

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, FEBRUARY 23, 1891.

Manitoba.

D. G. Rodgers, saddler, Carman, has closed his branch shop at Portage.

A. Raymer, stationer, Portage la Prairie, is selling out, and contemplates going west.

A petition to establish a branch of the Union Bank was circulated at Rapid City recently.

There was not sufficient snow in portions of western Manitoba last week to make sleighing.

Mary Ann Russell, general merchant, Morris, has made an assignment to S. A. D. Bertrand.

Brown & Co., hardware, Portage la Prairie, have dissolved; the business will be continued by D. Brown.

Charles A. Bradford, general merchant, Brandon, has assigned to Henry Bradford. A meeting of creditors will be held on the 17th of March.

W. G. Robinson & Co., of Cartwright, says the *Deloraine Times*, have opened out a stock of goods at this place. A. Laughlin is in charge.

The stock in trade of Weldon Bros. and J. H. Weldon, grocers, Winnipeg, will be sold at a rate on the dollar, by public auction, on February 24.

Joseph Tees & Co., music dealers, Winnipeg, have sold out to R. H. Nunn & Co., in the same line in Winnipeg. A Ried will continue in charge of the business purchased from Tees & Co.

The citizens of Birtle will make an effort to induce the Great Northwest Central railway company to run the line into that town. The town and surrounding municipalities may offer a bonus.

Robt. Rodgers, of Clearwater, says the *Brandon Times*, is making arrangements to go into the mercantile business in Brandon. Rodgers does a general store and grain business at Clearwater.

J. N. Hutchison, who for the past seven years has been connected with the firm of A. Maxwell & Sons, latterly as manager in the Winnipeg offices, will sever his connection with the firm about April 1st.

The Winnipeg city council decided, last Monday evening, to advance the special tax on peddlers, by increasing the license from \$10 to \$25 for foot peddlers, and from \$20 to \$50 for a one horse peddling outfit.

Thos. B. Greening & Co., 1019, etc., of Hamilton, Ontario, contemplate opening a permanent office in Winnipeg, in charge of Robt. Balfour. The Winnipeg business will be under the style of Greening, Balfour & Co.

W. & P. Dickson, general merchants, of Chater, Man. and Balgonie, Assa, have sold out their Balgonie stock and intend to open a store at Alexander, Manitoba. Sperling & Hawkes have purchased the Balgonie business.

A branch of the Commercial Bank of Manitoba was opened at Boissevain on Monday last, under the management of Mr. Cowan, of the late firm of Cowan & Co., bankers of that place. This gives Boissevain two chartered banks.

H. C. Clay, publisher of the *Rapid City Reporter*, has announced his intention of starting a paper in Birtle. The *Reporter* will probably be moved to Birtle, as two papers in Rapid City can barely eek out an existence. It certainly must be a slow case of starvation for two papers in such a small field.

Alberta.

A. F. Tero, jeweler, Regina, is moving to Lethbridge.

H. Kitley & Co. have opened at Calgary as customs tailors, with Y. C. Kitley as manager.

W. Maloney, implement agent, Calgary, has given the contract for a building 24x125, two stories, to be used as an implement warehouse in the summer, and a grain store-room in winter.

A new vertical steam engine and boiler was placed in position in the Lethbridge *News* press room last week. With its semi-weekly issue and other improvements, the *News* is bound to keep well in the van of progress.

The Alberta Hotel Company, Calgary, is applying for incorporation. The applicants are: Thomas Somerville Charters Lee, of Calgary, rancher; William John Lee, of London, England, barrister at law, and Henry B. von Alexander, of Calgary, rancher.

Calgary Herald: Several car loads of dead meat (beef) from the C. A. C. & Co.'s ranch at Dunmore passed through Calgary last night bound for the coast. They were purchased by Hayes & McIntosh, meat dealers, of Vancouver. This firm also bought all the fat sheep that the C. A. C. & Co. had for sale, and they want more.

The *Edmonton Bulletin* says: "Platinum is found in the Saskatchewan in connection with gold, with which it is frequently secured and sometimes adulterated. At present prices it would pay our miners to give more attention to this increasingly valuable metal, not only as a

maltor of present profit, but also with a view to the possibility that although the fountain head of the gold has as yet eluded discovery, the platinum might lead to the source of both these now equally precious metals."

The transfer of the general business of the firm of I. G. Baker & Co. to the Hudson's Bay Company, removes one of the oldest firms in western Canada from the scene of mercantile life. The firm carried on general stores at Macleod, Calgary and Lethbridge, all in Alberta territory, and has been identified with the territory for many years. The transfer of the business is not complete, but has been fully decided upon. The Hudson's Bay Company already has branches at Calgary and Macleod, so that its mercantile establishments will only be increased by the acquisition of the Lethbridge business. Of the retiring firm the *Macleod Gazette* says:—"I. G. Baker & Co. were the pioneer merchants in southern Alberta. Before the police came to the country, they had a trading post at Sheep Creek, which we believe, however, was only temporarily used. In those days the Indians were about the only customers, and it was more a case of the traders going to the customers, rather than the reverse. The trading posts were necessarily shifted from one part of the country to another. When the police came to the country in 1874, I. G. Baker & Co. established post at Macleod and Fort Walsh, and later at Calgary, then the most southern point at which the Hudson's Bay Co. had a post. T. C. Power & Bro. also had stores at Macleod and Fort Walsh. In 1881 or early in 1882, I. G. Baker & Co. and T. C. Power & Bro. entered into an arrangement by which the former gave up business at Fort Walsh and the latter at Macleod. Most of the government contracts have been carried out by I. G. Baker & Co. Their bull teams and cattle herds have given employment to armies of men. Their contracts for beef, grain, etc., have been filled as far as possible with the produce of this country. In these different ways they have circulated immense sums of money, and have laid the foundation of many a man's career who is now prosperous." The *Gazette* also pays a tribute to D. W. Davis, manager of the firm.

Saskatchewan.

J. E. Young, accountant of the Imperial bank, Brandon, Man., has gone to Prince Albert, where a branch of the Imperial will probably be established.

THE COMMERCIAL has been tendered a vote of thanks, by the Prince Albert town council, for the writup of that place and district recently published in this journal.

Robt. Kerr, of the Canadian Pacific, has written the Prince Albert board of trade to the effect that the railway company has established rates to settlers and settlers' effects going over the Prince Albert branch on the same basis as made to points on the main line equi-distant from Regina as Prince Albert, for instance:—Kincauth station on the main line is 249 miles west from Regina. The rate from Toronto for settlers to Kincauth is \$33.50; and the rate for settlers' effects is \$161 a car. These rates will also apply to Prince Albert, which is 247 miles from Regina.

J. E. Lazon, tailor, has opened business at Victoria.