



Winnipeg, Canada, February 24, 1896.

## 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).

ADVERTISING RATES ON APPLICATION.

FINE BOOK AND JOB PRINTING DEPARTMENTS.

Office: 186 James Street East.

JAMES E. STEEN,  
Publisher

WINNIPEG, FEBRUARY 22, 1897.

### INTRODUCTORY

SOME thousands of copies of this number of THE COMMERCIAL will be printed for general distribution, in addition to the number required for regular subscribers. A copy of the issue will therefore fall into the hands of many persons who are not regular readers of the journal. Some who chance to receive this number may wish to know something about the journal. THE COMMERCIAL, as its name implies, is primarily a paper for business men and other persons who wish to keep informed regarding the commercial news and general development and resources of Western Canada. Its columns are filled with matter pertaining to trade, commerce, manufactures, finance, insurance, mining news, market reports, etc. Its particular

field is Western Canada, including the vast territory lying between Lake Superior and the Pacific Coast. While considerable space is given to general commercial matters, particular attention is given to commercial progress and development in Western Canada. The journal is published weekly, at Winnipeg, Canada, and will be mailed to any address in Canada, the United States or Great Britain, for \$2 per annum, (8s. 4d.) in advance.

Persons, either at home or abroad, who wish to learn something about the vast region known as Western Canada, will find THE COMMERCIAL a valuable and interesting paper. Its aim is to give only reliable information about the country. A representative of the paper visits every settled portion of the country at least once a year. The great province of British Columbia is given special attention. Each week a budget of British Columbia matter is given, prepared by our special reporters on the ground there. Thus THE COMMERCIAL is kept in touch with all parts of the country, and in this way the journal has earned an enviable reputation for reliable information concerning Western Canada. This paper has long been looked upon as an authority on matters concerning that portion of Canada west of the great lakes of the St. Lawrence.

A great interest is now being taken in mining matters in this country. Western Canada possesses several mineral districts which are now evidently on the verge of an era of great activity. The rich discoveries in gold, silver and other metals, made during the past year, have drawn much at-

tention to our mineral wealth, and foreign as well as home capital is now flowing in for the development of these natural resources. The first wave of activity in mineral development has already been experienced, and during the next few years Western Canada bids fair to be the centre of the greatest mining activity anywhere in the world. In order to keep the readers of THE COMMERCIAL posted in legitimate mining matters, the staff of the journal has recently been increased. Those who wish to learn about our mineral resources and development, will find THE COMMERCIAL a reliable medium of information.

THE COMMERCIAL is now in its fifteenth year of publication. At the time this paper was established, the development of the country had just nicely started. Railways were just gaining a foothold in the country, and the Great West was only beginning to awaken to a new life. Since that time great changes have taken place, and we may safely hope for even greater progress in the near future.

To those who are not acquainted with THE COMMERCIAL, we would say that this journal has no political interests to serve. Its politics will be the welfare of Western Canada. Political questions will be discussed only in their relation to commerce and the material interests of the country. The aim of THE COMMERCIAL has been to keep entirely free from the influences of party, creed or clique, and the impartial manner in which this policy has been carried out, is frequently attested by letters from and statements of our regular readers.