

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. In 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 west 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, JANUARY 25, 1897.

Manitoba.

The provincial legislature will open on February 11.

The stock of Geo. A. Jenkins, general storekeeper, Carman, will be sold at auction in Winnipeg on January 27.

E. L. Drewry and the firm of G. F. & J. Galt have each subscribed \$200 towards defraying the expenses of a Winnipeg crew to the Henley regatta.

Wm. Keyes, of Midway, has closed a sale of his Portage la Prairie property to Dr. James Cowan for \$6,500. The doctor secures in this purchase one of the best business positions in town, being on the north side of the avenue, corner of Campbell street, and opposite the new postoffice site.

The banquet committee of the Winnipeg board of trade have completed the preliminary arrangements in connection with the banquet. It will be held at the Manitoba hotel, on the evening of Tuesday, February 2, that being the day on which the annual meeting of the board will be held.

The Manitoba department of agriculture will shortly issue a second edition of the pamphlet "Noxious Weeds, and How to Destroy Them." The first edition of twelve thousand copies, published last year, has been exhausted, and its usefulness in preventing the spread of noxious weeds was so great that the department have decided to re-issue it together with such additions as the experience and additional information gained during the year will suggest. The book will also contain the description of some weeds not previously dealt with, but which are now becoming dangerous.

Alberta.

The weather has continued mild in the range country. The following shows the highest and lowest reading of the thermometer at Macleod on the dates named:

	Max.	Min.
Jan. 9.	50	31
" 10.	42	26
" 11.	42	16
" 12.	37	12
" 13.	41	11
" 14.	35	11
" 15.	35	15

The property of the Edmonton Browning and Mairing Co'y., (Cairns & Kelly), will be offered for sale at public auction on February 12.

Saskatchewan.

D. H. MacDowall, an old resident and leading business man of Prince Albert, engaged in the lumber trade, is moving to Toronto. He was tendered a banquet by the citizens before his departure.

British Columbia Mining News.

There are large alum and aluminum deposits overlying some of the gold quartz ledges of the Harrison Lake district of the Fraser Valley. It is learnt, however, on enquiry of Messrs. Peter Spence & Co., of Manchester, England, the largest alum manufacturers in the world, that unfortunately these mineral deposits having an alum base possess no commercial value, since alum is now cheaply obtainable from the bye-products of gas manufacture. Fortunately, however, through some possible source of increased value for the Harrison Lake minerals, has proved waiting, the gold contents of the ores of the district seem to promise sufficiently well, to add a valuable new mining area to Southern British Columbia and help to renew the prosperity of New Westminster. Up the Capilano Gorge, North Vancouver, and within four miles of Vancouver itself, a number of free milling gold claims are now being preliminarily developed with a prospect that there may there be located large bodies of ore probably of low grade, yet probably also capable of profitable working, the Capilano Gorge being exceptionally easy of access. The work here being quickly done is consequently of special interest to Vancouver men.

Meanwhile the Selover proposition for \$150,000 bonus to a smelter and refinery may be considered dead. The electors emphatically declared at every meeting at the recent municipal election against so large a bonus, although the Selover proposal has never even reached the stage of consideration, as a definite proposition. The Selover project has never been endorsed by leading and influential citizens, but with the Board of Trade and with the citizens as a body, it has quite failed to find favor.

The Golden Cache Co. have made two rich strikes lately, which has again raised the price of the stock.

The Albion Company, who are developing 12 silver claims on Bowen Island, have chosen a directorate of solid citizens and work will be pushed all winter.

The stock of the Orphan Boy mine has been of the most popular purchases in the market here for some time. The president of the company, J. W. Haskins, is now in Vancouver, and his reports on the mine are so favorable as to still more stiffen the price of the stock. The Orphan Boy is in the Big Bend country. The company have 1,000 tons of ore on the dump valued at \$10,000. A mill is to be erected. Another popular stock is the Athabasca, very largely held in New Westminster. The agents for this stock in the east are the British Canadian Gold Fields Co., of Toronto, who have shown their faith in the mine by purchasing 150,000 shares.

Every week the registers of the principal hotels chronicle the arrival of English, Canadian and United States capitalists. They are here, usually accompanied by mining engineers to spy out gold mining prospects. They are the forerunners of the annual spring rush to the Kootenay.

Freight Rates.

The Chicago Trade Bulletin of January 18, says: The situation in East bound rates is unsettled. It is said that a 15c rate on export wheats is being made, but it cannot be confirmed. The tariff on flour and grain from Chicago to New York is 20c, and on provisions 30c per 100 lbs. Ocean rates are firm with about all the January tonnage taken. Rates on grain are 8½ to 1d per bushel from New York to Liverpool. Through rates Chicago to Liverpool 81 to 82 60c per 100 lbs on flour, 20.40 per bushel on grain via New York and Boston, and 42 to 41 00 per 100 lbs on provisions. Vessels are in fair demand for winter storage and spring shipment at 2½ for wheat, 2½ for corn, 2½ for barley, and 2c for oats to Buffalo.

Montreal Grain and Produce Market.

Grain—Wheat are offering at 48c to 49c and buckwheat at 3½c to 3½c per bushel, ex-store.

Flour—Business very quiet and millers and dealers do not look for much improvement. We quote: Winter wheat patents at \$1.65 to \$1.85; straight t rollers, at \$1.27 to \$1.40, and in bags, at \$2.10 to \$2.15. Manitoba spring wheat, patents at \$3.10 to \$3.30; and strong bakers' at \$4.50 to \$5.

Oatmeal—The market is quiet and easy, in fact, holders would shade prices for car lots. We quote: Rolled oats at \$3.30 to \$3.40 per barrel, and at \$1.65 to \$1.70 per bag.

Feed—Sales slow at \$9.50 to \$10 per ton for Manitoba bran, including bags; and at \$9 to \$9.25 for Ontario in bulk.

Hay—The tone of the hay market was quiet and steady at \$10.25 to \$10.50 for No. 1, and at \$9 to \$9.25 for No. 2.

Cheese—The cheese market was rather dull today, as holders' views of value have appreciated more sharply than buyers are willing to follow. They were asking 1½c, for finest white, while bids are not above 1½c, except in the case of strictly fancy lots. Colored cheese ranges from 10½c to 10½c.

Butter—Butter continues steady and sellers are adopting the same attitude on this line as in the cheese, asking rather more than the general demand will concede. In fact there is a difference of about ½c per pound between buyers' and sellers' views, the latter asking 20c, while the best bid is 19½c for fine creamery.

Eggs—Montreal limed and choice candled stock are selling at 14c to 14½c. Western limed at 13c to 13½c, and held fresh at 12c to 12½c per dozen.

Poultry—Turkeys are selling at 8c to 8½c, spring chickens at 6½ to 7c, frozen stock at 3c to 5½c; geese, choice, at 6 to 7c; frozen, old, at 5c to 5½c, and ducks at 7½c to 8c per lb.

Cured meats—New packed Canadian pork, \$11 to \$12, old at \$10 to \$10.50 per barrel; pure Canadian lard, in pails, at 6½c to 7c, and compound refined, at 5½c to 5½c per lb.; hams, 9c to 10c and bacon 8½c to 9½c per lb.

Dressed hogs—There was a good demand for light weight hogs, and as the offerings of these are small prices are firmly held at \$5.25 per 100 lbs. in car lots, and at \$5.50 to \$5.75 in a jobbing way. On the other hand heavy hogs are plentiful, and a further decline in prices has taken place, with recent sales of car lots at \$4.60 to \$4.75 per 100 lbs., and in a jobbing way at \$4.80 to \$5. Gasette, Jan. 20.