

The Commercial

A Journal of Commerce, Industry and Finance, especially 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.

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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 desks of a great majority of business men in the vast district described 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, MAY 13, 1895.

Manitoba.

Virden has been made a port of entry, with W. F. Scarth as collector of customs.

The Hudson's Bay Company will discontinue their general store at Manitou.

James Williams, who has for several years been residing at Deloraine has taken the Carman house at Carman.

Some of the business men in Carberry are moving to establish a board of trade. They have communicated with the Winnipeg board for information as to procedure.

The municipality of Rosser is advertising for a noxious weed inspector. This is a good move. Every municipality should have a paid inspector during the weed season. Instead of trusting to district pathmasters, who very seldom do their duty for fear of offending neighbors.

Northwest Ontario.

The Fort William Drug Co., Ltd. has obtained a charter of incorporation.

A. Leullier, general store, Keewatin, is advertising his business for sale.

The regular navigation season opened on the Lake of the Woods last week. The boat began running between Rat Portage and Fort Francis.

T. Wilson, formerly of the Grand Union hotel, Winnipeg, has leased the Alberta hotel at Fort Francis, Ont., from A. Lunn.

The firm of Boucher & Langstaff, general merchants, doing business at Rainy River and Emo River, have opened a third store at Big Forks and have taken in W. J. Holmes late of Carp, Ont., as partner. The new firm is styled Boucher, Langstaff & Holmes, and their head office is at Rainy River.

New Fire Insurance Company.

The promoters in Winnipeg of the new fire insurance company are going ahead with the matter, and will operate under the name of the Canadian Fire Insurance Company. The following prospectus of the new company has been published.

In opening the stock list of this company for subscriptions, the promoters draw the attention of the public to the fact that the rates of premiums of fire insurance in force

in this country are such as to warrant them in assuming that the company can do a paying business.

The returns of the Superintendent of Insurance for the Dominion show that Manitoba has a most favorable standing in regard to the proposition which the losses sustained bear to premium income.

The intention of the promoters is to write insurance in the province of Manitoba only, for the present, and if results are satisfactory, to extend the company's operations from Lake Superior to the Pacific coast, which is the most remunerative fire territory in the Dominion, and the most likely to develop rapidly.

Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) of the stock is now offered for subscription, with 10% payable on allotment. It is expected that by the 1st of June the company will be in full operation. No further call on the stock is anticipated, as is the intention of the promoters to issue further stock in British Columbia and the Northwest Territories, as soon as the operations of the company are extended to that territory, but should this extension of business necessitate any further calls, it is not expected that in any event such call will exceed five per cent.

Of the \$250,000 now offered \$180,000 is applied for, the balance the promoters are anxious to see taken up in small parcels, the object being to have people in all parts of the province interested in the company, as shareholders.

The company has the endorsement of most prominent members of the wholesale and retail trade, Banker's Association and Grain Exchange, and the enterprise is receiving enthusiastic promises of support from the insuring public.

Sugar Market Unsettled.

The imposition of a duty of one-half cent per pound on all raw sugar has unsettled sugar values all round. The intentions of the government in the matter were evidently kept a profound secret, for there was not a single member of the grocery trade who did not express surprise this morning. The exact effect of the change on the spot value of the refined article could not be estimated off-hand, but approximately it means an advance of $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ cent per lb. on all sugars at the refineries. That is, granulated will now be quoted at about 4c, and yellows 3c to 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c per lb. In fact, the advance on low grades of the latter may be even greater proportionately than on high grade yellow and granulated, as the new duty is a specific one and imposed entirely irrespective of the percentage of saccharine matter. That is a low grade raw testing only 60 will cost as much to import as a high grade one testing 96. In this particular the new impost may be annoying to our refiners, as the requirements of the Canadian market demand that a certain proportion of low grade raws shall be imported. The goods produced from these are warranted by a certain section of the trade in Quebec. It is just possible, however, that the practical effect will be to restrict the consumption of low grade yellows, which will be a blessing in disguise for economic reasons well known to the trade. Every dealer in sugar knows that a granulated or high grade yellow is intrinsically cheaper to the consumer than an inferior and cheaper low grade yellow. As the situation of sugar stocks is at present the actual effect of the change will be that the jobber and country dealer will benefit by the advance in prices which it necessitates. The refiners, though they did not want to do so, were compelled by competition to sell ahead to a very large extent, at the low prices which have ruled, prices which have been fully $\frac{1}{2}$ of a cen

