

# The Commercial

A Journal of Commerce, Industry and Finance, specially 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 desk of the great majority of business men in the vast district designated above, and including northwestern 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, NOVEMBER 24, 1890.

## Manitoba.

A. Wimperis, Fancy Goods, Winnipeg, has added confectionery.

W. R. Cahoon & Co., Steam Fitters, Winnipeg, has given up business.

J. L. Wells, Hardware and Plumber, Winnipeg, is opening a branch at Brandon.

G. T. ROGERS, of Elkhorn, and J. M. Douglas, of Winnipeg, have formed a partnership, and are opening up for their first start as general merchants in Elkhorn, where they have purchased the bankrupt stock of W. M. Cushing, and will continue business at his former stand.

Wawanesa wants another blacksmith shop. There were formerly two shops, but one was closed for reasons entirely separate from lack of business, as both shops were kept busy. A good man would find a fine opening, and there is a shop for the purpose which could be secured. There is no carriage maker in the place, and a wood-worker in this line would probably find considerable work. Wawanesa also wants a laundry. There is quite an amount of work in this line which is sent to Brandon, as there is no laundry work done in the place.

## Assiniboia.

Carphin Bros. will open a general store at Sintaluta.

The new Electric Light Works at Regina started running on the 15th inst.

Nearly 80,000 pounds of binding twine have been disposed of at Moosomin this fall.

The American Hotel, at Medicine Hat has changed hands. Jas. Dolphin has been succeeded by M. Cuzner.

Three years ago Moosomin butchers were importing meat from Manitoba to supply the home consumption. This year nineteen cars of cattle and four cars of sheep have been exported from that place.

## Northwestern Ontario.

A. W. Thompson, Jeweler, Port Arthur, has removed to Rat Portage.

McIntosh & Johnston, Grocers, Port Arthur, have sold out to W. J. Haskin.

The Port Arthur *Sentinel* is responsible for the statement that the Canadian Pacific railway will erect a seventy thousand dollar hotel at that place.

At a meeting of the Port Arthur board of trade, held on the 11th inst., the question of building a flour mill at that place was discussed. The board recommends that the town council grant a bonus of \$2,000 towards the construction of a mill with a capacity of 100 barrels per day.

## Alberta.

With its issue of November 1st, the Edmonton *Bulletin* begins its twelfth volume. It will no doubt be a surprise to a great many people both in eastern and western Canada to learn that a newspaper has existed in such a far away town as Edmonton, for nearly twelve years. During that time the *Bulletin* has done its best to place the advantages of Edmonton and surrounding districts before the outside world, and has surely aided, not a little, in the development of this wonderful western Canada.

## The Fur Trade.

The principal topic in fur trade circles is the remarkable success of the first fur sale of the North American Fur Company, the new lessees of the Alaskan seal rookeries. No doubt a good deal of the advance in values is due to natural causes, but the general feeling in trade circles is that most of it must be ascribed to clever manipulations by the syndicate of wealthy capitalists of whom Mr. Lieves is the head and front. Seventy-five thousand skins were offered, of which 42,000 were Copper Island, 20,933 Alaska salted, and 11,200 North West Coast salted, and all were eagerly taken up at 89 per cent. advance on Alaska fur seal, 55 per cent on Northwest Coast, and 52 per cent on Copper Island. The sales practically fix prices for two or three years to come.

It now remains to be seen whether this heavy advance in the cost of sealskin will check the public demand. In America it certainly will not; in fact it will rather increase it, for there exist in the United States a certain class of purchasers who buy a thing simply because it is expensive, without any regard to its beauty or appropriateness, and to this class the high cost of sealskin will be an additional recommendation. But in England, and on the continent, this class of wealthy parvenus is less frequent and obtrusive, and consequently we may expect to see the European demand for sealskin materially curtailed. In this market the advance will have but little effect, save to stiffen values, as all our retail furriers were amply stocked some time ago. But next year we shall witness the practical doubling of seal values.

The advance naturally affects all those furs that are akin to seal, such as otter and beaver. It may not be generally known that otter,

plucked and dyed, makes a beautiful rich seal-skin, a little too heavy for long garments but an excellent substitute for caps or shoulder capes, and, now that the prices have advanced sufficiently to render the manipulation of otter for this purpose lucrative, we may look to see otter and beaver imitations of sealskin soon put upon the market.

The market for common furs is hardly likely to be affected; except that it will derive a certain moral support from the movement. Mink and marton are the only two furs that are a drug in the market at the present moment and these are now used solely for linings. Fine Canadian mink of good color and quality still brings \$1.50 per skin for caps and shoulder capes, but for ordinary mink only 50 cents per skin is offered, and even at that the fur is but little called for. The other furs retain their usual share of the popular favor and none of last year's favorites are likely to be neglected during the coming winter.—*Montreal Journal of Commerce.*

## The Winter Outlook for Stock.

The frequent rains of September and the first half of October kept the grass growing so long that grave fears were entertained by stock men about winter feed. They know that if severe frost caught the grass in a green state much of its nutriment would be destroyed. This, however, has not occurred yet and the present dry and warm weather is rapidly curing the grass, so that in another week or ten days it will be out of danger of any injury from frost. The certainty of good feed for the winter is therefore all but assured. The unprecedentedly wet fall has, however, not been without its advantages to ranchmen, in as much as it has prevented the destruction of feed by prairie fires. Hay, which was reported scarce in the early part of the season, became more plentiful later on as a result of the frequent rains and more than the average quantity was secured, which with a considerable amount carried over from last winter will give an abundance of fodder for six or eight weeks feeding should a severe winter render such necessary. The Indians and trappers, however, prognosticate an open winter. So that with stock in a first-class condition, an abundant supply of well cured grass, more than the usual amount of hay stored and the prospect of a mild winter and increased prices, the present outlook for stockmen is singularly bright.—*Medicine Hat Times.*

A NEW weekly journal, devoted to the Canadian meat trade will appear in Toronto this week. *The Meat Trade Journal* will be its title.

Capitalists in San Francisco contemplate establishing a line of steamships to ply between that point and Victoria, touching all important cities along the coast.

THE cattle dealers who do business at the Montreal Stock Yards, Point St. Charles, are highly elated over the shed which has just been erected on the site of the one recently destroyed by fire. The principal object of the designer was apparently the comfort of the animals and he has succeeded most admirably as the shed is most comfortable for man and beast. It is kept clean and fresh, and those who have cattle to buy or sell during the winter will no doubt appreciate the change from the open yards to the shed.—*Exchange.*