

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 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, JUNE 1, 1896.

Manitoba.

The foundation for the new Bell Telephone building in Winnipeg is down.

The new buildings at the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition grounds are now in course of erection.

C. R. Dunsford, of Morden, will act as manager of the Union Bank, Winnipeg, during the absence of Mr. Paton, who has been appointed one of the delegates from the Winnipeg board of trade to the conference in London, England, of the associated chambers of commerce.

At Brandon, on May 27, fire broke out in the rear of the Parrish grain warehouses. The flames were quenched, but not until damage to the extent of \$3,000 or more had been done to the building and contents. While the firemen were pulling down a small outhouse, they uncovered the charred remains of a human body, which was recognized as that of a six-year-old son of Robert Crawford of this place. It is supposed that the lad was playing with fire-crackers in the outhouse when the building caught fire and he was unable to make his escape. The contents of the warehouse were owned by Purdon & Smart, and the building by Jane Parrish, of Calgary. The loss is supposed to be covered by insurance.

The Winnipeg Retailers' association has made complaint of the practice of wholesalers selling goods to private parties, and have passed the following resolution, which The Commercial has been requested to publish: Resolved that each member of this association should feel it to be his duty to report all cases of the kind to the secretary, who shall at once call a meeting of the committee to investigate the case or cases as may be, and they to take such steps as may be deemed advisable in the matter. It is further resolved, that any whole merchant found guilty of doing such unbusinesslike transactions, the members of this association shall seriously consider and determine the amount of patronage they will give such wholesale concerns.

Northwest Ontario

The Rat Portage Record announces the production of a forty ounce gold ingot, value \$7500, from the Golden Gate mine which was opened less than a month ago. The gold was produced from thirty-five tons of rock milled at the Gold Hill mine.

R. H. Ahn, manager of the Dominion Gold Mining and Reduction company of Rat Portage, has the following to say on the mining outlook in this district: The outlook for this season is very promising. At least two strong English companies, who have been operating extensively in South Africa, and Australia, have been attracted to Lake of the Woods, and their representatives will arrive shortly to examine certain properties; with a view of purchasing. I am in almost daily receipt of letters from various parts of the world asking for information and advice. Some of these I am pleased to say, are from gentlemen who are farming in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories. "The Gold Hill and Black Jack properties will be worked this summer quite extensively, and many others are being steadily developed, or capital is being arranged for to begin work upon them. "The Eschweiler property, near the town, consists of some 1,600 acres, and the owners are so well satisfied with the prospects that they are forming three district companies, who will each take hold of and develop a third of the property. Good work is being done on the None Such, which is a splendidly promising proposition, the ore body showing a thickness of 40 feet. "It is impossible to say how many prospectors are at work on the lake; but, as the saying is, 'the woods are full of them.' I have an exploring party of four with a surveyor prospecting and locating properties under instructions of a company of mining men. The reduction works are in perfect working order and ready to treat any and all ore that may be brought in.

Assiniboia.

A Qu'Appelle station correspondent says: A considerable increase in the number of business enterprises has occurred this year. We have now two meat markets, two merchant tailors, and two confectionery stores. Several buildings are to be put up during the summer.

J. H. MacCaul, lumber dealer, Qu'Appelle, has taken B. Harvey into partnership.

Freight Rates and Traffic Matters.

The Chicago Trade Bulletin of May 23 says: Rail business was fair and rates steady last week at 20c per 100 lbs for flour and grain and 30c on provisions to New York. Ocean rates were steady with a moderate demand. The through rate to Liverpool was strong at 22½ to 24½c for flour and provisions 35 to 38, to 44c per 100 lbs. Grain was 12.20c per bu. The lake and rail rate to New England is 9c per bu on corn and 5½c on oats. To New York it was 6½c on corn and 5½c oats. Offerings of boats were larger, and rates lower at 1½c for wheat, 1 to 1½c for corn and 1c for oats to Buffalo, 1½c for corn to Midland, and 1c to Port Huron.

