

## THE COMMERCIAL

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

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Arrangements respecting to be news letters, or which profess to express the opinion of this journal, will not be inserted.

The Commercial certainly enjoys a much larger circulation among the business community of the vast region between Lake Superior and the coast than any other paper in Canada, daily or weekly. The Commercial is the leading business commission, manufacturing and retail houses of Eastern Canada.

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D. W. BUCHANAN,  
Publisher.

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### HANDLING THE GRAIN.

There has been much talk about the prospect of a grain blockade again this season. It is perhaps natural after the experience of last year when trouble of a similar nature would be looked for with this crop, while we have even a larger quantity of grain in elevators now than a year ago. It does not follow that the same conditions should prevail. Much of course depends upon the weather every season, and handling the grain crop. The unfavorable weather of the first six weeks of the shipping season last year had a great deal to do with the delay of the grain was greatly retarded by rains with the result that only half the short shipping season was the close of navigation was over. This year we may be favored with better weather. At any rate, a blockade is not the rule in Manitoba. Aside from the weather a great improvement has taken place within the industry in our grain handling and storage facilities. Commencing at the beginning we may take it for granted that many farmers who were last year unable to market their grain as they wished to, and had not their storage at home for their grain, have since provided themselves with proper facilities for the storage of their grain. If the farmers used facilities for the storage of grain and marketed it more readily, instead of endeavoring to ship the entire crop on the market in a few weeks, it would be better all around. With the continuing expansion of our crop year by year, the sudden projection of this mass of wheat upon the market will must have a very depressing effect upon prices.

Considering further the improved facilities we have next the increase in our grain storage capacity on our points. Notwithstanding the ill-advised efforts to injure elevators which have cropped up every year in some quarter, we had an elevator system, the storage capacity has kept on steadily increasing. Without our elevators we would certainly be in a helpless condition. In fact, but the elevators at primary markets could never have become a producing country. To-day we are the best and most complete handling system in the world,

and the principal point in this system is the primary elevator. The increase in the number of these elevators during the past year will go a long way toward preventing another grain blockade, such as we suffered from last year.

The next feature is the increase in the storage space at our lake ports. The large elevators under construction at Port William and Port Arthur should provide accommodation for the grain which is likely to be forwarded from interior points after the close of navigation.

The last point is the ability of the railways to move the crop. The most important feature in this connection is the quantity of wheat which can be moved out before the close of navigation. With favorable weather for threshing, an immense quantity of wheat will be passed over to the railways for shipment before the close of navigation. Undoubtedly the railways will be able to move the grain much faster than they did last year. They have known the requirements of the situation and have had a whole year to prepare to meet them. We

prophesied as a result of the imposition of the embargo on the exportation of logs. We were told that Canadian trade would be destroyed by retaliation on the part of the United States. But it has not worked that way. The United States has even submitted to our British preferential tariff without undertaking to entirely quash Canadian trade. The only difference perceptible in the conduct of our neighbors to the south is that they appear a little more anxious than they formerly were to cultivate friendly trade relationship with this country. If we just keep on in this direction, we may eventually have a commission from Washington visiting Ottawa for the purpose of seeking a more liberal trade arrangement with us. However, the Commercial is not advocating more protection, much less anything in the way of reprisal against the high tariff tax which our neighbors impose on imports from Canada. But to return to the subject of the exportation of saw logs it is announced that another big sawmill is to be moved from the State of Michigan to

supply forage for the cattle of a single rancher. The same land under irrigation, will surely work for more people, in cultivating the soil, than a number of cattle it would supply sustenance for in its natural state. The cultivation of the sugar beet is done largely by hand labor. The area of crop necessary to provide raw material for a factory would give employment to a large number of persons. Thus a region which in its natural state provided employment for one or two cowboys, will under irrigation afford the means of sustaining a large community.

### Letterly Advertisement.

The Commercial has received copy for an advertisement for a German state lottery with instructions to insert the same. The Commercial is not advertising lotteries or other similar gambling institutions, no matter what they are state or private enterprises. Lotteries and state debauches will have to look for some other medium through which to advertise their nefarious business.

