

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.

Eighteenth Year of Publication
ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY

SUBSCRIPTIONS, CANADA AND UNITED STATES
\$2.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE OR \$2.25 WHEN
NOT SO PAID; OTHER COUNTRIES, \$2.50 PER
ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

Changes for advertisements should be in not later than Thursday Morning.

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

Office: 181 McDermot Street.

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, OCT. 7, 1899.

EARLY CLOSING MOVEMENT.

Thirty new members joined the Winnipeg Retail Clerks' association at the last meeting. The association has been organized mainly for the purpose of securing a reduction in the hours of labor in stores. In this laudable effort The Commercial wishes the clerks every success. This journal has always advocated the early closing cause, and will give the clerks all reasonable assistance to accomplish this humane and desirable result. Early closing is in the interest of the merchant as well as the clerk. A few years ago retail stores in Winnipeg were kept open until nine or ten o'clock at night. After much agitation the time was reduced to seven o'clock, except on Saturday evenings. On the latter evening ridiculously long hours still prevail. The moderate reform seemed to satisfy those interested at the time, but after the lapse of a few years, the present movement has been started for a further reduction of the hours of labor in retail stores. The Commercial has no hesitation in saying that the stores are still kept open too late. It would be found just as easy to close at six o'clock as at seven, as is the present custom, if it were only once seriously undertaken. Merchants and clerks who are compelled by unreasonable custom to remain at their places of business until seven o'clock, are robbed of a great deal of pleasure, comfort and rest which is their right to enjoy. They cannot take part in an evening's amusement without having to resort to indecent haste in dressing and swallowing their meals. The need of society does not demand that the merchant and his

assistants should sacrifice their health or comfort, or their right to share in the pleasures of the day. Just as much business could be done between eight in the morning and six in the afternoon as by keeping open an hour later. Nor is there any good reason for excepting Saturday from the early closing programme. Earlier closing would mean a reduction in expenses of fire, light, etc., and would be a moral, physical and social benefit to all concerned.

BURNING STRAW.

One of the peculiarities of farming in Manitoba is the destruction by burning of vast quantities of valuable straw. Many farmers burn their straw as soon as the threshing is done. During the threshing season fires may often be seen at night burning in every direction, and the sky will be illuminated in many places from the burning straw piles. Farmers who are ever short of hay fodder, will sometimes carelessly burn their straw, regardless of its value for feed purposes. In Manitoba where grain is usually cut quite green, the straw is of more value for feeding than where grain is allowed to get thoroughly ripe before cutting. Evidently the farmers who burn their straw do not realize its value for feeding to live stock. Good straw is probably a better fodder than poor prairie hay, particularly when the hay is cut very late in the season. A farmer informed The Commercial a few days ago that last winter he got out of hay during the latter part of the winter. He had saved his straw and had a plentiful supply of this kind of feed, but he said that he expected his cattle would go off in condition when they were put on the straw. To his surprise he found that they did not fail in the least with the changed feed, but rather improved in condition. Milking cows did not fail in the least in their milk after the hay gave out. This shows the value of straw for feed is very much underrated in Manitoba. At any rate, in years when the hay crop is short, it seems a very foolish policy to burn up such vast quantities of good fodder.

Customs Decisions.

The minister of customs has approved of decisions of the board of customs, classing boxes of packages for chocolate paste in section 13 (B) of the tariff act, at a duty of 20 per cent. Cocoa cola (an article used with soda water as flavoring for summer drinks, and containing not more than 25 per cent. of proof spirits) is placed in section 5, with a duty of 60 per cent. Barilla soap is decided to belong to section 25, and bears a duty of 35 per cent. Refrigerating plants, coils and condensers are assigned to section 321, with a duty of 35 per cent.

Chilliwack, B. C.

Chilliwack, a town on the Fraser, was visited recently by The Commercial representative. It is comparatively difficult to reach the agricultural town, but when it is reached it is a revelation. Chilliwack has been called the garden of British Columbia, and it is not a misnomer one. Eastern prices prevail here and the Vancouverite is astonished at being presented with a bill for \$1 after a sojourn at the best hotel for a day and night, and eating of the choicest viands. He thinks he must be back east again in one of those little country towns. Choice butter, nice home-made bread, a pitcher of cream in front of you, the sweetest of meat and lots of vegetables. The boarding houses charge \$15 a month for board and this in British Columbia, where a penny is unknown, and still the interest rate in Chilliwack is 10 per cent. There is one loan company there and it is doing a big business with the farmers and waxing rich. Money lends at 10 per cent in Chilliwack and at 6 per cent a few miles over on the coast at Vancouver. And hotel accommodation \$1 in Chilliwack and the same standard \$3 in Vancouver. This is a good place for a capitalist to live. Chilliwack is the home of the Eden Bank creamery. The proprietor buys cream from all the farmers thereabouts and keeps a large number of cows himself. Eden Bank butter is always good and sells wholesale in Vancouver at 25 and 26 cents and cannot be purchased for the table retail at less than 30 cents. Why don't you all go into butter making was asked of a number of farmers. "More money in hay," was the laconic reply, and that remark, "More money in hay" means a lot. The farmers in comparison to the eastern farmers are careless. They live, by the way, in a country where easy money is made in many speculative enterprises. They see unskilled laborers earn hundreds of dollars in two or three days by salmon fishing. They see penniless mineral prospectors make thousands by selling their prospects, and they get discouraged at the enormous amount of manual labor required in getting the best possible results out of the ground and they don't do their best. Their potatoes want weeding and their farms look all awry, but then they get such magnificent results from the soil by their half-hearted efforts that they are not stimulated to better work. There are, of course, exceptions, but the average B. C. farmer is content to let well enough alone. The Chilliwack soil is so prolific that the tiller need not work very hard to make a very comfortable living. One cannot help thinking however of the beehive of prosperity Chilliwack and the valley would be if a few hundred Ontario farmers would transfer their energies to this district. A district which alone could supply the province with dairy produce if they wanted to, but there is more money in hay.

Legal Points.

Judge Morgan, of Toronto has handed out judgment in the suit of McMillan vs. Manitou Farmers' Store company. The plaintiff, Evan McMillan, is a solicitor of Toronto, and is the assignee of his brother, John. The latter was employed as a salesman by the defendants, who conduct an establishment in Manitou, Manitoba. He was dismissed last September without just cause, and the action was for \$200 damages on that account. Judgment is given for the plaintiff for \$166.67 and full costs.