

THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters pertaining to trade and progress in 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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D. W. BUCHANAN,
Publisher.

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. The Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, JULY 8, 1899.

THE EXHIBITION.

Arrangements are now practically complete for the annual exhibition of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition Association which opens on Monday. Judging from the interest which has been taken in the enterprise so far this will be a more largely attended and representative show than any of its predecessors. Abundant accommodation has been secured for the large crowds of visitors who are expected to be in the city and most complete arrangements have also been made for the entertainment of the crowds both at the show grounds and downtown. More rapid transit to and from all parts of the city will be another satisfactory feature this year.

June Fur Sales.

In their report on the June sale at London Messrs. Blatspell Stamp & Heacock state: "The buoyant feeling in the fur trade which we had to mention last March has kept very steady, although perhaps not so well responded to as we then hoped for by German and English furriers, but the French, Italian, and markedly the American markets, have sent good reports of their trade. The attendance of buyers at the public sales just ended was good for the time of year, and most articles have maintained the advanced prices of last spring and a good trade is confidently looked forward to."

Following are the results of the sales of Messrs. C. M. Lamson & Co.:

Beaver, 15 per cent higher than in March; lynx, 5 per cent higher than in March; otter, 12 1-2 per cent higher than in March; opossum, 20 per cent higher in March; raccoon, 5 per cent lower than in March; skunk, 5 per cent lower than in March; gray fox, 50 per cent lower than in March; house

cat 20 per cent lower than in March; Mink, 7 1-2 per cent lower than in March; wolf, 7 1-2 per cent lower than in March; Chinchee, bastard, 25 per cent lower than in March; bear, 20 per cent lower than in March; Australian opossum, 17 1-2 per cent lower than in March; muskrat, all kinds, 10 per cent lower than in January. The following sold the same as in March: Silver, cross, white and red fox, marten, wildcat, wallaby, wombat, real chinchilla, Russian sable, civet cat, and Cape Horn fur seals.

Business at Vancouver.

Vancouver, July 3.—To-day the steamer Tees arrived from the north with a million dollars in gold dust, and half a million of this stayed in Vancouver, the rest going to Victoria. Many handsome blocks in Vancouver have been paid for in yellow dust taken from the creeks surrounding Dawson, and it is safe to say millions of dollars more of Klondike wealth will be circulated in British Columbia. As this gold is being paid to a large number of workmen living in the province, it is of direct as well as lasting good to the communities interested. At the contrary has been a dismal failure chiefly through the negligent, drift policy of the Semlin government. It would have been a very simple matter to have sent able men to Atlin, who would administer the laws in such a way as to be of the most benefit to the province of British Columbia and to the miners who had risked much in an attempt to work the luggings profitably. But incompetent men were sent, as in the first instance they were sent to Klondike with the result that the Atlin gold fields are simply tied up tight with red tape for the entire season. The miners have called mass meetings, and at this writing delegates from these meetings are in Victoria urging the government to reform their Atlin policy and discharge certain officials, whom they allege are not only incompetent but dishonest.

The Dominion day celebration in Vancouver has been an unequalled success and demonstrates two things. The prosperity and progress of British Columbia. The crowds were enormous and spent money freely. The sudden and unexpectedly large addition to the population found Vancouver adequate to handle them. In some of the hotels the food supply ran out and on Friday afternoon many restaurant-announced to intending customers that "they were eaten out of everything," while the street cars could not commence to carry all those who wanted to ride. The population of British Columbia is increasing very rapidly. Renting homes is out of the question in Vancouver where, in many instances, strangers have had to build a home simply because they cannot rent one. Can all these new comers earn a living in British Columbia?

Australian Wool.

A peculiar reason for the loss of sheep is recorded by the Sydney, N. S. W., correspondent of the New York Commercial, who says:

The selling value in London of the Australasian wool clip exceeds £22,000,000 every year. At the end of 1897 it was estimated that the number of sheep in the seven colonies was only about 104,000,000, though the total in 1892 was 124,000,000. The annual productions of wool is about

1,800,000 bales and on each bale shipped something like £1 10s is paid for carriage and freight. Then the millions of sheep have to be shorn and attended to, which means the employment of an army of shearers, boundary riders and general station hands. Wool is easily first in the list of staple exports, and the influence of the sheep-farming industry cannot well be overestimated.

The vicissitudes of the wool growing industry in Australia are many and various; but apart from the "squatter phobia," a disease which too often induces legislators to place the most absurd restrictions upon lessees of crown lands, the chief troubles of the pastoralist are too much sunshine and too little rain. It is estimated that the losses last year were equal to about 7,000,000 sheep in New South Wales, and another 3,000,000 for South Australia, Victoria and Queenstown. Allowing for natural increases the total of the flocks on December 31st last was 104,000,000, which is the lowest aggregate since 1889. An improvement in prices fortunately supplied some measure of compensation in the shortage in production. The average value per bale of Australian wool in London was £12 in 1896-97 and £13 for last season, so that, while about 145,000 fewer bales were available for sale, the selling values of the last two clips were practically the same. The rise in prices, after all, provides only an apparent compensation for a decreased production, and the loss to the state railways and customs, sheep owners, the working classes, laborers and others is very considerable.

Monthly Trade Returns.

The customs returns for the Winnipeg office for the month of June were as follows:

	1899.	1898.
Goods exported	\$ 87,331	\$118,724
Entered for consumption—		
Dutiable	\$383,385	265,612
Free	135,133	181,185
Total	\$518,518	\$446,797
Duty collected	\$109,731	\$79,684
Collections for fiscal year ending June 30, 1899	\$1,140,051	
Same period, 1898	907,054	

Increase	\$233,001
The inland revenue collections for the month of June in the Winnipeg district were as follows:	
Spirits	\$23,787.62
Malt	2,278.24
Tobacco, md.	17,743.13
Tobacco, raw leaf	480.40
Cigars	2,524.20
Methylated spirits	44.22
Petroleum inspection fees	110.48

Collections, June, '99

Increase

Total collections for year ending June 30

Total for previous year

The leach houses of the Lang Tanning company, of Berlin, were totally destroyed by fire Sunday morning.

Magazine readers of the summer months must be hard to please if they cannot find many articles of great interest in Self Culture for July. The half-tone pictures are particularly well chosen and printed, and present views and portraits that really "illustrate" the articles. Prof. Goldwin Smith is one of the many noted contributors.