

The Commercial

A Journal of Commerce, Industry and Finance, specially 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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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 desk of the great majority of business men in the vast district designated above, and including northwestern 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, JULY 25, 1892.

British Columbia Matters.

[The following budget from our British Columbia office arrived too late for publication in last week's COMMERCIAL.]

- Geo. Lester, grocer, has opened in Victoria.
- Smith & Hayes, bakers and grocers, Nanaimo, estate for sale by tender.
- Inland revenue returns at Victoria for 1891-92 amount to \$147,733.80.
- A. F. Turner contemplates opening in stationery and toys in Victoria.
- The Hamilton Powder Company will start a branch warehouse in Vancouver.
- Kelsall & Cotton, fish dealers, Nanaimo, have sold out to Forrester & Scott.
- A. J. Hill and J. A. Kirk, engineers and surveyors, Westminster, have dissolved.
- Count D'Euram, Northfield, has taken Chas. D. Stedman as partner in the Parisian store.
- Hill & Norgate, general store, Northfield, have been closed by mortgagees, Cowan & Wilson.
- Evans, Coleman & Evans, Vancouver, shipping and commission agents, are building a 300 foot wharf.
- W. H. Vianen, the pioneer fisherman and fish dealer, has amalgamated his business with C. E. Pretty & Co.
- The business of the late firm of T. L. Brown & Co., Nanaimo, has been taken over by the Box Clothing Co.
- McMillan & Hamilton, commission merchants, Vancouver, are erecting cold storage in their warehouses.
- Mathews & Milligan, produce and commission agents, Westminster, have dissolved. W. J. Mathews continues.
- Green & Blackie purchased the stock of Geo. Ritchie, grocer, New Westminster, 50c on the dollar at sheriff's sale.

Capt. Shorts, W. J. Armstrong and C. Brewer and others have located mineral claims on the east shore of Swan Lake.

The machinery for Smith's saw mill, near Okanagan landing, has arrived and the mill will be running in a few weeks.

A. C. Shaw, electric light works, Nanaimo, whose liabilities amount to \$40,000, has been granted an extension of time for one month.

W. S. Hampson & Co., dry goods, Victoria and Nanaimo, advertise closing out Nanaimo branch and confining attention to Victoria business.

Mexican dollars, which were formerly accepted in the custom house at a valuation of 84 cents, are now appraised 9 cents lower, and go for just 75 cents.

Hill Bros. intend starting a saw mill with a capacity of 20,000 to 30,000 feet per day on Wilson Creek, near Eldorado City, West Kootenay. The price of lumber there at present is \$100 per M.

Shipping in B.C. ports is as follows:

Port.	No.	Tonnage.
Vancouver	4	3,893
Victoria	1	1,036
Nanaimo	6	7,840
Chemalms	1	960
Total	12	13,729

The total revenue of the custom house in Vancouver for 1891-92 was \$331,955; for last year it was \$330,038.65. The loss of sugar duties and the transferring of the Chinese tax to Victoria affect this year's returns considerably. For Victoria the revenue this year was \$1,033,691.13 against \$957,675.14 last year.

The customs collections at the port of Westminster for the year ended June 30th were: Duties collected \$155,558.39; other revenues \$2,058.04; total \$157,513.43. The collections for the year ended 30th June, 1891, were: Duties collected 97,658.56; other revenues \$1,114.89; total \$98,538.45. Increase for 1892 \$58,976.98.

