

The Commercial

A Journal of Commerce, Industry and Finance, especially 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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Publisher.

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 a great majority of business men in the vast district described 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, MARCH 2, 1896.

Manitoba.

B. VanBlaricom has opened a hardware store at Arden.

H. T. L. Pulford, dealer in miscellaneous merchandise, Winnipeg, is dead.

Geo. Hartley, of Melita, has bought the butcher business of J. W. Barter, of Hartney.

Hunter & Moore, general merchants of Southern Manitoba, have opened a branch at Pilot Mound.

Weldon's grocery store, Winnipeg, was entered by burglars, who attempted to open the safe, but were unsuccessful.

A party of settlers conducted by A. J. McMillan, European representative of the Manitoban government, leaves Liverpool by the Parisian of the Allan line on Thursday, March 26th. A second party leaves Liverpool by the Lake Superior of the Beaver Line, on Saturday, April 4th, conducted by J. J. Haslett, immigration agent of the Canadian Pacific Railway company.

The stock of J. S. Douglas, Winnipeg, was sold by the assignee for 54½ cents on the dollar. The chattel mortgage against the stock, which is being contested by the creditors, is still unsettled, and the dividend likely to be received from the estate, will depend very much upon the outcome of this feature of the case. There are no new developments in the proceedings against Douglas for alleged fraud.

The two papers at Rapid City, the Spectator and the Reporter have been amalgamated and will be continued by Geo. S. Perry, of the former paper. There certainly is not business at Rapid City to support two papers, and it would only be a slow course of starvation for each. If Mr. Perry is given a chance, he will no doubt now supply a good paper. It will be better for the merchants to have one good local paper to advertise in, than to be compelled to divide their advertising between two poor papers.

Business men are often restrained from contesting cases at law on account of the heavy costs certain to be encountered, whether or not they win the case. In many cases the game is not considered worth the candle. The statement of the case of the Francis estate at Headingly, recently issued, will illustrate this. The estate realized in all \$2,877. Ordinary expenses, including \$128 paid for goods, amounted to \$548,

leaving a net balance of \$2,329. This balance, however, and \$1,305 besides, was all consumed in law expenses, in contesting a chattel mortgage against the stock.

Alberta.

The Calgary Herald has issued a special "Irrigation Number," giving detailed accounts of the progress of irrigation in the territories, with illustrations. Also a lot of general information relating to irrigation.

The South Edmonton agricultural society is securing seed oats of a milling variety from British Columbia and seed wheat from Manitoba, to be sold at cost to the farmers. The grain will be brought in at half rates by the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Northwest Ontario.

An important deputation waited upon the Ontario government last week and presented the claims of the Rainy River railway for a bonus for an additional portion of railway, as projected, to enable it to be extended to connect with the extensive navigation system of Rainy Lake at Seine Bay.

Saskatchewan

Thomas E. Bakre's wood working shop at Prince Albert, was totally destroyed by fire on February 6. The building, with contents of machinery, tools, stock, etc., was valued at \$2,500. The fire originated from a stove in the building. Insurance \$1,000.

Our Annual.

The special annual number of The Commercial, issued in February of each year, was mailed to subscribers last week. Every regular subscriber of The Commercial will receive one free copy. Extra copies can be had for 25 cents each. New subscribers sending in their subscriptions now, for one year in advance, will be given a free copy of the Annual. No better advertisement for this country could be procured to send to friends abroad, than this special number of The Commercial. No similar publication ever issued here, we believe, contained such a fund of reliable information about this country, as this special number.

Grain and Milling Notes.

A stone foundation will be placed under the Lake of the Woods Co.'s mill and elevator during the summer, at Portage la Prairie, Man.

At a meeting at Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta Territory, 2,600 bushels of wheat and \$300 cash were subscribed as a bonus to be offered in aid of a flour mill.

Wheat receipts at this point from farmers are increasing, says the Brandon Times, about 2,000 bushels having been received yesterday (Wednesday). Forty-six cents was the highest price paid this week for No. 1 hard. About twelve cars of grain were shipped east and west during the week.

The Northern Pacific railroad has completed at its own shops in St. Paul, a number of box cars designed for carrying grain which have a capacity of 70,000 pounds. These are supposed to be the largest cars ever built for this purpose, and their carrying capacity is only equalled by a few specially constructed cars, for particular purposes.

D. H. McMillan & Co., of Winnipeg, are shipping about 40 cars of choice Manitoba wheat to Australia, for seed purposes. The wheat is shipped in sacks. Manitoba wheat of course could not be shipped to Australia for ordinary commercial purposes. It indicates the high esteem in which Manitoba wheat is held, however, to find it thus in demand for seed purposes in distant lands.

The total receipts of wheat at the four principal winter wheat points, Toledo, St. Louis, Detroit and Kansas City from July 1st to date are 23,954,076 bush. against 29,678,592 bu. in 1895 and 38,822,707 bu. in 1894. The total receipts at the four principal spring wheat points since August 1st, the beginning of the crop year foot up--Minneapolis 53,510,300 bu.; Duluth, 42,351,513 bu.; Chicago, 18,544,029 bu.; and Milwaukee 6,878,689 bu.; making a total of 126,284,531 bu against 88,022,759 bu during the same time last year and 82,870,054 bu in 1894.

Dairy Trade News.

Argentina is beginning to export butter, in addition to grain and cattle.

Fred W. Tucker, who has been operating creameries at Foxwarren and Dr. Barnardo's Home, Russell, Man. for some years, has accepted a position with J. Y. Griffin & Co., pork packers and provision merchants, Winnipeg. In addition to being a practical butter maker, he has had experience in jobbing houses in Liverpool and Bristol, England. He takes the management of the produce department for this firm about the 1st of March.

Seizure for Rent.

An important amendment to "The Distress Act" was introduced Monday afternoon in the Manitoba legislature by Hon. J. D. Cameron. The principal clause relates to seizures for rent and if carried will prevent landlords from seizing under a distress warrant for rent any more than the interest of a tenant in the furniture or chattels. This is a protection to furniture dealers or piano and other agents who sell to people on the installment plan, and who have lost considerable money by cases which the amendment covers. A delegation from merchants in these lines of business waited upon the government last week with this end in view.

Silver.

The silver market late in the week advanced fractionally on the reports current in London that the English government had been approached by Germany in regard to furthering an international monetary agreement, with the reopening of the Indian mints to free silver coinage as a preliminary step. The part of this report relating to Germany has been denied in toto by Mr. Balfour, the English Chancellor of the Exchequer, who added, however, that "we should willingly consider, in conjunction with the Indian mints if the measure comprised a satisfactory scheme of currency reform. Silver prices on Feb. 21 were: London, 91 1-16d; New York, 68c.

Winnipeg Clearing House.

Clearings for the week ending February 27 were \$992,544; balances, \$207,097. For the previous week clearings were \$935,593. For the corresponding week of last year clearings were \$659,393, and for the week two years ago, \$541,458. For the month of January clearings were \$1,997,200 as compared with \$1,067,403 for January, 1895, and \$4,818,346 for January, 1894.

Following are the returns of other Canadian clearing houses for the weeks ended on the dates given:

	Feb. 20.
Montreal	\$3,948,743
Toronto	6,527,823
Halifax	1,263,549
Winnipeg	935,583
Hamilton	625,748

Total \$18,801,441