THE COMMERCIAL

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

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Advertisements purporting to be news matter, or which profess to express the opinion of this journal, will not be inserted.

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.

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Fruit Inspection in the West.

The Commercial has been favored with the following communication from J. J. Philp, Dominion fruit inspector at Winnipeg:

To the Editor of The Commercial:

Sir,—Will you kindly allow me a part of your valuable space for the purpose of calling attention to the Fruits Marks Act of 1901 and amendments of 1902. Acting under instructions of Prof. Robertson, commissioner of agriculture, I have been for the last four or five weeks visiting the principal parts in Southern Manitoba and intend next week starting for some of the most distant parts in the Territories for the same purpose, viz., of meeting the fruit dealers at those points and explaining the provisions of the act so that they will be able to apply it when the fruit season comes around again. I have not so far met a dealer who handles fruit but has expressed great satisfaction that this matter is being taken up, nor have I met a dealer who does not claim at some time or other to have been a heavy loser on account of badly packed fruit, particularly apples. To show that we have reason to hope that this will be changed in the near future, I need only say that all carloads from Ontario since it became known in Ontario that an inspector was appointed here, have shown a marked improvement in respect of packing. I wish particularly to call the attention of your numerous readers but especially of dealers to the changes made during the past session. Among other things these provide for a uniform grade mark which is made compulsory. This is something that we have been asking for in the west but were afraid we would not get. The following is a full copy of the changes referred to. As they are of great public interest to all who consume fruit I take the liberty of asking for them a place in your columns and I shall be pleased if all your exchanges in this country at least, will give them a place in their columns.

I remain, yours truly,
J. J. PHILP.
Dominion Fruit Inspector.

The following are the amendments referred to:

An Act to amend The Fruit Marks Act, 1901.

His Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

1. Section 4 of The Fruit Marks Act, 1901, is repealed, and the following is substituted therefor:

"4. Every person who, by himself or through the agency of another person, packs fruit in a closed package, intended for sale, shall cause the package to be marked in a plain and indelible manner, before it is taken from the premises where it is packed:

"(a) With the initials of his Christian names, and his full surname and address;

"(b) With the name of the variety or varieties; and

"(c) With a designation of the grade of fruit, which shall include one of the following: six marks, for fruit of the first quality, No. 1 or XXX; for fruit of the second quality, No. 2, or XX, and for fruit of the third quality, No. 3 or X; but the said mark may be accompanied by any other designation of grade, provided that designation is not inconsistent with, or marked more conspicuously than the one of the said six marks which is used on the said package."

2. Section 6 of the said act is amended by inserting after the word "of" in the fourth line, the expression "No. 1."

3. Section 9 of the said act is repealed, and the following is substituted therefor:

"9. Whenever any fruit in any package is found to be so packed that the faced or shown surface gives a false representation of the contents of the package, any inspector charged with the enforcement of this act may mark the words 'falsely packed' in a plain and indelible manner on the package.

"2. Whenever any fruit packed in a closed package is found to be falsely marked, the said inspector may efface such false marks and mark the words 'falsely marked' in a plain and indelible manner on the package.

"3. The inspector shall give notice, by letter or telegram, to the packer whose name is marked or, the package before he marks the words 'falsely packed' or 'falsely marked' on the package.

4. Section 12 of the said act is amended by inserting after the word "marked" in the third line, the words "or packed."

Board of Trade Council.

A meeting of the council of the board of trade was held Monday at 4 o'clock. A request was received from a gentleman in Toronto for the endorsation of the Winnipeg board for his appointment to the position of commercial agent in Great Britain, which position was recently created by the Canadian government. It was decided to withhold action until the Toronto board of trade was heard from.

A communication from the Nelson, B. C., board of trade, respecting increased bounty on lead, was referred to a committee to report.

