

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.

FOURTEENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION.
ISSUED EVERY MONDAY.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$2.00 PER ANNUM in advance.)

ADVERTISING RATES MADE KNOWN ON APPLICATION.

Fine Book and Job Printing Departments.

Office, 188 James St. East.

JAMES E. 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 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, FEBRUARY 10, 1896.

Manitoba.

E. Dagg, has opened a butcher shop a Rathwell.

A. Gurner, merchant, St. Boniface, has sold out his grocery department.

E. Burling, harness maker, Winnipeg, has assigned in trust to S. A. D. Bertrand.

D. J. Dyson & Co., spice mills, are about opening a branch in Vancouver, in charge of A. N. Parry.

Geo. D. Wood & Co., wholesale hardware, Winnipeg, have taken over the retail business of H. Steep, Winnipeg, and will conduct it under the management of O. Golmer.

The Patrons' Advocate, the organ of the Patrons of Industry of Manitoba, has ceased publication, for lack of sufficient support. This may possibly indicate the coming dissolution of the organization.

The T. A. Garland stock, at Portage la Prairie, of general merchandise, is now being offered at retail at slaughter sale, with the prospect that trade at the Portage will be greatly demoralized as a consequence of the compromise.

The Montreal Fur and Millinery Company is applying for incorporation. The head office is to be in Winnipeg and the proposed members of the company are: W. R. Keys, merchant; Mrs. E. E. Nunn; Mrs. E. R. Gamble; Miss L. Stenton; Miss E. Roberts; and W. Kirkland.

S. Dunwoodie & Co., retail dry goods dealers, Winnipeg, have admitted E. U. Steen as partner, the style of the firm henceforth to be, Dunwoodie, Steen & Co. Mr. Steen has been in the employ of the firm for some time, in which he now becomes a partner.

The following statement shows the value of goods exported and goods entered for consumption with duty collected thereon during the month of January, 1896, at Winnipeg, as compared with the same month in 1895:

Description	Value	
	1895	1896
Exported	\$123,420 00	\$ 83,536 00
Entered for consumption, dutiable....	101,517 00	165,296 00
Entered for consumption, free.....	35,687 00	89,823 00
Total for consumption.....	137,204 00	204,619 00
Duty collected	82,877 11	54,159 28

Alberta.

E. F. Hutchings, of Winnipeg, has bought out Carson & Shon's harness business at Edmonton and will consolidate it with his Edmonton branch under the name of the Edmonton Saddlery Co.

The Edmonton Bulletin says. J. Rivet arrived last night from Dunvegan, Peace River, with about \$1,500 worth of fur. He left Dunvegan on Jan. 6th. The weather had been mild. The Peace River was still open in places and several rains had occurred. Rabbits and furs generally were plentiful and the Indians were prosperous.

Saskatchewan.

A. MacDonald & Co., who carry on a branch general store at Battleford, have bought out the stock and business of Mahaffy & Clinkskill, general storekeepers of the same place.

Assiniboia.

McIvor & Smith, hotel, Regina, have dissolved partnership, W. McIvor continues the business.

Northwest Ontario.

The Rat Portage Council has passed a by-law exempting the works of the Dominion Gold Mining and Reduction Company from taxation for two years, on the condition that they employ twenty-five men for at least nine months in the year within the town limits.

Grain and Milling Notes.

W. D. Craig has leased the flour mill at Virden, Man.

A flour and grain section of the Toronto board of trade has been organized. This is a new departure and is expected to prove a great advantage to the Toronto grain trade in this line. It is likely the section will become one of the largest and most powerful of the board.

It is not generally known in the grain trade that Brandon, Man., has been made an independent inspection district, under control of Brandon board of trade, but such is the case. The business was done very quietly, perhaps for fear of causing opposition from other parts, though it is not at all likely that any opposition would have been raised. F. H. Hesson has been appointed inspector at Brandon, having passed his examination before an examining board appointed by the Brandon board of trade.

