

The Commercial

A Journal of Commerce, Industry and Finance, especially 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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Publisher.

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 desks of a great majority of business men in the vast district described above, and 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, MAY 25, 1896.

Manitoba.

J. H. Ashdown is arranging to remodel and improve his large Main street block.

Mrs. L. A. McKague, general store, Clarklough, is succeeded by F. William.

Robinson & Co., dry goods, Winnipeg, are adding groceries.

Thomas H. Giles, hotel, of Austin, is selling out to Mrs. D. McDougall.

A. S. Crerar, flour, feed and lumber dealer Binscarth, has sold out the lumber business to F. McPherson.

Peter McArthur, of McArthur's Landing, is forming a company to carry on a fish business on Lake Manitoba. Freezers and boats are now being built for this summer's work.

It has been proposed to establish a free market in Winnipeg, but alderman Andrews states that after enquiry he has come to the conclusion that the farmers do not want a free market day. What they want is proper shelter at the market.

Letters patent have been issued incorporating Grotina as a village, and the municipal commissioner is making an apportionment of the surplus of assets between the municipality of Rhineland, which formerly included Grotina, and the village as now incorporated. The municipality of Rhineland has a surplus of \$7,256.44, with no indebtedness.

Owing to some slight errors in wording, the Winnipeg city by-law regulating the inspection of dairies and the sale of milk, has been quashed. It is hoped the by-law will be amended at once, as the closest inspection of dairies is necessary, in the interest of the health of the public. Diseased milk is one of the most frequent causes of sickness, and one of the great dangers of early childhood.

Work on the cold storage warehouse of the Winnipeg Cold Storage and Refrigerating Co., being pushed as vigorously as the wet weather will permit. Whenever the rain ceases a large force of men are put on. The stone walls of the basement are very massive in appearance and the structure throughout will be as substantial as it can be made. The basement walls alone consumed 125 barrels of cement.

The Winnipeg Retailers' Association held a meeting Tuesday evening at which there was large attendance of members. The report of the entertainment committee was read and after consideration it was decided to hold a picnic during the summer. A strong com-

mittee was appointed with power to make arrangements with the organizers of the caterers' picnic for a joint affair. The desirability of endeavoring to obtain cheap excursions from surrounding districts every month and making such occasion known as "bargain day," and hence induce farmers and others to come to our city, was also debated.

Assiniboia.

Sinclair & Leslie, general storekeepers, Saskatoon, have dissolved partnership. John Leslie will continue the business.

Parrot & McGrath, general storekeepers, Saltcoats, have dissolved partnership. The business will be continued by J. E. Parrot.

Dry Goods Trade Notes.

Dress goods buyers recently arrived from abroad state that they expect boucles and other curl effects on plain and plaid grounds will be leaders for this fall's trade. The Canadian manufacturers are showing some lines in this make, which are worthy of attention. Tweeds are thought to be a good second. Colored fancy goods will likely receive a fair attention. Blacks are staple and will remain good sellers. Tweeds are always good property, and any balance carried over to the early spring then find a ready sale. Tweeds and plain goods are the most appropriate for general use. In London plain goods are much in evidence. Mill prices of colored, grey and white cottons are firm. Prices for the fall trade are expected to continue steady, with not much likelihood of a change until next spring's crop is placed on the market. Occasionally a clearing line at the end of the season is thrown on the market, but the quantity is rarely enough to give uneasiness, and is not a fair criterion of values.

The Toronto Globe dry goods report says: Prices in flannels are certainly lower at the present time than they were last season. Some manufacturers who decided upon changing off from flannels to other goods determined to close out what were in stock at a concession in prices. The same lines cannot be repeated except at old quotations. With this exception the market practically remains the same. Wholesale merchants deem it in the interest of all concerned to defer offering fall goods and confine the attention of buyers more particularly to seasonable lines. It would be well for all practical business retail merchants throughout the country to support the wholesale merchants in this important matter of avoiding the tendency to advance seasons.

A few ranges of fall goods have been placed in the hands of travellers, but this is not general. Separate waists still receive a good share of attention, retailers having done a good business during the hot spell. The demand for white turnover collars to go with colored blouse waists is good. Manufacturers are giving more attention to children's underwear each season, and mothers are showing more of a disposition to buy their children's undergarments. This trade will no doubt increase in fair proportion to ladies' lingerie. The beautifully and skillfully designed garments recently placed on the market have improved the chances of success in ladies' underwear.—Globe.

Bradstreets, of May 16 says of the situation in the United States: "Cotton fabrics are still selling low compared with the cost, and the market is still depressed through over-supplies. Some mills have sold quite freely of brown goods of late, and at low prices. Printed fabrics are moving slow, outside of some fancy specialties that manage to keep well sold up. Ginghams are quiet.

Dress woollens are slow of sale, and while the mills are fairly engaged on fall orders, new business comes to hand. Men's-wear woollens are dull and the market is yet much depressed, with a large amount of machinery idle."

Northwest Ontario.

It is reported from Rat Portage that the Ophir mine in which Winnipeg people are interested, has been sold for \$30,000 cash. There were three bids on for the property. The purchaser is said to be Mr. Caldwell, proprietor of the Sultana, which is the property adjoining to the Ophir.

From letters received from the Empress mine at Jack Fish, it appears that another extraordinarily rich find has been made on the vein at the foot of the hill. Superintendent Peters estimates that the rock will easily go \$100 per ton in free gold.

At the late annual meeting of the Rat Portage board of trade it was moved by Mr. Chadwick, seconded by Mr. Colclough, "that the heartiest thanks of this board be tendered George Drewry for the able manner in which he has filled the important position of president of the Rainy River district board of trade during the past eighteen months, and for the talent and energy he had devoted to the fulfillment of the duties of that office." It was decided to print the council's report and president's address in pamphlet form for circulation. The officer elected for the coming year are: President, J. M. Savage, vice-president, R. A. Mather; secretary E. A. Chapman; members of council, Messrs. Drewry, Chadwick, Mayor Barnes, Carmichael, Margach, Neads, Rice, and Colclough.

R. A. Mather, of the Keewatin Lumber company, Rat Portage, speaking of mining matters recently said that the activity was of a substantial character in the Lake of the Woods district. The final payment of \$15,000 was paid last week by a syndicate to a party of four young men for property on the Seine River where experts have been prospecting and sinking a shaft for several months.

New Process of Tanning.

A corporation has been organized at Newark, New Jersey, with a capital of \$600,000 which promises to revolutionize the leather industry of that country. Heretofore it is used to take several months to properly tan hides for sole, belting and harness leather, but under the process to be utilized by the new concern, the work can be done in forty-eight hours. The new method is known as the Durio process, and has been in use for some time in the village of Culman, Alsace, Germany.

There are two stories in the May number of Ev'ry Month which aid in sustaining the character of that magazine. The public seems to have developed an appetite for crisp storiottes, and these here mentioned will go as far as any other to appease it. The number contains the best literary criticism which Edward Al has contributed to that magazine thus far. Photos of Minnie Madder Fiske, Maxine Elliott, Borchgrevink, the explorer, David Belasco, the playwright, Sousa, Tom Platt and Stephan Crane, together with a number of paintings are among the illustrations. The music selections are Just Tell Them That You Saw Me, arranged as a waltz, Kiss Me Goodbye, song and refrain by Charles Miller. Nobility, two step, by Theo. F. Morse, and When the Children Say Good-Night, by Edouard Holst. Howley, Haviland & Co., 4 East 20th Street, New York.

A mining exchange has been started in Rossland with a capital stock of \$50,000. The organizers are Chicago men. Seats are \$500 each.