under those of New York, and it will be their customers and not the refiners who will reap a great and immediate benefit from the change. It is understood in this connection that some speculative jobbers, both here and elsewhere at other large distributing points, stand to make profits away up into the thousands of dollars. On the other hand, it is understood that the refiners, in addition to the disadvantage of having operated ahead at the low prices, have large cargoes of raw beet now coming forward, indicating pretty plainly that they had not the slightest inkling of the recent changes.—Montreal Gazette.

Winnipeg Markets a Year Ago.

Wheat.—No. 1 hard, c. i. f. Fort William May, 62 to 61c.
Flour.—Local price, per sack, Patents, \$1 65; Bakers, \$1.55.
Bran.—Per ton, \$12 to \$13.
Shorts.—Per ton, \$14 to \$15.
Oats.—Per bushel, 31 to 33c.
Barley.—Per bushel, 40 to 45c.
Butter.—Held dairy, good 17 to 20c New 20 to 24c.
Eggs.—Fresh, easier at 10 to 11c.
Beef.—Fresh, per lb., 6 to 7c.
Mutton.—Fresh, 10c.
Hogs.—Dressed, 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 6c.
Cattle.—Ordinary butchers, 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c; choice to fancy 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ to 4c.
Chickens.—Dressed, 10c.
Hides.—No. 1 cows, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c.
Potatoes.—40 to 50c per bushel.
Hay.—\$5 to \$8.00 per ton, car lots.

The principal features of the market this week a year ago were: 2c decline in wheat; butter firm, and choice now scarce; eggs 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c lower; mutton 1c lower. The first car of western range sheep of the season arrived for the local market. Several boats cleared with wheat from Fort William. The rate from Duluth to Buffalo was quoted at 2c for wheat. The tariff changes made at Ottawa were exercising the business public.

Grain and Milling News.

Commissioner Chipman, of the Hudson's Bay company, left on Monday for Prince Albert, Sask., where the company will rebuild their mill which was burned some months ago. Plans for a new structure were prepared by George Browne, architect, Winnipeg.

The total receipts of wheat at the four principal United States winter wheat points, Toledo, St. Louis, Detroit and Kansas City from July 1st to date are 31,540,918 bu. against 42,613,021 bu. in 1891, and 71,163,259 bu. in 1893. The total receipts at the four principal spring wheat points since Aug. 1st the beginning of the crop year foot up—Minneapolis, 45,037,500 bu.; Duluth, 31,037,582 bu.; Chicago, 19,996,000 and Milwaukee 6,064,979 bu.; making a total of 102,136,070 bu.; against 95,318,961 bu. during the same time last year and 154,716,959 bu in 1893.

A telegram from Montreal says: James Carruthers, grain dealer, has imported ten cars of red winter wheat from Detroit, paying the duty of 15 cents a bushel. The wheat will be consumed by Ontario millers.

A Jamestown, North Dakota, paper says: There will be a decidedly decreased acreage in wheat in this part of the state and generally throughout the state. It is estimated by careful farmers from observations in their immediate neighborhoods that the decrease will be from 15 to 20 per cent in wheat, and a large increase in flax. Few farmers last fall hired any help to plow, neither this spring, and the land put in has been only what the farmers themselves and their families could manage.

The Manitoba legislature met on Thursday and adjourned again till June 13.