

# 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 vast region lying 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 the majority of business men in the district designated 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, AUGUST 2, 1897.

## UNITED STATES TARIFF.

The new U. S. tariff bill, as finally passed, resulted in restoring a number of the controverted clauses as they were in the bill when it first came from the house. The senate amendments were in several cases stricken out entirely or re-arranged on a compromise basis. Sugars are finally fixed as follows:

Sugars not above No. 16 Dutch standard, in color, tank bottoms, syrups and cane juice, melada, concentrated molasses, concrete and concentrated molasses, testing by the polariscope not above seventy-five degrees, shall be taxed ninety-five one-hundredths of 1 cent per pound, and for every additional degree shown by the polariscope test thirty-five one-thousandths of 1 cent per pound additional, and fractions of a degree in proportion; and on sugar above No. 16 Dutch standard in color, and on all sugar which has gone through a process of refining, there shall be paid a duty of 1 cent and ninety-five one-hundredths of 1 cent per pound; on molasses testing above forty degrees and not above fifty-six degrees, 3 cents per gallon; testing fifty-six degrees and above, 6 cents per gallon, and sugar drainings and sugar sweetenings shall be subject to duty as molasses or sugar, as the case may be, according to polariscope test. On maple sugar and syrup the house rate of 4 cents per pound is maintained, and on sugar cane the house rate of 20 per cent ad val-

orem. Sugar candy and all confectionery not specially provided for, valued at 15 cents per pound or less, and sugars after being refined, when tintured, colored, or in any way adulterated, will pay a duty of 4 cents per pound and 15 per cent. ad valorem, and when valued at more than 15 cents per pound a duty of 50 per cent ad valorem. The weight and value of the immediate coverings other than the outer package, case or other covering are to be included in the dutiable weight and value of the merchandise.

The rate on stemmed tobacco is \$1.85 per pound. Unspecified tobacco is dutiable at 55 cents per pound, snuff at the same rate, and imported cigars, cigarettes and cheroots at \$4.50 per pound and 25 per cent. ad valorem. The rate on hides is fixed at 15 per cent. ad valorem, which is a reduction of 5 per cent. from the Senate rate. It is provided that upon all leather exported made from imported hides there shall be allowed a drawback equal to the amount of duty paid on such hides, to be paid under regulations to be presented by the secretary of the treasury. Skins of sheep or goat origin, dressed with the grain on, are placed on the free list.

The duty on lumber is restored to the house rate of \$2 and the following clause is added:

"If any country or dependency shall impose an export duty upon sawlogs, round unmanufactured timber, stave bolts, shingle bolts or headed bolts, imported in the United States, or a discriminating charge upon boom sticks or chains used by American citizens in towing logs, the amount of such export duty, tax or other charge, as the case may be, shall be added as an additional duty to the duties imposed on articles mentioned in this paragraph when imported from such country or dependency."

This clause is directly aimed at Canada, of course, to prevent our placing an export duty on logs.

Raw cotton, which the senate made dutiable at 20 per cent., has been restored to the free list. Bituminous coal is fixed at 67 cents per ton duty.

Wools of the first class, including Merino and Merino crosses and down clothing wools are fixed at 11 cents per pound. On wools of the second class, including Leicester, Costwold and other long wool, such as are generally produced in Canada, the duty is 12 cents per pound. This rate also covers the longer varieties of down wools, which would be classed as combing. On washed wool the duty is fixed at double these rates.

On live stock some of the duty rates are as follows: Cattle, less than one year old, \$2 per head, all other cattle, valued at under \$14 per head, \$8.75 per head. If valued at over \$14 per head, 27 1-2 per cent ad valorem. Swine, \$1.50 per head. Horses, \$30 per head, when valued at not over \$150 each, and 25 per cent when

valued at over that amount. Sheep, \$1.50 per head, lambs, under one year, 75 cents per head.

The grain schedule includes barley at 30 cents per bushel, oats 15 cents per bushel, wheat 25 cents per bushel, flour 25 per cent ad valorem.

Other agricultural products, include butter, 6 cents per pound, hay \$4 per ton, eggs 5 cents per dozen, potatoes 25 cents per bushel.

## SILVER AND GOLD.

If Canada keeps on supplying the world with new gold fields the principal argument of the silverites will be knocked endways. Their great claim is that the country is suffering on account of a shortage of money and that the supply of gold is not great enough for the requirements of trade. In Canada the discovery of new gold territories have followed each other in rapid succession. We have the famous Kootenay, the new gold districts of Northwest Ontario, and latest of all, the wonderful Klondyke region. With our many thousands of square miles of unprospected country, we may keep on increasing the list of gold territories every few months for years. We are also adding new silver territories to the world's over stock of the white metal, all of which must be very discouraging to the advocates of free coinage of silver.

## Winnipeg's Hotel Accommodation.

In regard to the accommodation of the large number of visitors who were in Winnipeg during exhibition week, Capt. Douglas, of the Leland, said to a representative of The Commercial, that the hotels of the city had done their best to provide comfortable quarters for the visitors. At the same time he pointed out that it was unreasonable to expect the hotels to conveniently handle the great crush of people who come to the city to attend the exhibition. It would not pay to establish hotels for one week's business during a year. Such an idea would be absurd. Winnipeg, the captain stated, is remarkably well supplied in the matter of hotel accommodation, for a city of its size. This is a fact which is generally admitted by the public.

Another matter which Captain Douglas drew attention to is the fact that Winnipeg caterers have always abstained from endeavoring to take any advantage of the necessities of the public on such occasions. In most cities it is the custom to advance hotel rates during a time of public festivities. In Winnipeg this custom has never been followed, and no matter how great the crush might be, the hotels have always held to their regular rates. Winnipeg has gained a good reputation in this respect, and it is a benefit to the city, as it encourages visitors to come here, knowing as they do that they will not be mulcted double hotel rates on occasions of public celebrations or other attractions which are likely to draw large numbers of visitors to the city.