

# THE COMMERCIAL

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

WINNIPEG, OCT. 28, 1899.

## British Columbia Sealing Industry.

Ships of the sealing fleet continue to arrive in the home ports. There are still twelve vessels to come and of these several are reported to be on the coast. The *Mormad* and *Imbrina*, also over due, are said to have the highest catches of the fleet. The former 2,000 and the latter 1,875. The catch in the Behring sea this year will run about 26,000, which, with the 10,481 skins taken on the coast, will make the total catch of the season amount to about 36,480, some six thousand above that of last year, which included 440 taken on the Japan coast. The average per schooner in Behring sea was about 1,000 skins, there being 26 vessels in the sea. The average per schooner taken on the coast was about 550 skins. Nineteen vessels were engaged.

In spite of the successful season there is a disposition among the sealers, according to report, to abandon sealing for the more profitable industry of halibut fishing. It is said that a syndicate of sealing captains are even now negotiating with eastern United States capitalists to establish a halibut fishing industry in British Columbia, in opposition to the New England company, who have at present a monopoly of a very profitable business and have heretofore successfully discouraged small concerns from competing with them in the New England markets, the only markets by the way, where the fish can be successfully unloaded at satisfactory figures. The present company have 60 stores in the New England States, where the taste for halibut has been cultivated, so that the dealers have their work cut out for them.

## World's Wheat Stocks.

It is hardly necessary to remark, says Bradstreet's, that the strength of wheat prices during September was not an outgrowth of the domestic statistical position of that cereal. Indeed, if current American statistics were to govern, it would seem as if lower prices were a necessary outcome of the increase in the supplies

available noted during that month, rendering comparisons with last year and the year preceding decidedly bearish. The threatening position of the Transvaal matter and the notable confidence in all available supplies this year being needed to make up for the generally accepted smaller world's production have, however, been sustaining features of primary importance. The total stock of wheat, east of the Rocky mountains, in this country and Canada, as reported to Bradstreet's on October 1 this year, was 60,040,000 bushels, a gain of 12,000,000 bushels during the month. Pacific coast stocks on the same date aggregated 5,553,000 bushels, an increase of about 2,600,000 bushels for the month, making the aggregate supply of wheat in North America 68,893,000 bushels.

European wheat stocks at the close of last month were 68,800,000 bushels, a gain of 4,000,000 bushels during the month. This increase, it is worth noting, while heavier than the gain shown last year in September, was not nearly so large as the increase reported in the corresponding months of 1897 or 1896. The aggregate American and European supply on the first of the month, therefore, it will be seen, amounted to 135,698,000 bushels, a gain of slightly more than 18,000,000 bushels during the month, comparing with a gain of 18,000,000 bushels a

monetary value, just so long can we expect the consumption to be nearly normal. It will be slightly affected, however, by the action of the retail druggists in lessening the extent and increasing the frequency of his purchases from the druggists and pharmaceutical manufacturers, and by like tactics on the part of the latter merchants in their dealings with the crude drug importers or the London houses. It yet remains to be demonstrated that ipecac is an indispensable drug. Indeed, it would not be at all surprising if the world and humanity in general could get along without it just as well as they did before its discovery. Unless more plentiful supplies are turned out by the Brazilians in the near future however, ipecac will greatly decrease in importance, especially in the crude drug market.—Oil Paint and Drug Reporter.

## Dawson City Board of Trade.

Dawson City has a board of trade regularly organized, the first meeting and election of officers being held last month. It was decided to so organize that the many mining and professional men whom it was desirable to have on the board might be qualified to join. The officers elected are: President, Thos. McMullin, assistant manager Canadian Bank of Commerce; first vice-



Plowing.

year ago, with 27,000,000 bushels in 1897, with 20,000,000 bushels in 1896 and with 21,000,000 bushels in 1895. In the larger domain of world's wheat supplies, therefore, the increase in available stocks were not nearly so large as feared. If to the aggregate stocks in the United States and Canada and in Europe and afloat therefor are added the 1,400,000 bushels of wheat reported by cable to Bradstreet's as held in Australia and the 6,256,000 bushels similarly held in Argentina, a world's visible-supply aggregate of 146,354,000 bushels is obtained, an increase of slightly more than 17,000,000 bushels during the month, an amount doubtless what was held one year ago at this date and 50,000,000 bushels larger than on October 1, 1897.

## The Position of Ipecac.

Ipecac still continues to be quoted at what seems to be a tremendously high price yet, notwithstanding this fact, there seems to be quite a normal demand for consumption. Until the medical fraternity in general are advised, by the various and sundry protestations of their ipecac consuming patients at the high priced prescriptions for which the sufferers have to pay, that the price of ipecac is soaring sky-high, and, knowing this, conclude, if possible, to substitute a drug of less

president, F. H. Ames, of the Ames Mercantile company; second vice-president, Dr. Yemens, manager Empire Transportation company, treasurer, D. Doig, manager Bank of B. N. A.; secretary, F. M. Clayton; trustees, H. P. Hanson, manager of Parsons Produce company; H. T. Wills, manager Canadian Bank of Commerce; L. K. Fulda, manager Alaska Exploration company; Emil Stauff, and Alex. McDonald.

According to Bradstreet's report the failures in the United States and Canada during the third quarter of this year are the smallest on record,—that is in recent years,—not only in point of number, but also as regards liabilities. The minimum according to months was reached in September. The failures for the quarter were 2,026 failures, involving \$15,550,965 liabilities, a decrease of 16 per cent in the number, and of 48 per cent in liabilities as compared with the same quarter of 1898. The decrease for the nine months amounts to 20 per cent as compared with last year.

Agent—I'd like to make a picture for you like this—Rembrandt and Van-dyke ain't in it with this picture. Have you ever been done in oil?

Silas Wayback—No, stranger; I don't gamble that way—but I've had a gold brick.—Judge.