

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, MARCH 25, 1895.

Manitoba.

A spring fair will be held at Birtle on April 23.

J. H. Thompson & Co., Minnedosa; sold out to Taylor Bros..

W. N. Brown, late with Joseph Rogers, has opened a hat store at 360 Main street, Winnipeg.

A meeting of Silver Creek farmers was held recently to take steps to secure a cheese factory for that district.

C. Graham, boot and shoe dealer, of Portage la Prairie, is going into the harness business in connection with the boot and shoe business.

Jno Gilchrist has completed the assessment of the town of Morden. The total assessment this year is \$270,210. The population is 1,308.

The new Canadian Pacific Railway land map of Manitoba shows 1,000,000 acres of land available for homesteading in Manitoba, exclusive of the unsurveyed portions of the province.

A fire in the Winnipeg planing mill of G. W. Murray caused about \$100 damage. The fire originated from a spark, it is supposed, under a corner of the building.

C. Knox, of Calgary, brought a lot of broncho horses to Portage la Prairie to be sold there and left for the west again with 31 head of cattle.

The dry goods stock of J. Norris & Co., Winnipeg, will be sold at a rate on the dollar on March 28. Stock amounts to \$13,135; fixtures, \$992; accounts and bills receivable, \$1,091.

A cheese factory is to be built eight miles east of Griswold by Mr. Osterhout, of Alexander. About 275 cows have been promised, and farmers are entering heartily into the enterprise.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Co. has issued a new map of Manitoba and the adjoining territory, showing Canadian Pacific Railway lands, free government lands, Canadian Northwest Land Co.'s lands, etc.

A well known Winnipeg merchant, discussing business prospects recently said: "It is no doubt true that times are hard, but I believe a greater cash business has been done in Winnipeg this year than ever before in the city's history. The volume of trade may not have been so great, but a far greater proportion of it has been done on a cash basis."

J. E. Dingman, wholesale commission merchant, Winnipeg, has taken the agency here for the celebrated "Dog's Head" brand of oyster oysters, packed by the Martin, Wagner Co., of Baltimore. These oysters can be carried at any season of the year, when the fresh oysters are out of season. They are fine goods, and are meeting with a considerable sale here.

A fire at Brandon completely destroyed Merritt & Co's furniture store and stock. The building was owned by A. Harris Son & Co., and was valued at about \$1,500. The stock of furniture was valued at \$7,000. The insurance on the stock is \$1,500. The Hub restaurant adjoining was badly damaged, but the contents were saved.

The Fairchild Vehicle and Machinery Co., Ltd., of Winnipeg, is seeking incorporation by letters patent. The applicants are F. A. Fairchild, T. E. Fairchild, W. Hutchison, G. E. Dixon and J. H. Fairchild to carry on the business of dealers in implements with a capital stock of \$100,000, in a thousand shares of \$100 each.

It is likely that the farmers of Stonowall will establish a butter factory on the cream gathering plan, by which means the milk can be left at home for the use of young stock. A two story stone building suitable for a factory is available in the town and will be made use of. There are ample cows in the district to supply a large factory.

A largely attended meeting of the Winnipeg Retail Association was held on Tuesday evening. Committees were appointed to go before the local legislature to protest against the abolition of imprisonment for debt, and the abolishing of garnishees. The completion of the early closing by-law petition was also dealt with. The taxation committee reported progress since the last meeting, at which a resolution was passed recommending a reduction of 33 1/3 per cent. on the maximum retail and floor space per centage, and the collection of income and poll tax. The membership committee reported ten new members since last meeting.

Alberta.

W. Pitman & Co., groceries &c., Calgary; succeeded by J. S. Hawkey.

Assiniboia.

W. J. Gould, photographer, late of Owen Sound, has decided to locate in Regina.

Tetlock, Loveless & Falls have decided to erect a cheese factory on the Pipestone, near Grenfell. Mr. Falls, who is an old cheese-maker, will manage the factory.

