

COMMERCIAL SUMMARY.

There are 700,000 houses in London.

November 10 will be thanksgiving day in Canada.

The influenza bacillus is the smallest yet discovered.

Ghent, in Belgium, is built on 26 islands, which are connected by 89 bridges.

Work has been commenced on the new C. P. R. passenger station at London.

The new French tariff is said to be causing much injury to many of the industries of Paris.

The Bristol Town Council will spend £1,000,000 to build docks to hold the largest steamships in the Atlantic trade.

Mr. John Morley, Chief Secretary for Ireland, has written a letter defining the Government's policy in regard to evicted tenants.

An official report shows that the wheat crop of France amounts to 109,281,421 hectolitres, and that 6,979,911 hectolitres were sown.

A Washington despatch says that nothing as to the time or place for holding the International Monetary Conference has yet been decided.

A meeting of aldermen, members of the board of trade and citizens of Winnipeg the other night passed a resolution adopting the single tax theory of Henry George.

General Superintendent Kimball, of the U. S. life-saving service, has received a letter from a member of the British Parliament asking for a copy of the laws and regulations governing the United States life-saving establishment.

A Calgary despatch says: "It is expected that the grading of the new road into Crow's Nest Pass will be completed within two or three weeks. A gang of graders is scattered all along the road for over 80 miles and into the mouth of the pass. Grading will not pass that point, and no iron will be laid this year.

Some very interesting comparisons have lately been officially put forth showing Great Britain's increase in naval strength during the past six years. The figures show that her claim to the title of "mistress of the seas" is in no immediate danger, but they also show that one very burdensome source of expense each year which the admiralty is called upon to bear consists in overhauling, refitting and in many ways rejuvenating war ships that but a few years ago were among the marine wonders of the world.

The London *Miller* gives expression to the following: September gives a new cereal year with very great market dependency. Supplies seem assured, and the large area of wheat sown in America and France with a view to supplying possible deficiencies, has resulted in something very like over-production throughout the world. The large stocks in England have still to be worked through, and meanwhile we are buying new American wheat forward at the rate of 200,000 qrs. a week, together with the equivalent of half that quantity of flour. Low prices are not only prevalent, but seem for some time to come inevitable.

Two steamers are about to be built in Scotland for the Inman line.

The grand jury at Pittsburg has returned true bills against 107 Homesteaders for murder and aggravated riots.

The London *Telegraph* reports that Alfred Rothschild will be one of the English delegates to the international monetary conference.

Arrangements are about completed for the formation of a joint stock company to take over the Nanaimo electric light works. The council cannot purchase the plant.

American manufacturers of plug tobacco have been advancing prices gradually during the last two months, until nearly every well known brand has increased in cost from one to three cents per pound, with a prospect of further appreciation. This is accounted for by the advance in the leaf market and the comparatively light crop of this season.

The insurance of plate-glass in the large cities of the United States is growing so that already it has reached gigantic proportions. There are four companies that do the principal part of this large business, and they are all stock companies. The business differs from that of fire insurance in that losses are not paid in money, but those who are insured and have their windows broken report the fact to the company in which they are interested, and the plate glass is replaced.

A German doctor has started a theory that most drunkards can be cured by a very simple and pleasant course of treatment, namely, by eating apples at every meal. Apples, Dr. Tuplett, maintains, if eaten in large quantities, possess properties which entirely do away with the craving that all confirmed drunkards have for drink. The doctor says that in many bad cases that have come under his notice he has been able to effect a cure by this means, the patient gradually losing all his desire for alcohol.

A measure is being introduced in Egypt which proves the value of British rule and the importance of preserving it. According to the London *Times*, fourteen of the chief towns of the Delta and Upper Egypt are to be endowed with municipal councils, which will receive the octroi and other town dues hitherto paid into the treasury. This is a marvellous step in advance, and shows what strides the previously much oppressed and abused Egyptian fellah must be making in intelligence and civilization.

The sanitary effects of a sea voyage are very decided. First is the ocean climate. Sea air stimulates the appetite, improves digestion, assimilation, secretion and excretion. The glandular follicles and organs of the alimentary system are awakened to a high state of functional activity. Relaxed muscular tissue becomes firm, the heart is invigorated, the circulation is carried on more actively, respiration is deepened, the pure air inhaled promotes a quickened oxidation and tissue change, the skin grows soft and blooming, the tone of the nervous system is raised and a cheerful state of mind induced. The traveler gains flesh and strength, sleep is sound, lassitude vanishes and irritable nerves become firm.

The German Government will hold a World's Fair in Berlin in 1897.

William Blewitt, one of the directors of the London and General Bank, which failed a few days ago, has cut his throat.

There is a popular belief that Mexico is a wonderfully rich country, whereas just the opposite is true. The fact that lack of water precludes forever the possibility of successful agriculture over wide areas, and the absence of most of the comforts of life conspire to render Mexico a good country to stay away from. The Mexicans have taken 24,000,000 bushels of American corn since March last.

A good cleaning powder for show windows, and which leaves no dirt in the joints, is prepared by moistening calcined magnesia with pure benzine, so that a mass is formed when pressed. The mixture has to be preserved in glass bottles with ground stoppers, in order to retain the very volatile benzine. A little of the mixture is placed on a wad of cotton and applied to the glass plate. It may also be used for cleaning mirrors.

If the signs of the times can be believed, there will be in the future more of science in rating risks than there has been in the past. Schedule rating has received a stimulus which must bring it further to the front, and in competent hands this kind of rating is more rational, gives better results, and is more satisfactory both to the companies and the insured than is a result arrived at in the ordinary way, no matter how bright or expert the inspector or rating man may be. It is like guessing at a result in arithmetic compared to making the figures and performing the exact work.

Commenting upon an article which recently appeared in *THE COMMERCIAL JOURNAL*, the *Canadian Manufacturer* says: "As has been before pointed out in these columns, the illimitable resources of British Columbia offer unprecedented inducements for manufacturing enterprises. Coal, iron, lumber, minerals and other raw products occur in endless profusion throughout the Province, and if judiciously developed would eventually build up a Province unexcelled for permanent prosperity and substantiality. It would be well for our business men to consider that, while railroads are an essential necessity to the prosperity of the Province, we must also have something here for them to do when they are built."

Plenty of assurances have been coming to hand of late from various sources that Russia's financial position is improving. It hardly seems so, however, if we may judge from a recent article in the *Nova Vremya*, a leading St. Petersburg organ. According to that journal, the situation is most unfavorable, the treasury being exhausted to such a degree that the only resource left is the introduction of income-tax, and, meanwhile, the Government will be compelled to issue new paper roubles. It is also stated that six Governments in Southern and Southwestern Russia will certainly suffer from a complete harvest failure. If the outlook for the coming winter is as bad as the *Nova Vremya* paints it, the prohibition against cereal exports will soon be renewed, and the bears of Russian stock may have an opportunity of avenging themselves for the failure of their last campaign.