

# 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.

FIFTEENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION.  
ISSUED EVERY MONDAY.

Subscription, \$2.00 PER ANNUM in advance.)

ADVERTISING RATES MADE KNOWN ON APPLICATION.

Fine Book and Job Printing Departments.

Office, 186 James St. East.

JAMES E. STEEN,

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, the circulation 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, NOVEMBER 30, 1896.

## Manitoba.

A fire was caused by the over-turning of a lamp in the millinery rooms of the Hudson's Bay Co.'s store at Morden one day last week, but slight damage was done.

The first train from the coast for over a week reached Winnipeg on Wednesday last. The blockade is on the coast division of the line, where very heavy snow storms have been experienced.

Saturday the grocery store of A. McMillan, Lombard street, Winnipeg, was entered by burglars and a sum of money in the till was taken.

A motion to exempt the Union Shoes and Leather Co., of Winnipeg, from taxation, was defeated at the last meeting of the council.

## Hardware and Paint Trade.

A report from London, England, says: "The iron markets are extremely firm and the outlook is promising. Ship building material is in particularly good demand and 5s advance is asked for plates."

A southern United States concern has been exporting pig iron to England. A New York paper says: "The Tennessee Coal company last week sold 10,000 tons of pig iron in good round orders, of which 4,000 tons were bought by parties in England, and will be exported via Brunswick, Ga. The price was as satisfactory as could have been got in this country for the same amount of iron. Many inquiries from foreign buyers of pig iron are being received and the prospects for a continuous trade are very bright."

A Toronto report says: "The demand is fair and prices of metals are rapidly advancing. Galvanized iron has been advanced 25c per 100 lbs. Sheet zinc and spelter show about the same advance. In plumbers' supplies the trade is only moderate. Quite a few lines of felt goods have been advanced from 10 per cent to 25 per cent."

The Montreal Gazette says: "The tone of the market for all lines is firm, and prices, in sympathy with the continued strong advices from abroad, are fully maintained. The demand for all lines is almost up to the average for this season, and, on the whole, a fair amount of business is doing. Advices from abroad on leads continue strong, but manufacturers here show no signs of advancing values yet. Glass in good demand, and sales are being made freely at firm prices. In

seal oil the feeling is still strong, and jobbers have put up the price another 2½ cents. Linseed is firmly held at the advance noted last week, and a further rise is anticipated by the end of this week. Montreal prices are: Choice brands white lead, Government standard, \$5.00; No. 1, \$4.75; No. 2, \$4.50; No. 3, \$4.25; dry white lead, 4½c; red lead, pure, 4c to 4½c; do. No. 1, 4c; zinc, white, pure, \$7.25; glass, \$1.30 to \$1.35 first break; \$1.40 to \$1.45 second break, per 50 feet; \$3.10 for third break, per 100 feet; linseed oil, round lots, raw, 46c to 47c; boiled, 49c to 50c; cod oil, 82½c to 85c; seal oil, 50c to 52½c; castor oil, 8½c to 9½c; putty, in bulk, \$1.85.

A Pittsburg, Pa., telegram says there is great activity in the metal markets and prices have almost uniformly advanced. Since the meeting of the Bessemer Association in New York, and the embracing under its control of all products made from billets, an advance has been made in the price of steel beams and channels of \$2 a ton; \$1 a ton on plates, and \$3 a ton on angles and tees. Iron and steel manufacturers express great confidence in the prospects for activity next year. Andrew Carnegie, H. C. Frick and W. J. Rainey, of Cleveland, met in New York Wednesday and decided to maintain coal prices until January, after which prices and workmen's wages will advance.

## World's Wheat Production.

A statement has been prepared by the United States Secretary of Agriculture regarding the quantity of wheat produced and exported from the United States, Canada, Argentine, Uruguay, Russia and India, which represents the prominent surplus countries. The average annual production in bushels for three periods of five years each is shown in the following:

United States	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-96.
United States	435,686,000	448,817,000	490,246,000
Canada	89,200,000	86,295,000	51,406,000
Argentina	18,000,000	22,800,000	61,600,000
Uruguay			6,148,000
Russia	224,106,000	239,401,000	301,406,000
India	269,721,000	245,657,000	224,909,000

For Uruguay there were no statistics available for the first two periods. For Argentine the average for the first period is the average for two years, 1881-5. For Russia and India, the averages for the first period represent the averages for three years, 1883-85.

The production for 1881-85 as stated aggregate 991,718,000 bushels, and for 1885-90 the total was 981,500,000—the two periods showing a like aggregate, there being a moderate increase in the United States and Russia, a decided relative gain in Argentina, with a decline in Canada and India, the latter being of considerable proportions. The latter period shows a total of 1,185,710,000 bushels, which marks quite an advance in which each country reflects a share excepting India.

