

THE COMMERCIAL

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Publishers.

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, JULY 12, 1897.

MR. HAGUE'S ADDRESS.

Recently we published the annual financial statement of the Merchants Bank of Canada. This week we publish in full the very interesting and comprehensive address delivered at the annual meeting of the bank, by Mr Hague, general manager. The annual addresses delivered by Mr. Hague, have long been looked forward to by business men all over the country as valuable contributions to the commercial literature of the times. Mr Hague seems to be able to obtain a grasp of the business situation in the country such as is possessed by very few persons in the country. He also has the ability of presenting his thoughts and opinions in an entertaining and intelligent manner. Business men will find much valuable information in this address and they will be amply repaid for perusing it carefully. Coming from the manager of a great financial institution like the Merchants Bank, the statements made will be given special weight. The business of the bank extends to all parts of the country, and gives the manager an opportunity to feel the pulse of trade in practically every industry. Business men throughout the West are perhaps as well informed as those of any other part of Canada and they will no doubt appreciate the opportunity now extended to them of perusing Mr. Hague's address in full.

THE COMPTROLLER'S STATEMENT.

D. S. Curry, city comptroller, submitted his annual report, writing as follows: To the mayor and council of the city, of Winnipeg:

Gentlemen,—I have the honor to submit herewith my thirteenth annual report on the fiscal affairs of the city, giving in detail the receipts and expenditures for the fiscal year ending the 30th April, 1897, with balance sheet and statements of debentures outstanding, etc. The receipts for the year were \$866,863.43, and the disbursements \$785,212.03. The tax collections were \$511,551.91, being roundly \$20,000 more than in any previous year. The taxes in arrear are \$18,321.40, less than at the close of last year. The general debentures outstanding amount to \$2,538,894.50, an increase of \$74,211 during the year. The local improvement debentures amount to \$707,979.71, a net increase of \$143,217; \$40,000 were retired. The accounts of the several receiving officers have been audited and found correct. There is a difference of roundly \$100 standing between the books of this office and the tax collector's, arising probably through some cross-entries. The books are now being rechecked.

CANADIAN PRODUCTS FOR BRITAIN.

Prof. James W. Robertson, Dominion agricultural and dairy commissioner, sailed by the Dominion line Ss. Labrador, for England, to look after the agricultural interests of Canada in the English markets. The same steamer carries the first shipment of dressed meats ever exported from Canada. Special cold storage chambers have been provided for the purpose, and Professor Robertson will be able to see for himself at the conditions under which meats must be carried, and also the condition in which they arrive and how they are handled. This trade in dressed meats is capable of almost unlimited expansion, and is one of great profit to Canadian producers.

Prof. Robertson, who will be gone about six weeks, has several objects in view. He goes primarily to acquaint himself with the conditions of the English markets, to learn the latest preferences for styles of packages, and qualities of goods, but he will address boards of trade, chambers of commerce, and produce exchanges in the chief commercial centres, and give information in regard to the improved methods adopted by the Dominion government for the transport of dairy produce, fruits and meat in cold storage. He will also try to rid the English mind of the prejudice that still lingers against Canadian products, and will make it plain that a new era has arrived and that Canada can now produce good stuffs of the best quality.

Canvassers who will introduce Canadian farm products to produce dealers will be instructed and started upon their duties. Information will be sought in regard to the market for eggs, dressed poultry and meats, and an attempt will be made to develop the market for Canadian fruits, such as peaches, grapes, pears and tomatoes.

On Prof. Robertson's return, early in August, regular shipments of these products will begin. Fruit growers

in the Niagara district have agreed to furnish a carload of these fruits each week, and they will be conveyed to England in cold storage steamers in a prime and fresh condition.

By instructions from Hon. Sydney Fisher, minister of agriculture, Prof. Robertson will visit the north of France to purchase machinery for packing butter in tin boxes for shipment to China and Japan. Marquis Ito, of Japan, lately told us that Japan is a good market for butter, and an effort will be made by Canada to capture a portion of this trade for Northwest dairymen. Prof. Robertson is accompanied by his French secretary, Mr. Leon Guerin.

PACIFIC COAST NEWS.

Vancouver, July 5.—A big effort is being made by the British Columbia canners to secure in Central and Southern America not only a new market for their canned product, but also opportunities for the sale of frozen fresh salmon. The New Zealand Shipping company's steamer, Tekoa, is chartered to sail from Vancouver on the 20th of September next. She will make a number of Central American ports and dispose of a cargo shipped thither, but her chief places of call will be Valparaiso and Buenos Ayres. The Tekoa will then carry the remainder of her cargo to Liverpool and London. The vessel is a speedy one of three thousand tons burden and equipped with excellent refrigerators for cold storage. She will take at least 60,000 cases of canned salmon besides fresh fish and other commodities to Spanish America, and it is hoped, if her voyage proves successful, will be a potent factor in inducing the Dominion to subsidize a steamship service between Vancouver, Victoria and Central and Southern America.

It is unlikely that ere the next provincial general election comes, in June, 1898 any of the large money subsidies offered to provincial railroads out of intended new loan of \$2,500,000 will be claimed. The Coast and Kootenay project has temporarily collapsed; the Bute Inlet and Quenelle railroad is not expected to raise the debenture money it requires and the Boundary railroad extension is also blocked. The only line now likely to be built by provincial aid alone, within a twelve month or so, is that of the Cassiar Central, for which ample British capital will probably be got, on the strength of the provincial grant of 700,000 acres of mineral land. The Cassiar line, a narrow grade one of 70 miles, can be built for \$700,000.

JUNE CUSTOMS COLLECTIONS.

The following statement shows the value of goods exported and entered, for consumption at the port of Winnipeg with duty collected thereon during the month of June, 1897, compared with the same month of 1896:

Description.	Value 1896.	Value 1897
Exported	\$ 79,817 00	\$ 113,801 00
Entered for consumption dutiable	188,891 00	230,716 00
Entered for consumption free	46,572 00	76,312 00
Total for consumption	\$ 235,673 00	\$ 307,053 00
Duty collected	\$ 57,750 31	\$ 69,490 83

It will be noticed that there is a substantial increase over 1896 in every item.