

THE COMMERCIAL

A Journal of Commerce, Industry, Finance and Insurance, 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.

Sixteenth Year of Publication

ISSUED EVERY MONDAY

SUBSCRIPTION, CANADA AND UNITED STATES, \$1.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE OR \$1.25 WHEN NOT SO PAID; OTHER COUNTRIES, \$2.50 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

Changes for advertisements should be in not later than Thursday Morning.

Office: 151 McDermot Street.

D. W. BUCHANAN,
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. By a thorough system of personal solicitation, carried out annually, this journal has been placed upon the desks of the majority of business men in the district designated above, 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, JANUARY 1, 1895.

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH PROTECTION

Something seems to have gone wrong somewhere with the protective policy in the United States. After all the prosperity that was to follow the adoption of the new Dingley tariff, it seems strange to read about reductions being made in wages in the great manufacturing centres like Fall River, with talk of other cuts likely to follow. Better have a royal commission, or whatever they would call such an institution in the United States, to see what is the matter with protection. There certainly must be a screw loose somewhere about the machine.

TALKING NONSENSE

The ill-tempered and unreasonable article in the last Northwest Magazine, of St. Paul, Minnesota, upon the seal question, is quite unworthy of that publication. Usually this periodical has been fairly liberal in its treatment of questions relating to Canada. The publisher has devoted considerable attention in the past to Western Canada and has no doubt found the field here a profitable one wherein to operate. When the Northwest Magazine again sends a representative this way, with the object of working up business for the publication, and incidentally

saying something about our resources, it should be given a cool reception. We can stand fair criticism, but such rubbish as that talked by the journal in question upon the seal question, couched in such unnecessarily insulting language, should be resented by everyone who has any feeling of patriotism.

It would not be worth while attempting to refute the absurd arguments, or rather, statements, made by the Northwest Magazine regarding the ownership of the seals by the United States. Its article altogether was of the gutter-snipe order, such as might be expected from some fire-eating editor, whose principle aim in life was to inflame popular passions, create false impressions and perpetuate prejudice and hatred.

RECLAIMING SWAMP LANDS

It is good news to learn that the Manitoba Government is about to begin a vigorous move in the direction of reclaiming the swamp lands of Manitoba. Work was begun the past year at the large St. Andrew's marsh, north of Winnipeg, which was a very good start. Now we are told the large Boyne swamp, east of Carman, is to be reclaimed. The Elm Creek swamp, northwest of Carman, will also, it is said, be drained. There are other large swamps, particularly east of the Red river, which will no doubt be tackled in due time. It is well that the government recognizes the necessity of a comprehensive system of drainage for eastern Manitoba. There are large areas of the very richest land in the province that can be reclaimed and rendered suitable for cultivation by a proper system of drainage, while large tracts of land now occupied will be rendered more valuable and more easy of cultivation by the drains which will be constructed. The Winnipeg board of trade has in times past endeavored to have the question of drainage taken up more actively, and the steps now being taken will no doubt meet with general approval. There is no scarcity of land in Manitoba. At the same time the reclaiming of these lands will add to the prosperity and wealth of the country, by rendering large areas of land in accessible districts fit for cultivation. The expenditure in draining the lands will be repaid by the sale of the lands at the enhanced values which will attach to them after the improvements are completed.

CANADIAN FLOUR FOR JAPAN

It is reported from Ottawa, that the Canadian trade commissioner to Japan has succeeded in securing an order for

a couple of thousand half sacks of Canadian flour. The report further says that a profitable trade might be done with Japan in flour. The Commorelai is a little dubious as to the opening for Manitoba flour in Japan. Our millers are enterprising and they years ago investigated the prospects of doing a profitable trade with Japan and China. Occasional small shipments have been made to the trans-Pacific ports of the countries named, but the trade has never assumed any great importance. The conditions and prospects of the trade were thoroughly understood by our leading millers long before the Canadian government sent an agent to Japan.

The wheat and flour producing districts of the Pacific coast states, can under ordinary circumstances far outbid Manitoba, in competing for the Japan and China trade. Wheat is purchased from the farmers of Washington and Oregon states at lower prices than is paid in Manitoba, and it is turned into flour by mills at Portland and other coast points. Manitoba flour, which would be subject to a long railway haul to reach the Pacific, could not compete with the product of the Pacific coast mills, especially when it is considered that the raw material is usually purchased by Pacific coast millers at considerably lower prices than rule in Manitoba. While occasional lots of Manitoba flour may be worked for the China and Japan trade, we cannot see any reason to become enthusiastic over the prospects of that trade at present.

IMPERIAL POSTAGE RATES

The announcement that the Imperial government had requested the Canadian government to postpone the proposal to put a three-cent letter rate into effect, on letters for the United Kingdom and the colonies, has caused a good deal of comment at the expense of Postmaster-General Mulock. Some of the papers talk about Mr. Mulock having exceeded his authority, and of his having been "called down" by the imperial authorities. Mr. Mulock may have exceeded his authority, but he has exceeded it in a way which is likely to bring about the desired result. The way to secure important results is not to propose, but to act. This was shown by the result of the preferential tariff enactment. We might have gone on for years proposing preferential tariffs and requesting the imperial government to revise the obnoxious most favored nation treaties, as we have done in the past, without avail. When action was decided upon and the preferential tariff was passed, regardless of other circumstances, the desired result was quickly attained in the abrogation of the treaties.