

THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters pertaining 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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Office 210 McDermot St. Telephone 221.

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 reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, AUGUST 17, 1901.

OPTION MARKET FOR WINNIPEG.

An option market will be established in Winnipeg in connection with the grain exchange, on Sept. 1. This will be practically the first option market in Canada, and it is perhaps appropriate, that Winnipeg, as the leading grain market in Canada, should become an option market. The custom of dealing in options has become so general that it is now recognized as a part of the regular grain trade. It is now the custom of local operators to deal in options of some other market, notably Chicago. It is reasoned with considerable force that we might as well have an option market at home and allow local parties to reap whatever profit there is in the business. Another argument in favor of the local market is to the effect that local grain could be delivered on contract, whereas this cannot be done on transactions in a foreign market. For instance, say a local holder of a lot of wheat desires to sell futures against his holding. When the time to fulfill the contract comes around, he could deliver the actual grain to satisfy the contract. Manitoba wheat could not of course be delivered on such contracts in a United States market. Even if it corresponded in quality to the option grade, it is subject to customs and bonding regulations in the United States. It will remain to be seen whether or not an option market can be made a success in Winnipeg.

The objection to option dealing is the speculative spirit which it engenders, which leads to excessive trading in wind. It is, however, very hard to draw the line between legitimate and illegitimate trading. The question has been discussed and legislated upon for years, without much progress having been made in any direction. The party who sells against his holdings, though no actual grain may ever be delivered on the sale, is in the opinion of most people nowadays doing a perfectly legitimate and businesslike transaction. On the other hand there can be no question as to the evil of promiscuous option trading by parties who do it purely as a speculative or rather gambling transaction. In such cases it simply amounts to betting on the rise and fall of the market. It is only

equal to betting on a horse race or a game of cards. Of course most option gamblers follow the markets, and from a study of the situation they form opinions as to the future course of prices of the commodity which they propose speculating in, or upon. In many cases, however, they may have little more reason for their "deals" than if they were betting on a game.

A WORTHY PEOPLE.

The Icelanders of Winnipeg and district, who number a respectable and interesting portion of our population, celebrated their national day, August 2, by a general gathering in one of the suburban parks. This is the eleventh consecutive annual celebration by the Icelandic people of our western metropolis. The Icelanders of Manitoba are a progressive and law-abiding people. While cherishing the memories of their native land, they quickly become good Canadian citizens, taking an interest in the questions affecting the welfare of the country. They are usually on the side of right and justice. It is pleasing to note that we are continually having additions to our Icelandic population through the arrival of new immigrants, and they are a people who are always welcome. Manitoba will probably soon contain more Icelanders and native born people of Icelandic descent, than the total population of Iceland.

ORIENTALS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The sessions of the royal commission appointed to investigate and report upon Chinese and Japanese immigrants in British Columbia have developed some interesting information concerning the Orientals in that province. At Nanaimo, an important labor centre, only three Chinese attended the public schools. A considerable number of Japs and Chinese are employed in connection with the coal mines at Nanaimo and Comox. At the latter place the Orientals exceed the number of white men employed in coal mining. A list of ten manufacturing concerns, including saw mills, at Vancouver and Chemalms, brick manufacturing at Victoria, and the Wellington coal mines, near Nanaimo, shows a total of 969 white men, 869 Chinese and 437 Japanese. Of this number of whites it is estimated that about 900 are skilled workmen, leaving 69 white unskilled laborers, as compared with 1,306 Orientals.

There are 40 salmon canneries, averaging 200 men each year, or 8,000 in all. Each cannery would average 10 whites, chiefly skilled workmen, 400 in all, making 7,600 Orientals employed, as compared with 400 whites. There are about 8,000 fishermen, of which number nearly 4,000 are Japanese.

The evidence also went to show that out of a population of probably 14,000 Chinese and 4,000 Japanese, of common laborers between the ages of 18 and 45, probably 300 are married.

The superintendent of the western division of the C. P. R. stated that the company gave regular employment to about 90 Chinese and 70 Japanese. This number was increased at certain times by 500, when surface work or shovelling snow or slides off the track was required.

Among the statements submitted at New Westminster was one to the effect that the recent census shows 748 Chinese in a total population of 6,700 in New Westminster.

The proprietor of one of the canning factories submitted a statement showing the cost of operations at his salmon cannery for the last four years. This statement showed the total amount paid for Chinese labour to have been:

1897	\$14,376.54
1898	5,898.51
1899	9,027.78
1900	4,051.39

During the same years the outlay for white labour was as follows:

1897	\$3,316.23
1898	7,050.51
1899	7,720.95
1900	8,091.71

White men were paid from \$40 to \$100 per month, including board, which cost \$12 per month.

The Chinese were paid for actual time only and in all cases they boarded themselves. Their wages varied from \$35 to \$70 per month.

During these years a total of 74,030 cases of salmon were packed. The cost for Chinese labour averaged 40 cents per case, and for white labour 68 cents.

DAIRYING INDUSTRY IN CANADA.

For some years past the farmers of Canada, have in an increasing degree, devoted attention to the dairying department in connection with their farms. The disposition to improve the grade of the stock and the process of manufacture have resulted in the turning out of a superior product and this fact, together with improved cold storage accommodation and other transportation facilities, and an increased appreciation of Canadian produce in the British markets, have made the production of butter and cheese relatively important among the agricultural activities of the Dominion.

