

THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters pertaining to trade and progress in Western Canada, including that part of Ontario west of Lake Superior, the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Territories.

Twenty-fifth Year of Publication.
ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY.

Subscriptions—Canada and the United States, \$2.00 per annum in advance, or by cash not so paid, other countries, \$2.50 in advance.

Changes of advertisements or stops should be in not later than Thursday morning.

Advertisements purporting to be news matter of this Journal, will not be inserted. Office 219 McDermott St. Telephone 221.

D. W. BUCHANAN,
Publisher.

The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much larger circulation among the business community of the east region lying between Lake Superior and the Pacific coast than any other paper in Canada. Daily and weekly the Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale, commission and manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, OCTOBER 3, 1901.

PROMISED REDUCTION IN GRAIN FREIGHTS.

According to the contract made between the provincial government of Manitoba and the Canadian Northern railway company, the railway was to have been compelled through to Lake Superior in time to assist in moving the grain crops this year. October 1 was named as the date of the opening of the road. The important feature of the opening of the road, was to be the reduction in freight rates on grain, which was promised, as soon as the road was completed. Premier Roblin now announces that the company has been unable to complete the road and has asked for an extension of time. When the road will be completed is still a matter for conjecture, and it looks as though the promised reduction in freight rates is not likely to be of much service to the country for this season at least. As late as July 16 last, Premier Roblin announced publicly that a reduction of 2 cents would be made on grain freights on October 1, as the first instalment of the promised freight rates reductions by reason of the contract between the government and the company. The failure of these expectations is, of course, a great disappointment to the country. Notwithstanding official assurances, the belief has prevailed all along in best informed circles that the railway could not be completed through to Lake Superior in time to assist the grain before the close of navigation. It now turns out that this opinion was right.

THAT ANTHRAX VARN.

The report that anthrax had broken out among the cattle on the western ranges, proves to be unfounded. The story originated in Toronto and is shrewdly suspected to have been started by interested parties there for selfish purposes. Dr. McEachern, the Dominion veterinarian, has been looking into the matter and has allowed the statement to be made in his name in Winnipeg that the disease is confined to the sheep at Crane Lake and a few cattle which have been ranged for the same land as the sheep. The presence of the disease in that locality has been known for some months, and was mentioned in this journal at the time it broke out. The Dominion government promptly quarantined the

infected district, and the disease has been well under control ever since.

To have a report of this character started at this time is a serious thing, and it is a matter for congratulation that it has been so promptly discredited. The cattle shipping season is now at its height and every day is precious to the western ranchers. To have the whole movement disorganized by a general quarantine such as the repeaters of this anthrax story demanded, would be disastrous, and as official statements now prove would be totally unnecessary. The Toronto people who set up this cry have not increased the esteem in which they are held here by their action in the matter.

CARPENTERS' STRIKE OFF.

At a meeting of the striking carpenters of Winnipeg held in the Foresters' hall on Saturday evening last, it was resolved unanimously that the carpenters' strike be called off, and that contractors be notified that the same demands that have been made this year will be made again next spring at the opening of the season's work.

This brings to an end another disastrous strike. Disastrous alike to the men, the contractors and the public.

any credit upon them as contractors. Not only this but a good deal of work which would have been undertaken this fall had labor conditions been favorable has been postponed until next year and some of it may not be undertaken then if this dispute is to be revived again in the spring as seems more likely. The contractors have this to consider also and the thought brings them no consolation that eventually they will have to accede to these wage demands for the simple reason that they are just and fair in view of the wages paid to other tradesmen in the building line. The carpenter has to be quite as highly skilled in his way as any of them and has in addition to be provided at his own cost with an expensive outfit of tools. On the admission of the best of the contractors themselves the wages asked by the carpenters is not any more than should be paid for competent workmanship.