A communication from the London, Eng., chamber of commerce, urging that a Dominion insolvency law should be enacted, and it was decided to inform the London chamber that the Winnipeg board was quite favorable to a Dominion insolvency law, if one could be drafted that would meet the necessities of the people in the various provinces; and that the opposition of this board to all bills for insolvency acts heretofore introduced to the Canadian parliament was that they were constructed with a view to meet the situation in Ontario and Quebec and were quite unsuited to the situation existing in the more sparsely settled provinces.

In answer to correspondence with the C. P. R. as to when that company would reduce their rates on grain to meet the reductions made by the Canadian Northern, a letter from the freight officials was read in which they announced finally that no reduction would be made until the first of September next.

The sugar beet committee reported that they had arranged with the Manitoba department of agriculture, that the department would have tests of sugar beet grown in five or six different parts of the province made this year. Analytic tests will be made in the fall of the sugar value of the beets produced at the stations decided on.

A request was read from the Toronto board of trade that delegates be appointed by the Winnipeg board to attend a conference of Canadian boards of trade to be held in Toronto on the 4th and 5th day of June next, for the consideration of various questions that it is deemed advisable should be submitted to Sir Wilfrid Laurier prior to his departure to the approaching conference of colonial premiers. Among the many questions that will be considered at the conference may be cited the following: Trade relations within the empire; transportation, defence, postal and telegraphic communication, the recent action of the imperial government whereby duty has been levied upon wheat and its products without reference to the colonies. A large number of boards in Canada have already signified their intention to be represented; and although subjects of imperial interest will probably take precedence, the conference will also afford all questions an opportunity to introduce and discuss all questions appertaining to the trade and commerce of Canada. After consideration the council deeming the occasion an important one and that the Winnipeg board should be represented at the conference to express western views, decided to appoint Messrs. John Russell, president, and W. Sanford Evans, as representatives of the board.

Railway and Traffic Matters.

The gross earnings of the C. P. R. for the fiscal year from July 1, 1901, to May 7, are $31,763,343; increase, $5,788,284.

It was reported from Chicago last week that the C. P. R. had secured control of the Wisconsin Central Railway, in order to obtain an entrance to Chicago.

It was stated in a Winnipeg daily paper last week that Mr. Whyte, of the C. P. R., had definitely stated that no new depot would be erected by his company in Winnipeg this year. This was incorrect, as Mr. Whyte made no statement to that effect.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has placed an order with the Rogers Company, of Paterson, N. J., for four new ten-wheel locomotives to be delivered at an early date. Altogether the railway has ninety locomotives under construction to be turned out this year.

Steel for the new Canadian Pacific Railway elevator, which the Weber Company, of Buffalo, will build at Fort William, is being imported from Germany and Scotland. It was found impossible to obtain the material in the United States, owing to the extraordinary demands on the mills.

There is some talk, which appears to be not without foundation, of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company organizing a new company to handle its western land grants. Business in this department has grown to such an extent that the present system is proving inadequate for the proper handling of the business.

The C. P. R. will introduce its summer refrigerator service for dairy products on the 26th, taking in the branch and main lines, and also to the coast and Kootenay points. This week will also introduce a special refrigerator service for fruit and produce from Winnipeg to surrounding points, commencing on the 27th instant.

The following Montreal special to the New York News was published a few days ago: "It is intimated in excellent quarters here that the coming half-yearly dividend on C. P. R. will be raised from 2½ to 3 per cent., thus placing the stock on a 6 per cent. basis. There will be also a bonus out of receipts from land sales, but the amount is understood not to be decided on. The receipts from land sales have been very large, but they are kept in a special fund, and not reported in weekly or monthly earnings. Last month $700,000 was realized. The fund now amounts to more than $7,000,000. To pay a bonus of 1 per cent. on the common would require $650,000. The prospects are, therefore, for a 6 per cent. regular rate and 1 per cent. extra out of land sales receipts."

The report which was circulated by the daily papers last week that Sir Thos. Shaughnessy, president of the C. P. R., had left Montreal to visit the west, was incorrect. He has been planning to come west, but so far has made no actual move in this direction.

