

# 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, MARCH 5, 1894.

## Manitoba.

H. A. Scarth Griswold, has compromised at 60c.

J. & W. Dick, general store. Findlay; burned out.

Paisley & Morton, dry goods, Brandon, have assigned.

W. J. Hemenway, general store, Carman, has assigned.

John Hamilton, hotel, of Winnipeg, is resuming business.

Wilson & Rankin, wholesale furniture, and undertakers, Brandon; burned out; insured.

James Ferguson, crockery, etc., Winnipeg; damaged by fire; loss about \$300; no insurance.

McPherson & Co., tailors, Winnipeg; slightly damaged by fire; fully covered by insurance.

F. G. Kay has purchased from A. Basler, the Windsor hotel premises at Rapid City, taking possession 1st May.

The Mercury is the name of a new paper established at Minnedosa, which makes two papers for that town, and both sides of politics will no doubt be represented.

Eight hundred and eighteen homestead entries were made in Manitoba and the Territories by settlers from the United States during the past season, compared with 513 in 1892.

H. Weidman and S. Bere have formed a partnership under the name of Weidman & Bere to buy bankrupt stocks and deal in job lots of merchandise. They have opened business at 626 Main St., Winnipeg.

The customs returns for Winnipeg show that the values of goods exported, entered for consumption and duty collected during the month of February, 1894, as compared with the same month of 1893, were as follows:

A by-law will be submitted to the ratepayers of Boisvevain school district on March 2 next, by the trustees of the district, for authority to borrow, by way of debentures, the sum of \$10,000, for the purpose of erecting a new school building.

Reynolds Bros., hotel, Nesbitt, have assigned.

The Winnipeg dry goods firm of Lang & McKeich is undergoing a change. Mr. McKeich and Mr. Switzer (a silent partner) are retiring and Mr. Strachan, traveller for Bryco & Co., and C. J. Redmond will become partners and the style of the firm will be "Lang, Strachan & Co."

R. A. Rogers, manager of the Parson's Produce Co., Winnipeg, who has been absent from the city for a couple of months, has returned and settled down to business again. During his absence he visited Mexico, the Central American republics and the California exhibition.

D. E. Sprague, of the Winnipeg saw mills, has returned from his lumber camp on the Roseau river. He states that the winter has been a splendid one to get out logs, and his cut has been the largest he has ever made. About seventy-five men have been in his employ. They return to the city in a few days.

No trains are now running over the line of the Great Northwest Central railway. Forrest, receiver in charge of the road, says it is the intention to re-open the road in the spring. At present no grain is moving, and the amount of freight received by the company did not warrant them in keeping the line open.

The eggs in the fish hatchery at Selkirk, says the Record, are now beginning to show they are fish, as the eyes, mouth and backbone are quite distinguishable. To those who have been viewing the eggs from time to time there is much of interest in their present state. The fry will be swimming in about four week's time.

The superintendent of the Manitoba fish hatchery at Selkirk is sending to New Westminster, British Columbia, two million white-fish eggs in a state of incubation. It is the first time that such a shipment has been made across the continent. The whitefish, when they have reached the proper age, will be deposited in the rivers of British Columbia.

The city daily papers have referred to the sale of decayed fish, poultry, etc., in Winnipeg, which was discussed by The Commercial last week, connecting the sale of such stuff with Jewish peddlers. The sale of the rotten stuff complained of by The Commercial was not carried on by peddlers. The decayed stuff was sold on the city market, and not by Jews either.

At 11 o'clock Wednesday night fire broke out in the Syndicate block at Brandon in the portion owned and occupied by Wilson & Rankin, doing damage to the building and stock to the extent of \$25,000. The following companies are interested in the insurance on the building: Lancashire, \$3,000; Hartford, \$3,000; Guardian, \$2,000; London & Lancashire, 1,000; Royal, \$2,000; United Fire, \$1,000. On the fixtures there is \$1,000 in the London. There is besides about \$10,000 on the stock.