The loss to the general public from a strike like this is not so easily arrived at as it is more indirect and more widely scattered. That it is considerable, though, there is no manner of doubt and the sufferers have not even the satisfaction, if it is any, of being parties to the dispute. Many innocent people who are perfectly willing to pay any kind of wages in order to get their work done are made to suffer when a

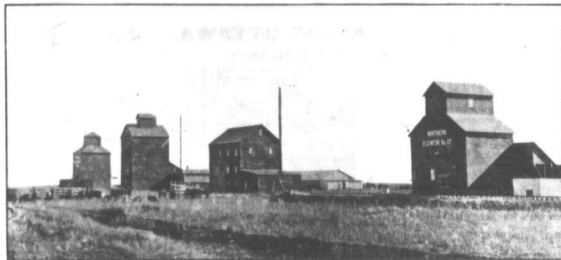
retain them in his possession or sell them is to break the law unless he can declare that they are for the private use as food of his own family.

Seneca Root Higher.

An advance in the price offered for seneca root is one of the features of the week. At Minneapolis and St. Paul the price has advanced to such an extent as will be seen by the advertisements in another part of this issue, where they are offering shippers 15 to 47c per pound instead of 34c as formerly, which is an advance of 12c. Local dealers have advanced their figures to a corresponding extent. The wet weather of this month has largely responsible for the high price in seneca, as it can only be dug when the ground is dry. The high wages being paid to laborers in other occupations has also helped to diminish the supply of seneca as more money could be made at those other lines. The sharp advance now noted should bring out quite a lot more root before the cold weather sets in. The price quoted for seneca here is about as high as it has ever been.

Lake of the Woods Milling Co.

Montreal, Oct. 2.—The annual meeting of the shareholders of the Lake of the Woods Milling Co. was held to-day in the office of the company, Montreal. The annual report for the year was submitted to the shareholders and was found to be satisfactory. A dividend of 10 per cent. was declared on



Elevator and Mill at Baldur

strike of this kind is on and that without redress.

THE CLOSE SEASON FOR DUCKS.

This year's experience has taught that the close season for wild ducks in Manitoba ends at least two weeks too soon. Dealers who handle these in any considerable numbers state that many of the birds offered to them in the way of trade during the earlier part of the present open season have been shot so young that they could hardly have been able to fly. Ducks shot at that age are not large enough to be desirable for table use and there cannot be any satisfaction in shooting them, so that all parties would benefit by an extension of the close season for another two weeks or say until the 15th of September instead of the 31st of August as the law now reads. If the interests of those who handle ducks in a trading way were taken into consideration in framing the law for their protection the present rule forbidding them to have ducks in their possession after the first day of January would be modified so as to permit the selling of ducks on hand when the season closes. As it is now any dealer who happens to have a stock of ducks on hand when the season closes must either destroy them or give them away at once. To

the paid-up capital of the company for the year ending August 31, 1901.

The following were elected directors for the ensuing year: Messrs. Robert Melghe, W. A. Hastings, R. B. Angus, R. G. Ford, F. S. Neighon, of Montreal; John Mather, of Ottawa, and G. V. Hastings, of Winnipeg. At a subsequent meeting of directors Robert Melghe was elected president and managing director; Mr. W. A. Hastings, vice-president and general manager; Mr. G. V. Hastings, manager at Winnipeg and general superintendent; Mr. F. E. Bray, secretary; Mr. F. S. Melghe, treasurer, and Mr. W. W. Hutchison, assistant secretary.

Produce Business For Sale.

J. V. Griffin & Co., pork packers and produce merchants of Winnipeg, have for the purpose of advertising the trade this week through the advertising columns of The Commercial, made the following announcement to the business. The stock and goodwill of their produce business is offered for sale. It is now over sixteen years since Mr. Griffin first established this business and it has enjoyed uninterrupted success during that time. It is understood that the pork packing grade will hereafter occupy his undivided attention.

Last week's leather market at Boston showed a considerable accumulation of strength. A steady volume of business is doing.

The Commercial has been favored with a neat little wall thermometer by T. D. Robinson, coal and wood dealer, Winnipeg, a number of which he is distributing among his patrons and friends.