearly 4 1/2 per cent. Interest is payable in gold coin in New York or in London at 4 1/2 per dollar.

## Crops in Europe.

The Liverpool Corn Trade News of April 18 says:—The long-expected and anxiously awaited rain has at length made its appearance in various parts of Europe, but the downfall has been partial and very slight. The nature of the season seems to be an arid one. The outcry for rain was almost universal. During the past few days it has tried its hardest to rain, but the actual moisture precipitated can have done little real good, and should it be followed by hot sunshine may do harm, as the roots, instead of being drawn downwards by the wet, will have a tendency to seek the surface moisture and suffer in consequence. The latest crop reports specially collected by our own correspondents in various parts of the world, the exact dates when despatched being given, may be thus summarized:—

Germany—Hamburg, April 18.—winter sown wheat not injured materially by frost and drought, but the spring sown wheat is seriously damaged; the drought continues. (wheat and rye are almost wholly planted in the autumn, but barley is mainly a spring crop.)

France—Paris, April 17.—Weather conditions less favorable.

“ Paris, April 18.—Weather warm, slight rain yesterday.

Austria-Hungary—April 17.—Crop reported injured by frost and drought, prospects becoming less favorable.

Italy—Genoa, April 17.—Drought.

Spain—Barcelona, April 17.—Drought continues, estimates of crop being reduced.

Russia—Odessa, April 17.—The crops throughout South Russia are reported to be in an unfavorable condition.

In our own country the season by many is considered unfavorable to the farmer, but since 1868 it has become proverbial that wheat in England never does so well as in a drought; it remains to be proved, however, whether this applies to a drought in March and April, as to one in May and June—if so the reputation of some old weather saws, "the wisdom of many and the wit of one," will suffer badly.

## The New French Tariff.

The London Chamber of Commerce Journal says: "The tariff act passed in France, February 1, 1892, by which the duties on many classes of merchandise were greatly increased, has caused a most pronounced falling off in the foreign trade of that country, as is shown by the value of the imports and exports during the first two months of the present year, and compared with those of 1892. The total value of imports this year was 637,764 francs, against 961,862 francs in 1892. Exports, however, showed little change, the values being 489,604 francs in 1893, and 496,782 francs in 1892."