The average annual exports of wheat and wheat flour, expressed in bushels of grain, from the countries mentioned, for periods of five years, are shown in the following:

	(000 omitted.)	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-95.
U. S.—Wheat	89,361	64,987	101,021	
Flour	38,796	50,802	70,710	
Canada—Wheat	2,864	1,863	8,144	
Flour	42	663	1,452	
Argentina—Wh't.	1,884	5,918	33,018	
Flour	181	328	1,601	
Uruguay—Wheat			1,040	
Flour	120	311	573	
Russia—Wheat	73,721	98,039	102,971	
Flour	2,468	2,297	2,610	
India—Wheat	34,352	30,440	27,748	
Flour	228	935	1,503	

For Uruguay there were no imports of wheat in the first two periods, of an average of 48,000 and 160,000 bushels respectively.

The total annual average exports of wheat and flour, expressed in bushels of grain, are shown in the following:

	(000 omitted.)	1881-85.	1886-90.	1891-95.
United States	122,157	115,789	171,781	
Canada	2,906	2,526	10,198	
Argentina	2,015	6,216	84,617	
Uruguay	77	151	1,619	
Russia	76,189	95,836	105,581	
India	31,580	31,375	29,251	

The annual average exports thus indicated for the first period of five years was 238,000,000 bushels wheat and flour included; for the second period, an average of 251,000,000 bushels; for the third the exports were advanced to an average of 353,000,000 bushels.

The wheat crops of Russia, (including Poland), British India and Argentina are stated in the Department as follows, in bushels—the 1893 figure for India and Argentina being added by the Price Current, from other sources:

	(000 omitted.)	Russia.	India.	Argentina.
1883	226,792,000	237,500,000	10,000,000	
1884	267,443,000	251,691,000	12,000,000	
1885	178,084,000	299,155,000	14,000,000	
1886	163,455,000	258,817,000	14,000,000	
1887	279,698,000	238,586,000	41,000,000	
1888	318,936,000	266,882,000	11,500,000	
1889	197,881,000	237,522,000	40,000,000	
1890	218,032,000	228,592,000	32,000,000	
1891	181,450,000	256,704,000	36,000,000	
1892	266,055,000	206,640,000	57,000,000	
1893	393,454,000	263,539,000	80,000,000	
1894	356,416,000	232,914,000	60,000,000	
1895	309,658,000	231,428,000	75,000,000	

For Uruguay the wheat crops are stated as follows: 1891, 2,805,000 bushels; 1892, 3,292,000; 1893, 5,703,000; 1894, 8,915,000; 1895, 10,000,000 bushels.

## Grain and Milling Notes.

The City of Bangor, one of the largest steamers which has visited Fort William harbor left recently with 143,500 bushels of grain, the largest load ever taken out of that port.

There were no less than fifteen large vessels lined up at the docks at Fort William one time last week, three of which would take out upwards of 120,000 bushels of grain each.

The Lake of the Woods Milling Company has booked another order for a round lot of patent flour for Australia for shipment in January, via Vancouver.

Flour is not often sold at auction. The Montreal Trade Bulletin tells of the following sale of flour at auction in that city: "The Montreal Fruit Auction Company sold on Wednesday, in the warehouse of Thos. Fraser & Co., about 6,000 bbls. of flour in wood and bags. Mr. Thurston, the auctioneer, realized some very good prices, considering that the flour has been held in store for about five years—some of which was wormy and sour. Among the sales were the following: 100 bbls. Lakeside brand of straight rollers, \$2.60 per bbl.; 150 bbls., do, \$2.60; 300 bbls., do, at \$2.60; 451 bbls., do, \$2.60; 160 bbls., do, \$2.60; and 207 bbls., do, \$2.60; 490 bags Manitoba strong bakers, \$1.75 per bag; 500 bags, do, at \$1.70; 55 bbls. Aberdeen, \$2.50 per bbl.; 287 bbls., do, \$2.10; 223 bbls., do, \$2.10; 180 bbls. Clinton at \$2.50; 150 bbls. do, \$2.60; 104 bbls. White Star at \$3 per bbl.; 200 bbls., do, at \$3.40; 149 bbls. choice winter patents, \$3.60; 300 bbls. do, at \$3.70; 190 bbls. do, \$3.50, etc."

The erection of a new flour mill at Deloraine, Man., is progressing. It looks well in appearance, and will be ready for business about the 1st week of January, says a correspondent.