

The Commercial

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

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Publisher

The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much larger circulation among the business community of the east 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 desks of the great majority of business men in the district mentioned above, including Northwest 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, MARCH 29, 1897.

Manitoba.

T. G. Alexander has opened a wagon shop at Neepawa.

F. Deacon, baker, Holland, is moving to Wabigoon, Ont.

Wm. Priestly, confectioner, Neopawa, has sold out to H. E. Rutledge.

The proposed bonus to a tinware factory at St. Boniface, has been disallowed by the Manitoba legislature.

Chambers and McLaren, of Winnipeg, have purchased the hardware business of E. Mashinney at Holland.

Letters patent of incorporation have been granted to the Kilgour-Rimer company, of Winnipeg, with a capital stock of \$15,000.

The Rublee Fruit company, Winnipeg, has been incorporated with a capital stock of \$25,000. The company will continue the business of M. W. Rublee & Co.

R. B. Rodgets, of Geo. H. Rodgers & Co., Winnipeg, and H. Ray have bought the stock of the Stewart estate at Morden, and will continue the business in the meantime.

Jas. Lamont, of Winnipeg, whose stock of boots and shoes was recently sold out by the assignee, has arranged to re-enter business again, and will open out this week with a new stock.

The general stock of Herron & Evans, of Deloraine, will be sold at a rate on the dollar at Winnipeg, on March 29. Stock amounts to \$3,450, including fixtures and chattels. Book accounts amount to \$1,260.

It is now believed that nothing will be done to weaken the early closing law, but that if any changes are made it will be in the direction of strengthening the law. Public opinion in Winnipeg is very strongly in favor of extending the scope of the early closing movement, as opposed to any steps backward.

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, March 22.

Business for the past week has been about the average. Collections are still pouring, considerable money temporarily held for mine speculation is drifting back in the channels. Though meat is scarce,

prices are unchanged, the Australian meat having relieved the market, another large consignment will arrive by the next boat. Hay is very scarce in inland British Columbia, owing to the scanty crop and the fact that cattle men had to feed their cattle earlier this year. The yield of hay per acre was as large as usual, but large acreages were this year plowed up, says Mr. Ker, of Brackman & Ker Milling Company, and oats and other grains grown instead. As a result British Columbia has not imported a single pound of oats this year, the first time such a thing has ever happened in this province. Cattle men up country are also in a very bad way and unless a thaw sets in cattle will die of starvation. The C. P. R. are making an especially low emergency rate for transportation of hay to the cattle ranches for cattle food. Potatoes have again advanced in price, the best tubers now selling at \$25 a ton.

A large quantity of frozen fowl is being sold on the market at 12c a pound retail. Cured meats are still unchanged, there being no competition to speak of in the local market, the prices rule very steady. Quotations for flour and feed remain the same.

The preparation for the salmon catch this coming season are unprecedentedly extensive, and should the season turn out a failure contrary to the expectations of all salmon prophets, quite serious results will obtain. A fleet of nine vessels have already been engaged to load salmon for England with a total tonnage of 12,298, a vessel capacity which would enable the fleet to carry away 553,410 cases, a greater quantity than was shipped by water in 1895. This half million cases, at \$5 a case, should return the province nearly three million dollars in money.

Times are not so brisk as formerly in the Island coal towns. They have the mine fever certainly, but not the coal mine fever, and should the threatened legislation be enacted prohibiting Chinese and Japs being used as colliers, it has been threatened that more than one coal mine will be closed down. In the meantime many people are leaving the coal towns for distant mining camps, and in some instances property is almost given away to enable the gold fever stricken owner to wander after his will-o-the-wisp to Yukon gold fields or some other distant land of romance.

In Vancouver the same mining excitement prevails, but matters are very rapidly taking a form entirely different from what they were a year ago. Companies are being organized at the rate of 50 a week, averaging nearly a million dollars each, until the total capitalization has reached a fabulous amount and stock selling has practically stopped on the local market. In fact British Columbia is getting herself in shape to vend stocks to the world. The Province is a seller and not a buyer. Some few stocks are moving, but only the old favorites. Golden Cane is still popular as well as Two Friends. While Athabasca continues among the most desirable stock on the market. As the work progresses on this mine the prospect looks brighter. Some three hundred feet of work has been done and the ore is still extremely rich. In fact it looks at present that it is to the free milling propositions that the province must look to establish her claim in the near future to the fair fame she has earned. Other free milling propositions of great promise are constantly making rich strikes in Okanagan country in the Fairview Camp. The Shamrock, Winchester and Tinhorn are said to be the richest, and the ones that the expectations of the camp rests upon. The Tinhorn Co. have had 58 random assays made of their mine in which 400 feet of work has been done and the average struck from the 58 reaches the enormous amount of \$125 to the ton. The Winchester and Shamrock are almost equally as rich.

Wheat Freight Rates.

Yearly average rates of freight in cents per bushel for wheat from Chicago to New York:

	Lake and canal.	Lake and rail.	All rail.
1868	22.79	29.00	42.60
1869	25.12	25.00	35.10
1870	17.10	22.00	33.80
1871	20.24	25.00	31.00
1872	21.47	28.00	33.50
1873	19.19	26.90	33.20
1874	11.10	16.90	28.70
1875	11.13	14.60	24.10
1876	9.53	11.80	16.50
1877	11.21	15.80	20.30
1878	9.15	11.10	17.70
1879	21.60	13.30	17.30
1880	12.27	15.70	16.90
1881	8.19	10.10	14.40
1882	7.89	10.90	14.60
1883	8.37	11.50	16.50
1884	6.31	9.55	13.12
1885	5.87	9.92	14.00
1886	8.71	12.00	16.50
1887	8.51	12.00	15.74
1888	5.93	11.00	14.50
1889	6.89	8.70	15.00
1890	5.85	8.50	14.31
1891	5.96	8.53	15.00
1892	5.61	7.55	11.23
1893	6.33	8.44	14.70
1894	4.11	7.09	12.88
1895	4.11	6.95	12.17

Dominion Parliament.

Parliament opened Thursday afternoon. The following are the more important matters referred to in the address:

A measure will be submitted to you for the revision of the tariff, which, it is believed, will provide the necessary revenue and while having due regard to industrial interests, will make our fiscal system more satisfactory to the masses of the people.

You will be asked to give your support to a bill abolishing the present expensive and unsatisfactory franchise act and adopting for the election of members of the House of Commons the franchises of the several provinces.

My government has determined that the advantages to accrue, both to our western producers and the business interests of the whole Dominion from the completion of works for the enlargement of the St. Lawrence canal should no longer be deferred and has, subject to the approval of parliament, taken the initial steps for a vigorous prosecution of these works, and for the perfecting of the canal system by the close of the year 1895.

I have much satisfaction in informing you that arrangements have been concluded which, if you approve, will enable the Inter-colonial system to reach Montreal and thus share in the large traffic. The advantages of which will flow from this extension of that railway are apparent, and I have no doubt you will gladly approve of the proposal.

Appreciating the difficulties encountered by our farmers in placing their perishable food products on the English markets in good condition, my government has arranged a complete system of cold storage accommodation at creameries and on railways, at ports and on steamers, by which these products can be preserved at the desired temperature during whole journey from the point of production to Great Britain. The contract made for this purpose will be laid before you.

It is desirable that the minds of the people of Canada should be clearly ascertained of the subject of prohibition, and a measure enabling the electors to vote on this question will be submitted for your approval.