

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.

**Eleventh 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, 160 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 the great majority of business men in the vast district designated 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 1, 1893.

The Late Storm.

The storm of April 20, referred to in THE COMMERCIAL of last week, was very severe south. In Manitoba two or three inches of soft snow fell, without wind. Following is the report of the storm from some points in the states to the south.

IN IOWA.

New Hampton.—A fierce snowstorm and blizzard has been raging all day, blocking the roads and delaying trains. Much damage to small grain will result, as it is already rotting in the ground in consequence of the cold weather.

Fort Dodge.—A blinding snowstorm is raging here, with no sign of a let-up. All trains are blocked.

East Des Moines.—A severe snowstorm raged here to-day. Crops will be retarded and fruit damaged.

Winterset.—It has snowed hard here for twenty-four hours. The mercury has fallen 20 degrees and it is growing colder. It is feared that small fruit is killed.

Osage.—Northern Iowa is the scene of a raging blizzard. More snow has fallen the last twelve hours than at any time since 1879. Traffic is entirely blocked, trains are delayed and seeding is entirely stopped. Farmers who have not their seeding finished will be unable to commence for at least two or three weeks. Corn will be about half a crop, as it will barely have time to mature before the early frost.

Sioux City, Ia.—Western Iowa was to-day visited by one of the worst snowstorms of the year, and it is feared that a great deal of damage has been done to fruit trees, pasturage and stock. Early in the morning a driving storm set in from the northeast, and at noon a howling blizzard except along the Missouri River bottoms. The storm continues with unabated fury this evening. Early reports are to the effect that much stock was caught in the pasture by the storm and indications are that the loss will be considerable. Six inches of snow on the level

are reported from Manilla, Iowa, while to the north and east the fall is even heavier and the drifts are very deep.

Keokuk, Ia.—A Blizzard has been raging in Western Illinois, Southeastern Iowa, and Northeastern Missouri since daylight this morning. All river traffic was suspended here because of the severity of the wind. Fruit trees are covered with a coating of ice half an inch thick, and indications are that all will be ruined.

Des Moines, Ia.—The storm here yesterday and to-day has been one of the worst this year. After a downpour of rain it snowed fifteen hours. At the same time there was a terrible wind. All farming operations have been suspended. To-night the thermometer is falling, and the chances are for a severe freeze before morning. It is feared that fruit has been irreparably injured.

IN MINNESOTA.

St. Paul, Minn., April 20.—Three feet of snow on a level April 20 is most unusual in this State, but that has been the amount of snowfall last night, and to-day in some parts of Minnesota the average fall being over one foot. A heavy rain preceded the snow, which began in the northwestern part of the State Tuesday night, extending rapidly across the country, striking this neighborhood at 9 o'clock last night and falling steadily until this afternoon, up to which time fifteen inches had fallen. After two or three hours intermission it began again, and the air to night is once more full of flying snow.

Seeding was in progress, but this unprecedented storm will delay all farm work from ten days to two weeks. In addition to preventing any present seeding this great amount of snow will be followed by a disastrous flood if it melts rapidly. Altogether farmers are feeling rather blue over the prospect for a wheat crop. With seeding delayed until after the 1st of May they fear too short a season for the proper ripening of the grain.

The storm was widespread, covering almost the entire Northwest. Snow is reported from Jamestown, North Dakota, on the west to beyond Ashland, Wis., on the northeast, and south clear across Iowa. In Minnesota the snowfall ranged from eight inches to three feet, and was drifted badly in some sections. A raging snow storm is reported to night at Yankton, South Dakota, and Coldwater in this State, causing fear of damage to stock.

OTHER STATES.

Omaha, Neb., April 20.—One of the worst storms of the season has raged in Nebraska since yesterday. It has been snowing and hailing alternately for twenty-four hours.

Chamberlain, South Dakota, April 20.—Heavy wind and cold weather prevail. The thermometer is below the freezing point. Range cattle are suffering considerably, but no losses are reported.