Speaking of the new flour warehouse erected by the Canadian Pacific railway at Fort William, Supt. White said: "The Canadian Pacific railway recognizing the importance of this trade, has decided to erect this winter a large flour warehouse at Fort William, so that the mills may grind all winter and store the flour for shipment when navigation opens in spring, or for shipment by the all-rail route in winter to any point where the markets show a good opening. The millers recognize the advantage of running at full capacity all winter, because the fixed charges are pretty much the same whether a mill is grinding its full capacity of 1,000 barrels a day or half its capacity. Mills not having sufficient storage capacity of their own, can thus forward their output to Fort William for storage, and fill orders from there."

Virden Board of Trade.

The annual meeting of the board of trade, of Virden, Manitoba, was held Tuesday last, president Meek in the chair. After the reading of the minutes which were adopted, the names of several gentlemen were submitted for membership and accepted. The election

of officers resulted as follows: Jos. A. Merrick, president; J. F. Frame, vice-president, Geo. H. Healey, secretary-treasurer; D. McDonald, auditor; W. H. Hall, B. Meek, R. Trumbell, J. W. Higginbotham, W. J. Wilcox, David Fraser, D. McDonald, W. J. Kennedy, J. A. Schoenau, H. C. Simpson, Jas. Rothnie and J. H. Agnew, members of the council.

A letter was read inviting the board to send three delegates to the immigration convention to be held in Winnipeg, on Feb. 27 and 28. The communication was received with much favor and the following gentlemen were appointed delegates: J. H. Agnew, J. W. Higginbotham, and H. C. Simpson.

The annual report of the council was adopted and ordered to be printed. The membership fee was reduced in order to encourage the business men generally to join the board.

London Wool Sales.

The last series of London wool sales closed on January 30. Offerings were 191,000 bales presented for consumption out of 205,000 available for the series. Of this number 22,000 were held over, including 16,000 bales, which were not catalogued. The daily attendance from all quarters has been large, United States buyers probably making the best record in this respect. The sales have progressed with almost uniform briskness. There was a small partial improvement at the opening of the series, which gradually increased under strong buying by German and American operators, the result being that greasy merinos are now 10 per cent advanced, and scoured wools 1 1/2 pence and fine cross-breeds half penny higher; but coarse wools have declined a half penny as compared with the closing prices of the December series. Cape and Natal greasies have averaged a rise of 1/2 penny, and scoured and fleeced, washed, 1/2 penny. It is estimated that the home trade bought 70,000, the continent 81,000, and American 21,000 bales, the latter figure probably being below the actual number of bales. The series closed steady, despite the irregularity, latterly, which has been due to the fact that orders will be largely completed at the next series, which will open on March 3rd, the quantity of that series being unlimited."

Legal Interest Rate.

The debate on Mr. Mulock's bill to reduce the legal rate of interest from six to four per cent, where no rate is specified was resumed and occupied the attention of Parliament for some time one day last week. Various opinions were expressed on the intention of the measure, the trend of expressions being that the legal rate should be fixed as near as possible to the average commercial rate, five per cent, being most generally approved. On motion of Hon. Mr. Foster the bill was referred to the committee on banking and commerce to give a number of bankers and business men from whom letters have been received an opportunity to express their views. They are not in favor of lowering interest. Mr. Foster intimated that while the government might favor a reduction of the present legal rate he would not say that it would be as low as four per cent.

Cables from Bordeaux, this week, state that C. noble walnuts have advanced 8s per 100 kilos. This means an advance of nearly 1c per lb. in cost of future importations to this side of the Atlantic.

The Island City Paint and Varnish works, Montreal, were destroyed by fire last week. The building was valued at \$20,000 and the stock at \$60,000, on which there was \$25,000 insurance.

Allan & Co., dry goods merchants, Ottawa, Ont., are offering to compromise with creditors at sixty cents on the dollar. Liabilities about \$25,000.