

# THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters pertaining to trade and progress in Western Canada, including that portion of Ontario west of Lake Superior, the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Territories.

**Eighteenth Year of Publication**

**ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY**

SUBSCRIPTIONS, CANADA AND UNITED STATES  
\$2.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE OR \$3.25 WHEN  
NOT SO PAID; OTHER COUNTRIES, \$2.50 PER  
ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

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

Advertisements purporting to be news matter,  
or which profess to express the opinions of this  
journal, will not be inserted.

Office: 219 McDermot Street. Telephone 224.  
D. W. BUCHANAN,  
Publisher.

The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much  
larger circulation among the business community  
of the vast region lying between Lake Superior  
and the Pacific Coast than any other paper in Can-  
ada, daily or weekly. The Commercial also  
reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manu-  
facturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

**WINNIPEG, AUGUST 4.**

## TAKE A VACATION.

The holiday season is now on and there has already been a considerable exodus from the prairie cities and towns of the west to watering places, mountain resorts and other places of rest and recreation. The practice of taking summer holidays is not common enough in the west. As a rule the people of this country apply themselves too closely to business or other occupations and only at very long intervals do they suffer themselves to have any relaxation with change of air and scenery. This is no doubt due to the fact that the country is comparatively new and most of its residents have but little means and are struggling to get some capital accumulated. They also make the mistake of assuming that cash is the only sort of capital that counts for much, to the neglect of their health, mental equipment, etc., which are really of more importance, and generally by the time they have succeeded in securing what they consider to be a sufficiency of capital they find their health depleted and of intellectual resources they have nothing outside of a knowledge of their business. Then comes the despairing search for these more essential things without which the possession of money can yield but very little pleasure. It is safe to say that there are very few persons engaged in business in this country, however much may be depending upon their individual efforts who could not be spared for at least a couple of weeks during the year when business is usually slack, and the better spirit with which they would do their work after a good wholesome holiday would more than make up for any losses which may have been due to their absence.

Most of the professional and wholesale merchants take a vacation dur-

ing the summer months every year and they do not appear to suffer anything in estate by reason of it. Some of the leading retail merchants also follow this practice, but the majority of this class do not, excepting at rare intervals. The salaried classes in some branches of business also take vacations each year, in others they only do so occasionally. Not only should the employer follow this practice himself, but he should make provision for his help doing so too. We venture to say that no employer will lose by such action. He will find himself more than doubly repaid for any inconvenience arising from being short of help by the better service rendered all the rest of the year. There are few people who can stand the wear and tear of modern business year in and year out without rest or change without breaking down sooner or later.

Numerous short and cheap trips to summer resorts are now available from the prairie centres of the west and there is no one whose means are so limited that they cannot afford some kind of a change. If it is only a week or two of camp life at some nearby lake or stream, the change will do good. For those who can afford a little more there is Killarney Lake, Shoal Lake, Rat Portage, Detroit Lake, the steamer trip to Fort Francis on the Rainy River, or to Grand Rapids on Lake Winnipeg, Banff and numerous less widely known resorts. The choice of trip of course must be made according to tastes and means, and may be varied from year to year until all these places have been visited. The effect on both mind and body will be found to be beneficial beyond all expectations.

## IRRESPONSIBLE PRODUCE CONCERNS.

Complaints are again coming into the city from country points of losses to shippers of produce through irresponsible concerns doing business here. In some cases the losses have been so serious as to cripple the merchant whose bad fortune it was to be the loser, but in most cases the losses are only heavy enough to be annoying. It is one of the bad features of trading in this country that there is so little difficulty in the way of almost anybody embarking in business without capital or experience and obtaining almost any kind of goods on credit, and there is no line in which this works more harm than country produce. The goods are perishable and once in the hands of a consignee are completely at his mercy, the owner having to accept whatever is offered him in the way of payment as a rule. There have always been some complaints from country shippers as to the way their shipments are handled in Winnipeg—not all of which are of course justified—and this year we

hear more of these than usual. There can be only one sure remedy for this evil and it is in the hands of the shipper themselves, that is to make it a rigid rule only to entrust produce consignments to responsible houses of which there are and have always been a number in Winnipeg. All other persons or concern soliciting shipments of these goods should be required to pay cash in advance. To select the good houses is not such a difficult matter as it might seem either. References to banker of some responsible jobbing houses should be easily furnished if there is any question as to the responsibility of the concern.

## A Western Man on the Crops.

Montreal Gazette: "I have been in the province eighteen years, and there is nothing in the present crop conditions to cause me to lose faith in Manitoba."

This declaration was made yesterday by S. A. McGaw, the secretary-treasurer of the Dominion Elevator company, and as he was seven years with the Lake of the Woods company, and six years with the Ogilvie company, in Manitoba, it was remarked on 'Change that Mr. McGaw had a better knowledge of the exact condition of things in Manitoba and the Territories than any other man in the country.

He says that there has been plenty of rain all over the province of Manitoba, but that it came too late to help out the crop, which had matured a good deal earlier than usual, consequently the intense June heat killed the root. It had been an exceptional season, he added, for instead of coming in June, as has been the case for many years past, the rainfall did not take place till July.

Mr. McGaw's attention was called to a recent statement made by the Hon. Mr. Davidson, of the Manitoba government, estimating a quarter-crop, and he replied that there was a general feeling that Mr. Davidson had placed it a little lower than subsequent information would justify.

"And what is your own opinion?" he was then asked.

"I think," he replied, "that the wheat crop of Manitoba and the Territories will fall a little short of 15,000,000 bushels, against 34,000,000 for last year. I may say, however, that the considerably increased acreage, in both the province of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, over that of last year will help us out to a very great extent."

He then went on to say that there was a certain amount of trade depression in Winnipeg and the other towns, in consequence of the shortage in the wheat crop; but he did not see wherein this was justified. Merchants might, he said, be obliged to carry over more country accounts than usual, but there was nothing in the present outlook to make anyone lose faith in the country.

Mr. McGaw then gave some very interesting data regarding past crops. In 1889 the wheat crop amounted to about 7,000,000 bushels. In 1886 there was also a shortage, yet in 1887 there was the largest crop per acre the province had ever produced, the figure being about 30 bushels. Things, in 1886, were so bad that the farmers had to kill their stock, as there was no feed. There is, however, nothing like this now, for the feed is excellent, and as mixed farming is now pretty general in Manitoba and the prices of cattle good, the farmers will