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.

Twelfth Year of Publication

ISSUED EVERY MONDAY

SUBSCRIPTION, $2.00 PER ANNUM (in advance.)

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JAMES B. STEEN,
Publisher

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 desks of the great majority of business men in the vast district designated above, and 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, OCTOBER 9, 1893.

Dry Goods.

The head of a leading Toronto firm said to a reporter:—

"I think there is a fairly hopeful outlook for us. The condition of the stocks of country merchants is such as to lead to the expectation that a considerable quantity of goods will be required between now and the end of the year." Manufacturers of cottons are now canvassing the trade for orders for the spring of 1894. Orders have been placed probably not as largely as last season, but for quantities sufficiently large to satisfy the mills for the present. The woollen mills are all very busy on orders previously placed. Samples of the new spring goods are already in the hands of the wholesale trade. Prices are very firm, both for woollens and cottons, the firm prices being caused by the firmness in British markets. In this connection it is stated that the coal strike in England has resulted in the shutting down of many cotton and woollen factories; and those that are running are paying double prices for fuel. A rise in prices of products is the immediate result.

Wheat Movement.

While the price of wheat is not so satisfactory to farmers as it was a week ago, their sales are no less. Some of them have probably become discouraged of waiting for the rise that is so slow in coming, others are obliged to sell to pay up their debts, while some are selling the surplus they cannot carry, owing to lack of room. Still, sales are only about three fourths of what they were a year ago at this time. A good many continue to store their wheat in elevators, and many are not hauling any in, but are selling what they had previously delivered. This makes the sales about equal to the amount hauled in from the farm. The sales this week in the northwest aggregate 700,000 bu. to 750,000 bu. daily. Owing to higher rates charged for money, compared with a year ago, country buyers keep cleaned up as closely as possible, so that the receipts at Minneapolis and Duluth are not far below those of last year. Country stocks are accumulating at the rate of about 100,000 bu. daily. This is some 25 per cent of the accumulation last year. Winter wheat farmers are apparently selling less liberally than those in the northwest. At least they are holding tighter to their wheat. The total spring wheat receipts at the four primary markets this week were 4,413,546 bu. against 7,842,000 bu. last year, and the total winter wheat movement was 1,673,667 bu. against 2,078,030 a year ago. The receipts at Minneapolis and Duluth, while relatively larger than those at Chicago or Milwaukee, compared with last year, were 779,972 bu. less than at that time.—Minneapolis *Market Record*, Sept. 30.

Prohibiting Fruit Imports.

The order-in-council prohibiting the importation of dried fruits, etc., from Smyrna, says an Ottawa telegram, is causing many enquiries addressed to the department of agriculture by importers. Many people are anxious to know whether figs, raisins, candied peel, etc., from various points in Southern Europe will be allowed to enter the Dominion in view of the alleged existence of cholera in scattered districts. The uniform answer of the department has been that no dried fruits from any infected district will be allowed to enter Canada, although the order-in-council only mentions the district of Smyrna, as the germ of cholera might be conveyed in boxes, in the way they are commonly received, if by any possibility the germs are brought in contact with fruit at the time of packing and from the fact that the goods are not susceptible to disinfection by any of the ordinary processes. The order-in council will not be continued of course after the epidemic disappears, the goods affected being only those picked during the period of epidemic. It is understood that the onus will rest upon importers of proving that this class of goods imported via England have not been packed during the period of the epidemic. The government does not desire to hamper commercial relations, but precautions such as those now being enforced are demanded in the interests of the health of the community.

Bounties Paid Sugar Producers.