### Visiting the West.

Among the visitors to the city this week is Mr. Jos. B. Learmont, of the wholesale hardware house of Caverhill, Learmont & Co., Montreal. This is Mr. Learmont's first visit to the West, and he expressed himself to the Commercial as much pleased with the progress that has been made here in developing the country. He was impressed with the fact that this substantially-built city was the result of twenty or twenty-five years' labor and based largely on the production of wheat. Another feature which impressed him much was the extensive banking facilities of the city. The number of banks and the fine bank buildings indicated that the financial institutions were doing a large business. Winnipeg had certainly splendid facilities for obtaining money. Mr. Learmont spoke of the fine buildings which had been erected, and of the street improvements, etc., which were new for a young city. He said that there must be something defective in our sewer system, judging from the unpleasant odor arising from the sewers. While Winnipeg had the name of being a healthy city, he would be afraid that the condition which would produce this unpleasant odor might be productive of disease.

Mr. Learmont expected to start this week for the States and he went as far as the coast, visiting Vancouver, Victoria and possibly a few other of the more important points. While the object of the trip is pleasure and to gain some knowledge of the great western portion of our Dominion, he will call upon business friends as opportunity may occur.

The firm of Caverhill, Learmont & Co. is one of the largest and best known hardware houses in Canada. Their business extends all over the Dominion, and they have a depot in Yukon. In the west their trade has been growing rapidly. The opening of a fine sawmill room and storage warehouses in Winnipeg last year, and this year or two indicates the growth of the firm's business interests here.

### August Fire Losses.

The statistics of the fire losses for the month of August furnish the pleasing intelligence that there has been a decided decrease in the value of property destroyed by fire. The total loss in the Dominion for the month aggregated only \$742,000, being the minimum for a long time. In August, 1901, the loss by fire was \$8,334,000, abnormally small, but not so small by nearly a million dollars as in August, 1902. The largest fire loss for the month was \$1,208,250. The smallest monthly loss heretofore during the present year was \$105,000, which was in February—\$211,000—500. This year's fire loss so far has amounted to \$1,315,000, which is the first eighth month of last year the loss was \$113,000.150, and in the like period 1900, \$127,205.250.

There have been more than the usual number of fires in the Dominion this year, owing probably to the high winds which have prevailed lately.

### MANITOBA FARM HOMES—Residence of Harry Dundas.

have the assurance of the railway officials that they are ready and fully equipped for the enormous task which lies before them.

Then we are better off than last year in the fact that we have two direct lines to our own lake ports, while last year we had only one. True, we had a line to Duluth last year, but that was a combination of two railway systems—the Canadian Northern Railway and the Northern Pacific. The latter road had its own heavy traffic from its lines in North Dakota and Minnesota to care for, and this necessarily detracted from its ability to handle the grain passed over to it by the Canadian lines. Now that the Canadian Northern Railway has its own line open to the lake and is independent of any other connecting road, it should be able to handle all the grain tributary to its system without any serious delays.

Summing up the situation, The Commercial sees no reason to worry over the prospect of a grain blockade such as we had last year. Car shortage and some delays of that nature are what we must always have during the great rush of a heavy crop to market. It would be unreasonable to expect otherwise.

### MANUFACTURING AT HOME.

One form of protection that appears to be working out to the advantage of Canada is the export tax on saw logs. All sorts of dire results were

announced. These saw mills formerly operated on Canadian logs but now they are moving over here to manufacture lumber. Thus we are receiving the benefit to be derived from the working up of the raw material at home, instead of exporting it in the raw state as formerly.

### A NEW SUGAR INDUSTRY.

According to a report from Lethbridge, the proposed beet sugar industry near that place is to be pushed forward. Some enterprising settlers at Raymond, in that district, have been experimenting for the past year or two with sugar beets, evidently with satisfactory results, for we are now told that a commencement has been made toward erecting the buildings. The plant, it is said, will cost half a million dollars. It has been rumored that one of the great sugar kings of the continent has an interest in this enterprise, but that is a matter of doubt. The establishment of a successful beet industry in the west will be a great thing for that district. One point worthy of attention is referred to in this proposition, and that is the fact that it is being established in a range country. This has been made possible by means of irrigation. This is a great transition from a range country to the intensified methods of cultivation required for the successful growing of the sugar beet. On the one hand it requires thousands of acres of the natural prairie land to