

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.

Eleventh Year of Publication
ISSUED EVERY MONDAY

SUBSCRIPTION, \$2.00 PER ANNUM (in advance.)

ADVERTISING RATES MADE KNOWN ON APPLICATION.

Fine Book and Job Printing Departments.

Office, 188 James St., East.

JAMES E. STERN,
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 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, JULY 10, 1893.

Bells as a Protection to Sheep against Wolves.

For some time we have had an opportunity of observing a flock of nearly fifty sheep and lambs that are running at large in a district where wolves are unusually numerous. There is no doubt of the presence of old and young wolves as they can be heard howling every night and often appear on the prairie in the evenings sometimes near the house. During some nights sleep has been disturbed by the continual warfare carried on between the dogs and the beasts that have been attracted by the presence of some fowls that for a time roosted in an exposed place. So far wolves have done no damage. The sheep are placed in an enclosure at night and have their liberty during the day and generally seek the shelter of the shed during the midday hours. About a dozen of the sheep are provided with small but well toned bells, and as any unusual object or sound excites the fears of ravenous beast, it may be that the tinkling of so many good bells serve as a protection. Whether the wolves will become accustomed to the music remains to be seen. The bells certainly frighten the wolves now and it would be an easy matter to add some new ones of a different tone. We believe that the danger to sheep from prairie wolves has been altogether over estimated, and that when losses have occurred the evil has been caused by carelessness in leaving sheep out at night.—Pilot Mound Sentinel.

Seeking New Markets.

The secretary of the Montreal Board of Trade is in receipt of a letter from Richard R. Dohell announcing that he is about to load a small ship for the Cape of Good Hope, and will be able to arrange with the captain to send samples of goods should any members of the board so desire. "I am satisfied," he adds, "that a large trade could be done with the Cape in many articles of Canadian produce, but particularly in cheese, agricultural implements and

sewing machines." Of all the British possessions of importance, Canada's trade with Africa has been the smallest. The actual trade between Cape Colony and Canada the official returns do not reveal, all the dealings between the Dominion and the British possessions in the Dark Continent being bulked together under the head of imports to or exports from British Africa. The trade and navigation returns of last year give \$91,487 as the total value of our trade with the African colonies. Of this \$69,581 were imports, and \$21,906 exports. Nearly all the imports consisted of wool, all but \$450 worth being in that article. Our chief article of export to these colonies is agricultural implements, of which last year we sent \$10,655 worth, while African homes were blessed by Canadian musical instruments valued at \$5,025. Doors, sashes and blinds they took to the value of \$1,132. We sent them material for creating light in the shops of \$1,430 worth of lamps and lanterns. Our contribution of mental food was confined to \$193 worth of books. It will be seen that while Canada has already opened up a trade with British Africa in one of the articles—agricultural implements—enumerated by Mr. Dohell in his letter to the secretary of the Montreal Board of Trade, in the other two we last year did nothing. Why we should not in the future does not appear. In cheese particularly the present seems to be opportune for introducing it into Africa. At Chicago it has carried off the honors with flying colors, and far and wide throughout the civilized world will the fact be told. While a thing is being talked about it is a good time to push it. Canadian sewing machines have also a record that should warrant their being introduced to the matrons and seamstresses who stitch and sew in Africa's sunny clime.—Grocer.

Missouri Grain Weighing Law.

A new weighing law has been enacted by the General Assembly of Missouri, which went into effect lately. It establishes a system for the public weighing of grain and the appointment of public weigh masters by the State Board of Railway and Warehouse Commissioners. Offices will be opened at Kansas City, St. Louis and elsewhere as needed. The fees for inspecting grain were reduced by the board from 40 to 35c per car, and the fees for weighing grain in car-load lots were fixed at 20c per car and 25c per lot for sack lots. For weighing grain in unlicensed warehouses the fee is 50c per car. The salaries of weigh-masters were fixed at \$75 per month. The grades now existing will not be changed for the present until the quality of the new crop is definitely ascertained.