General Superintendent Leonard, of the Canadian Pacific Railway, has instructed the heads of all departments to the effect that monthly men not being paid overtime will be given two full weeks' holidays this year and will receive full pay for the same. This is an unsolicited concession which the employees will very much appreciate.

A letter from Moose Jaw says: The railroad outfits have nearly all pulled out of town to the points where they intend commencing operations. Jackson's outfit of sixty teams hauling left yesterday morning. Moosomin will continue to be the base of supplies for the different contractors during the summer.

The London Financial Times of May 1 says: "The profits and business of the Canadian Pacific in the current year have been phenomenal, but while that may be readily admitted, it must not be taken for granted therefore that the effect of the existing prosperity will be entirely evanescent. We have not heard the end of such a wheat crop as that grown in the Northwest last year, as soon as it has been harvested and sold. Even in more settled districts an exceptionally good harvest is attended by far-reaching results, but in the territory of the Canadian Pacific Railway its effect must be of vital importance. Though the crop which the system has had to move in the past year has been an extraordinary one, the probability is that the average harvest of the future will exceed very greatly the average harvest of previous years, and meantime the settlement of fresh territory supplies an increase in the passenger and general merchandise traffics of the railway company, apart altogether from the transportation of farm produce. On the whole it must be acknowledged that there was somground for the recent spurt in Canadas if they are to be judged on the same basis as Yankees, and even now the American looking through the list might conclude that Canadian Pacific offers greater prospects at their advanced price than many stocks of his home railroads."

Tenders.

The school district of Carman, Man., is inviting tenders for a loan of $20,000, repayable in 20 years, and bearing 5 per cent. interest. Bids are to be in by the 31st inst. Thos. Bruce, of Carman, is secretary-treasurer.

Tenders, addressed to D. L. Livingstone, Deloraine, Man., will be received by the trustees of the school district of Deloraine, up to 6 o'clock p.m. on Monday, June 23rd, for the purchase of debentures for five thousand dollars, bearing interest at 5 per cent. per annum, and repayable in twenty annual installments.

Tenders, addressed to the chairman of the committee on works, Winnipeg, for the construction of the hereinafter mentioned local improvement, will be received at the office of the city clerk, up to 8.30 p. m., on Tuesday, May 27. The local improvement is as follows: A cedar block pavement, 18 feet wide, on the lanes south of Broadway extending from Hargrave street to Carlton street, and on the lane running from the said last mentioned lane south of Assiniboine avenue.

Broomhall's Year Book.

A copy of the latest issue of Broomhall's Corn Trade Year Book, a reference book for grain merchants and millers, has reached The Commercial. This work is strongly bound in cloth, well printed, and gives over 200 closely packed pages of information about the world's chief cereal crops, their prices, etc. The publisher is Geo. J. S. Broomhall, F.R.S.S., editor "Corn Trade News." While this work is called a year book it is not published each year, the last volume having been issued in 1896, which shows that this issue contains hitherto unpublished information covering a period of five years, besides containing all that was essential in the previous volume. The statistics include the calendar year 1901. The year book comprehends the crop news of every country and is divided into two sections, the first recording the statistics of each country separately, the second consisting of tabular statements in which the general movement of grain is shown. Altogether we consider this work a most valuable one for the grain man no matter what part of the world he is in. The price is one guinea. It may be obtained through any book store or from the publishers in London, England.

Lake and Rail Freights.

Latest engagements of heavy grain from Duluth to Montreal were reported at 5½c, and from Fort William to Montreal at 5¾c per bushel. From Chicago to Montreal considerable wheat was taken at 4¾c. Chicago to Buffalo, wheat 1¼c, corn 1¼c, and oats 1c. From Buffalo to New York, wheat at 4c, corn at 3¾c, and oats at 2¾c.—Montreal Trade Bulletin.

"Progressive Canada" is the name of a new publication which has made its appearance in Toronto. It is entitled "a journal of enterprise" and is published monthly. Its principal aim will be to set forth the advantages of Canada as a field for settlement and industrial enterprises.