

# THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters pertaining to trade and progress in 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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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, APRIL 21, 1900.

## Manitoba Fisheries.

It has been announced from Ottawa that the Dominion government has decided to prohibit the exportation of fish caught in the Manitoba lakes, with the exception of Lake Winnipeg. This does not seem to be a reasonable proposition, when given a little investigation. Lakes Manitoba and Winnipegosis are quite large bodies of water, and under reasonable restriction, there should be no more danger of depleting these lakes than there would be of depleting the larger lake Winnipeg. The proper plan would seem to be to restrict fishing to a reasonable extent in all the lakes, and not practically prohibit it in some. It is very unfair to the fishermen of these lakes to have their business taken away from them in this way. The large Manitoba fishing monopoly operates only on Lake Winnipeg, and this large concern is not interfered with. On the other hand, small resident fishermen, who make a living at the business, operate on the other lakes. The effect of the new order will be to throw these people out of employment, while leaving the large company which operates on Lake Winnipeg to control the market alone. The local demand for fish is very small, and will not give the smaller lake fishermen much business, even if they were to be freed from competition with Lake Winnipeg fish. The prohibition of export from the smaller lakes will practically shut these lakes up completely. Another feature of the case is, that any fish caught in the smaller lakes must be sold for the local market, as they cannot be exported. It is a well known fact that the Lake Manitoba and Winnipegosis fish are not as good quality as the Lake Winnipeg article. Thus the people of Manitoba will be supplied with these fish of poorer quality, while the fine Lake Winnipeg fish will be shipped away to the States. Altogether the proposal seems very unfair and unreasonable. If greater restriction is necessary to prevent the depletion of our lakes let a commencement be made by restricting the large fishing monopoly, and

not of depriving the working fishermen of a livelihood, and at the same time destroying the little investment they have in fishing plant. It looks as though this latest order will increase the fishing monopoly in the province of Manitoba, though it is true this company buys fish taken by the fishermen on the smaller lakes. A large quantity of pike and pickerel are taken in the smaller lakes, the export of which should not be interfered with.

## Inspection of Apples.

The Winnipeg Fruit and Produce exchange is making an effort to secure the inspection of apples shipped from Eastern Canada to this and other western points. With this object in view negotiations have been opened with the Dominion government. If the exchange can succeed in this undertaking, it will be a great advantage to handlers of fruit throughout the West. It is a well known fact to those familiar with the trade, that there was an enormous loss on apples last fall and winter. Every one who handled apples to any extent lost money thereby. This was largely owing to the poor quality of apples shipped here. Some of the eastern shippers seem to think that anything is good enough for this market, when the fact is that in the fruit line at least, the very best is required. Freight and cost of handling, which is a large portion of the cost of fruits laid down here, is as great on poor stuff as on the best qualities. The best keeping sound and choice fruit is what is wanted here, and profitable sale can only be secured for this class. The people are willing to pay for a good article, while inferior stuff must invariably be sacrificed.

The Dominion government has considered the inspection of fruits for export, with a view to securing a profitable market abroad for Canadian fruits. We insist that Canadian fruit growers can find a more profitable market at home, right here in the West, than they can secure across the Atlantic. Eastern fruit growers and shippers, speaking generally, have not yet solved the question of placing their products on this market in good condition. There is a market here. Let them cultivate this before looking across the ocean. It is just as necessary that fruit should be subject to inspection for this market, as it is to inspect fruit designed for Europe. We say a better market exists here than can be found across the water. It is therefore in the interest of the fruit industry of the East that every pains should be taken to cultivate this home market.

## New Mercantile Agency.

The Mutual Mercantile Agency of Canada, Limited, has just issued its prospectus setting forth the leading features of this promising concern and soliciting subscriptions for a limited amount of preferred stock. The company is organized under a Dominion charter with an authorized capital of \$100,000. Its president is Henry Miles, a well-known Montreal business man; vice-president, R. O. McCulloch, of the Goldie & McCulloch Co., Galt, Ont.; secretary-treasurer, A. E. Osler, of A. E. Osler & Co., financial brokers, Toronto, and directors, J. E. E. Dickson and A. C. Matthews, Montreal. Offices have been opened at Montreal, Toronto and Winnipeg. That at Winnipeg is in charge of J. A. Green, who was for many years manager here

for the Bradstreets Company. Negotiations are now pending for offices in Victoria and Vancouver and in the Maritime provinces. The Mutual Mercantile Agency has been formed for the purpose of improving the character of the credit information upon which the business transactions in this country are based. Heretofore there has been no distinctly Canadian concern furnishing information of this kind and the existing agencies which are owned by United States proprietors are understood to have made very large profits out of their Canadian business. The company will endeavor to greatly improve the character of the service rendered both as regards reporting subscribers customers and rating all persons doing business within the Dominion.

## Loan Companies Amalgamate.

The announcement was made on Saturday last of the completion of arrangements for the amalgamation of The Western Canada, Canada Permanent, Freehold and the London and Ontario Loan and Savings Companies. Meetings of the shareholders of each company were held in Toronto on Friday, whereat the agreement was finally ratified. The new concern will be known as The Canada Permanent and Western Canada Mortgage Corporation. Its executive officers will be George Gooderham, president; J. Herbert Mason, first vice-president and chairman of executive committee, and W. H. Dentty, second vice-president. Walter S. Lee, formerly managing-director of the Western Canada Loan and Savings Company, is the general manager of the new corporation. The new board of directors contains some of the strongest financial and administrative names in Canada. W. M. Fisher has been appointed manager of the new company for Manitoba and the Territories. His headquarters will be in Winnipeg. The corporation will also have the benefit in Manitoba and the Territories of the experienced inspectors, valuers and appraisers of the four companies, under the supervision of Colin Fraser, chief inspector. The capital stock will be \$22,500,000, about 1.3 of which will be invested in the west. The company will operate all the territory heretofore covered by the four separate concerns and will perpetuate in every way the progressive policies which actuated them. Its business will extend from the Atlantic to the Pacific coasts.

Geo. F. R. Harris, who has been for many years the general agent of the Canada Permanent Loan and Savings Company for Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, goes to Toronto as assistant manager of the Toronto office of the new corporation, where his intimate knowledge of the territory extending from Rat Portage in the east to Calgary and Edmonton in the west, will be of great service.

John Russell, manager of the Freehold Loan and Savings Co. here, is leaving the service of the company, and will return to the practice of law which he gave up some years ago to assume the management of the Freehold Company. It is satisfactory to know that Mr. Russell remains in Winnipeg, as his business ability and kindly disposition have made him popular here.

The fight between the Cigar Manufacturers' association and the striking and locked out cigarmakers at Montreal, was declared off late on Wednesday.