According to a communication sent to the United States Senate in response to resolution of that body, there has been an enormous increase in the manufacture of sugar in the country since the passage of the law authorizing the payment of a bounty, and in no part of this business has there been a greater increase than in the production of maple sugar, which is confined exclusively to the Northern States. The cane sugar crop comes entirely from the South, Louisiana being far in advance of all the other States, with Texas ranking second. The communication of the Secretary of the Treasury shows the number of pounds manufactured and the amount of bounty paid since the passage of the law, Oct. 1, 1890. The grand total shows an aggregate of 861,476,576 pounds, carrying with it a bounty of $16,849,-951 up to and including the month of August of this year. For the fiscal year of 1892 the production was as follows:—

	Pounds.	Bounty.
Cane Sugar	364,839,411	$7,077,316
Beet Sugar	13,004,838	240,098
Sorghum	1,136,086	22,197
Maple Sugar	140,174	2,465

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1893, the product was as follows.—

	Pounds.	Bounty.
Cane Sugar	450,663,915	$8,763,830
Beet Sugar	27,083,288	531,368
Sorghum	1,014,450	19,817
Maple Sugar	3,634,414	60,119

During the months of July and August this year there was paid on the maple sugar crop over $26,000, and there still remains due and unpaid $117,780 on 6,660,090 pounds produced. During the same months there was also paid out the sum of $132,772 as bounty on other sugars, the production of which the department has been unable to compute. This is paying pretty roundly to support the sugar producer. Why not pay a bounty to the wheat grower? and following up the principle, to producers generally.

Consumption of Spirits.

St. John, N.B., *Telegraph* says:—There is evidence that the people of Canada are becoming increasingly temperate in their use of or abstention from intoxicating beverages. Twenty-four years ago the amount of spirits consumed in the Dominion averaged over one and a half gallons per head, while last year the average was below half a gallon per head. In the same period the consumption of wine per head has also somewhat decreased. There has been an increase in beer drinking, counterbalancing to some extent these changes, the increased consumption being from 2.26 to 3.57 gallons per head. In brief, the average reduction of over a gallon per head in spirits is offset by the increase of a gallon and a quarter of beer. The change is a favorable one.

The Advance in Price of Rice.

The New Orleans *Picayune* says the "rapid recovery in the price of rice from figures absolutely ruinous to a level of values nearly approaching to the satisfactory quotations of two years ago is the most important event which has happened in local commercial affairs for a long time past. A little more than two weeks ago rough rice was hard to sell at prices ranging from $1 to $2. Now the same rice is worth from $2.50 to $3.50 per barrel, and there is every indication that within a very short time the price of better grades will reach as high as $4."

Charges for Inspection in Minnesota.

The Minnesota Railroad and Warehouse Commissioners have established new rates for inspecting and weighing grain. The rate for inspecting on arrival is 20 cents a carload; for inspecting out of store it is 20 cents from public houses, and 30 cents from private; inspecting to vessels 40 cents per 1,000 bushels from public houses, and 60 cents from private. The weighing charge is 20 cents a car for weighing into store, and 20 cents per car for weighing out from public houses, and 30 cents for weighing out from private houses. To weigh to vessels 40 cents per 1,000 bushels from public warehouses, and 60 cents per 1,000 bushels from private warehouses.

The *Delineator* for November is the first of the three Great Winter Numbers, and is a splendid specimen of this popular magazine. All the needs of ladies, misses and children are fully considered in the styles for the coming season, which are sensible and beautiful in themselves, and are most attractively displayed. A special article on Dinner and Evening Gowns will be appreciated at this time, as will also Two Menus for a Thanksgiving Dinner. The Tennis article treats of Mixed Doubles and Tournaments. There is a well-written paper on Children's Associates, and an original Fancy Dress Drill for an equal number of boys and girls. An article valuable to the housewife for its suggestiveness is called As Winter Comes On, and the second instalment of Household Renovation deals with walls and floors. Around the Tea Table treats of current fancies, the Floral article for the month is on the culture of Lilies, and entertainment for Autumn days and relaxation for the longer evenings is provided in A Harvest Home and A Geography Party. In addition there is continued instruction in Netting, Knitting, Crocheting, Lace-Making, etc., etc. This magazine should be in the hands of every housekeeper. One year's subscription, One Dollar; Single Copies, 15 cents. Address orders to *The Delineator* Publishing Co. (Ltd.), 33 Richmond St. West, Toronto.