Natural Fruit Productions of Manitoba.

There has been no frost this spring to injure the blossoms of the berry bushes, but in some districts and on some bushes the blossoms have not been so numerous as was the case in former years, but owing to the favorable summer weather all the young fruit will likely develop to perfection. Last summer the crop of red and dark cherries was enormous, and there is every prospect that the crop will again be good. For some cause the saskatoon trees did not blossom so freely as formerly, and there will consequently be few of these berries in some districts.

There will be an enormous crop of high bush cranberries; not for many years have the trees carried so many blossoms as there are at present.

The strawberry crop is difficult to estimate, as much depends on what description of weather may exist during the next week or two; should there be frequent showers there will be a good many berries.

Last season there were many raspberries, and should July prove moist and warm the crop will be even more abundant than was the case last year. The bushes are exceedingly vigorous and are now covered by blossoms. Those who would gather these most delicious of all

wild berries should seek some place where the fire has run in the woods one or two years ago and there the berries will be found when the proper season arrives. As the raspberry grows on clean, moderately high bushes, the fruit is easily discovered and easily gathered. There are no thorns to catch the clothes of women and children and the berries are the cleanest and most fragrant of all wild fruits.—Pilot Mound Sentinel.

Regarding Canals.

The Chignecto Ship Railway, which was to greatly shorten the distance between ports on the Atlantic and those on the St. Lawrence Gulf and river, is reported to be in a bad way. It was estimated that \$3,500,000 would build the road; the contractors have taken \$500,000 of common stock, \$1,500,000 of preferred stock and \$2,000,000 of debentures have been sold, all the money has been spent; but little more than half the road is completed, and no more capital can be raised. The triumphant success of the Chignecto Ship Railway was to have proved the feasibility of Capt. Eads's larger scheme for Teherantepec, but Capt. Eads is dead and the Chignecto Railroad is far from completion, the Nicaragua Canal is waiting for the Government to take hold of it, the Panama Canal is only kept in mind by the exigencies of French politics, and vessels are still sailing around the peninsulas and the continents that lie across their courses.

Wheat Damage in the Dakotas.

The situation in the two Dakotas is daily becoming less favorable, owing to the lack of rain. According to the best information obtainable wheat in North Dakota has been injured considerably by hot and dry weather. In South Dakota, the injury, it is claimed, has been much greater, but reports differ considerably as to the full extent. The following letter was received yesterday by one of the elevator companies from their travelling man, who they consider to be very reliable in his judgment:—

"There is not any improvement in the wheat crop, but if anything the prospect is poorer to-day than a week ago. I do not think the average in South Dakota will be over 7 bu., and we will have to have better weather than any we have had to go even that. In early wheat there is only the main stalk left, and it is heading out from 3 to 6 inches high, heads very short. With rain, late sown grain will return something. Many fields would burn readily. Flax is the only crop that will amount to anything. Do not think we will need more than one house open at a station.—Minneapolis Market Record, June 29,

Coal Prices Advanced.

The selling agents of the anthracite coal companies met in New York recently and ordered an advance in prices for July delivery, as follows: 15 cents per ton on egg, 20 cents per ton on stove and chestnut, 25 cents per ton on all sizes for the Western markets. The matter of restricting the output for July was a topic discussed at some length, and it was finally decided to fix the amount at 3,000,000 tons. The meeting devoted considerable time to a consideration of the coal market as affected by the Reading's troubles. It is understood that the sentiment of the meeting was that Reading's necessities are not likely to be the occasion of an immediate forcing of coal upon the market. Otherwise, not all the companies would have been likely to agree to an advance in price for next month's delivery. Another point brought out at the meeting was a continuance for an indefinite period of the coal-selling contract between the Reading Company and the Finance Company of Pennsylvania, as originally established by ex-President McLeod.