The phenomenal development which has taken place in the export trade in Canadian butter and cheese in the past five years may be seen from the following statement of the amount and value of the exports:

Year.	BUTTER.	
	Quantity.	Value.
	Pounds.	
1896	5,689,241	1,072,689
1897	11,453,351	2,080,173
1898	11,253,787	2,046,686
1899	20,139,185	3,760,573
1900	23,259,737	4,122,156

Year.	CHEESE.	
	Quantity.	Value.
	Pounds.	
1896	164,689,123	13,956,571
1897	164,220,699	14,678,239
1898	196,703,323	17,572,753
1899	189,827,839	16,778,763
1900	185,984,430	19,856,324

The great bulk of our exports of both butter and cheese goes to Great Britain. In fact almost the total export goes to Great Britain. Germany takes a few thousand dollars' worth of butter and no cheese, and a few thousand dollars worth of each go to the United States and some other countries.

Ontario is the centre of the dairy interests at present, there being 1,203 cheese factories in that province in 1899 (latest official report) and 323 butter factories. In 1893 there were 897 cheese and 74 butter factories. In New Brunswick there were 54 cheese factories and 33 butter factories or skimming stations. Nova Scotia had 33 butter and cheese factories. The industry is comparatively new in the maritime provinces, but is now making good headway.

Last year (1900) there were reported to be 32 cheese and 29 butter factories in Manitoba. During the year 1900 the total output amounted to 3,338,431 pounds, valued at \$541,661.04. The total output of cheese was 1,021,248 pounds, valued at \$102,330.05; making the grand total of dairy products for the province, \$643,991.09. The production of butter and cheese in Manitoba during each year since 1895 is set forth in the following table:

Year.	Butter.		Cheese.	
	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.	Pounds.
1895	1,703,252	551,192		
1896	2,215,025	984,900		
1897	3,397,491	978,007		
1898	2,116,614	806,084		
1899	2,357,019	818,587		
1900	3,338,431	1,021,258		

In the Territories there are 20 butter factories and 15 cream separating stations, which are operated by the Dominion government, with a view to encouraging the establishment of a dairying industry in that part of the country. It is expected that these factories will ultimately be taken over and operated by local companies. Two of the creameries in Alberta were continued in operation during the winter of 1898-9, and four of them were continued during the winter of 1900-1. The number of patrons in 1900 was 1,169, as compared with 1,072 in 1899, and 1,051 in 1898.

Lower Prices for Quinine.

In view of the extremely heavy shipments of cinchona bark from Java to Europe during the months of June and July, says the Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter of New York, the lower units of the recent London and Amsterdam bark auctions and the Java quinine sale at Batavia, and the dullness of trade in this market, the lower range of prices established by both American and German manufacturers of quinine caused little or no surprise here, the events above specified having prepared those interested for a decline.

Since November of last year the Java shipments of cinchona bark have not been so heavy as was the case last month, when 620,000 kilograms, or 1,364,000 pounds of bark were sent to Europe. In the table printed below are given the amounts of bark in kilograms shipped from Java each month during the period from January, 1899, to and including July of this year:—

Jan.	1899.		1900.		1901.	
	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.	Kilos.
Jan.	235,000	370,000	370,000	500,000		
Feb.	465,000	329,000	329,000	374,000		
March	488,500	325,000	325,000	357,000		
April	438,500	255,000	255,000	400,000		
May	471,500	408,000	408,000	373,000		
June	548,450	434,000	434,000	524,000		
July	470,000	314,000	314,000	624,000		
August	601,200	488,500				
Sept.	616,000	683,000				
Oct.	479,000	550,000				
Nov.	651,000	745,000				
Dec.	313,000	550,000				

Railway and Traffic Matters.

In connection with the recent changes in C. P. R. officials in Manitoba by which a divisional superintendent will be placed at Brandon it is stated that the company will greatly increase its interests at that point. A superintendent has been placed in charge of the trains running out of that point which means that an operating staff will have to be located there also. The yard and office accommodation will be greatly increased.

The chairman of the projected Vancouver, New Westminster, Northern and Yukon railway, is reported to have said that operations will commence on this railway as soon as rights to enter Vancouver and Westminster have been obtained. An engineer is being sent out at once on preliminary. The road has been financed and all that is being waited for is permission to operate in the cities mentioned. The part of the line from Vancouver on to the Alaskan boundary will wait until the governments are again interviewed.

At a meeting of the directors of the Canadian Pacific Railway company held at Montreal on Monday the usual dividend of two per cent. on the preference stock for the half year ending June 30 last, was declared. A dividend of two and a half per cent. for the same period was also declared on the common stock. The results for the fiscal year to June 30 last were—Gross earnings, \$30,855,203; working expenses, \$18,745,828; net earnings, \$12,109,375; income from other sources \$933,425; total net income, \$13,042,800; less fixed charges, including interest on land bonds, \$7,305,835; less amount applied against ocean steamships, \$150,000. Net revenue available for dividends, \$5,586,965. After payment of all dividends declared the surplus for the year carried forward is \$1,114,458.