

THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters pertaining to trade and progress in West Canada, including that part 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. The Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale commission manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG APRIL 20, 1901

B. C. Mining Delegates at Ottawa.

Ottawa, April 15.—The British Columbia delegation that arrived here a few days ago waited on the government this forenoon. There were about fifty delegates in all. The speakers were Geo. Alexander, David Heaps, H. E. Croasdalle, G. O. Buchanan, M. L. Grimmer, and J. R. Robertson. The ministers present were Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Mr. Clifford Sifton, Sir Richard Cartwright, Messrs. W. S. Fielding, Wm. Patterson, Jas. Sutherland, Dr. Borden, and Senator Scott. Those who accompanied the delegation were Messrs. Gulliver, Maxwell, Ralph Smith, Prior, Earle, and Senator Templeman. What the delegation asked for was a bounty of \$3 per ton on refined lead for five years. That was the first and principal thing they requested. They also asked for the equalization of the duties on the lead industry, and a liberal policy that is virtually a free trade policy in respect of railways.

Mr. Alexander, of Kaslo, was the first speaker. He said that the lead mining industry of British Columbia, in which a large amount of work and capital had been invested during the past ten years was now at a standstill. He illustrated this by referring to the mines in which he is interested. He said that his mines had paid \$1,000 in wages per day and last year shipped 1,000 tons per month. However his mines were now closed down in consequence of a crisis brought about by a smelter trust with \$100,000,000 capital formed in the United States. This trust practically controlled all the smelters and refineries in the United States. The object of the trust was to put up and keep up the price of lead and silver, and they realized that to do this they must force out the British Columbia mines. There are no refineries in Canada, and the Canadian mines had been shipping their output to the United States refineries. However, at the end of the contracts the trust refused to continue to receive shipments from British Columbia mines. Mining, however, was continued for some time, and his mines had 8,000 tons of ore located at various shipping points. There were only two small smelters in Canada, and they could not take any of the ore. Under present conditions it could not be expected that they would increase their capacity. The Canadian smelters had been shipping their product to the United States for refinement, separation of lead from silver and the United States trust, carrying out its purpose to shut out British Columbia, refused to receive anymore Canadian base bullion for refinement, except at prohibitive rates. The issue was a matter of life and death to the British Columbia mines, and the only solution he

could see was for the government to grant a bonus on lead smelted and refined in Canada. Everything that private enterprise and energy could do had been done, but without avail. There was no market for the smelted product and a refinery would be necessary in Canada. This would likely be located in the east because the chief market for the refined product would be found in foreign countries.

Mr. Croasdalle pointed out that the refining operations for lead were controlled by the United States. The refining had increased by \$1 a ton, and therefore the smelting price was increased in Canada. What he wanted to see was to get away from American control. Until this was done there was little hope of progress, and, therefore, no benefit would accrue to Canadians, a bounty would establish the industry.

Mr. Fowler, a mining engineer, said that the United States was now producing about all that they required. Even if they had not an adverse duty to contend against in Canada the United States did not require much of

He bore testimony to the depressed condition of the industry. It was brought about by the coercion of the American trust. What he wanted was to see the industry made a Canadian one.

The delegation presented a memorial to the premier which set forth what was urgently required. In addition to a bonus on refined lead and the doing away with the inequality of lead duties and a liberal policy in respect to railways, the delegation in that memorial asked for a portfolio of mines, and that British Columbia should have a representative in the cabinet. The establishment of a mint was also referred to.

The premier told the delegation that Mr. Fielding would send them a reply.

Biscuit and Confectionery Association.

The formation of the Northwestern Biscuit and Confectionery Association, is having a salutary effect in stopping the cutting in prices which has been

