

# 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 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 Assinibota, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, MARCH 9, 1896.

## Monthly Trade Returns.

Dominion government saving's bank transactions at Winnipeg for the month ending February 29 were: Deposits \$18,904.00; withdrawals \$12,022.91; deposits exceed withdrawals \$7,881.06.

Inland revenue collections for the port of Winnipeg for January, 1896, were:

Spirits.....	\$ 19,292 09
Tobacco.....	12,076 25
Malt.....	1,203 60
Cigars.....	567 60
Methylated spirit.....	142 21
Petroleum.....	122 80

Total.....	\$ 27,948 49
Collections, Jan., 1895.....	21,691 23

Increase..... \$ 5,651 86

The following statement shows the value of goods exported and goods entered for consumption with duty collected thereon during the month of February, 1896, at Winnipeg, as compared with the same month in 1895:

Description	Value 1895	Value 1896
Exported.....	\$ 53,182 00	\$ 74,917 00
Entered for consumption, dutiable....	153,744 00	139,451 00
Entered for consumption, free.....	85,640 00	41,970 00
Total for consumption.....	189,884 00	181,421 00
Duty collected....	49,793 09	45,503 58

## Some Wild Animals.

There are six species of deer in Manitoba and the Territories, says an exchange. The moose, the elk, the black-tailed deer, the small jumping deer, the red deer, and the cariboo or reindeer of the woods. There are four species of bears. The grizzly, the silver-tip, the black and the brown bear. There are four kinds of wolves. The large buffalo wolf, the timber wolf, the cross wolf and the prairie wolf.

## Get Population.

Following is the address delivered at the recent immigration convention by Mr. Hespeler, consul of the German Empire at Winnipeg:

Great Britain's colonial secretary, Honorable Joseph Chamberlain, has said: "Get population and all else will be added unto you." Canada wants population. To get population a new country must have "free land." The republic to the south of us, within one hundred years, increased from less than ten to about seventy millions by "free lands." These millions were drawn from every country in the world, the inducement being "free land" under a free government. The arid lands that require irrigation cannot be considered as such, as large capital is required to bring them under cultivation, and therefore they are not free to an ordinary immigrant. The free lands being exhausted, or nearly so, there is now an ever-increasing agricultural population looking for free land which must overflow from the United States. This overflow should come to Canada, it is of an intelligent, industrious class, and of our own race, Britons in all but the name.

In the years 1893 and 1894, about 5,000 of these people drawn from 85 states, from Maine to California, settled in the Canadian Northwest. The want of free land in the "greatest republic on earth" forced these people to look for free land under a monarchical form of government. In a very short time these intelligent and industrious citizens from the United States will make, to them, the startling discovery that in the Dominion of Canada the people rule not only in theory but in fact, and that our form of government is absolute freedom, and that each individual has the right to "Life liberty and the pursuit of happiness" as well as free homesteads.

One of the chief aims of this convention should be to see that "free land" is available for all the desirable settlers who decide to cast their lot in with us in endeavoring to convert Canada into a great nation. With suitable "free land" at the disposal of our government the formation of a great nation is only a question of time and that comparatively short. Without "free land" the increase and prosperity of the Dominion must be slow.

Manitoba, young as she is, has now a surplus, province-bred population, emigrating, looking for "free land." Strange as it may seem, it is a fact. Have we no "free land" in Manitoba? Let us investigate. A settler to get a free homestead within thirty miles of a railway in Manitoba has to make his selection on one of 602 townships, containing 21,672 sections of 86,689 quarter sections of 160 acres each. Of these 21,672 sections, all of the odd-numbered sections have been reserved for railways or schools and are for sale and are not "free land." This leaves 10,836 sections. The Hudson's Bay Company were granted sections 8 and 26, or 1,204 sections, which reduces the "free land" to 9,632 sections. To quiet the Indian title 1,250,000 acres, equal to 1,950 sections were allotted to adult and minor half-breeds, which leaves 7,682 sections. The amount of land script issued on account of the troublous times of 1885 I have no means of ascertaining, but I estimate it at quite 82 sections, which reduces Manitoba land open for free homestead within thirty miles of a railway to 7,600 sections, or enough to give a free homestead of 160 acres to 30,400 heads of families. These 30,400 quarter sections are not all good land suitable for farming. We all know that there is poor land in this and every other country. Manitoba now has 25,000 heads of families who are producers, grain and stock raisers, and who are rapidly becoming large exporters of these commodities, and I venture the assertion that these same 25,000 Manitoba farmers contribute more to the world's food supply than the same number of men elsewhere on the face of the earth. Where then is our free land. These figures are not absolutely correct, but they are nearly so, and

may assist the convention to knowledge of the main reason why our country is not more thickly settled. The cause is simply shortage of "free land" within a reasonable distance of railway communication.

To put it plainly, and this convention may as well look facts in the face, we have no suitable "free land" to offer, and men with money to buy land have a world to choose from. We who have lived here for a number of years, know this to be a good country to live in, we know that we have a good climate and the conditions of life are much better than in many other countries. Poverty as it is known in other and older countries is unknown here. Directly or indirectly, "free land" brought us to Manitoba, and most of us remember the rush of settlers to this province in the years 1881-2 and 3. Why did not the rush of immigration continue? Was it the fault of the country? No, simply the fact that the "free lands" within a reasonable distance of a railway was all taken up in those years, and immigration practically ceased for want of it. We have been striving after the impossible. We have spent millions of money trying to induce rich people to come in and buy our lands and settle on them. We have barred out the industrious poor. We did not intend to but we have. Settlers arriving in a new country, do not, as a rule, have more than enough money to make a modest start on "free land." It is the want of money and the inducement of "free land" that causes humanity to emigrate. Was it a surplus of money or the want of it that caused an army of United States home seekers to camp for weeks on the boundary line of Oklahoma Territory, waiting for the government to declare it open for free homestead?

Wipe out all unearned land grants, buy up all existing land grants and lands held by corporations for sale at a profit, proclaim them "free land" to actual wealth creating settlers, and the emigrants will come here. And a railway to the Hudson's Bay, if such a route is practical, will be in successful operation in a few years, simply because the necessities of our people will require it or other outlets. When the time comes that our people will require an outlet to the European markets via the Hudson's Bay we will get it, get it because we require it. A nation's wealth is in the industry or creative force of its citizens. If we had all the vacant fertile lands in the universe transferred to British North America we would not be one dollar richer than we are to-day, unless we could utilize the land and make it productive. To make it productive requires men, men whose poverty compels them to work.

Which is the greater nation, the United States of one hundred years ago with its few millions of people and its hundreds of millions of acres of unoccupied lands or the United States of to-day with its seventy millions of industrious people, its "free land" settled upon and its surplus human industry overflowing from the country looking for "free land" under other flags? The ordinary resident in the east must have a very hazy idea of what a square township looks like with all the odd-numbered and two of the even-numbered sections reserved for sale for the benefit of the non-resident holder. A diagram with the reserved section marked in black gives the situation at a glance and much more effectively than a description in words can. Can any one blame a settler for not wanting to leave his old home with its associations and social comforts and settle in one of the vacant sections, each one mile square, with vacant land to the right of him, vacant land to the left of him, vacant land in front of him and vacant land in the rear of him, and the black sections only represent the orthodox railway, school and Hudson's Bay Company lands.

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