

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.

Fifteenth Year of Publication
ISSUED EVERY MONDAY

Subscription, \$2.00 PER ANNUM (In Advance).

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

Office: Free Press Building.
STEEN & BUCHANAN,
Publishers.

The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much larger circulation among the business community of the West region lying 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 the majority of business men in the district designated above, 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, MAY 10, 1897.

TRIED BY FIRE

Since our last issue The Commercial office has been the scene of a destructive conflagration. Fire broke out in the office on Monday evening, doing great damage to the interior of the building and the plant, and practically destroying the type and composing departments. This accounts for the change in the appearance and size of the paper this week. With the kind assistance of the Free Press, we have been able to issue this week on time, though in reduced form.

The fire will only be a temporary set-back to The Commercial. In a few weeks we hope to resume the full size as before the fire. In the meantime, the friends of The Commercial will kindly consider the inconvenience under which we are working, and make allowance for any shortcomings. All business entrusted to The Commercial will be handled as promptly as possible, and in a short time we hope to have everything running smoothly again. The present quarters of The Commercial will be in the Free Press building, where we will be pleased to see our friends and patrons.

Manitoba.

W. R. Ross, late of the firm of Nugent & Ross, barristers, Winnipeg, has located in Fort Steele, B. C.

The idea of having a mining exhibit in connection with the coming annual summer fair of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition Association, is indeed a happy thought. It should prove one of the most drawing features of the exhibition. One of the objects of the association is to make the resources of Western Canada known

abroad. The mineral districts, east and west of us, should be represented as fully as possible, to the great advantage of all interested.

The inland revenue collections at Winnipeg during the month of April was as follows:

Spirits	\$24,756.25
Tobacco	15,549.12
Malt	2,075.88
Cigars	832.70
Raw Leaf	139.50
Methylated spirits	123.59
Petroleum Insp. fees.	29.03

\$43,505.57

Collections April, 1896 \$1,195.36

Increase \$12,310.21

The report of the Dominion Government Savings bank branch at Winnipeg for the month of April, is as follows: Deposits, \$18,841.00; withdrawals, \$24,591.67; withdrawal's exceed deposits by \$6,110.67.

The Hardware Trade.

A Toronto report says: Trade is about the same as last week, there being no special features to report excepting that owing to changes in the tariff quite a reduction has been made in sisal and manilla rope. Wire and cut nails, barb and ordinary fence wire are to remain unchanged until the meetings of manufacturers have been held. The demand is principally for harvest and garden tools, spades and shovels, green wirecloth, poultry netting, windows and doors.

Eastern makers of barbed wire are not quoting prices to the jobbing trade at present, and though the nominal basis is still \$2.90 f.o.b. Montreal, the market has a very unsettled feeling. The presence at Montreal of the representatives of the Consolidated Steel Company, of Pittsburg, does not tend to dissipate this. In a word, says the Montreal Gazette, buyers and sellers know exactly how to act. In Winnipeg the wire factories are closing. The factories have been working at such a close margin here for some time, that even before the reduction in the duty, the business was hardly paying expenses. The barb wire industry here is therefore in a critical position.

A further decline of 1c per gallon has taken place at Montreal in the price of gum shellac, and pale orange is now quoted at 25c. On account of the low price of the above article, a weak feeling has prevailed in varnishes, and prices have declined in sympathy fully 2c to 5c per gallon.

The new duty on cement amounts to an increase of about 4c per barrel. The old duty on Belgian brands was 35 to 40 per cent., and the new is 57 per cent. Under the preferential tariff the increase in the duty on English makes is 2 1/2 to 10 per cent., making it now 37 per cent. ad valorem. In consequence of this increase, Montreal importers have been obliged to advance prices 5c per barrel, and are now asking \$2 to \$2.10 for English brands, and \$1.90 to \$2 for Belgian. Importers state that if the increase in the duty is maintained the importation of English and Belgian cement will be curtailed considerably, as they say it will be impossible for them to compete with Canadian manufacturers to as good advantage as formerly, for points west of Toronto.

A Montreal report says there has been a decided change in the cordage market since the new tariff was announced, manufacturers and jobbers having reduced the price of sisal 1 1/4c

to 6 1/4c for 7-16 size and upwards, and manilla has also declined 1 1/4c to 13-1c, to 6 3/4c for 7-16 size and upwards, and 7 1/4 for smaller sizes. The situation of the market even at the above reduction is decidedly unsettled, and still lower figures are anticipated.

Grain and Milling News.

The Lake of the Woods Milling Co. are making a shipment of Manitoba flour, from their Keowatin mill, to South Africa. Manitoba flour may now be said to go all around the world.

Fire broke out about midnight on May 5, in F. F. Cole's elevator, at Whitewater, Man., totally destroying it. The elevator contained about 8,000 bushels of wheat. The loss will amount to about \$7,000. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Grocery Trade Notes.

A Montreal report says there is a scarcity in canned tomatoes, and prices have advanced 12 1/2c to 75c. Corn has also appreciated in value, having moved up from 40c to 52 1/2c, and is expected to go still higher.

Barbadoes molasses has declined 1c at the island, to 7c per gal., but most holders refuse to sell at the decline.

An advance has been established in the price of rice at Montreal, of 1-4c to 3-8c per lb. for all common kinds. The value for higher grades, for which the demand is small, have not changed to any material extent. Montreal prices are: Crystal Japan, \$4.50 to \$5; standard B., \$3.50 to \$3.75; Patna, \$4.50 to \$5; Carolina, \$6.75 to \$7.75; choice Burmah, \$4 to \$4.25, and Java kinds, \$4.25 to \$4.50.

The Montreal Gazette says there is a decidedly easier feeling in the tea market, which is due principally to the fact that the large lines that were bought up by a few speculators previous to the announcement of the tariff, in anticipation of a duty being imposed are now offering on the market. Japan teas which cost 16 1/2c some two or three weeks ago, can to-day be bought at 15c, which shows a net decline of 1 1/2c per lb. The demand is very limited, as buyers generally, have ample supplies on hand and are holding off for a new crop of goods. A number of cases have been sent forward during the past week by importers for round lots of new teas.

Panic in the Coffee Trade.

An English trade report takes a very gloomy view of the situation in coffee, as will be seen by a perusal of it, which is as follows: "A veritable panic has held sway over the coffee market of late, and years have elapsed since it was so demoralized as it has been within the present month. The whole convulsion has been traceable to the huge and unprecedented outturn of the crops in Brazil for the '1896-97' season, which have come forward with such rapidity that buyers have been startled, and speculators of future values entirely upset. The downward movement in prices has been of a more than usually impetuous character, and the kinds of coffee undergoing the greatest depreciation have been those below 90s per cwt., the lower the grade the severer being the fall, which in extreme cases has amounted to nearly 16s from the highest point in January; good Santos,