

THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters relating to trade and progress in Western Canada, including that part of Ontario west of Lake Superior, the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Territories.

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Advertisements purporting to be news articles, or which profess to express the opinion of this journal, will not be inserted.

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D. W. BUCHANAN,
Publisher.

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. The Commercial also includes the leading wholesale, commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, SEPTEMBER 8.

THE COMMERCIAL.

The Commercial begins a new volume with this number. Eighteen annual volumes were completed with the last issue and the nineteenth year of publication has now been entered upon. The beginning of the new volume is marked by an important step forward in the history of the Journal. This week The Commercial appears in a new and more modern form. The old three column form has been discontinued, in favor of a four column page paper. This is the form now adopted by nearly all the more progressive trade journals. While some of our readers may prefer the old three column page, we hope they will soon accustom themselves to the change. At any rate, when the advantages of the larger page are explained, they certainly will not desire a return to the old form.

The adoption of the four column page has to some extent been rendered necessary by the growth in the business and circulation of the paper. The small page necessitated a considerable delay in binding and mailing the Journal. With a steadily increasing circulation, this difficulty became more acute as time passed on. It has always been the aim of the management to have the paper mailed as early as possible. Notwithstanding the labor entailed in binding the small pages, The Commercial has been mailed promptly and regularly. The Journal has given quite an extensive telegraphic market report, complete to the close of the day of publication, and the papers have been regularly mailed the same day. This is practically as rapid work as is done by the daily papers, with a sheet which can be handled much easier in folding than a small page paper. The adoption of the four column page form will greatly facilitate the work of binding and mailing so that a larger number of papers can be handled without interfering with the prompt mailing of the Journal. The larger page is also a better size for illustrations. Since adopting the regular use of illustrations, about two years ago, the small page heretofore used has been found very inconvenient, as illustrations have frequently been received which were too large or the page.

Our readers will also note that The Commercial has been considerably enlarged, beginning with this issue. The present size is equal to 40 pages of the old three column page, which is four pages more than were printed

at any previous time, except in case of occasional special issues. The change to the four column page will also permit of publishing a larger paper, without entailing delay in mailing the Journal.

CANADIAN PULPWOOD RESOURCES.

Last week an article appeared in these columns dealing with the reforestation of parts of the great prairie regions of the west and tree planting for ornamental and other purposes. That is only one aspect of the forestry resources and capabilities of Canada. While we seek to create we have also happily that which we may with great profit destroy. The spruce and other pulpwood areas of Canada are the largest in the world and place this country in a most enviable position with regard to supply of this now indispensable material. This and other leading facts in connection with Canada's supply of pulpwood have been brought out at the Paris exposition in connection with our splendid forestry exhibit and in consequence there is now more attention being given to this country's resources of that kind by consuming countries than ever before.

It is estimated that there are something like 450,000,000 acres of pulpwood in Canada, which according to present average yields should produce the enormous quantity of four and a half billion tons of pulp, and even these figures are greatly exceeded by so good an authority as the Dominion Geological Survey department, which places the quantity of pulpwood available at nearly twice the above amount. Allowing the lowest estimate to be the most correct it will be seen that Canada has a practically unlimited supply.

These spruce areas extend from end to end of the Dominion. Labrador has tremendous spruce forests and so also has the great lone land, which extends from Hudson's Bay to the Mackenzie river. These extend south to the St. Lawrence on the east and to the borders of the prairie lands on the west. Ontario has abundance of pulp spruce and so also has Manitoba. British Columbia has the Douglas fir, which is a good pulp wood, and often attains to the enormous height of 250 feet and circumference of 30 to 50 feet. In Quebec there are large spruce areas and also in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, so that practically every province and territory in Canada can boast of an ample supply.

To show that we have not been un mindful of the value of these resources it may be noted that within twenty years there have been established in various parts of the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia no less than thirty-five important pulp and fibre mills, some of which are of gigantic dimensions, and represent altogether in machinery and plants, an investment of about \$20,000,000. The total output of these mills is 1,100 tons per day. But this is only the beginning of things. The governments of eastern provinces, especially Ontario, recognize the value of the pulp making industry and are encouraging the establishment of mills within their boundaries. Ontario has made agreements for several large mills within the past year and more are to follow. The output of all will find eager buyers in half a dozen different countries, particularly as the Canadian pulp is pronounced by experts to be superior to the famous Scandinavian product, which has hitherto been regarded as the best.

The longer and stronger fibre of the Canadian pulp makes it specially suitable for making reel newspaper for fast running, and one of the English paper makers who recently visited Canada looking into the pulp situation said that he would rather give \$2.50 per ton more for the Canadian than any other.

It appears from these facts that the development of Canada's pulpwood resources will be a rapid one, and should be shared in by every part of the country where conditions are favorable for the economical use of the natural spruce forests. Manitoba offers favorable opportunities for the establishment of mills, and should shortly have this added to its already lengthy list of industries.

Revived Interest in Driving.

