

THE COMMERCIAL

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

Nineteenth Year of Publication
ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY.

Subscriptions—Canada and the United States, \$2.00 per annum in advance or \$2.25 when not so paid; other countries, \$2.50 in advance.

Changes for advertisements or stops should be in not later than Thursday morning.

Advertisements purporting to be news matter, or which profess to express the opinion of this journal, will not be inserted.

Office 210 McDermot St. Telephone 221.

D. W. BUCHANAN,
Publisher.

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

WINNIPEG, AUGUST 31, 1901.

MEDICAL MEN MEET.

The Dominion Medical Association has been meeting in annual convention in the Y. M. C. A. building Winnipeg, this week. Many of the most distinguished doctors in Canada have been in attendance besides a large number of the rank and file of the profession. Many of these less notable men are from the ranks of those who are toiling among the pioneer settlements of the west and have been looking forward for a whole year to this gathering with the expectation of learning many things from it which would be of service to them in their practice. It is not often that the practicing physician in small western towns can have the opportunity of attending such a gathering. The doctors were warmly welcomed to the city and have had a most successful gathering.

THE THRESHERS' ASSOCIATION.

Some misapprehension seems to have arisen among the farmers of Manitoba as to the scope and purpose of the organization of the threshermen of this province and this misapprehension is being fostered by writers in some of the city and provincial papers who have not taken the pains to inform themselves concerning the organization. The idea is being propagated that the threshermen are organizing for the purpose of exacting more from the farmers, which is, according to their earnest contention, an entirely erroneous idea. The object stated is to protect honest threshers from the competition which comes from men who purchase machines for which they never intend to pay and set out to make what they can before the machine plays out and in order to secure work undertake to thresh for less than regular charges. It has not been very generally contended in the past that threshers have been overpaid for their work in this province and the regular charge of 4c per bushel for wheat and 3c for oats does not look like a very big price when all the expenses are considered, so that as long as the members of the association keep their charges down to what has been recognized as a fair price before their organization was formed and do not impose any other conditions or restric-

tions on the farmer they should be allowed to organize or not as they like without being subjected to unreasonable criticism.

It is stated, and is probably true, that much of the recent adverse comment on the new association has come not from bona fide farmers but from men who own threshing machines and who are unwilling to fall in with the new order of things. Some of these critics are known to be men who are away behind with their payments on the machines with which they expect to thresh this year, owing to their propensity for cutting prices. Organization and uniform prices would be the salvation of such men as these if they would only make up their minds to it.

THE HISTORY OF A BANK.

"History of the Bank of Nova Scotia" is the title of a neatly printed book of 175 pages, recently issued. The book is freely illustrated with half-tone views of present and past officials of the bank, buildings owned by the bank, etc. Though having a provincial name, the Bank of Nova Scotia is by no means a

quite a lively political agitation, the popular branch of the legislature, supported by public opinion, being opposed to the council. In the early days of Nova Scotia, as at present time, there evidently existed a strong public sentiment against anything in the nature of a monopoly, and it was strongly suspected that His Majesty's Council, which did its business in the star chamber fashion, was using its power to kill the proposed new bank enterprise, in the interest of the private banking monopoly. The act of incorporation, however, finally passed and the bank was organized and opened for business.

The bank was incorporated on March 30 1832. The first meeting of shareholders held on May 10 of the same year, when a board of directors was elected. It may just be mentioned here that the double liability clause was first applied, so far as banking in Canada is concerned, in the charter of this bank. This was one of the amendments made to the bill through the efforts of the opponents of the measure. The bank began business in August of 1832. The first dividend was declared on July 31, 1833, at the rate of 3 per cent. Dur-

circulation, £16,600; deposits, £18,043. In 1835 the capital was increased to £62,500, by a further call on stock, and in 1840 the paid up capital was increased to £100,000, the following year to £125,000, and in 1842 to £140,000, or equal to \$560,000. Capital remained at this sum until the defaultation previously referred to, which led to a reduction to \$400,000 by writing off for impairment. In 1873, however, the paid up capital was increased to \$748,680, and the reserve fund to \$80,000. A new issue of stock was made in 1874 and the capital paid up was increased to \$1,000,000, where it remained until 1883. From 1883 to 1890 the paid up capital was \$1,114,300. In 1891 it was increased to \$1,500,000. In 1900 the paid up capital was \$1,860,000 and it has since been increased to \$2,000,000. The growth of the reserve fund has been very rapid since 1870, the bank now having the large reserve of \$2,600,000, a sum considerably in excess of paid up capital. This enormous reserve renders the Bank of Nova Scotia proof against any impairment of capital such as occurred in 1870, and makes it one of the most solid financial institutions of the con-



View of Heavy Work of Construction on Irrigation Canal, in Vicinity of Magrath, Alberta

provincial institution. One of the first pages gives a list of its branches, which shows that its business is very widely distributed, not only throughout Canada, but also extending to foreign countries. In addition to the fourteen branches in Nova Scotia, the bank has ten branches in New Brunswick, two in Prince Edward Island four in Ontario, two in Quebec, one in Manitoba (the Winnipeg branch, of which C. A. Kennedy is manager), two in Newfoundland, one at Kingston, Jamaica, and three in the United States.

The Bank of Nova Scotia was established in 1832, and it was the first chartered bank in the province. Prior to this time the banking business of Nova Scotia was practically a monopoly, controlled by the Halifax Banking Co., a private institution which exerted great political influence in its own favor, through the number of its directors who were members of the executive and legislative council of the province. The friends of this institution strongly opposed the measure for the incorporation of the new bank, and much public and political excitement was worked up before the bill was finally passed. In fact the incorporation of the Bank of Nova Scotia appears to have been accompanied by

ing its early history the bank had its ups and downs, one of the greatest difficulties in carrying on a banking business in Nova Scotia being the treasury note system of the province. The limitation of bank notes to a denomination not less than £5 was another feature which tended to reduce the profits of the bank. About 1870 the bank met with a very heavy loss through the defaultations of its cashier, amounting to \$314,967. Part of this sum was made good by the cashier, but the net loss was sufficient to entirely wipe out the reserve fund of \$80,000 and ten per cent reduction of capital account was also entailed thereby. As a result of this loss a thorough investigation was made into the affairs of the bank and a better system of book keeping was introduced. Since that time the progress of the bank has been satisfactory and rapid, though the collapse of the wooden shipbuilding industry was a very severe blow to the Maritime Provinces, about 1877-78, and materially reduced the profits of the bank, and led to the collapse of some financial institutions entirely.

The first annual financial statement of the bank, in February, 1833, showed capital paid up, £50,000; notes in

the steady accumulation of this vast reserve, year after year, is a further proof that the bank has been wisely managed and has had a profitable business right along, for without a successful business experience this fund could not have been created.

The Bank of Nova Scotia opened its first western branch in Winnipeg in January, 1899, with C. A. Kennedy as manager. Mr. Kennedy is still in charge here. This branch has done a successful business, having grown steadily since the commencement, notwithstanding the crop failure of last year. The Winnipeg branch now requires a staff of seven persons, and it is working short handed at this, while only three were required the first year. The local business has exceeded expectations, particularly in the matter of deposits, which have been much larger than was expected.

Miners are leaving the Cape Nome goldfields, Alaska, as fast as they can get steamers to take them out. Many of these men would be unable to live through the coming winter in that region as they have no money and employment is scarce. Alarm is felt for many of the people who are still there as they have no money with which to buy passage not even if steamer accommodation should offer.