

THE COMMERCIAL

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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 Can-
ada, daily or weekly. The Commercial also
reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manu-
facturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada

WINNIPEG, JULY 21.

THE EXHIBITION.

On Monday afternoon at 3.30, Lord Minto, governor-general of Canada, will formally open the 10th annual exhibition of the Winnipeg association. The fair will remain open throughout the week, and if the weather keeps fine should attract a large attendance. This year it has many special characteristics, which should increase the interest very much, and no pains have been spared to ensure its success.

RULES OF THE ROAD.

The amendment to the municipal act passed at the late session of the local legislature at the request of the city of Winnipeg, which lays down rules for the guidance of people travelling by any kind of conveyance on a public highway, while a step in the right direction and a very useful measure as far as it goes, is far from being complete in its application to vehicular traffic. For instance, it entirely omits one important point concerning the turning of corners, in that it only applies to bicycles, whereas the greatest danger on street corners is from the vehicles drawn by horses. In Winnipeg, drivers, particularly of delivery wagons, habitually turn corners both ways on the inner side of the circle to the great annoyance and sometimes peril of more careful people who seek to keep on their own side of the road. There is no more dangerous practice than this in the whole catalogue of street traffic, and yet the act makes no rule for it at all excepting as regards the poor cyclist, who is most often the injured party in street corner collisions. Another serious omission in this bill is that it entirely ignores the rights of pedestrians upon street corners and crossings. It is generally understood elsewhere that foot traffic has the right of way upon crossings, but this does not seem to be

so in Winnipeg. Drivers and cyclists rattle over crossings and around corners at breakneck speed regardless of who or what may be there before them, so that in the busy hours of the day nervous people, particularly women and old persons are afraid to attempt a crossing. There should be well defined laws as regards this practice with a penalty attached for violation and the law should be enforced. The city has been displaying a great deal of activity of late years in enforcing its laws regarding bicycling and rightly so, but it should, to be consistent, display equal energy in suppressing all the practices which go to increase the danger of accidents upon the public street, and if the new law does not give it full power to act in all cases further amendments should be obtained.

Winnipeg City Council.

The Winnipeg city council held its regular fortnightly meeting on Monday evening. The by-law respecting rules of the road which the council has been seeking to pass was put through. The action of Water Commissioner Stuart in collecting overdue water rates, a matter over which there had been some disputing, was upheld. The secretary of the exhibition board asked that a reception committee be appointed to assist the exhibition directors during fair week, which request was complied with. Secretary Mulvey, of the school board, wrote inclosing the board's estimates for the current year, amounting to \$129,655. The city barbers wrote requesting that their shops be included in the early closing by-law. The contract for supply of three street sprinklers was let to the Boyce Carriage Company for the sum of \$960. The works committee recommended the construction of a number of new sidewalks, sewers, and pavements. It was decided not to oppose the application of the Hudson Bay Co. for permission to lay out new streets on their reserve, providing that the company agreed to resurvey the property at once. The mayor was asked to proclaim Thursday afternoon of fair week a public holiday. A by-law to compel the payment of water rates in advance was put through its first reading.

St. Andrew's Rapids.

The contract for the work of improving St. Andrew's rapids has at last been let, the successful tenderer being T. Kelly, of Kelly Bros., Winnipeg. Word to this effect was received at Winnipeg from Ottawa on Wednesday morning. There were only two other tenders, one from Toronto and the other from Hamilton.

The Brandon Fair.

During four days of the week following the Winnipeg Exhibition the annual fair of the Brandon association will be held in that city. The dates are July 31 to August 3. This fair is growing in interest and importance each year. The directors make the satisfactory announcement that the railway companies have agreed to refund the freight charges upon exhibits, provided the ownership has not changed, and they publicly thank the railway authorities for this concession. One of the most import-

ant features and improvements of the fair is the construction of a railway from the city to the fair grounds. Trains are to run each day of the fair every five minutes, from the Northern Pacific depot. Special platform attractions have again been engaged, which include a number of acrobats, rope and wire walkers, etc. The prize list for the various competitions totals up the handsome sum of \$10,000. Special trains and reduced rates from all parts of the province will enable the public to attend the show with a minimum of expense and loss of time.

Tree Growing in the West.

The Dominion experimental farms have greatly assisted in encouraging tree growing in the west, a work which is in every sense commendable. Some 65,000 trees and shrubs have been sent from the central farm at Ottawa to the Brandon farm, some varieties of which have proved hardy, though a number were shown to be too tender for this climate. Many trees were obtained from other sources, and a great many were grown from seeds of native varieties. Well on to 100,000 trees are now growing on the farm, in hedges, wind breaks, nurseries and arboretum, while nearly three-quarters of a million of young trees and cuttings have been distributed among the farmers of the province. Many varieties of trees have been found which are well adapted to this country, in addition to the native varieties. The work done at the farm has not only encouraged the farmers of Manitoba to take a practical interest in tree growing, but it has also been the means of securing such information as will enable others to succeed in this work. In this western prairie country it is especially desirable that tree growing should be encouraged. The work of the experimental farms in this matter will be of lasting benefit. In addition to the distribution of young trees, a large quantity of tree seeds is now sent out annually. Some of the trees first planted on the Manitoba farm are now bearing seeds, and these seeds are gathered and distributed throughout the province.

At the branch farm at Indian Head, in the Territories, the same line has been followed as at Brandon. Young trees and tree seeds are annually distributed from this farm, among the farmers of the Territories. Splendid hedges, wind breaks and belts of trees are now grown at the Indian Head farm and the bare prairie has been transformed within a dozen years into a place of beauty. While individual farmers cannot of course go to the expense in tree cultivation that has been done at the experimental farms, they can nevertheless do a great deal to beautify their surroundings by planting trees, and will not find the work arduous nor expensive.

The Dominion house prorogued on Wednesday.

Dr. J. Fletcher, Dominion entomologist, was in Winnipeg this week, returning from a tour of the west. He has given special attention to the grasshoppers and reports that the recent rains have almost destroyed this pest.

The Canadian Manufacturer, of July 6, contains the tariffs of Canada, the United States, Great Britain, and Newfoundland, in handy form, which should be very useful to importers in Canada. These tariffs are all reproduced from the official documents and are fully indexed.