It is a noticeable fact that the number of bicycles now being used in the east and south is small compared with what it was two or three years ago, and those that are used are almost entirely for convenience rather than recreation. On the other hand the automobile is gaining in favor and in time a large number of these carriages will be in use. With the adoption of electric street cars, bicycles and automobiles it was thought by many that the day of the horse had passed, but while the gasoline engine and other mechanical powers may take his place in many of the heavier kinds of work, still the horse can never be entirely set aside. A revival of interest has taken place recently in driving and riding and a good demand has been created for good horses. At best the automobile is simply a machine and it is hardly to be expected that much pleasure could be derived from a ride in one into the country alone, but such is not the case with driving as any one who is fond of horses knows. The horse is one of the best friends man has among the animals, and if other company be lacking he will prove a ready substitute. This, however, cannot be considered as the reasons for the present revival of this means of recreation, which undoubtedly is largely due to the pneumatic tire and light vehicle and to the greatly improved roadbeds which are now being laid, making driving a real pleasure where before it was often a very doubtful one. In some of the larger cities special speedways have been built, which have created such a demand for good driving horses that some of the old-time breeding farms have resumed operations on a large scale and many new ones are being established, so that horse dealers are now doing a thriving business. The revival of coaching is also very noticeable and at New York coaches are run regularly to points of interest, and the number availing themselves of these conveyances is rapidly increasing.

The revival of horseback riding is almost as widespread as that of driving and interested parties state that there is at least four times the amount of riding done now that there was a decade ago. Cross-country runs and horseback games are very popular and a rough riders school has been opened in New York. It is hardly likely that this will become as widespread as the bicycle "craze" but meantime the carriage men and horse dealers are reaping a harvest and livery stable keepers who have been losing ground for some years past will again take heart.

World's Quicksilver Production.

Some fear has been expressed in the trade that the world's production of quicksilver is likely to prove unequal to the growing demand. The total supply in 1899 was about 95,000 flasks from Spain, Italy, Austria and California, the principal sources of supply. This was less than for quite a number of years with an exception or two. The production of the Cinabara mines of California, the only large producers upon the American continent, has declined from 70,000 flasks in 1898 to only 28,100 in 1899. The principal mines of Spain and Austria which have been producing for nearly 1,000 years, are the only other producers of importance, except that Russia produced 8,700 flasks last year, none of which came out of that country. Spain produced 39,340 flasks in 1899, and Austria only 15,000. —Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter.

Quinine Advancing.

At the cinchona bark auction, at Amsterdam on Thursday, says the Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter of the 27th ult., the bulk of the offerings were sold at an average advance of about 10 per cent. in the unit price. The various cables received throughout the trade vary somewhat, but the range is small. Our cables range from eleven and three-quarters to eleven and eight-tenths Dutch cents. This is an advance of about one Dutch cent over the previous sale. Below we give figures showing the average unit price per half kilo of bark at each Amsterdam sale since January, 1898:

	Dutch Cents.	Dutch Cents.	Dutch Cents.
	1900.	1899.	1898.
First.....	10.65	4.70	6.00
Second.....	10.70	6.75	5.50
Third.....	10.05	10.90	4.25
Fourth.....	10.10	8.50	5.20
Fifth.....	10.25	8.25	4.10
Sixth.....	10.80	7.00	4.20
Seventh.....	11.70	6.25	4.00
Eighth.....		6.55	4.05
Ninth.....		6.80	4.07
Tenth.....		7.75	4.87

An advance was expected by the trade in general, because of the strong statistical position of bark. As we pointed out editorially in the Reporter of the 6th inst., the shipments of bark from Java during the first seven months of the present calendar year amounted to only 72,500 kilos, or \$44,350 kilos less than during the same period in 1899; and, furthermore there are no indications at present that the shipments will increase to any great extent. During August, 1899, the shipments amounted to 601,200 kilos, while during the first half of the present month they amounted to only about 200,000 kilos.

Almost simultaneously with the receipt of advices announcing the result of the bark sale, the agents for the various foreign brands of quinine were instructed to advance quotations two cents an ounce, and all brands, both domestic and foreign, are now quoted on the basis of thirty-seven cents an ounce for bulk. The American manufacturers made this advance to thirty-seven cents early in the month, and it was only the lack of demand of any consequence which caused the German manufacturers to continue quoting the old range of thirty-five cents an ounce. In several cases, however, they refused to enter contracts at the low figure, although in other cases contracts were accepted from the regular consuming trades. The outside market has been decidedly strong ever since the present upward movement began, and in many cases holders have held their small stocks above the quotations of the various manufacturers. Up to within the last few days demand from the consuming trade has been small, and the speculating trade has been limited, owing to the small stocks in outside hands, and the refusal of manufacturers to sell to speculative buyers. Just previous to the bark sale, however, demand increased to quite an extent, probably due to the supposition that prices of quinine would be advanced. If there was an advance in bark prices at the Amsterdam auction, which seemed very likely. The sales of quinine, however, were not of large volume, as even the domestic manufacturers have not been particularly willing sellers, even at their advanced quotations. Since Thursday, however, demand has fallen off somewhat, but it is doubtful if anything can be had from outside hands under manufacturers' quotations. At this writing there is a decidedly strong undertone to the market. While demand is rather slow at present, consumption always increases during the autumn months.

The bark situation, as we noted above, is very favorable to a strong market, inasmuch as the available supply will necessarily be limited for several months yet, even if the shipments from Java should immediately increase, which does not seem probable. The next quinine auction at Batavia is scheduled for the 29th inst., and it is reported that the quantity of quinine to be offered is smaller than at any of the previous sales. This is also considered a favorable feature. Some time ago we stated that the opinion was very general throughout the trade that forty-cent quinine was not only a possibility, but a strong probability, and after a consideration of the above conditions such a proposition seems even less doubtful than it did a month ago.