

# 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, JULY 27, 1896.

## Manitoba.

H. A. Manwaring, of Birtle, disposes of a small sawmill outfit on the Bird Tail creek by public auction on August 5th.

The store of R. S. McKenzie, of Portage la Prairie, was burglarized recently, and about \$100 worth of goods were stolen.

The annual meeting of the Manitoba Medical association was held at Winnipeg on Wednesday and Thursday last, in the final rooms of the Medical College, the president, Dr. Chown in the chair.

New stock companies declared incorporated in the last Manitoba Gazette are: The Strome & Whyte Co., Brandon, \$50,000 stock; Buckle Printing Co., Winnipeg; Manitou Curling Rink Co., Manitou; and Selkirk Trading Co., Selkirk, capital \$40,000.

J. Y. Griffin & Co., Winnipeg, have lately erected a large addition to their packing house, which has been fitted up as a cold storage warehouse and is now ready for the storage of goods. They purpose doing a general cold storage business, and will receive dairy and other produce, either for storage simply or on commission. Messrs. Griffin & Co. have had considerable experience with cold storage in connection with their packing business, which has been of advantage to them in erecting this new cold storage warehouse.

A large number of road contracts have been let in Birtle and Minicta municipalities during the past few weeks, says the Birtle Eye-Witness. The councils have come to the conclusion that making roads by statute labor is a futility, as what is done one year is lost for want of system and by annual change of pathmasters who often order the work to suit themselves rather than the public. The Commercial is pleased to note the change. The sooner the antiquated statute labor plan is done away with the better it will be in the interest of good roads.

## Assiniboia.

The Conservatives of Regina intend to start another weekly paper in the interests of their party, neither of the present papers being to their liking.

The Liberals of Moosomin are making preparations for the publication of a new weekly paper in that place. Since the two Moosomin papers were amalgamated into the present Spectator several attempts have been made to raise sufficient funds to start a new paper.

Instead of having two party papers, it would be much better to have one good independent journal.

## Grain and Milling.

The Lake of the Woods Milling Company are preparing another order of flour for Australia. Ten thousand bags of patent flour are being got ready for shipment to Sydney, to be forwarded via Hong Kong, and they also have an order for 8,000 tons of wheat, to be delivered at the same point. The shipment will be made by the regular line, from Vancouver.

Giesbracht & Wiens, of Plum Coulee, Man., will build a 100 barrel flour mill at that point, and have let the contract for plant to Stewart & Harper, of Winnipeg.

Messrs. Shaw contemplate building a flour mill at Dauphin, Man., 100 barrels capacity. They now own a small mill and also a lumber mill at that place.

## British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, July 21, 1896.

The volume of business in British Columbia is about the same as last month. Ready money is easier, but collections are still very hard to make, owing to the large amount of available cash placed in mine and other industries. Butter is very plentiful with little demand. Manitoba farmers should be cautioned about sending large consignments of butter to British Columbia, as it would appear from indications that the market would soon be glutted. Local farmers are selling home made butter, wholesale, as low as 12 cents a pound. Manitoba wheat is weakening and Oregon wheat stiffening, as will be shown in the quotations next week. This is owing to an inferior quality of wheat being sent to British Columbia from Manitoba. Oregon wheat will bring about \$4 more than the Manitoba article, and has a more ready sale. Crops in B.C. on the whole, are not satisfactory although more land was placed under cultivation this year than ever before. In the highlands they have suffered from lack of water and in the lowlands from too much water. There is great activity in the fruit business just now. California apples are the favorite fruit for table use. The new Westminster market was opened by His Honor Judge Bole this week almost the entire city being present and many prominent citizens including the new Liberal member of parliament Mr. Morrison, made suitable speeches. There has been a falling off in lumber shipments this week but this has been almost fully made up by increased supplies for the local trade.

## British Columbia Business Notes.

There are but two surprises in the mining world this week. A. Anderson and H. Brown, of Westminster, and two American friends have struck a vein of free milling gold on Whiskey Creek, South Kootenay, assaying \$8 000 in gold to the ton. They have named their proposition The Canadian Queen. The other surprise is the Horse Fly mine's big clean up. \$20,000 have been taken from the sluice box without touching the ditches.