Since our last report, says the Montreal Trade Bulletin, some business has been worked for London at 2s for heavy grain and 1s 9d for oats. Liverpool and Glasgow freight has been taken at 1s 7½d for heavy grain with 1s 9d now asked. Bristol space is quoted at 2s. To Antwerp and Hamburg 2s 3d to 2s 6d is quoted for heavy grain and 2s 1½d for oats. Sack flour is quiet at 8s 9d to 10s London, 6s 6d to 7s Liverpool; Glasgow 8s 9d to 10s and Bristol 10s. Cattle 35s to 40s. Horses 70s London and 80s Glasgow. Cheese and butter 20s London and Glasgow, 25s Bristol, and 17s 6d. Liverpool. In Lake freights the rate from Chicago to Prescott is 2½c on corn, the same rate ruling to Kingston. The through rate on corn from Chicago to Montreal is 5c, and on wheat 5½c. From Buffalo to New York the combine is keeping up rates well, wheat being 3½c and corn 3½c. From Duluth and Fort William to Montreal, 7c.

The Interstate Commission in the case of the grain shippers of Northwest Iowa against the railways, held that rates on coarse grain, to be reasonable, should not exceed 17 cents from Missouri river points to Chicago, and 12 cents to the east bank of the Mississippi River, and not more than 15 cents on wheat. The grain men are now moving to sue the railways for the amount of freight charged in excess of what the Interstate Commerce Commission decided was reasonable.

Light Stocks of California Fruit.

According to current reports the stock of California dried fruits was never so light at this season as it is now. While for a long time past there has been no evidence of activity in any line, and speculative interest has seemed to be dead, there has been a steady but quiet movement of stocks into consumption and at the present time the holdings of first hands are unusually light. There were good crops of everything but apricots last year; but while consumers have been buying close to requirements throughout the season, and the excitement incidental to speculative buying has been all but lacking, the stock has been absorbed.

In first hands at the present time there is next to no stock of any description. Raisins are particularly scarce, and of late the tendency of the market has been upward. Some of the jobbing houses are well supplied with prunes, but they are putting them into cold storage, and they will not become a factor in the market until next fall. There is quite an active demand for peaches and apricots, but there is little available stock of either. Two or three car loads of peaches are held in Philadelphia on consignment, but the owners on the Coast have their ideas up, and although bids of very full prices have been made, the consignees have received instructions to store the goods. The crop outlook is still uncertain. The grape vines seem to have recovered from the effect of the late frosts, and a fair average crop is expected. The prune crop will not be so large as was expected before the frosts, but it is certain that there will be a good output, and, according to the latest advices, it will run chiefly to large sizes. A fair peach crop is promised, but of apricots it is believed that there will be no more than, if as much, as last year.—New York Commercial Bulletin.

Montreal Fruit Sales.

The cargo of the Bollona, the third direct steamer to arrive at Montreal with Mediterranean fruit, was put up at auction as usual. The cargo consisted of 28,000 boxes of Messina, 7,000 boxes of Palermo and 1,600 cases of Valencia lemons. Also about 7,000 boxes of Palermo, Catania and Messina oranges. The condition and quality of the cargo was good, but the bidding at times was very slow. Lemons showed a drop of 10 to 40c per box lower than the previous sale, and considerable quantity was withdrawn. The bulk of lemons sold went to United States buyers. Oranges showed an advance of 50c to \$1.50 per box, but even at this advance some of the Catania oranges were withdrawn. The following were the prices realized: Lemons, \$1.00 to \$3.00 per box; oranges, Catania, in boxes, \$3.50, half boxes, \$1.15 to \$2.00; Palermo, boxes, \$1.00 to \$2.50, half boxes, 90c to \$1.90; Messina, boxes, \$1.50 to \$1.50, half boxes, 65 to \$1.50.

It is expected that an elevator will be built this summer at Qu'Appelle.

At Montreal on May 17 the market for oats was weaker and prices declined ¼ to ½c. No. 2 Ontario white were offered at 27½ to 28c track. No. 2 mixed oats for export are offered at 26c.