

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 desk of the great majority of business men in the vast district designated above, and including northwestern 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 21, 1889.

G. C. Mortimer, stationery, Winnipeg, is discontinuing his business.

HURTON & Co., auctioneers, Winnipeg, have been closed out by their creditors.

J. T. CRAWFORD, general storekeeper, Neepawa, has sold out to John Crawford.

J. A. PIKE, boots and shoes, Emerson, is giving up business and moving to Vancouver, B. C.

J. CRAWFORD has sold his blacksmith shop at Neepawa, Man., to Nichol, from Gladstone, Man.

COCHRANE & MANSON, millers, Crystal City, have changed the style of their firm to Cochrane & Co.

J. M. HALL, general merchant, Rapid City, Man., advertises selling out at cost and giving up business, owing to poor health.

R. T. ARMSTRONG, has bought out the business of T. J. Hedley, of the Grand Pacific Hotel, Winnipeg. He is making some improvements in the house.

THE Rapid City *Vindicator* says that H. C. Ross, general merchant, and James White, hardware merchant, of that place, contemplate making a change in their business, and are selling at reduced prices.

W. H. KNOWLTON, of Toronto, gives notice of application to Parliament to incorporate the Brandon, Souris City & Rock Lake railway, with power to construct from some point at or near Brandon through Souris City, and in a southeasterly direction towards Rock Lake, thence to the southern boundary.

FORT QU'APPELLE, Assa, wants a shoemaker.

EDMONTON post office was made a money order office on January 2nd.

THE early closing movement is in full force at Port Arthur, all lines of business closing at 19 o'clock.

WM. WALKER, Carberry, has bought out Campbell & Stevens' livery stable business at Glenboro, Man.

FRED. ROCKETT, of Manitou, Manitoba, has gone to Treherne, where he will engage in the hotel and livery business.

A PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE exchange says,—Wm. Richardson, a well known Portager, intends starting a general store in Treherne, Man.

THE interviewer of the *Toronto Budget* has been asking the insurance managers how the business of the year resulted for 1888, and the statements made show that it was a good year for the fire companies, and a fair though not particularly successful year for those in the life business. Inland marine business was moderately remunerative.

THE last number of the *Dominion Illustrated*, published at Montreal, is fully up to the usual standard of excellence attained by the journal. Considerable space is devoted to the athletic institutions of Montreal, which city is declared to be the greatest sporting place in Canada; Winnipeg is given second place. A joint stock company is being formed to publish the journal, with the object of increasing the capital and consequently the importance of the paper.

A MEETING was held at Silver Creek, north of Binscarth, Man., recently, when it was decided to try and start either a cheese factory or creamery on the joint stock principle. Cannvassers were appointed to find out what number of cows could be obtained, and also what amount of money could be raised. Major Boulton, vice-president of the Dairymen's Association of Manitoba, was present at the meeting, and strongly advocated a creamery.

RECENTLY, leases of over seven hundred thousand acres of grazing lands in the Territories, were cancelled. This step was adopted because the holders failed to comply with the regulations. Now another order-in-council has been passed, cancelling fifteen other grazing leases, comprising three hundred and sixty-six thousand acres. This will give satisfaction to settlers, who have been prevented from locating upon these lands because they were under lease. Under the new leasing regulations, settlers are not prevented from homesteading on leased lands.

A. POOR, manager of the Anthracite coal mines, at Banff, Alberta, states that at present coal is being taken out at the rate of 100 tons a day; but the mining gang will be increased to such an extent that the output will be 500 tons a day. He says even this will likely be increased, as the company have ready sale for all they can turn out. It is being shipped to the Pacific coast, where the demand is good. Instead of the company shipping the coal, they just mine the coal and lay it down at the track for \$5 a ton. The purchaser does the shipping and attends to the rates.

AN application for a hotel and liquor license at Thornhill, Man., has been made by Cook.

THE Massey Manufacturing Company has purchased building lots and will put up a warehouse at Saltcoats, the terminus of the Manitoba Northwestern railway.

IN an editorial on the "Wheat Situation" in THE COMMERCIAL of last week, a typographical error occurred, which made a considerable discrepancy in figures. The clause read: "The usual estimate of the wheat crop of the United States for 1888 is now placed at 138,730,000 bushels, or about 25,000,000 bushels under the crop of 1887." Instead of "wheat crop," it should have been "spring wheat crop." With the addition of the word "spring," the figures are correct. The winter wheat crop of the United States for 1888 is now generally placed at 273,220,000 bushels, or about 19,600,000 bushels under the crop of 1887. The final official estimate of the total crop for the year, as reported by the Washington bureau, is 368,000 measured bushels, or equal to 400,000,000 bushels of 60 pounds each. The estimate of the Chicago board of trade is 406,000,000 bushels.

COAL continues to sell, retail, at \$10 per ton at Victoria, B. C. though the city is only 100 miles from the mines. The cost is made up as follows: Price at mines, \$6 per ton; freight charges, \$1.50 per ton; cost of delivering and retailers' profits, \$2.50 per ton. This is certainly an outrageous price for the coal. Galt mine coal, which if anything, is superior in quality to the coal used at Victoria, retails in Winnipeg, delivered at the houses of purchasers, at \$8 per ton. This coal is carried by rail a distance of nearly 800 miles, over two different railways, and is subject to a pretty stiff freight rate. The Victoria people should take a lesson from Winnipeg in the art of "kicking," and they would not long submit to such injustice. The cost of coal delivered in Victoria should not exceed the price now charged at the mines. The costs all around at present are outrageously high.

IN the tax case of Schultz vs. Winnipeg, the City Council has decided to appeal the case. This is a most important case, in which almost every municipality in the province is interested. The decision previously rendered is to the effect that municipalities cannot collect interest on arrears of taxes in excess of six per cent. Dominion legislation fixes the legal interest rate on arrears of taxes at not in excess of six per cent., and, according to the decision of the court, provincial legislatures cannot legally grant authority to charge interest in excess of the stipulated amount. It is understood the Council will follow the matter up to the highest court, until a final decision is obtained. If the decision already given is upheld, it will create a great deal of confusion throughout Manitoba, as lands have been sold for taxes all over the province, upon which interest usually at ten per cent. has been charged. Titles under the Torrens act have also been given for unredeemed lands, sold at tax sales. The questions as to the legality of these sales and also the titles of the lands so sold are involved. Special legislation may be asked for to legalize these past transactions, in case the present decision of the court is upheld.