

# THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters pertaining to trade and progress in western Canada, including the port of Ontario west of Lake Superior, the province of Manitoba and the Territories.

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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 Canada, and also reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

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WINNIPEG, MAY 10, 1902.

## NEW OPENINGS FOR ALBERTA PRODUCTS.

Last week the fact was briefly noted in these columns that The Trackman-Kerr Milling Company, of Vancouver and Edmonton, were shipping 250,000 bushels of oats from Northern Alberta to Vancouver for transportation by water from there to South Africa in fulfillment of a contract with the British war office. This is the first shipment of the kind which has been made. The fact that it has been made suggests the possibility that further shipments of the kind may follow in the near future to the great advantage of Northern Alberta, which has been handicapped so far by a long railway haul in finding a market for its excellent produce. The fact that such a shipment has been made suggests the further possibility that if such shipments can be made to South Africa they can be made to other ports and a profitable trade will probably eventually spring up between Alberta and foreign ports in such products as that district can raise by shipping via Vancouver. The opening of the proposed United States canal across the Isthmus of Panama will then open a vast market to Alberta notwithstanding the shortening of the water route to Europe. At present the long voyage around the Horn is something of a handicap to this trade, but with the new canal is in operation Alberta will be right in line for an exceedingly profitable business with consuming countries.

## Winnipeg's Assessment.

At the Winnipeg city council meeting on Monday night, J. W. Harris, assessment commissioner, reported on the general or real property assessment roll for 1902. "The current assessment of the city for 1902 is \$2,912,000 exclusive of the valuations placed on real properties, which are by law exempt from taxation, and which amount to \$1,558,210, showing a net increase in the assessment of the rateable property of over one and a half million (\$1,558,400). The increase in the value of buildings over last year's figures is more than a million (\$1,500,000). The value placed on the 1902 assessable new additions amounts to \$1,246,510, while that on the land amounts to \$1,293,550. The value of the city, which has been taken as usual, in connection with the assessment, is shown to be a fair percentage advance over the population of 48,077, giving a substantial evidence of the growth of the city. The commissioner also reported the

completion of the business tax assessment roll for 1902, showing a total advance of \$1,690,500, being an increase of \$610,300 over last year. This in connection with that shown in the assessment of the city over the return of last year of \$2,175,800.

The very large increase, as shown above, in the business tax assessment, is partly due to the fact that large number of statutory amounts have been re-bilitated, one statutory amount, namely, that which applies to the Great Northwestern Telegraph Co., was probably re-legislated into existence by mistake, by-law No. 1184, passed in 1900, substituted a license or lump sum payment to take the place of such assessment. The school district of Kenils, in the Northwest Territories, is offering \$100 of debentures for sale. The school district of Pierson, Man., is offering debentures to the amount of \$3,000 for sale. The rate of interest will be 5 per cent.

The Imperial Bank of Canada has declared a dividend of 5 per cent for the half year ending May 31. The annual meeting of shareholders will be held June 18.

A. S. Jarvis, who has filled the position of manager of the Union Bank at Sault Ste. Marie, for the past two and a half years, has been changed to Indian Head, Assa.

The Bank of Hamilton has declared a dividend of 5 per cent on its capital stock for the half year ending May 31. The shareholders' annual meeting will be held on June 18.

The Bank of Montreal has declared a dividend of 5 per cent for the current half year. The annual general meeting of its shareholders will be held on June 2nd.

## Montreal Fruit Auctions.

The fruit sales were continued yesterday, says the Gazette, and 30,000 boxes of Messina, Sorrento and Mastone were sold, being the last of the cargo brought to this port by the Thomson Line steamship Jacoma. The fruit was placed at the Montreal Fruit Auction Company's place in Mountain street, and was largely attracted by buyers. The bidding was

brisk throughout the sale, which lasted from 1 o'clock until almost 6 o'clock. The prices realized were considered good, though ranging from 10 to 15 cents less a box than last season's figures. The supply has been large, and this probably accounts for the slight decrease in the prices. There will be an aggregate of 500,000 boxes of Mediterranean fruit brought to this season, and of this amount about 200,000 boxes will have been landed in the port of Montreal during the season. The cargo has been considered successful, and the buyers and sellers expressed satisfaction.