It was generally supposed that fortune hunting was a thing of the past, one of those pursuits which fiction had immortalized in endless tales of the ocean, but which had passed out of the sober minds of a practical, unimaginative nineteenth century age. It seems that there is still a trail of the buccaneer spirit left yet and that we are to experience a revival of the "hidden treasure" craze. The Argonauts are still with us. The "Golden Fleece" is in the Southern Seas. It is hardly possible to believe that a hard-headed old timer like J. Van Bramer, of Vancouver, would seek to play in that role, but so it seems. He, and it is understood that some leading business men of the city are associated with him, has chartered the Eliza Edwards to go to the Indian Ocean to hunt on one of the Keeling group of islands, latitude 12° 5' south, and longitude 96° 53' east, for treasure to the amount of \$60,000,000 more or less. This treasure was "cached" there by pirates, nobody knows when. The steamer Eliza Edwards was built for sealing purposes, then transferred into the halibut fishing business, and is now steering for gold. The inauguration of the pursuit was somewhat ill-omened, as she was seized at San Francisco on suspicion of being a smuggler, but was released. To cap it all another captain in San Francisco got wind of it and now it is a race for the treasure, both, it is understood, having secured possession of old charts with the location of the treasure marked on it. Van Bramer's friends are presuming on his good luck to find the wealth, because, as one of them remarked, "he is one of the luckiest men in the world, and if anybody gets there he will." They may succeed, but it is a queer expedition for business men to undertake.

Exports for the Crop Year.

The crop year of 1891-92 will long be a memorable one in the history of our export grain trade and especially of our export wheat and flour trade. The value of the breadstuffs exported was \$288,925,000, against \$123,156,520

for the preceding crop year. The breadstuffs exported during the six months ending with June were valued at \$132,935,807, against \$68,350,307 for the same months of 1891. The exports during June were valued at \$16,442,977 against \$13,199,536 for the preceding June.

The amount of wheat exported was 152,803,086 bushels. This amount has been exceeded only once. In 1879-80 153,252,795 bushels were exported and the next crop year 150,565,477 bushels were exported. The record of these two crop years had not been approached until 1891-92 was closed. In 1890-91 only 54,201,282 bushels were exported. The amount of wheat exported in the form of flour during the crop year just closed exceeds all previous years. Granting that 4½ bushels of wheat are used to make a barrel of flour our wheat exports for 1891-92 are swelled to 221,685,228 bushels, or 35,209,977 bushels in excess of the amount exported during any previous year.

The corn exports were also heavy, but not as large as during several crop years that preceded it. During the crop year 73,770,002 bushels, valued at \$40,623,632, were exported, against 29,894,380 bushels, valued at \$17,124,370, during the preceding crop year.

Of Barley we exported 2,799,729 bushels, valued at \$1,751,257, against 966,079 bushels, valued at \$664,708, during the crop year of 1890-91.

The exports of oats were also much larger than usual, 9,018,404 bushels, valued at \$3,679,109, being exported during the crop year, against 916,323 bushels, valued at \$339,078 during the preceding crop year.

The exports of rye were a surprise for every one connected with the trade, 11,827,044 bushels, valued at \$11,264,693, being exported, against 332,739 bushels, valued at \$212,161, the preceding crop year.

Although the export business was good from the start, few of these connected with the trade have derived much profit from their year's business. Since last harvest the price of wheat has been continually declining, so that any who held that cereal, even for a short time, suffered a loss. British importers have probably suffered greater loss than any others, but American dealers have also suffered.—*American Elevator and Grain Trade.*

United States Crop Report for July.

The July report of the United States Department of Agriculture has been trimmed down to meet the exactations of a few speculative souls, who fear the effects of dissemination of too much information. Such details as are available in the synopsis are to be found in another article.

It is not in order to apply the ratio of condition of wheat and ultimate returns of yield last year in this season's reckonings. Conditions were exceptional last year, leading to surprises; this year, disappointments will be the rule.

As compared with a month ago the official estimate is slightly improved for winter wheat and slightly reduced for spring wheat, making the general average about the same—pointing to approximately 335,000,000 bushels of winter and 170,000,000 bushels of spring grain, or 505,000,000 for the entire crop. The chances are more in favor of a smaller result than otherwise.

The condition of corn is shown to be very close to what should have been expected—as outlined in the *Price Current's* comments last week. The indications as to area and condition point approximately 1,650,000,000 bushels—and it would undoubtedly call for extraordinarily favorable conditions to produce a result in excess of this.

The oats crop appears to be rated rather high. Conditions are irregular—in many localities the yield is good, but there is such an area of deficient conditions that it seems doubtful if the official estimate, which suggests about 650,000,000 bushels, can be realized in the final returns.—*Cincinnati Price Current.*