Saskatchewan.

James Leslie has arranged a partnership with Mr. Sinclair and will establish a creamery and probably a general store at Saskatoon.

J. E. Sinclair, of Prince Albert, shipped \$500 worth of prime fur consisting of beaver, otter, martin, bear, etc., to Winnipeg recently.

Northwest Ontario.

R. Mattheu has purchased the confectionery business of E. A. Caslake, of Rat Portage.

A. E. Rutledge has succeeded to the business of Rutledge & Hammond, dealers in gent's furnishings, clothing, etc., Fort William.

It is rumoured that one of the Canadian Pacific Railway boats of the Owen Sound line will be run between Fort William and Buffalo

the coming season. Other rumors state that it will be run between Fort William and Windsor.

A serious fire commenced at West Fort William on Thursday, destroying almost the entire business portion of the old town. Spharr's hotel, the Woodbine hotel, leased by J. Campbell, Mrs. O'Connor's hotel and residence. The Ontario house, owned by Jones Bros., Toronto; Ingales Block, containing three stories to Dr. Baker's residence, in all sixteen buildings, stores, etc. The amount of insurance is unknown.

A deputation of the Rat Portage Board of Trade consisting of George Drewry, J. T. Mackay and Angus Carmichael have gone on a trip to Ottawa and Toronto. The matter of extending fishing privileges on the Lake of the Woods will be discussed with the head of the fisheries department. The government will also be urged to make a mariner's chart of the Lake of the Woods in order that vessel owners may obtain insurance on their craft and to make navigation safer. The promised appropriation for a government post office building in Rat Portage will also be discussed with the Ottawa officials. Immediate prosecution of the proposed improvements in the navigation of Rainy river will be urged upon the Government. At Toronto the delegation will lay before the provincial government the importance of giving assistance in developing the mineral resources of the Rat Portage district, including the erection of a custom mill for sampling and reducing gold ores.

Freight Rates and Traffic Matters.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin of March 15th says: "About three weeks ago we published the first charters of grain for the present season to East British ports at 2s to 2s 3d, and we have now to report the engagement of 200,000 bushels for Liverpool at 1s 6d; but 1s 9d is now asked. Part cargoes of deals have been engaged at 37s 6d for Liverpool and 37s 6d to Glasgow, and space has been engaged for cattle, the price to be governed by ruling rates at date of shipment. Shippers have offered 40s, but so far have been unable to obtain any space on first boats at that rate. Some business is reported for Duluth to Kingston on the basis of 2 1/2 corn. The rates from Kingston to Montreal are 2 1/2 corn and 2 1/2 wheat.

The open tariffs published make through rates on flour from Minneapolis to European ports in cents, as follows: Liverpool, 37.88; London, 38.16. Across the lake via Milwaukee 2 cents less.

The Chicago Trade Bulletin of March 18 says: "Rail rates were steadier, only one road making lower rates than the regular tariff which cut the rate 3c. The regular rate on flour and grain to New York was 20c, and on Provisions 30c. Through rates were firmer. The rates to Liverpool ranged at 27.83 to 28c per 100 lbs. for flour, 18c per 100 lbs. for grain and 89 1/2 to 41 1/2 c per 100 lbs. for provisions. A moderate demand existed for vessel room to load for spring shipment, and rates were steady at 1 1/2 c on wheat and 1 1/2 c on corn to Port Huron, 2 1/2 c for wheat and 2 1/2 c for corn to Kingston."

The Minneapolis Market Record of March 20 says: "The attempt on the part of the eastern roads to re-establish the 30 cent rate to New York on a firm basis has proved an utter failure. Rates are quoted at 30 cents per hundred from Minneapolis to New York but no flour is moving at that figure. Across the lake routes are still quoting a 28 cent rate and it is said that they are even doing better than that."

Navigation is open in the harbour at Duluth.