There are 18 ships loading in British Columbia this week.

The average catch of salmon on the Fraser this week has been about 20 to the boat. This is considered a low average. Two thousand seven hundred licenses have been issued, but this does not by any means represent the number of men employed in the canning business. The American traps at Boundary Bay are making big hauls of sock-eyes. About 50,000 have been sold to Canadian canners. The A. B. C. Co. have already put up a fair pack, at one of their canneries, of fish trapped in Boundary Bay. Eight

fatalities by drowning have been reported among the fishing fleet. Two Indians, a Jap and five white men.

Westminster is having a sale of lands on which an accumulation of two years taxes have occurred. Several of the ranches inundated by the floods are among the lands for sale.

The fisherman's strike at river's inlet is over. The Indians gave in first and the whites quietly followed their example.

The exports to the States from Vancouver for the year ending June 30th amounted in value to \$2,063,848, a large increase over last year.

## Comparative Prices in Staples.

Prices at New York compared with a year ago.

	July 17, 1896.	July 19, 1895.
Flour, straight spring..	\$2.95 to \$3.40	\$3.15 to \$3.60
Flour, straight winter..	\$3.10 to \$3.40	\$3.40 to \$3.76
Wheat, No. 2 red.....	63c	70c
Corn, No. 2 mixed.....	33c	48c
Oats, No. 2.....	25c	29c
rye, No. 2, Western.....	40c	....
Barley, No. 2 Milwaukee	....	....
Cotton, mid. upld.....	7.75-8.75	7c
Print cloths, 64x64.....	3.90	2c
Wool, Ohio & Pa., X.....	7c	17 to 17c
Wool, mess new.....	21c	21 to 25c
Lard, westn., stim.....	19 to 20c	\$12.25 to 13.00
Butter, creamery.....	15c	\$3.67 to \$0.62
Cheese, ch. cast far.....	7c	17c
Sugar, centrif., 96%.....	31c	7c
Sugar, granulated.....	43c	31c
Coffee, Rio, No. 7.....	13c	47-10c
Petroleum, N. T. Co.....	\$1.04	16c
Petroleum, rid. gal.....	0.50c	\$1.69
*Iron, Dess. pg.....	\$12.25	7.65
*Steel billets, ton.....	\$20.00	\$14.35
Ocean Steam Freights—		\$21.00 to \$21.60
Grain, Liverpool.....	2d	1d
Cotton.....	3-32d	5-6d

## Japanese Pelagic Sealing.

The Japanese are said to be taking an increased share in the seal fisheries of the North Pacific, although so far as these were carried on from the Japanese ports they were not so successful last year. "Of the vessels engaged in sealing 23 were British, 17 American and 5 Japanese, the catch amounting to 31,154 skins, against 59,950 the previous year. The British consul at Hakodate, from whose report these figures are taken, observes that the decrease in the number of vessels engaged (45 in 1895 against 61 in 1894) was due to difficulty in finding skilled hunters; but the Japanese employed in the schooners from the Canadian ports are returning home and are encouraging their countrymen to engage in the enterprise, so that the share of the Japanese in the sealing industry is likely to increase, especially as they are developing the ordinary fisheries on the Siberian coasts and finding them very profitable. Last year the Japanese fishermen caught 600,000 salmon and 160,000 salmon trout. In the island of Saghalien the fisheries in the hands of the Japanese show marked progress. The stations leased by them number 81, and the catch at these was valued at \$380,000. Seventy-one vessels were employed, of which two were steamers, and about 2,000 fishermen. Another Siberian coast industry being developed by Japanese is that of edible seaweed. From Saghalien 10,000 tons of this article were sent to China in 1894. The Siberian seaweed is said to be inferior to that of the Yezo coasts, but it is always salable in China."

John Cowles, wholesale butcher, of Winnipeg, bought three cars of cattle and hogs here last week, says the Carman Standard. He and Albert Clark had an argument about the weight of a bunch of six cattle, Cowles saying they would average 1,800 each and Clark 1,400 each. The stock were put on the scales, and Cowles demonstrated his ability to judge of the weight of cattle by coming within ten pounds of their actual weight.