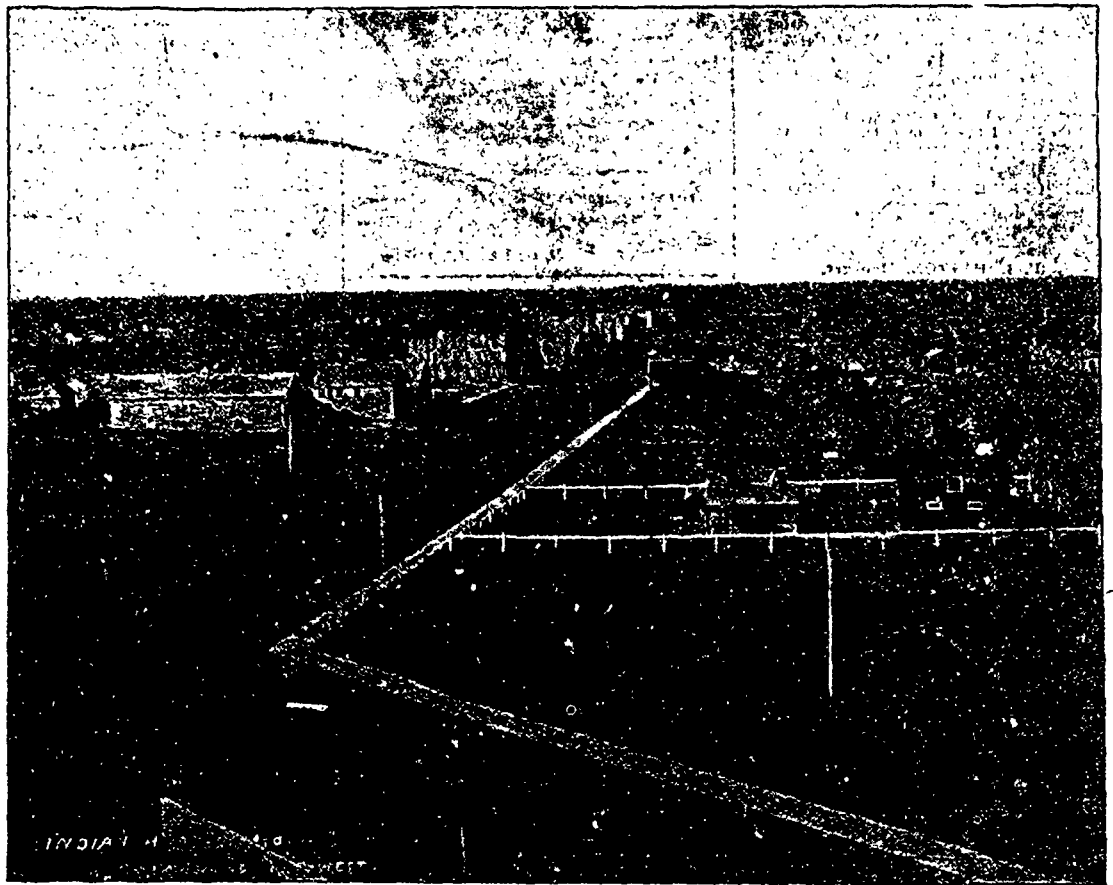
Freight Rates.

Considerable freight has been engaged during the past week from Lake Superior port to Montreal at 5c to 5 1/4c per bushel, says the Montreal Trade Bulletin, which shows a firmer feeling and an advance of 1/4c to 1/2c per bushel on previous engagements, and we now quote 5 to 5 1/4c from Chicago, Duluth and Fort William to Montreal. The rates on heavy grain from Chicago to Buffalo are quoted at 2 1/4 to 2 1/2c.

Railway and Traffic Matters.

Vancouver, April 16.—Up to the present there have been no replies in answer to the government advertisement for application for the construction of a railway from the coast to Kootenay, and there is much speculation as to what the government will do now.

The Journal of Commerce of New York says Jas. J. Hill, of the Great Northern, is known as now the largest holder of the stock of the Northern



Indian Head, Assinibola

our lead. What was wanted was a bounty to aid the Canadian meeting the American in the European market. Mr. Heaps was the next speaker and said that Mr. Alexander had covered the case very fully. He wished to refer particularly to the depression on the lead industry. Seven-eighths of the capital of his mine were subscribed in the United States. He pointed out in this connection that for the three months ending Dec. 31 the output of lead was \$70,000, and for the three months ending March this was reduced to \$35,000 and the present quarter will go down 25 per cent more. He was kept all the season busy begging so as to get rid of a little surplus on hand. His mine was still running, but there were others worse than the mine he was connected with for they had to shut down altogether. He also pointed out that fourteen boards of trade, the Central Mine Owners' association and the Miners' union were all in favor of a bounty, and had passed a resolution to that effect. The United States also imported lead from Mexico. The Americans were, therefore, able to put this lead with cheap Mexican labor on the European market at a cheap price. Mr. R. Robertson said that he was the employer of a large number of men and used British stockholders.

going on for some time in these branches of trade. The association is composed of biscuit and confectionery people doing business in the West, and covers Manitoba and the Territories. There are about a dozen concerns working for business in this territory who are all now members of the association. A good deal of cutting in prices and allowing special discounts to certain dealers, has been going on in the biscuit and confectionery trade for some time. This sometimes occurred through false reports. One traveller would hear that another firm was offering cut rates, and he would proceed to make similar cuts. As in other branches of trade, these reports are often false, but they get in their work just the same. When cuts are now heard of, instead of leading to a general slashing of prices, the matter will be referred to the association for adjustment. It has also been decided to discontinue the special discounts allowed to favorite customers. In the future. Some staple lines which have been sold at very close prices in the past have been slightly advanced this month. This includes soda biscuits and mixed candies, which have been advanced about 1 per cent. Even at this advance manufacturers say they are selling these lines at very close to cost.

Pacific road, having with his associates, John S. Kennedy and Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, \$50,000,000 par value of the stock.

In the railway committee at Ottawa on Tuesday the bill giving the C. P. R. a charter from Teulon to Sifton's Landing. Man was reported with an amendment to the effect that the line must first be built to Gimil on Lake Winnipeg and thence to the Icelandic settlement, and that the whole work must be completed within three years or the charter lapses.

The bill for assistance to be granted by the Ontario government to the Thunder Bay, Nipigon & St. Joe Railway provides that the rates for passenger and freight shall be subject to the approval of the lieutenant-governor. The railway company receive a grant of 5,000 acres per mile, the minerals on the land to go with the grant. The railway is to be completed by April 1, 1903, and the company must place at least one hundred male settlers upon the land every year for ten years after the passing of the act.

A country 'squire asked a juggler "why he played the fool?" "For the same reason you do—out of want, you do it for want of wit, I for want of money."