

THE COMMERCIAL

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

WINNIPEG, JULY 2, 1898.

The Winnipeg Industrial.

The rapid development of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition is a striking illustration of western progress and enterprise. Since its inauguration in 1891 every year has witnessed an increased interest until now the Winnipeg Exhibition has become the chief annual festival of the great west and may be said to have a continental reputation. Its growth has exceeded all anticipations and the mere statement that the attendance increased from 8,000 in 1891 to the magnificent figure of 60,000 in 1897 will give a clear idea of the position of importance it has reached in a comparatively short period.

This year arrangements have been made on a more extensive and elaborate scale than ever before, and the directors promise that the fair of 1898, which opens July 11 and continues to July 16, will in every respect excel its predecessors. The Directors have decided to offer \$15,000 in cash prizes to exhibitors, while in addition there will be awarded a large number of handsome special prizes in the shape of medals, cups, trophies, etc.

Extensive improvements have been made to the grounds and buildings, the various structures having been enlarged to meet the growing requirements, and all the scattered buildings connected by spacious board walks. The site of the exhibition is particularly desirable and within easy access of the city. The grounds may be reached by railway trains which give a three minute service, and by electric cars which give a five-minute service.

The increase in the number and size of exhibition buildings becomes a necessity for the entries have each year shown a very large increase, taxing the accommodation to the utmost.

Last year the number of entries had grown to 5,000 and it must be remembered that many of these entries included a large number of exhibits. A few figures will best illustrate the extent of the Winnipeg Industrial. For this year's fair there are nine horse stables with 1,600 feet of stabling, 218 open and 130 box stalls, 10 cattle stables with 190 double stalls, a sheep building 200x100 with 144 pens, a swine building with 384 pens, poultry buildings 180x251, containing 392 coops. In addition to these there is a spacious main building, dining hall, horticultural hall, agricultural hall, dairy building, carriage buildings, machinery building, manufacturer's hall, and 21 refreshment booths. The grand stand, to which additions have had to be built each year, now has a capacity of 9,000.

The programme of special attractions this year is certainly the best that has been arranged and will be found most interesting. The very best professional performers available in the city of New York have been engaged and through the expense of bringing these artists the long distance to Winnipeg is very great the result, it is confidently felt, will justify the outlay.

Last year one of the great drawing cards of the fair was the "Seige of Algiers," a magnificent spectacle and display of fireworks. This year the directors have secured as a piece de resistance a fireworks spectacle that surpasses even "The Seige" in grandeur and startling effects. It is the great spectacle of the "Relief of Lucknow," describing the most thrilling incidents of the great Indian mutiny. This marvellous spectacular drama is designed by Messrs. Hand and Teale who are famous throughout America as experts in spectacular pyrotechnics. As the war spirit is now so prevalent this feature is sure to arouse the patriotic instincts of every Briton. The "Relief of Lucknow" is described in a most realistic manner, impersonations being given of the heroic British soldiers, the rebels and mutineers and the thrilling story told in a manner clear and striking that its impressions will never be forgotten. In the way of an outdoor military pyrotechnic spectacle perhaps nothing more elaborate has ever been attempted anywhere. The effects of the scenes will be heightened by the playing of the famous band of the 48th Highlanders of Toronto, which the board hope to secure. The bandmen, 40 in number, appear in full Highland costume, kilts, etc. In the recent great band competition at Hamilton, this band won first prize against all the best bands of the Dominion. Their programme includes vocal selections and their engagement is sure to give very great pleasure. In addition Winnipeg bands will also participate.

A few of the other special attractions may be briefly described. There will be Rose and Almoce, the celebrated aerial trapeze performers, Mlle. Almoce, the human fly, who walks on the ceiling as ordinary folk walk on the floor, the Vaidis sisters in a revolving trapeze act greatly heightened in effect by brilliant electrical display, the three brothers Maw, in an intensely funny roller skating act in which a fat man, a lady and a policeman cut up all sorts of humorous antics, the Aherus, sensational acrobats, equilibriste and gymnasts; Edward who gives a novel display of hand balancing on chairs, bottles, stools, etc.,

also on a high pedestal; the three Zenos in a new and original gymnastic act which is particularly neat, being performed in dress suits; Johnson, Davenport and Lorella, in a comedy act describing the trials of two football players and a farmer; Doenzo Brothers, expert acrobats and barrel jumpers; Froebel and Rugo in a comedy trapeze and balancing act that has delighted audiences in all the larger American cities; Bessie Gilbert, a very clever cornet virtuoso and Mlle. Eulalie, premiere danseuse, whose act is said to be very artistic and attractive. It is certainly a great list of special attractions and the climax will be reached in the highly sensational and startling "tower dive" by Mlle. Reince, who plunges headlong into a net from a dizzy height of sixty feet.

The programme of horse races and speeding events is also very complete this year. There will be a very interesting series of running, trotting and pacing races, farmers' trot or pace, races for bomb-flyer farm horses, stallion races, novelty races, the Manitoba Derby and other events too numerous to enumerate in this article. The purses offered are exceedingly liberal. For instance, in the free for all trot or pace the purse is the handsome sum of \$1,500.

The directors have arranged for a special rate of fares during Exhibition week on all Canadian railway lines, and on American lines as far south as Fargo and Winnipeg Junction. They expect a very large attendance, and are arranging that all who come shall be provided with comfortable quarters at a reasonable cost. All the vacant apartments in the city are being rented and placed at the disposal of city hotels. As there are between thirty and forty good hotels in Winnipeg, it will be understood that the facilities for accommodating a large number of visitors are of the best. This year too a system has been adopted to prevent overcrowding at the street car and railway gates, and indeed no pains or expense is being spared to ensure the comfort and safety of visitors to the Exhibition.

An illustrated programme containing well executed portraits of all the special performers is being published and may be had on application.

Probably the most novel feature of the exhibition will be a herd of buffalo, the noble monarchs of the prairie, whose species is now so nearly extinct. This herd is a portion of that of Lord Strathcona and was secured through the efforts of Winnipeg's mayor, Lord Strathcona's is the only herd of buffalo in all Canada and indeed is one of the very few in the world.

The Live Stock Trade.

A carload of horses from the United States has been brought in by C. McLean, of Moosomin.

Moosomin, Assa., has become an important live stock shipping point. New stock yards are badly needed at this point to accommodate the trade.

James Ryan left this week for St. Paul and Burlington, Ia., to purchase horses for the Winnipeg market. The firm of Ryan & Fares have brought in twenty-six carloads of horses this season from the States to Manitoba.

T. E. Kelly, of Brandon, has gone to Minneapolis to purchase horses for the Manitoba market. Owing to the high price of horses in Ontario, a good many horses from Iowa and other states south have been sold in Manitoba this season.