

THE COMMERCIAL

A Journal of Commerce, Industry, Finance and Insurance, devoted to the interests of Western Canada, including that portion of Ontario west of Lake Superior, the Province of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Territories.

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Office: 1st McDermot Street.

D. W. BUCHANAN,
Publisher.

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, MAY 7, 1898.

Enterprising Virden

The town of Virden, one of the most progressive towns in Manitoba, is to be congratulated in having such an active board of trade. It has been said that the Virden board of trade is the most active and business-like organization of the kind in Manitoba, outside of Winnipeg. One of the difficulties in maintaining a live board of trade outside of a large town is the petty political strifes which crop up in almost every community. Virden has evidently been more free from troubles of this nature than most other towns, for the business men of the place have kept up an active board of trade for years. Therein the business men of the place show their good sense.

One of the matters which has engaged the attention of the Virden board of trade is the peopling of the unoccupied lands of their fine district. They have recently shown fresh energy in this direction by the publication of a very handsome illustrated pamphlet, dealing with the town and district. Besides illustrations of the town and rural scenes in the vicinity, a map is also given of the territory surrounding Virden. The work which is being done in this way by the Virden board of trade, while primarily intended for the benefit of the Virden district, will undoubtedly prove of much benefit to Manitoba at large. In making known the advantages of their own district for settlement, the board is really advertising Manitoba.

Some of the illustrations from the pamphlet mentioned are reproduced in

The Commercial this week. That showing the Virden elevators and the flour mill will convey an impression, stronger than words, of the excellent market facilities which the residents of the district enjoy. It will also indicate the prosperity of the farmers of the district. Another illustration of a rural home three miles from Virden, will show that it is possible even in a new prairie country, to have the

WHEAT SHIPMENTS FROM COUNTY OF DENNIS;

	Bushels.
1890	842,850
1891	1,078,050
1892	691,220
1893	502,508
(This was only to Feb. 28)	
1894	1,200,000
1895	1,811,000
1896	1,500,000
1897	1,399,000



RESIDENCE OF CAPT. HOWARD, 3 MILES FROM VIRDEN.

farm home a place of beauty and comfort. We take the following clipping from the pamphlet:

The county of Dennis has an area of 367,680 acres and is divided into rural municipalities of Wallace, Woodworth, Pipestone and Sifton. Settlement commenced in 1881 with the advent of the Canadian Pacific railway, and the population, both in the rural districts and the towns has steadily increased ever since.

In the early days of settlement

WHEAT SHIPMENTS FROM VIRDEN.

1896	305,000
1897	307,000

The above figures will be better appreciated when it is stated that there are about 1,600 farmers in the district who raise wheat.

Cattle, sheep and hogs shipped, 1897, from the county, 227 cars. Cattle, sheep and hogs shipped from Virden alone in 1897, 94 cars; 1896, 85 cars; 1895, 69 cars; 1894, 65 cars.

Average rate of taxation in the



LAGGAN FARM NEAR VIRDEN, MAN.

wheat growing was the principal industry, but in the last few years many of the farmers have gone into stock raising as well. This has proved a great advantage to the farmers, as, besides materially increasing their profits it has utilized immense quantities of fodder, which would otherwise have gone to waste, it having been the practice in the early years to burn all surplus straw and no attention being paid to manuring. Now all this has been changed and practical farming is carried on generally throughout this district.

municipalities of the county. Wallace, \$5.10 per 160 acres; Pipestone, \$5.18 per 160 acres; Woodworth, 33-4 mills on dollar.

Virden (the principal town of the county of Dennis) is located on the main line of the Canadian Pacific railway, 150 miles west of Winnipeg. The town is incorporated and has a population of 1,200. As a market town it has no superior in the province, there being six grain elevators, and a good grist mill, which insure an active demand for all kinds of farm produce at current prices. Some of the best