Columbia, Missouri, April 20.—There was a heavy rainfall here yesterday, followed to-day by a blinding snow storm. The snow is still falling, and unless the weather moderates the fruit crop will be greatly damaged.

European Crop Conditions.

With the exception of two wintery days in the middle of March, the present bright dry weather has now lasted without a break for six weeks exactly. This phenomenal spell of dry weather has set all the weather-wise on Mark Lane and on other Exchanges discussing the likely effect of drought upon the English crop; in former years the crop always thrives in dry years, but since the last droughty year, viz., 1868, England has been scientifically drained, and the fear is now that the work having been done so thoroughly in order to cope with the periodical floods, that the wheat plant will suffer from the other extreme, and that if a dry spring precede a hot summer, that the crop will be almost a failure in some districts. In 1868, it will be recollected, the dry spell came after

a humid spring, and did not resemble this season in any respect whatever.

At this time of the year a protracted period of drought must be considered as dangerous, coming as it does after a month in which were only two wet days; April showers, if they come in earnest, or a dripping June may yet set all in tune in this country, but in France and throughout Southern Europe generally, the wheat plant must have already suffered in some degree irreparable harm. The condition of the chief crops may be summarized as follows:—

Russia.—A few recent complaints from the south.

France.—Rain wanted.

Austria-Hungary.—Crop reported damaged by frost.

Italy.—Drought; prospects of wheat crop becoming less favorable.

Germany.—Prospects very uncertain.

Spain.—Some damage from drought.

Portugal.—Rain fallen just in time.

Belgium.—Very promising.

Holland.—Very promising.

North Africa.—Total crop failure just averted by rain; half crop now expected.—*Corn Trade News*, April 11.

Ontario's Mineral Exhibits.

Iron Age, during the course of its remarks regarding exhibits at the World's Fair, says: "The mineral exhibit from Ontario, Canada, will consist of 1,600 samples of ore from all parts of the province, and five car loads of it were shipped from Toronto last week and one car load from the Sudbury district. This latter car contains nickel alone, and there is one solid chunk of pure refined nickel which weighs 4,600 pounds. The mineral displays altogether will exceed 100 tons in weight. One of the most artistic as well as attractive and unique displays in the Ontario court will be entirely prepared by Indians of the reserve in the counties of Brant and Haldimand. This will consist of a monument or trophy entirely made of pieces of timber comprising 13 varieties, and all of which have been prepared and fitted without the use of saw or other utensils except a jackknife. Yet the timbers are squared and moulded with a perfectness that could not be excelled by the most elaborate machinery, and the pieces are polished by the hands of the Indians. Surmounting the timbers forming the base of the trophy will be five wooden columns elaborately decorated by carvings of native birds and animals, all being done with a jackknife. On the top of each column will be a small belfry, and above all a large belfry. The entire work is the result of six years of labor of two or three educated Indians. The sides of the base will be richly inlaid with various specimens of wood. In the mineral section some delay has occurred by the necessity of strengthening the floor. One specimen of rich iron ore will weigh over 10 tons. In every department these exhibits of Ontario will be complete, and for their arrangement and care a force of more than 60 men will be continuously employed during the fair."

It has been discovered, says a despatch, that shipments of young calves, ranging in age from four to forty-eight hours, have been shipped to Montreal to be converted into "boneless turkey," "chicken," etc.

The Bank of Montreal has declared a dividend of 5 per cent. for the current half-year, making 10 per cent. for the year on the paid-up capital. The annual general meeting of the shareholders will be held on Monday, June 5th.

The report presented at the Grand Trunk yearly meeting in London was gloomy. President Tyler said the expenses had been reduced as far as they could be, and the company's only hope lay in an increase of freight rates. Other speakers endorsed this proposition, and urged its immediate adoption to avert bankruptcy. President Tyler was re-elected.