

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 vast region lying 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 district designated above, 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, APRIL 26, 1897.

Manitoba.

The Retail association met last night, and after a long discussion, a resolution was passed disapproving of the proposed extension of the gas franchise.

At a meeting of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange the gas franchise proposal for the city of Winnipeg was discussed and a resolution was passed endorsing the action of the Board of Trade, which body favored the closing of a reasonable arrangement with the gas company. Messrs. Bawlf and Roblin were deputed to attend the meeting of the city council to-morrow afternoon and present the views of the Exchange.

Preparations are going on for the erection of the Canadian Pacific Railway cold storage warehouse in Winnipeg.

A proclamation has been issued by the lieutenant-governor of Manitoba calling for the proper observance of Friday, May 7th, as arbor day.

W. M. Lawrence, hardware merchant, Winnipeg, who has carried on business for some time at 293 Market street, is pulling up stakes here and moving to Revelstoke, B. C., where he will again open up in the hardware trade. Mr. Lawrence has disposed of some of his stock, and the balance he will take with him, along with a large stock of new goods. Mr. Lawrence is known here as a young man of excellent business habits, and thoroughly honorable and straightforward in all his dealings. The Commercial has therefore pleasure in introducing and recommending him to the business people of Revelstoke and district, as a trustworthy and capable person.

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, April 20, 1897.

Trade has improved very much this week owing to the magnificent dry summer weather. There is at present a scarcity to the camps and wholesalers have about all they can do to supply the camp demands. The only change in the market is a decline of one cent in eggs and an advance of from $\frac{1}{2}$ to one cent in cured meats. The supply of hay is about exhausted particularly on the Sound where there is scarcely a ton not marketed. Oats are also very firm at present prices. While potatoes may be quoted at \$25 a ton flat, those offering now are the superior quality, ashcroft. Another carload of cattle will arrive this week from Manitoba, shipped by Mr. Howey. The British Columbia Fruit Exchange is reorganising for the summer and all members of the exchange including every fruit grower of consequence are practically pledged to ship through the exchange. The association has made arrangements with the C. P. R. to ship their fruit in suitable cars twice a week if not daily.

British Columbia Mining Notes.

The sensation of the week in the mining world is the rich strike on the Boundary Falls Mining Company's claim at Boundary Falls. The claim was staked three years ago and since then was barely kept alive by assessment work. It recently fell into good hands in Vancouver and was worked for what there was in it. It went \$33 on the surface but when 20 feet was reached the vein of solid ore had increased from 3 to 4 feet and the lowest assay that can be secured at that depth on any place on the tunnels face is \$113 in consecrating ore that crushes 90%. The claim is four miles from Greenwood City and can be reached by horse and buggy.

The foreman of the Alpha Bell mine has written a most satisfactory letter to the company. The snow is fast disappearing at Lillooet and another ledge has been located on the Alpha Bell claims 10 feet wide heavily mineralized. The surface rock is as good as any seen on the Golden Cache, while the decomposed rock underneath the ledge was crushed and panned and countless colors of gold obtained.

Close to the now famous Fire Mountain prospect in Harrison Lake country another claim has been opened up, the principal owner of which is Mr. Leekie, the Vancouver wholesaler. The assay from a large piece of rock runs \$300 in telluride of gold. The only other place in British Columbia that telluride of gold has been found is in Boundary Creek country.

At the annual meeting of the Gold Reefs Mining Co., owning several valuable properties near the Golden Cache it was decided that all shares outside the treasury stock be pooled for one year. As a result partially of this decision the stock is being disposed of very fast.

Sensational reports are coming from the Fairview camp the free milling properties there turning out immensely rich.

From a large chunk of rock sent to Toronto obtained in the Smugglar mine the assay in silver and gold went \$1,680, while the Tin-horn has become a proved mine of great value, shafts have been sunk at intervals up the mountain for 1,400 feet and each time the vein has been successfully tapped, the vein being still the same uniform width 8 feet and the assays being very high the total number over 100 averaging \$95 in free gold. Very active work is being done on the property.

Freight Rates and Traffic Matters.

The Grand Trunk Railway, and Canadian Pacific Railway, have issued two new lake and rail tariffs which went into effect on April 15, and make reductions of 5c per 100 pounds on many specified commodities. The hardware trade will especially benefit by the reduction. It will be made on certain specified commodities which formerly were subject to a 72c rate to Winnipeg. The new rate will be 67 to Winnipeg, 79 to Portage and 86 to Brandon, and refers only to car load lots. The tariff applies to Winnipeg, Portage and Brandon. Reductions are also made on westbound freight to Kootenay and Pacific coast points.

At a council meeting of the town of Selkirk, Man., a deputation of the lumbermen waited upon the council and asked their co-operation in trying to get rates on lumber from Selkirk to Manitoba points reduced. It was claimed that the Canadian Pacific Railway discriminates against Selkirk as compared with Bat Portage, in lumber rates.

Following are the principal commodities which are included in the reduced lake and rail freight classification, from eastern points to Winnipeg, Portage and Brandon: Paint, glass, bags, binder twine, rope, cordage, rice, roofing paper, bolts, Canada plates, chain, galvanized iron, horse shoes, soda, shot, sulphur, iron and steel, iron pipe, lead, nails, oils (other than petroleum) in wood, tin, tin plates, turpentine in wood, white and red lead, wire, zinc. The reduction is 5 cents per 100 pounds from 72 to 67 cents, on straight car lots only, to Winnipeg. One cent will be added when the company does the cartage.

Sheep Supplies.

The big supply of sheep in the country that was so much talked of a few months ago must have diminished some, or else sheepmen, encouraged by the gradually increasing prices and the cheapness of feed, are holding back for better markets. No doubt the number was exaggerated, but there is not likely to be a shortage in sheep. Half the crop has been marketed from the feed lots of Nebraska, but by the time the other half gets in, range sheep will begin to come freely. Sheep feeders are showing a sensible discretion in regulating receipts so that values can show an even, steady advance. Confidence in the future is what is doing it. —Chicago Drovers' Journal,