The bill to amend the "Shops Regulation Act" was reported to the Legislature on Wednesday. It bears particularly on the early closing of stores, and provides that any municipal council may, by by-law require that, during the whole or any part or parts of the year, all or any class or classes of shops within the municipality shall be closed, and remain closed on each or any day of the week at and during any time or hours between seven of the clock in the afternoon of any day and five of the clock in the forenoon of the next following day. A shop does not, however, mean an auction room.

There is always considerable talk about losses from credit business, but judging from a statement made to The Commercial this week by a city merchant, Winnipeg must be an exceptionally safe place to do credit business in. The merchant in question states that about \$6,000 per month go on his books for goods going out on credit, and yet he has only lost \$120 since he began business, nearly six years ago. The statement seems almost incredible.

The business referred to is in the nature of a jobbing and retail trade to contractors, etc., and not an ordinary store business, and in, of course, a much safer business than the latter. Still, the loss stated is wonderfully small, and one will wonder how in any community such a result could be attained.

| Description.                           | Value 1883.  | Value 1894.  |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| Exported .....                         | \$107,099 00 | \$157,693 00 |
| Entered for consumption, dutiable .... | 142,209 00   | 123,207 00   |
| Entered for consumption, free .....    | 33,275 00    | 23,727 00    |

|                     |            |            |
|---------------------|------------|------------|
| Total .....         | 175,485 00 | 146,934 00 |
| Duty collected..... | 49,110 17  | 41,580 93  |

Decrease in duty collected, \$7,529.65; increase in exports, \$50,496.

Following are the Government Savings Bank returns for Winnipeg for the month ending February 28, 1894: Deposits, \$13,442; withdrawals, \$22,940 34; deposits less than withdrawal, \$9,493 34.

It is understood that a change is to be made in the insurance firm of Wright & Jukes, Winnipeg. Mr. Jukes retires and will be succeeded by A. C. Archibald, ex teller of the Commercial Bank, the firm name being Wright & Archibald.

The inland revenue receipts for the Winnipeg division for February, 1894, were: -

|                           |             |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Spirits.....              | \$11,369 49 |
| Malt .....                | 1,797 78    |
| Tobacco .....             | 12,026 50   |
| Cigars .....              | 773 70      |
| Petroleum inspection..... | 108 80      |
| Other receipts.....       | 8 00        |

|                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Total .....                       | \$26,084 27 |
| Receipts for February, 1893 ..... | 26,915 83   |

Decrease in 1894..... \$ 830 56

The Provincial Mutual Hail Insurance Co. of Manitoba held its annual meeting in Winnipeg last week. The director's report as presented was unanimously adopted. A discussion of the by-laws took place, various matters were spoken of, such as ordering the collections through local agents and reducing the rate of compensation for losses. A committee to consider the question of collections and compensation for losses was appointed as follows: Messrs. Hettle, Morton, Clark, Schultz, Niven and Daubney. Owing to the absence of Auditor David, the audit was reported to be incomplete, and Mr. Schultz was appointed in the place of Mr. David. The following officers were then elected: Directors—C. J. Thompson, Virden; T. L. Morton, Gladstone; C. F. Collins, Miami; T. Renton, Deloraine; Frank Williamson, Baldur; Jacob Taaffe, Gretna; Robert Straug, Winnipeg. Auditors—J. H. Bell, Brandon; W. H. Daubney, Deloraine. The acreage insured was 142,258 acres, the number of policies issued was 1,670, and the amount of notes received \$35,566.18, the number of claims for losses made was 121,—two of these were waived, leaving 119 claims to be paid, amounting to \$21,693.05; 50 per cent of this amount was paid early in January, and the balance will be paid from time to time as collections are made. According to the report the operations of the company have been successful except in one direction, the matter of collections. The total receipts from cash in 1893 were \$21,778.42, which added to the balance on hand Jan. 1, makes \$27,585.47. Total disbursements, \$16,129.95; cash on deposit, \$11,455.52; assets, Dec. 31, 1893, \$37,998.84; total liabilities, Dec. 31, 1893, \$39,880.61. The report urges upon all members in arrears the necessity of as early payment as possible, as payment of balance of losses depends on collection.

The current issue of the Canadian Dry Goods Review is a very handsome one, bearing the title of the spring trade number.