

SUPPLEMENT OF

# 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 desk of the great majority of business men in the vast district designated above, and including northwestern 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, FEBRUARY, 1892.

## THE COMMERCIAL.

This supplementary number of THE COMMERCIAL will undoubtedly fall into the hands of many persons not regular subscribers, as several thousand copies will be printed for free distribution. Some who chance to receive this number, may wish to know something about the journal. THE COMMERCIAL, as its name implies, is primarily a paper for business men. Its columns are filled with matter pertaining to trade, commerce, manufactures, finance, insurance, market reports, etc. Its particular field is Western Canada. While considerable space is given to general commercial matters, particular attention is given to commercial progress and development in Western Canada.

The regular issue of THE COMMERCIAL (of which this number is a supplement) contains thirty-two pages, the pages being the same size as this supplement. It is printed on a fine quality of paper, and every effort is made to turn out a neat, clean and readable journal. It is published weekly, at Winnipeg, Canada, and will be mailed to any address in Canada, the United States or Great Britain, for \$2 per annum (8s 4d) in advance.

Persons, either at home or abroad, who wish to learn something about the vast region known

as Western Canada, will find THE COMMERCIAL a valuable and interesting paper. Its aim is to give only reliable information about the country. A representative of the paper visits every settled portion of the country at least once a year. The great province of British Columbia is given special attention. A branch editorial and business office is maintained in the city of Vancouver, and an able writer is on the ground there, giving his whole attention to that province. Thus THE COMMERCIAL is kept in touch with all parts of the country, and in this way the journal has earned an enviable reputation for reliable information concerning Western Canada. This paper has long been looked upon as an authority on matters concerning that portion of Canada west of the great lakes of the St. Lawrence.

THE COMMERCIAL is now in its tenth year of publication. It may therefore be said that it has grown up with the country. At the time this paper was established, the development of the country was just nicely started. Railways were just gaining a foothold in the country, and the great West was only beginning to awaken to a new life. Since that time progress has been rapid, and now that we are safely through the experimental stage, we may hope for even greater progress during the next ten years.

To those who are not acquainted with THE COMMERCIAL, we would say, that this journal has no political interests to serve. Its politics will be the welfare of Western Canada. Political questions are discussed only in their relation to commerce. Most important political questions have a commercial side, and it is therefore sometimes necessary to discuss a matter which is at the time within the realm of party warfare. The aim of THE COMMERCIAL, however, is to keep free from the influences of party, creed, or clique.

### Area of Western Canada.

The area of Western Canada is so vast, that it can hardly be grasped by the mind, except by numerous comparisons. Western Canada is generally understood to include that portion of the Dominion lying between that great inland sea of fresh water known as Lake Superior and the Pacific coast, and north of the United States. Starting from Port Arthur on Lake Superior, a person can travel 2,000 miles westward, before reaching the western limit of the country, while from north to south the distance is even greater.

Western Canada comprises the two provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia, the three organized territories of Assiniboia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan, the unorganized territory of Athabaska, the district of Keewatin, besides a vast area of unorganized and largely unexplored territory farther north. A small strip of the

province of Ontario, lying west of Lake Superior, is also included in the somewhat vague term of Western Canada. The area of the different divisions of Western Canada is as follows:—

Province of Manitoba .. .. .	73,950 Square Miles
Province of British Columbia .. .. .	383,300 " "
District of Keewatin .. .. .	282,000 " "
Territory of Alberta .. .. .	100,100 " "
" of Assiniboia .. .. .	89,635 " "
" of Athabaska .. .. .	104,600 " "
" of Saskatchewan .. .. .	107,002 " "
Unorganized region .. .. .	259,000 " "
Northern Islands .. .. .	300,000 " "
North-west Ontario and Hudson bay district .. .. .	220,000 " "

Total .. .. . 2,558,933 square miles

This is a vast expanse of territory to be sure, and the reader will wonder what the total area of Canada is, when only a portion of it reaches such figures. By adding about 1,000,000 square miles to the area of Western Canada, the total area of the Dominion, east and west will be obtained, or about 299,000 square miles less than the continent of Europe. A few comparisons may help the reader to grasp the immensity of this territory. Manitoba, the smallest of all the divisions of Western Canada, is 15,000 square miles larger than England and Wales; about 10,000 square miles more than twice as large as Ireland; nearly seven times as large as Belgium; five times as large as Denmark; three times as large as Greece; considerably more than twice as large as Portugal; six times as large as Netherlands; nearly seven times as large as Egypt. British Columbia is considerably more than three times as large as the United Kingdom; nearly half as large as India; 79,000 square miles larger than Cape Colony; 140,000 square miles larger than Austria-Hungary; 180,000 square miles larger than France; 175,000 square miles larger than Germany; three and a half times larger than Italy; 70,000 square miles larger than Sweden and Norway. The district of Keewatin is nearly as large as Sweden and Norway; Alberta is as large as Italy; Assiniboia is three times as large as Scotland; Athabaska is nearly twice as large as England and Wales; Saskatchewan is nearly as large as Turkey in Europe. And then there is the vast northern and Hudson bay regions, larger than the Turkish empire, including Egypt and its other African and Asiatic divisions and dependencies, with Austria-Hungary thrown in to make up the balance.

These comparisons could be continued indefinitely, but enough have been given. Elsewhere in this paper is an article upon the population of Western Canada, which shows the total population of this immense region to be under 350,000 souls. If Western Canada were settled as closely as England and Wales, the population would be approximately 1,300,000,000; if the province of Manitoba, the smallest of all the divisions of Western Canada, were settled as closely as Belgium, the population would be approximately 40,000,000; if all Canada, east and west, were settled as closely as Egypt, the population would be in the neighborhood of 2,150,000,000. Of course there is a portion of the northern region which is not suitable for settlement at all, and also a considerable portion which will not likely ever support more than a limited population. But after allowing