

# 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.

**Eighth Year of Publication.**  
**ISSUED EVERY MONDAY**  
**SUBSCRIPTION, \$2.00 PER ANNUM.**

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1 month weekly insertion.....	\$0 80 per line.
3 months, do .....	0 75 "
6 " do .....	1 25 "
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Office, 4 and 6 James St East,

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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 desk of the great majority of business men in the vast district designated above, and including northwestern 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 21, 1890.

## Manitoba.

McGregor is having a building boom.

Dudley White, of the *Brandon Sun*, will start a paper at Birtle.

Several new stores and buildings are being built on the south side of the river at Carman.

Rapid City wants a tailor. It is said that the place affords a good opening for such a tradesman.

Nelson, from Newdale, will have charge of the cheese factory which is being established at Gladstone.

Chief License Inspector Clark of Manitoba has received 154 applications for liquor licenses for the year 1890-91.

G. A. Griffith, general storekeeper, Balmoral, has sold out his grocery business to one Delhi, and is removing from here.

Winnipeg stonemasons and bricklayers have amalgamated their organizations. They have decided to work nine hours per day only.

A colonist train, with 200 passengers, who take 13 cars of stock, left Toronto Tuesday evening last for Manitoba and the Territories.

The Northwest Central railway proposes bridging the Assiniboine river at Brandon. Plans of the proposed work have been prepared.

Smith & Burton, grocers, of Brandon, will open a wholesale produce business in Vancouver, B.C., in connection with their Brandon business.

The Portage la Prairie board of trade has taken up the discussion of the questions of, "The best fire protection," "The coupon system" and other practical questions.

Plans are being prepared for a handsome building for the Imperial Bank in Portage la

Prairie. The building will be solid brick with stone foundation; it will be heated with hot water and will cost about \$10,000. Work will be begun on it at once.

The Northwest Central Railway will be put in shape at once for a train service over the first fifty miles of the road completed last year. It is expected that fifty miles of new road will be built this year.

The merchants of Manitou have signed a document agreeing to close their stores at 7.30 p.m., (Saturdays and days previous to holidays excepted). The new arrangement will remain in force from 1st May to 15th September.

Johnson & Barclay, of the Portage oatmeal mill, who established a pork-packing business at Portage la Prairie last fall, have been so successful in this line that they have purchased and are fitting up a larger building for a packing factory.

The Manitou board of trade has taken up the question of collecting timber dues, and will investigate the custom of seizing wood, posts, etc., even without suspicion that the same were cut unlawfully. The board proposes to enter a vigorous protest against the actions of Government timber agents.

The mail service on the Manitoba Northwestern Railway is very unsatisfactory to the people along the line. Under the present arrangement the mails to and from Winnipeg lie over one day at Portage la Prairie, where they are transferred to and from the Canadian Pacific. It is very necessary that the mails for the northwestern country should be sent direct from Winnipeg by the Northwestern trains instead of by the C.P.R. to Portage.

A number of tenders for the supply of clothing for the members of the Winnipeg fire brigade were opened at the last meeting of the city council and the following were accepted: For serge suits, the Hudson's Bay Co., \$19.75 each; for rubber boots, Geo. Ryan, \$3.95; for rubber coats, A. A. Andrews, \$4.50; for caps for the men (plain), \$1.55; three of the same with the word "lieutenant" in the centre, \$3.50; and three more of the same with gold instead of silver with the word "captain" in the centre, \$3.50; one of the same for the chief with extra heavy gold leaf having the word "chief" in the centre, and with gold cord running around, \$5.13.

The Portage *Liberal* says: "Owing to the stringency of the money markets, two or three of our business men are temporarily embarrassed, and are asking extensions of time to collect in outstanding accounts. As these gentlemen have accounts enough due them to cover their liabilities, outside of their stock assets, it is expected that they will not have much difficulty in arranging to resume business. The trouble has been caused by the action of one or two creditors in these cases. The bankrupt laws of Canada, or rather the lack of laws, offer no premium to creditors to act in concert for the benefit of an embarrassed merchant."

The Brandon correspondent of the *Winnipeg Free Press* writes as follows: "Indications are not wanting that Brandon, notwithstanding the stringency of the money market, will experience during the season just opening perhaps the best one in the building line that she has ever had. Several large buildings are now under way and contracts for other large structures will soon be signed. Dr. Fleming has a

large gang of men excavating for a \$20,000 three-story wholesale and retail drug store on the corner of Eighth street and Rosser avenue. Plans are being prepared by Architect Schillinglaw for the new registry office, work upon which will soon commence, costing over \$11,000. The foundation of the new post office is about completed and the brick work contractor, Ham-bury, expects soon to commence. As this building is to cost upwards of \$45,000, a considerable portion of this sum should find its way into the hands of the people to be employed on the building this summer. The British North America Bank have purchased the material for their proposed large bank building that will be erected on the corner of Tenth street and Rosser, the site of the cremated Masonic hall. The Imperial Bank, following the footsteps of the other monied institution, has decided to put up a handsome building wherein to do business on the opposite corner. A. C. Fraser and John A. Montgomery, it is stated, will each erect brick stores for themselves. The experimental farm buildings will be completed this year. Besides those enumerated above, there are many other buildings talked of, but it is too soon in the season to speak definitely of them. It is particularly noticeable that five of the structures mentioned above will in all probability eclipse in point of cost any one at present standing in the city and as a consequence will help to give the business portion of the city a solidity of appearance that at present it does not possess.

## Alberta.

The *Calgary Tribune* reports the arrival of considerable numbers of fine stock for the Alberta ranges.

The *Calgary Tribune* says: "A large number of settlers have arrived during the last few days. Four families consisting of twenty members from Bruce and Essex Centre will settle here, and quite a number of young men from the east are staying at the various hotels.

The *Calgary Tribune* has the following sensible article regarding a flour mill: A great deal has been said from time to time about a flouring mill for Calgary, and still nothing has been done, nor is likely to be done, until the farmers themselves make a stir and show that they can raise the wheat without a doubt every year. We believe there is no trouble in doing this, but yet every farmer wants to sow some wheat every year and thus prove beyond a doubt that if a mill comes there will be wheat to grind. Mr. Orr telegraphs that Judge Cross will erect a flouring mill at Calgary, provided that a bonus of \$8,000 is granted by the town, but we believe that with the line of railroad built to the north, and on the farmers showing that wheat can be grown, a mill will be erected without any bonus whatever, and, further, we know of a gentleman who will put in a mill at Sheep Creek or High River next year, if the farmers of that locality show him that they can raise good wheat crops this year. We would suggest that every farmer put in some wheat, from one acre to five acres, and publish the result in the fall at threshing time. We know very well that for the last two years there were good crops of wheat raised all over the country, and that with proper cultivation the same results can be obtained every year, and the farmers should send their experiences in this respect to the *Tribune* for publication.