

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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JAMES E. STEEN,
Publisher

The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much larger circulation among the business community of the east 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 the great majority of business men in the district mentioned above, 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 22, 1897.

Manitoba.

Frederick Rocket, hotel, Treherne, is out of business.

Herron & Evans, general storekeepers, Deloraine, have assigned, with liabilities of about \$11,000, and assets of \$8,000, including \$1,000 in book debts.

M. Kerack, book store, St. Boniface, has opened a branch in Winnipeg.

The stock of J. Brennan, boots and shoes, Winnipeg, has been sold to W. Wood & Co.

The resolutions passed by the business men's convention have been printed in pamphlet form by the board of trade.

D. G. McBain, formerly in the grocery trade in Winnipeg, but latterly a resident of the rural suburban district of Kildonnan, is dead.

The general store business of L. Montgomery & Co., Deloraine, will hereafter be carried on under the style of Montgomery & Colquhoun.

The second special colonist train of the season reached Winnipeg Thursday afternoon. It had on board over 300 people, about 140 of whom were new settlers.

Louis LeBlanc, general merchant, St. Agathe, has had his dwelling and store destroyed by fire. Loss, \$1,400; insured for \$800.

A deputation of Winnipeg auctioneers has interviewed the local government in opposition to the contention that the compulsory early closing law should be applied to auctioneers.

The salt industry around Lake Winnipegosis may develop into quite a business this summer. A salt mining outfit was taken to Dauphin last week and will be set in position at once. Manitoba may therefore soon become self sustaining in the matter of salt.

The Winnipeg Property Owner's association will oppose the legislation sought by the city council, to introduce Ald. Baker's scheme for civic government. Proposals for exemption from taxation and for giving the council power to pass money by-laws without submitting the same to the city, were condemned.

A meeting of shop-keepers, mostly of Israelitish persuasion, was held in Winnipeg on Monday to protest against the early closing of stores. It was claimed that early closing was an injury to the smaller dealers. A committee was appointed to present the views of the meeting to the local government.

A board of trade has been formed at Emerson, as a result of the recent business men's convention at Winnipeg. The following officers were elected: President, J. W. Whitman; 1st vice-president, George Christie; 2nd vice-president, W. W. Fraser; secretary and treasurer, T. E. McGirr; board of directors, J. Sullivan, F. S. Bell, D. McArthur, G. Pocock and G. Cumming.

Alberta.

The following weather report showing the highest and lowest reading of the thermometer at MacLeod for a week, will indicate the condition of the weather in the range country. The dash preceding the figures indicates below zero:

	Max.	Min.
Feb. 27	48	19
" 28	20	3
Mar. 1	15	0
" 2	30	8
" 3	48	12
" 4	44	8
" 5	10	3

Grocery Trade Notes.

Canned peas are firmer at 75c to \$1, says a Toronto report, owing to the shortage of stocks, and higher prices are expected later on.

A recent circular from Patras, Greece, says with reference to currants:—"Since our last report the statistical position of currants has become much more defined, and we can now state with confidence that it is stronger than it has been for many years past. Stocks in Greece are about one-third of what they were at this date last year, and all markets of consumption are holding much lighter quantities."

Dairy Trade Notes.

Some sixteen fully equipped creameries and seventeen tributary cream collecting stations will be carried on by the government this season in the territories. Several of these are old creameries which have been taken over by the government.

The cheese cable on March 6 reported another decline of 6d.

Insurance and Financial Notes.

The finance department at Ottawa has published a summary report of the life insurance business of last year. Thirty-nine companies were doing business in Canada during 1896, of these, eleven were Canadian, fourteen British and fourteen United States. Of the latter, three have ceased doing new business, while six British companies have dropped out of the Canadian field. These thirty-nine companies had on the 31st of December the considerable amount of \$327,730,511 in force, an increase of \$8,472,930 over the amount in 1895. Premiums for the year totalled \$10,557,076, an increase of \$304,722. Of the total, \$6,075,995 was taken in by Canadian companies. Claims were paid during the year to the amount of \$1,706,157, an increase of \$876,114. Canadian companies alone paid out \$2,123,561. There are 150,148 life insurance policies in force in Canadian companies, out of a total of 261,259 policies in force throughout the Dominion in various companies.

The Hardware and Paint Trade.

Linseed oil has declined 1c at Montreal to 44 to 45c for raw add and 47 to 48c for boiled.

Turpentine declined 1c in eastern markets, but later recovered again.

A Toronto report says: Bolts, carriage, tire, stove and plough have been reduced. This is about the only change of any importance.

Hog Products.

The Toronto Globe of March 8 says: "There is an active demand for hog products owing to the advanced price of dressed hogs. Purchasers have been anticipating the rise and are sending forward orders freely. Prices are very firm. Choice light northern hogs would bring \$6 in rail lots here; heavy sell at \$4.50 upwards."

Barrel Pork—Heavy mess, \$11 to \$11.50; short cut, \$12 to \$12.50; clear shoulder mess, \$10.

Dry Salted Meats—Long clear bacon, car lots 5½c, ton lots 6c, case lots 6½c.

Smoked Meats—Hams, heavy 9½c, medium 10 to 10½c, light 11c; breakfast bacon 10½ to 11c; backs, 10 to 10½c; picnic hams, 6½ to 7c; rolls, 7½ to 7¾c.

Green Meats—Out of pickle are quoted a cent less than cured.

Lard—Tierces, 6½c, tubs, 7½c, pails, 7½c, compound, 6c."

The Montreal Gazette reports that market as follows: "In sympathy with the recent steady advance in prices for dressed hogs a firmer feeling in the provision market for pork has prevailed, and prices are quoted 50c per barrel higher, heavy mess now being held at \$11.50; light at \$12.50, and old at \$10.50 to \$11. We quote:—New packed Canadian pork, \$11.50 to \$12.50, old at \$10.50 to \$11 per barrel; pure Canadian lard, in pails, at 5½ to 6c, and compound refined at 4½c per lb; hams, 9 to 11c and bacon, 8½ to 9½c per lb."

Guessing at Grain Reserves.

The last crop report of the United States department of agriculture, relates principally to the distribution of the principal grains, stocks remaining on farms and proportion of merchantable and unmerchantable. All grains in the hands of farmers, including amounts remaining over from previous years are included in the estimates given. The corn on hand, as estimated, aggregates 1,164,000,000 bushels, or 51 per cent of the last crop, against 1,072,000,000 bushels in March, 1896.

The wheat reserve in farmers' hands amount to 20.6 per cent of the crop, or 83,000,000 bushels against 123,000,000 bushels last March. Of this amount, 3 per cent is reported as coming over from previous crops.

Of oats there are 313,000,000 bushels, or 44.2 per cent of the 1896 crop yet in farmers' hands.

The reserves of corn and oats, as estimated above, are very large.

We have recently been shown by the representative of H. Shoray & Co., wholesale clothiers of Montreal, a very simple little device for preventing buttons from pulling off garments. From our own experience we should say that this would be a boon to the public. Buttons are liable to come off at the most inopportune time, and this peculiarity of the button is not infrequently the cause of more or less bad language. We may view this invention therefore, as something of a moral benefactor of mankind.