

The Commercial

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE FINANCIAL, MERCANTILE AND MANUFACTURING INTERESTS OF THE CANADIAN NORTH-WEST.

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JAMES E. STEEN,
Publisher.

WINNIPEG, JANUARY 11, 1887.

MRS. PARKER will open a store at Treherne.

THOS. BRODER will re-open his bakery at Emerson.

W. G. WYATT & Co. have opened a lumber yard at Virden.

THE annual meeting of the Manitoba Dairy Association will be held in Winnipeg on the 19th inst.

H. C. SNOW, tobacconist, Winnipeg, has had his stock damaged by fire to the extent of about \$1,000—partly covered by insurance.

SAUNDERS & TALBOT, wholesale and retail wall papers, etc., have moved to more convenient and commodious quarters, at 345 Main St.

A RUMOR comes from Montreal to the effect that the G. T. R. will shortly have through connection with Duluth and the Northern Pacific.

FIRE insurance companies talk of refusing to write policies in Portage la Prairie, unless additional protection against fire is arranged for.

THE re-count in the Winnipeg Mayoralty contest has resulted in reversing the decision of the returning officer. Pearson's majority of six has given place to a majority of five for Jones.

DURING December Mr. Tonielli, agent for the sale of C.P.R. lands at Calgary, sold 640 acres at an average price of \$3.50 per acre. During the same month applications were made for 3,840 acres more.

THE Lake Winnipeg fisheries appear to have been a failure this winter. White fish have been very scarce in Winnipeg, and none of the winter catch have yet come in, those in the market being the summer catch, refrigerator kept.

THE citizens committee managing the affairs of the town of Portage la Prairie since the resignation of the council, has decided that the proposition of W. L. Boyle, for a settlement of the town's debt, is not such a one as they could recommend the ratepayers of the town to accept.

A FARMER in the Souris district, who has a coal mine on his farm, offers to sell the coal at \$1 per ton at the mine. This will be a great boon to farmers in the vicinity. With the extension of the railway through the Souris district, all Southern Manitoba will be provided with very cheap fuel.

THE Pickering Sheep Ranch Co., composed of the following gentlemen: D. Pugh, W. H. Majo, A. Thomson, G. Portil, of Pickering, Ont., and J. D. Barr, of Carberry, Man., have secured a lease of 24,000 acres of land on the Roseau river, twenty-five miles north-east of Emerson, Man., which they will stock with sheep in the spring.

DUN, WIMAN & Co.'s annual failure figures for the Dominion of Canada, show very slight changes as compared with last year, the number of failures in the Dominion for 1886 being 1,252, as against 1,256 in 1885. The liabilities, however, show considerable increase, amounting to \$10,386,000 in 1886, as compared with \$8,861,000 in 1885. Failures in the United

States in 1886 numbered 9,854, with liabilities of \$114,000,000, as compared with 10,637 in 1885, with liabilities of \$124,000,000. One out of every 98 in business failed in the United States in 1886. In Canada one in every 59.

THE agreement between the dry goods merchants of Winnipeg to close at 6 o'clock in the evening after the first of January, seems to have already fallen through, owing to the fact that some of the merchants refused to close at the early hour named. One dealer could hardly be expected to close his store at six, whilst the adjoining store would be kept open until 8 or 9 o'clock, and therefore the scheme to close at the former hours has been abandoned by nearly all the dealers. It seems a pity that such a desirable result should be frustrated by the action of two or three dealers, and against the wishes of the majority. However, there would seem to be no help for it but to submit to the dictation of the few who wish to keep open late. Although the purchasing public recognize the rights of employes in stores, and the advisability of closing at an earlier hour than is now customary, in the interest of the health and comfort of such employes, yet it is found that such people will continue to buy their goods, or a considerable portion of them, at as late an hour as they can find stores open. The result of this is that storekeepers who close earlier than others, lose quite a portion of the trade which they otherwise would receive. The only way out of the difficulty would seem to be to regulate the closing of stores by legislation, or the number of hours which an employe might serve in a store. This would only be fair to employes in stores, and would be adopting the same system as is recognized in mechanical employments, and it would at the same time place all merchants on an equal footing. In cities and larger towns there would be no difficulty in enforcing some regulations to provide for a uniform closing of stores at a reasonable hour. As it now is, merchants who wish to close at a respectable hour, and thus give their employes fair treatment, are prevented from doing so by a selfish neighbor, who will keep open to take advantage of the custom which those closing earlier are compelled to lose.