

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.

Eighth Year of Publication.
ISSUED EVERY MONDAY
 SUBSCRIPTION, \$2.00 PER ANNUM (in advance).

ADVERTISING RATES.		
1 month weekly insertion	\$0 80 r line.
3 months, do	0 75 "
6 " do	1 25 "
12 " do	2 00 "

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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, AUGUST 4, 1890.

Manitoba.

McCallum & Carr, blacksmiths, Pilot Mound, have sold out to John Pollock.

Four thousand dollars worth of cattle and sheep were sold in Carman one week recently, by farmers of the district.

D. Fraser, the pioneer flour and feed dealer at Virden, has purchased the flour and feed business of W. D. Craig of the same place.

The Morden Monitor places the wheat yield of that district at twenty bushels per acre, and states that some barley has already been cut, and some farmers will commence cutting wheat early this week.

The appeal of the Manitoba Free Press Company, Winnipeg, against a verdict for \$500 in favor of J. H. Ashdown for libel, rendered last April, has been sustained by the full court and the verdict accordingly set aside.

Says the Morden Monitor of July, 30:—Snowden & Nelson of this place shipped two carloads of fat stock last week—one to Winnipeg and one to Port Arthur. Next week they will ship six carloads to Montreal.

Free Press:—A gentleman who has just returned from Wawanesa says that the wheat that was cut down a few weeks ago by hail has recovered and is now all out in head, and gives promise of a heavier yield than the wheat that was not affected by the storm. The heads are quarter of an inch longer and the kernels plumper, but is a week later.

The Manitoba Northwestern mail grievance has been remedied, and a mail is now dispatched from the Winnipeg post office on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 10.30, and mails will be received at Winnipeg on Mondays,

Wednesdays and Fridays. No registered matter will be sent with these mails, but will be forwarded same days as formerly.

Hon. S. C. Wood, general manager of the Freehold Loan & Savings Company and Capt. McMaster, a director of the same company, have returned from a drive through the province, inspecting the crops. Mr. Wood has visited Manitoba at this season of the year for the past ten years for the purpose of inspecting the crops, and he is, therefore, well qualified to give an opinion upon the crop outlook. He and Capt. McMaster went west, northwest and south, covering pretty well the whole cultivated area. Mr. Wood thinks that the wheat will yield from fifteen to twenty-five bushels per acre, with an average of twenty bushels. This agrees with the predictions made by THE COMMERCIAL.

Assiniboia.

F. G. Healey, fruits and confectionery, Moose Jaw, has sold out to F. A. Miller.

Some months ago the Cambrian hotel at Wapella was burned under suspicious circumstances and the proprietor, John Gordon, who has just put on considerable insurance, and an accomplice, Frank Ion, were arrested. The trial came off last week, and both prisoners have been sent to the penitentiary at Stony Mountain for a long term of years.

British Columbia Trade.

Business is featureless. Summer has always been a quiet season in this province and strange as it may appear the greatest activity is noticeable in the wet season.

Shipping is one of the most active elements of commercial life here and business is brisk in that line. Shipping agents report it as one of the best periods with them they have yet experienced and the fleets of the province are pretty generally employed.

The foreign lumber trade is very promising and foreign ships are arriving daily in Burrard Inlet. Several ships have also gone up the Fraser to the McLaren-Ross mills.

Building is not so prevalent as last year, but the prospects are that the aggregate at the end of the year will equal if not exceed that of 1889. Word has been received that the long expected post office building in Vancouver is about to be commenced and the contract has been let. This has been regarded as the signal for a general building boom, many preferring to wait until the post office was an accomplished fact before investing in brick and stone.

The probability is that the salmon pack will be light this year owing to the depression in the market caused by the unusual pack of last year. So far nothing has been done by the canners, who are waiting for the sock-eye run.

Wholesale business is reported as quite satisfactory, although prices have been disturbed by a heavy cut among Victoria houses. There is a stagnation in the dry goods trade of Vancouver, the result of so many clearing out sales. Legitimate business is, therefore, under a great disadvantage.

Real estate is still very quiet and all the dealers are looking to the good time coming. The C.P.P. sale takes place on the 30th of July, after which speculation will be more active, investments for some time having been waiting

for it to come off. The principal investments now are in West end residence property and farms.

Residents of Vancouver have been gratified during the week past to learn of a certainty of the establishment of another important industry—a foundry and machine shop, which will make marine work a specialty. The sugar refinery, the fruit canning business, the furniture works added to the above, all of which have excellent prospects of success, are among the new industries of this year. Another bridge spanning False Creek, between Westminster Avenue and Granville street bridges, has been commenced.

A matter that has been attracting a good deal of local interest recently is the trade and license by-laws, frequently discussed by THE COMMERCIAL. This taxing of trades is a feature peculiar to British Columbia legislation, and one so antiquated and medieval in its origin that surprise has often been expressed that Vancouver, which boasted of being the embodiment of modernism, should have adopted it. The by-law which was formed last year taxed every blessed occupation that is carried on in the city savoring of trade. Even boarding house keepers were obliged to pay a license. The real estate dealers, however, combined and upset it so far as its provisions related to them and it was indifferently enforced. This year the by-law has been amended, the fees slightly reduced, and is being enforced. The Vancouver Board of Trade has taken the matter up and one of the newspapers, and they are making it interesting for the council, with what success remains to be seen. It does seem inexplicable, however, that the principle of licensing storekeepers, commercial travellers, commission men, etc., to do business, can exist in an era of enlightenment like the present.

Commission business is good and dealers report activity. Old hay is declining in price; oats are scarce and dear; potatoes are becoming more plentiful and are lower in price; fresh eggs are scarce and dear; butter remains plentiful with large lots offering from Manitoba.

Passenger and freight traffic over the C.P.R. is heavy. Travel from the east and south is excellent and the freight both ways surprisingly large in proportions. The China and San Francisco steamers are doing a big business with this port and local shipping is heavy as well. The Alaska business from Victoria is largely augmented and the volume of travel that way is so great that it is surprising that Canadian ports north do not attract some of the travel and that Canadian companies do not share some of the carrying trade.

One favorable feature of the fruit business is, that British Columbia is supplying more and more of the demand and a very considerable advance has been made this year, although the fruit crop marketed has not been nearly so large as was expected. A big improvement has been made in the mode of marketing the fruit both in the neatness and size of the boxes and baskets used, principally through the efforts of the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association. For the amount of fruit grown in the province and the immense quantity imported fruit to the consumer is lamentably dear. Small fruits have not been retailed at less than 15c. per pound this year and much of it at 20c. The quality is invariably good.