

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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Publisher

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, MARCH 30, 1896.

Manitoba.

Birtle municipal council has passed a resolution to abolish statute labor.

Hart & Hindley, machinists, Glenboro, are adding general blacksmithing to their business.

Jas. Hopkins & Son, general merchants, Hartney, have sold out to H. C. Hamelin, late of Lauder.

Merrick, Anderson & Co. have been appointed agents for the Remington bicycle for Manitoba.

Montgomery's livery and feed stables, at Virden, were totally destroyed by fire on March 24. Evidently the fire was incendiary.

The Rat Portage Fish Company have purchased the Reid Fish company's plant and fishing rights in the Canadian portion of the Lake of the Woods.

The partnership existing between the firm of Ferras & Dargnault, general merchants, St. Felix, Man., has been dissolved. J. H. Dargnault will continue the business.

Two new steamboats are being built at Phillips' shipyard, Selkirk, says the Record, one for Messrs. Short, and the other for the Reed Fish Company.

The Riddell Manufacturing Co. have decided to add bread baking to their wholesale biscuit and confectionery business. They do not propose catering to the consumers in this department, but will sell wholesale only, the same as in their other branches, to grocers, bakers, or other dealers in this line.

Fire broke out at Souris, on March 22, and totally destroyed T. H. Patrick's building. In the building were the Plaindealer newspaper plant and office; Goshier & Co., private bankers, Patrick's office, hall and rooms. Patrick's loss is about \$3,000, insured in the Union for \$1,500, Dickey & Barclay's loss is about \$1,200, insurance \$600 in the Royal; Goshier & Co., office fittings, \$100, no insurance. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Another new wholesale house will be opened in Winnipeg on April 1, by two gentlemen who have long been well known in business circles here. The line will be wholesale fruits and commission, and the firm will be composed of A. Bright and K. J. Johnson. Premises have been secured in the Henderson block, at No. 140 Princess street, which is a very central and desirable location for such a

business. Mr. Bright has been fourteen years in the retail grocery trade in Winnipeg and Mr. Johnston has for many years acted as city traveller for local wholesale houses, having been most recently connected with the firm of McKenzie, Powis & Co. The Commercial has no hesitation in recommending these gentlemen both to shippers and dealers, as men of integrity and business ability. The style of the firm will be Bright & Johnson.

Montreal Grain and Produce Market.

Grain.—The further enquiry reported for Manitoba wheat on Saturday resulted in some business on Monday, a sale of 10,000 bushels No. 1 hard being made at a price which is understood to be ½c under previous sale of 30,000 bushels made here on Saturday at 6½c above Fort William for May delivery. It was also reported that New York holders of Manitoba wheat bought for May, were selling and replacing the same grade in other markets at about 9c less money. There was no change in oats. The demand was limited and few sales were made. A car of No. 2 Manitoba oats sold Saturday at 29½c in store. Prices were: Peas, per 60 lb, 58 to 59c; No. 2 oats, per 31 lbs, 29c; corn, duty paid, 45 to 47c; barley, feed, 38 to 39c; barley, malting, 52 to 54c.

Flour.—The flour market was quiet and without any new feature of note. The demand was slow, and trade principally of a jobbing character. Winter wheat \$1 35 to \$1.40; spring wheat patents, \$1.25; straight roller, \$1 to \$1.10, straight roller, bags, \$1.95 to \$2, extra bags, \$1.75 to \$1.85; Manitoba strong bakers' \$1.

Oatmeal.—There was no improvement in the demand for oatmeal and the market continues to rule quiet and about steady. Standard, brs. \$3 to \$3.10; granulated, brs. \$3.10 to \$3.20; rolled oats, brs. \$2.90 to \$3; rolled wheat, per 100 lbs, \$2.40 to \$2.50.

Feed.—A fairly active trade was reported in feed, the demand being fair at quotations. Bran \$14 to \$15; shorts \$15 to \$16.

Hay.—Market dull at the decline. We quote at \$13, and No. 2 at \$12 in car lots on track. Late mail advices from New York say: The farmers of the country are appealing to Congress for an increased duty on hay. The reason of this is the enormous increase in the importations of hay, mostly from Canada.

