

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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Publishers

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. 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 Dominion, named 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, APRIL 5, 1897.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

D. W. Buchanan, who has been connected with this journal for a number of years, in the capacity of editor, has purchased a half interest in The Commercial publishing business. The paper will hereafter be published by Steen & Buchanan. This change in proprietorship will not necessarily mean any change in the policy of the journal, as the different departments will be continued under the same management as heretofore.

Manitoba.

W. J. Guest, fish dealer, Winnipeg, gave away 500 pounds of fresh jackfish last week, for which he had not room in his refrigerator, his receipts of fish having been in excess of his storage capacity, and the fish would not keep long in soft weather.

A new steamer is being built at Selkirk by Sigurdson Bros.

The city of Brandon has been given authority by the legislature to grant a loan in aid of a felt factory.

W. H. Rodgers has opened business in Winnipeg, with a stock of men's furnishings and clothing.

There is considerable discussion just now as to the sanitary condition of Winnipeg cake shops. An effort was made to obtain a provincial act regulating labor in bake shops, etc., but this was not accomplished. The board of health, however, has taken up the matter of the sanitary condition of the shops.

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, March 30. Business is fully up to the average this week, although it has been handicapped by the late season, this particularly applies to the interior. Collections are reported fair. Florida creamery butter is finding a ready market at 23c for large tubs and 24 for small. The sale is said not to be so large as former years owing to local and Australian competitors. A small consignment of Australian creamery of particularly fine

quality was quickly picked up at 23 cents. All fresh eggs other than the local article are coming from Oregon. They have fallen off from one to one half cent from prices a week ago. Lard has advanced half a cent. Vegetables have changed in price all around. Only an inferior quality of potatoes can be purchased under \$25 per ton. Onions and cabbages however are cheaper while carrots turnips and beets have advanced. In fruit naval oranges and eastern apples are much firmer, and are becoming scarce. Bran, shorts and hay are advancing, the last mentioned article being practically scarce and likely to go much higher.

The present government are making matters very interesting in the lumber and canning world just now, and prominent men in both of these branches of industry are vainly striving to grasp the government's meaning in taking the steps they have. The subject is too much involved and complicated to deal with in a brief review. The simple facts are that in the lumber world the managers of all the B. C. mills are being placed on oath and required by the government agent Mr. Martin to tell all they know about the working of the B. C. Crown Timber agency. Numerous loggers and lumbermen are also being called upon. To a casual observer it would appear that many inconsistencies have been brought to light for which the agency is directly or indirectly responsible, and the mills in some cases have been obliged to furnish long detailed statements of numerous transactions. The timber agent Mr. Higginson has resigned. Some accuse Mr. Higginson of favoritism and partisanship. From the evidence taken there appears to have been many irregularities but they may all be explained away by the fact that the agent had a country of immense area to look after and much latitude should be given him by the government to enable him to act for the best interests of the country. Settlers must be aided, the industry must be encouraged and the logger must be given every opportunity to ply his calling as free as possible from restraint for the indirect good of the province. On the other hand the dismissal of Mr. McNish who has been invaluable in the fishery department of the province for the past ten years is altogether inexplicable. The excuse given by the government is "economy." Mr. McNish was in charge of the British Columbia hatchery and now two questions are being asked: "What is to become of the 8,000,000 little salmon at present in the embryo stage at the hatchery?" and "What has become of the appropriation Mr. Maxwell, M.P. (for this part of the country) said he obtained for still another hatchery on the Skeena river (if the Fraser river one is to be abandoned?)" The dismissal of McNish and the rumor that licenses will not be issued for traps at Boundary Bay are making the canners feel rather dubious as to the future fairness of the Government's policy in the marine and fishery department.

British Columbia Mining Notes.

It seems almost impossible to sell stocks in British Columbia at present no matter how promising the mine, how low the capitalisation or how cheap the security. Mining excitement is still intense but the hysterical desire to buy into mines still takes the form of syndicate corporation.

The stock of the Alpha Bell, a mine demonstrated beyond dispute to contain the same vein as the famous Golden Eagle at Lillooet, was placed on the market this week at 25 cents par. The Company have several other claims. Perhaps next to the Golden Eagle the Alpha Bell is the most popular mine in the camp.

The Athabasca at Nelson still continues to attract much favorable attention. The main tunnel is in over 200 feet and the free milling ore continues to assay over \$100. The last of the 50,000 block of stock of this mine has been sold in Toronto at 25 cents and the next block goes on at 50 cents. Fifty thousand shares of this mine were sold at 15 cents. Fifty thousand at 25 cents and 150,000 sold in block to a Toronto Company. So that ample means have been secured for development purposes in placing the mine in shape to work cheaply.

Another big strike has been made on the now famous Tinhorn. The second tunnel started on a big outcrop of barren ore and has run into a fine ledge of blue quartz at a short distance from the surface. This quartz carries high values. The Tinhorn Company composed of Vancouver and Victoria merchants, were this week offered \$150,000 for the mine, but the offer was declined.

At Fairview Camp Okanagan, where the Tinhorn is situated, 75 men are now on the pay roll, among the most important mines are the Shamrock, Winchester, Stemwinder and Smuggler.

To aid Export Trade.

In the answers received to the circulars of the Trade and Commerce department last summer, from the boards of trade, it has been suggested that the government take steps to extend export trade by appointing commercial agents in foreign countries and sending out capable men to study trade conditions. The government has made up its mind to fall in with the proposal and is now considering the appointment of men to send to such places as Mexico, South and Central America, South Africa and European countries along the Mediterranean. Many of the largest business houses in Canada have spent thousands in sending out their own men to study trade conditions in Australia, South Africa and South America and in some instances have succeeded fairly well. Efforts will also be made to secure an opening in the Orient for Canadian products.

The Hardware and Paint Trade.

A Montreal report says. There is quite a boom in cod oil, sales having been made of Gaspe oil at 35c and 36c, and it is said that no more can be had under 37c, while some holders have raised their ideas to 40c. Steam refined seal oil is also very firm at 47c to 50c, with stocks here very light and little if any to come forward.

The Montreal Gazette says: Owing to the anticipated duty being imposed on Canadian cod oil by the United States Government, there has been an active demand of late for this article from United States buyers. The market in consequence has been thrown into a state of excitement, and a decidedly strong feeling has prevailed. The demand has been principally for Gaspe and Newfoundland cod oil, and all the stock of these two grades here, which amounted in all to about 300 barrels, has been bought up for shipment to the States, the last sale of a small lot being made to-day at 36c, and shortly after the holder had accepted this figure, he was bid 37c for it. The market is now practically bare of stock, and the purchases in the Newfoundland market during the past four weeks have been about 4,000 barrels.

Northwestern Ontario.

The stock of the estate of John King, of Fort William, general merchant, was sold in Toronto by auction on March 31, and was bought by F. Ray & Son, of Fort William, at seventy cents on the dollar.