

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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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 a great majority of business men in the vast district described 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, JANUARY 28, 1895.

Manitoba.

The oatmeal mill at Pilot Mound recently shipped a carload of oatmeal to Australia.

The annual meeting of the Board of Trade is this year fixed for Tuesday, February 5th.

Der Nordwesten, the German newspaper, published in Winnipeg, is sending out a very handsome calendar for 1895 to all its subscribers and patrons. This is the only German paper published in Western Canada.

The firm of Drummond Bros. and Moffat, financial agents, have dissolved partnership. The members of the firm were C. S. Drummond, who is a resident in England and F. A. Drummond and Alex. Moffat, of Winnipeg.

A meeting of the Manitoba Poultry Association has been called to take place at the Delmonico hall, Winnipeg, on February 4th. At this meeting the prize list will be submitted, and if approved, will be issued at once. Arrangements are now well under way for the annual poultry and pet stock show, which will be opened this year, March 5th, continuing during the three following days.

Fire broke out at Brandon on Tuesday night in Haley & Sutton's dry goods store. The stock, amounting to \$35,000, is badly damaged by fire, smoke and water. Insurance \$26,000. The loss to the building which is owned by F. Nation, will be about \$4,000. Everything in the Oddfellows' hall on the top flat is entirely lost.

The early closing law, as applied to stores, is being enforced in Winnipeg, and it is probable that the constitutionality of the act, which is in doubt, will be tested. The city is to bear the cost of prosecuting. It is to be hoped that the law can be enforced. The hour at which stores are supposed to be closed is seven o'clock, which is certainly late enough for all reasonable purposes.

Bell's brewery at Portage la Prairie, was burnt on January 26 and is a total loss. The brewery was an isolated building north of the Canadian Pacific Railway track and was not being worked, a fire being kept in the office only. It was owned by James Bell, of the Bellevue hotel. The building and stock were valued by him at \$15,000; insured for \$6,300, of which \$2,000 is in the Eastern and \$2,000 in the National of Ireland. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Alberta.

W. J. G. Dickson is purchasing hogs at Edmonton for shipment to the coast.

E. Brosseau, merchant of St. Albert, has admitted to partnership with C. Hebert, under the firm name of E. Brosseau & Co.

P. Burns of Calgary, has been spending a few days along the line gathering up a supply of beef cattle for his British Columbia trade.

Edmonton Bulletin: At the request of the Edmonton Board of Trade Jas. H. Ashdown of Winnipeg will meet the members of the board and the citizens generally this evening in the council chamber, the object being to discuss the freight rates.

Calgary Herald: From all over the grazing districts reports are unusually favourable. The cattle went into the winter fat, and the pastures were exceptionally good. There was plenty of water till a short time ago, and since there has been lots of snow. Throughout the winter there has not been a single storm to drive the cattle from their ranges. Although a moderate amount of snow fell since Friday it has been so light and came so quietly and gently that so far it has been more beneficial than otherwise. It is almost safe to say that the worst of the winter is now over and if the latter part is as free from storms as the first part has been, the stockmen will have a very fine season to report.

Assiniboia.

J. K. Strachan, who recently resigned the position of secretary-treasurer of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition, has been selected as manager of the Northwest Territories exhibition, which is to be inaugurated this year at Regina. He is now at work examining the plans for the buildings and making suggestions as to improvements, based upon his experience as manager of the Winnipeg fair. A more capable man than Mr. Strachan could not have been found in this country.

Northwest Ontario.

James Campbell is building a bakery at Schrieber, and preparing for business.

Joseph P. Gubbins has finished a good two story frame house including a complete butcher shop at Schrieber.

Freight Rates and Traffic Matters.

The Chicago Trade Bulletin of Jan. 28th says: The situation in the east bound freight rates was far from being settled the past week. In fact it was demoralized. A few of the roads claimed to be maintaining rates, but the impression prevailed that there were at least five lines making reductions from the regular tariff of 5 to 7½c on flour, grain and provisions. This made the rate on flour and grain 17½ to 20c and on provisions 22½ to 25c, to New York. The unsettled condition of rail rates affected the making of satisfactory figures through to foreign countries. The rates to Liverpool ranged at 28 to 28.44c per 100 lbs on flour, 18 to 19c per bu for grain and 85 to 89.05 per 100 lbs on provisions. Rates to Antwerp were about 1c over Liverpool. Less demand existed for vessels to load and store grain for spring shipment, and the few charters made were at lower rates, 2½c for wheat, 2½c for corn and 1½c for oats to Buffalo.

On Friday and Saturday, January 25 and 26, says an exchange, according to current report, the seaboard rate on grain from Chicago was cut to 12½ cents, and the prediction was freely expressed that after the rush of business at that figure had subsided the rate would be further cut to 10 cents flat.

That would be a better rate to the seaboard than Chicago has been in the habit of getting during the season of lake navigation, and the hopeful Chicagoan has been wondering if it will not come to pass: that electricity or some other cheap motive force will not shortly reduce all freight to that level.

Grain and Milling Matters.

The municipality of Montcalm offers a bonus of \$5,000 for the establishment of a flour mill at St. Jean Baptiste, Man. This place is located in the Red River Valley line of the Northern Pacific, about 50 miles south of Winnipeg. Anyone considering the matter can obtain further information by writing to Jos. Baril, St. Jean Baptiste, Man.

"If it were not for a duty of seventy-five cents per barrel on your flour coming into Canada," writes a wholesale grocer in Woodstock, New Brunswick, to the Northwestern Miller, of Minneapolis. "We do not think the Minneapolis mills would have any trouble in securing all the trade of the maritime provinces as customers, for freight rates are much cheaper from Minneapolis than from the Canadian Northwest. Why don't the United States and Canada send more business men and less lawyers to congress and parliament? I can buy no flour from you at present, but hope the day is not far off when tariff walls between the United States and Canada will be obliterated." To which the Miller adds: "We join heartily in this wish, but, as long as both countries continue to entrust the adjustment of business affairs to cheap politicians, instead of men of business, we fear the present conditions will continue to prevail. Canada has a duty of seventy-five cents per barrel on all flour coming across her borders, and yet the Canadian millers do not seem to be any happier, richer or more flourishing than those of the United States. Quite recently, the Canadian Miller, the only journal for millers published in the Dominion, a monthly at that, and costing the small sum of one dollar per annum, went out of business for lack of appreciation and support, which does not indicate a very thriving condition of things in the Canadian milling trade."

Members of the Winnipeg Grain Exchange recently had an interview with the local officials of the Canadian Pacific railway regarding a reduction in the freight tariff for carrying seed grain between any points in the country and it was agreed that grain would be so carried at half the scheduled rate. Arrangements are also being made to procure samples of good seed wheat which will be placed in the hands of station agents whose instructions are to lend assistance to the farmers. Only grain equal to samples in the hands of the agents will be carried at the reduced rate, the object being to encourage the procuring of choice qualities of seed grain. These concessions on the part of the railroad company will prove of much benefit to the agriculturists.

The Farmer's Elevator question at Neepawa Man. says the News, has been at last disposed of and those who invested money in it may now console themselves with the thought that there will be no more calls made on their stock. The entire concern has been bought out by John Crawford for \$14,000, a sum equal to about the secured claims against it. The shareholders lose all the money they had in it besides the money a number of them had lent from time to time to carry the enterprise along.

By the decisive vote of 239 to 31 the United States House of Representatives passed the bill repealing the differential duty of one-tenth of a cent a pound imposed in the tariff on sugars imported from countries paying an export bounty on that article.