

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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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, MAY 17, 1897.

THE COMMERCIAL.

The Commercial greets its readers again this week, and returns thanks for the hundreds of expressions of good will which it has received from friends, who have enquired regarding the serious loss which the journal received on account of the recent disastrous fire in the Commercial building. Though laboring under much inconvenience for the present, we hope in a very short time to have everything in even better shape for turning out the paper than before the fire. In the meantime we will do the best we can to meet the requirements of our patrons. The many expressions of good will received will encourage us to renewed effort to improve the paper to the full extent that our patronage will permit off. All work entrusted to The Commercial will be handled as promptly as possible.

Must Have the Road.

"The Crow's Nest Pass railway must be built, no matter by whom; that is the sentiment of every person in West Kootenay," said Mr. E. L. Clark, of Rossland, to a Free Press reporter at the Leland Monday evening. "We want the road to improve our transportation facilities, and to give us access to the coal deposits in order to procure a supply of coke for our smelters; the last mentioned object being the most important. We want to do our smelting at home, but in order to do so it is necessary to have a supply of coke at a reasonable cost. Until that time our American cousins will enjoy the bulk of the profits of the smelting business. However, we have every confidence that

by the time our mines are developed and ready to produce large quantities of ore, the railway will be bringing our local smelters coke from the Crow's Nest Pass ovens. In the meantime we are pushing forward with unabating energy the development of our mineral deposits. How many miles have you in the neighborhood of Rossland at present, do you ask? We have two following, which have put in plants during the past year. Le Roi, which has the largest mining plant in Canada, the Josie, Nickle Plate, City of Spokane, Monte Cristo, Columbia and Kootenay, which has the second largest plant, and is a nickle producer; the O. K., Morning Star, Red Eagle, May Flower, Homestake, R. E. Lee, Hattie, Jumbo, Deer Park, Crown Point, Commander, Great Western, Cliff, Silver Bell, Evening Star, Iron Horse, Tracton, Iron Mask, and four or five others. These are all within three miles of Rossland; and I may say that there are numerous other claims in the camp that are under development. Within six or eight months several of the properties which I have mentioned will have become regular shipping mines, notably Le Roi, War Eagle, Iron Mask, Jose, Jumbo, Deer Park, Gopher and Homestake, Columbia and Kootenay, Monte Cristo, Nickle Plate and Crown Point. This will give you an idea of what we are doing in the Rossland camp. There are some "croakers," but they are men who are ignorant of the fact that it takes a long time to get a mine in working shape. The Le Roi and War Eagle were being developed a couple of years before the outside world heard a word of them.

"The outlying camps are also doing well. There is much excitement just now at Quartz Creek in the Silver river district. The best showing reported this year in the way of a new thing has been made by that locality. The rock there is not so hard to work as it is in the Rossland camp, and the assays are much higher. Oh, yes, all the mines in the Rossland district are good producers, with good percentage of copper and silver."

"How will the increased U. S. tariff on silver and lead ore effect the mining industry in Kootenay?"

"It will make our profits less in the U. S. markets for the time being, but ultimately it will be a benefit it will lead to our smelting being done at home. Did the Rossland people want to regard the situation from a selfish standpoint, they could congratulate themselves on the fact that the increased tariff will be a benefit to them by diverting attention to the gold producing districts. However, both the silver and gold camps can live on their merits in spite of the tariff. The Trail Creek and Nelson smelters, are both putting in lead stacks, and other smelters will follow suit at once."

"It is reported that Rossland is dull at present?"

"The place has been slow for a couple of months, on account of the interruption to traffic caused by snow-slides, but before I left, business of all kinds was beginning to resume its normal activity. There are too many men going there looking for work, though all those willing to do honest labor will probably be able to find something to do. The camp will be brisk enough from this time on."

Mr. Clark is one of the prominent citizens of Rossland, and is largely in-

terested in mining enterprises. He will spend a couple of weeks in the city.

The C. P. R. Changes.

The changes which have been made in the management of the Canadian Pacific Railway, particularly the promotion of Mr. Whyte to a more responsible position, will give satisfaction here. The great trans-continental road has been divided into two divisions. Mr. Whyte, who was formerly general superintendent of the section extending from Lake Superior to Donal'd, B. C., now becomes manager of the entire western division, extending from Lake Superior to the Pacific Coast. This will further increase the importance of the Winnipeg office, which will be the head office for the entire western division. The authority of the Winnipeg office will be extended to include many matters which would formerly have been referred to Montreal. The new arrangement will go into effect on June 1 next. The promotion of Mr. Whyte to such an important position in the management of the company, is universally spoken of here with favor, and is a matter of great satisfaction to his numerous friends, who have noted his cool, careful, and successful management of the affairs of the company in the past. While giving every care to the interests of the company, Mr. Whyte has always found time to give the most respectful and careful attention to even the most trifling complaints of the public. The greater authority now reposed in the Winnipeg office is sure to be to the advantage of the West.

Grocery Trade Notes.

A Montreal report says that the St. Lawrence refinery has shut down for a time, owing to the accumulation of stock. While there is no change in the factory quotations for sugar, "there is a certain amount of speculative sugar in the market, and granulated as been offered at 4c, an eighth under the refinery price, but this is believed to be mostly Halifax refined. Brokers who are in communication with German refiners claim that they can lay down German refined granulated at \$3.60 to \$3.65 per cental, but even at this figure they can get no orders, as everybody seems filled up."

A Toronto report says: Some foreign sugars have been offered here. Beet was offered at 1-4c under the prices quoted by Montreal refineries, but it would be impossible to obtain a good white Dutch standard sugar lower than 1-16c below the prices quoted by the Montreal factories. The market for Japan teas opened this week at 10 per cent. higher than last year's prices.

Cables state that there has been an advance of 1s 6d in Egyptian onions, 7s 6d being quoted against 6s last week.

Cable advices quote 14s up to 15s against 11s 6d last week for Valencina oranges, which is an advance of 3s 6d during the past week.

There will be no June advance in prices of anthracite coal. If any change is made it will be in the July schedule.—Wall Street Daily News.