Cured Meats.—Business quiet of a jobbing character, Canadian short cut, clear \$13.50 to \$14; Canadian short cut, mess, \$11 to \$14.50; hams, city cured, per lb 7½ to 9½c; lard, Canadian, in pails 8c, bacon, per lb 9 to 10c; lard, compound refined, per lb 6½c.

Cheese.—Cheese does not show any pronounced change, but holders refuse to let go finest at 2½c. In fact, it is not improbable that more has been made for finest fall makes, as a result of the enquiry noted towards the close of last week. 8½c represents holders' inside views. White goods are still at a premium over colored. The cheese cable came at 42s.

Butter.—The market is quiet and steady. Creamery meets a steady jobbing enquiry, sufficient to keep prices at the old range of 21 to 22c, while Townships dairy, when choice, easily finds buyers at 18 to 19c.

Eggs.—The receipts of fresh stock are liberal, but stocks are not accumulating owing to the fact that the market is almost bare of limed stock. We quote:—Fresh 11½c to 13½c; Montreal limed, 10c to 11c; Western limed, 9½c to 10c per dozen.

Hides.—The anticipated decline in hides did not take place. The receipts have been large, for which the demand is of a limited character, owing to the fact that tanners have ample supplies on hand for the

present.—We quote:—No. 1, 6c; No. 2, 5c, and No. 3, 4c. Lambskins 30 to 30c for choice large skins, general figure, 70c to 75c each, calfskins, No. 1, 7c and No. 2 at 5c.

Beans.—Car lots at \$1 to \$1.05, and small quantities, \$1.10 to \$1.20.

Potatoes.—Sales principally in small lots to fill actual wants. We quote:—Car lots, on track, 30c to 32c per bag, and in small quantities, 35 to 40c.—Gazette, March 25.

Lake Winnipeg Basin.

J. B. Tyrrell, of the Dominion geological department, who has been engaged in continuing the surveys on the east side of Lake Winnipeg from Dog Head to the Narrows, and into the adjoining portion of Keewatin, says that the indications of minerals met with were not very promising, but he came across extensive tracks of fertile land, the existence of which is known but to few people. "The region is not a wilderness as generally supposed," said Mr. Tyrrell. There are stretches of rich lands stretching back in some places, fully fully 100 miles from the lake. It is mixed bush and prairie land, and is equal in fertility to anything to be found between Winnipeg and Edmonton. Pea vines, grasses, etc., grow luxuriantly, and we saw no indications of frost until the middle of September. The top soil, a rich vegetable mould, is from two to three feet deep, on an underlying stratum of clay. The district is part of the bed of the ancient lake, which at one time covered Manitoba, and the earth deposits there are the same as elsewhere in the province. A great fire swept over the country seven or eight years ago, destroying extensive areas of valuable timber; now there are but a few comparatively small patches left."

Hides, Furs, Etc.

The Minneapolis Commercial Bulletin says: "Hides are weak, with a tendency downward. The hides now coming in are of a poorer quality than those of the earlier winter. This is due to natural causes, the hair: fur, or wool of the hide growing thicker and the skin growing thinner as the winter advances. Owing to the inflated prices of hides last season, there were twice as many men in the field buying hides and twice as many dealers in them as the market needed, so that it is now necessary that a good many go out of the business. Pelts and wool are very dull and prices can hardly be lower than they are now. Tallow is weak and the trade quiet. The American trade in furs has sunk to a very low ebb, the demand being very light. The furs used principally are of cheap dog and calf that are brought principally from Europe."

Our Annual.

The special number of The Commercial, issued in February of each year, is now ready for distribution. Every regular subscriber of The Commercial has been sent one free copy. Extra copies can be had for twenty-five cents each. New subscribers sending in their subscriptions now for one year in advance, will be given a free copy of the Annual. No better advertisement for this country could be procured to send to friends abroad than this special number of The Commercial. No similar publication ever issued here, we believe, contained such a fund of reliable information about this special number.

A census of Manitoba will be taken this year by the Dominion government.

T. J. McBride, late manager at Winnipeg for the Massey-Harris Company, has been appointed assistant general manager of the company's business, and is now located at the head office of the company in Toronto.