Yesterday morning the market fairly good, and the auctioneer had a busy afternoon. The presence of so many foreign buyers testified to the importance of the sale. These buyers made large purchases, and the western men being particularly in evidence. The prices brought by these three lines sold were as follows: Messina, from 75c to \$2.30 a box; Sorrento, from \$1.10 to \$2.85 a box; Majori from \$1.55 to \$3.00 a box.

The sales will continue to-day, when 20,000 boxes of oranges, the last of the Fremont's cargo, will be sold. The Forest Holme's cargo of 25,000 boxes will be put on sale next Thursday. There is yet another fruit ship to reach this port, the Bellona, and she is expected to reach here Tuesday; her cargo will be on sale on the following Monday.

The men in the workwearing trades of Toronto who struck on May lat, have settled their differences with their employers and gone back to work. The basis of settlement was a compromise.

## FINANCIAL

### Winnipeg Bank Clearings.

Returns for the Winnipeg clearing House for the week ending Thursday, shows as follows:

Week ending May 8, 1902 . . . . . \$2,468,073  
Corresponding week, 1901 . . . . . 2,122,466  
Corresponding week, 1900 . . . . . 2,222,000

### Financial Notes.

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### Insurance Notes.

The Guardian Assurance Company will erect a \$200,000 building in Montreal this year, to be used as a head office for Canada. The structure will be nine storeys high, exclusive of basement.

### The New British Taxes.

The British finance bill, or budget, as issued on Monday in its final shape provides for a duty of three pence per hundred weight from April 15, on hard-rolled wheat, barley, oats, rye, maize, buckwheat, peas, beans, locust beans, lentils, uncleaned rice and oats thereof, and for a duty of five pence on flour, meal, starch, arrowroot, tapioca, potato flour, sago, malt, pearled barley and flaked rice. Drawbacks equal to the duty are allowed from May 7 on the re-export of any of the above articles which have undergone the process of manufacture or preparation in the United Kingdom in which import duty is paid on such foreign grain. Articles deposited in bonded warehouses for use as ships' stores are also entitled to drawbacks.

### Grain Act Amendments.

Ottawa, May 7.—In the course today on the act to amend the Manitoba Grain Act, six Richard Carletons which he wanted to place in Hazard so that members would have time to consider them.



Manitoba Farm Homes—Residence of W. F. Finch, Virden, Man.

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## INSURANCE

### Dangers of Athleticism.

An eastern life insurance secretary has expressed himself as follows to the Insurance Chronicle on the above subject:—

"We have just been obliged to decline two applications for insurance on two young men both of whom have first class athletic histories and both of whom would have been in every respect first class risks, but for the fact that, in each case, the heart has been permanently affected, apparently through excess in athletics. The facts point to an overtraining in connection with the same hockey team." The Chronicle goes on to say: "A very sad case of mental collapse was made known to us, the sufferer, for life it is feared, being a young athlete of excellent prospects who was injured in a football match. The violence so common in games are so needless, so wasteful, and in the spirit of athleticism, so full of risk, and the so-called 'training' of young men is conducted with such ignorance of physiological facts and laws, that need to be cautious and give up these matters. A young athlete, who had acquired remarkable dexterity, died suddenly in this city last week from over exertion at a gymnasium."

In the written application to the commissioner by any person residing within 50 miles of the nearest shipping point he may give permission to any car to erect a flat warehouse at such point. The railway company shall be given a location with aid, and at least of charge for loading, not greater than the charge to stand, authorize one or more such warehouses.

A written application by ten farmers resident within 20 miles shall cause the railway company to erect and maintain at such point a loading platform suitable for loading grain from vehicles direct into cars. Each loading platform shall be erected at a point which the railway company will provide on its premises easy of access and at least 10 feet wide. It shall be used free of charge for loading grain. The platform must be completed within thirty days after the application is made by the commissioner and shall pay \$25 for each platform's delay beyond that time. Applications will be received from April 15th to October 15th.

Railway companies must furnish cars without charge those platforms, and where there are no platforms cars must be furnished without delay for loading in grain direct from vehicles. Those who are guilty of an infraction of the act, will be subject to a penalty not less than \$50 and not more than \$1,000, and in default imprisonment for less than one month and not more than three months. Applications for cars shall be kept open to the order in which they appear in the book.