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 Canada, daily or weekly. The Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

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THE EXHIBITION.

Public attention has been largely occupied this week in Winnipeg with the Industrial Exhibition. Large numbers of people have been carried into the city by the railway companies from the east, west and south to witness the various features provided at the exhibition grounds and the population of the city has also been largely in evidence on the grounds throughout the week. The weather has been fine, although perhaps a little too warm for comfort, but this helped out the sale of lemonade, ice cream and other refreshments and for once the vendors of these have had more than they could do. The daily attendance returns for the exhibition are not yet complete but they are known to show a very large increase over last year, which in its turn was a record year. On Monday (Children's Day) over 16,000 persons passed through the turnstiles, on Tuesday (Ladies' Day) 20,000 people attended, on Wednesday (Citizen's Day) 30,000, making a total of 66,000 admissions for the first three days. Thursday and Friday are expected to show equally large returns, as on these days the visitors from the United States were here in crowds. Many of these came all the way from St. Paul and Minneapolis.

With regard to the exhibition premises there are many noticeable improvements in the grounds and buildings this year, which is in accordance with the settled policy of the management to improve the permanent investment as rapidly as possible. The grounds are also assuming a better appearance as the trees along the main avenues become larger. The buildings have also been altered in some places to better suit the convenience of crowds.

The number and variety of exhibits has been larger this year than last and a great deal of pains has been taken to obtain original and striking effects. It is, perhaps, hardly fair to particularize in this connection, but we may be excused for saying that The Ogilvie Flour Mills Company, The D. R. Dingwall Company, The Hudson's Bay Company, E. L. Drewry and The Stuart-Arbuthnot Company had exceptionally fine displays in their departments in the main building.

In the dairy, horticultural and poultry departments the exhibits were good and quite representative of these industries. In the horticultural class there is a noticeable increase in the fruit exhibits.

The machinery department of the fair is not what it used to be, largely owing to the withdrawal of the implement people. The thresher and engine companies exhibited this year and also some of the vehicle companies. Their displays were highly creditable and attracted much attention.

It is not too much to say that without its live stock features the Winnipeg industrial would be very much less attractive than it is now. There was certainly a splendid aggregation of horses and cattle this year and a good showing also of sheep and pigs, though the latter two classes of stock do not seem to receive the attention in Manitoba that they deserve. The horses and cattle were all that could be desired both in numbers and quality. All classes suitable for the country were represented, and many superior breeding animals were shown.

Manufactures of Manitoba are not so numerous yet that they make a very large showing at the exhibition, but nevertheless the country is making progress in this direction. Some of the exhibits under this head have already been mentioned. Among the most noticeable of the others was the exhibit of the Union Mining and Cement Company, which is developing important gypsum and cement properties on Lake Manitoba.

Aside from its industrial features the Winnipeg fair is a great season of merry-making and to meet the demands of this nature the management goes to a great deal of trouble and expense. The sporting and attractions programme this year seems to have given satisfaction. It was certainly an elaborate and expensive one. The management was particularly generous in providing music and several goods bands were in attendance each day.

Up-town the exhibition was quite as much an event as at the grounds. All stores and places of business made special preparations for entertaining the crowds from outside points. The wholesale houses received callers every day. The implement dealers all made their displays in their own warerooms and a finer aggregation of farming machinery could not be seen anywhere than was shown by the various companies competing for business in Manitoba.

The railway companies deserve credit for the way in which the people from outside points were assembled in the city and returned to their homes again without accident. There was some complaint that the cars were overcrowded on incoming trains, but this is perhaps inevitable. The housing of the crowds in the city was found to be the most serious problem in connection with the fair, but with the assistance of a great many citizens who threw open their homes this was accomplished fairly well.

WESTERN MANITOBA'S BIG FAIR AT BRANDON.

This fair, managed under the auspices of the Western Agricultural and Arts' Association promises this year to prove the most successful in the history of the association.

One of the factors tending to bring this about, is, of course, the general prosperity existing throughout the province, which means that the public have a few spare dollars which they purpose spending in a well earned holiday. Another factor which materially counts in the continued success of this institution, is the energy displayed by those comprising its board of directors, who are indefatigable in promoting the interests of the fair at all times. This year will show a still further improvement in the fine grounds owned by the association, the numerous trees, shrubs, etc., planted during the past two or three years having grown to a size where they add greatly to the beauty of the place. The exhibits this year will be more numerous than ever and we are informed extra accommodation has to be provided for the stock, the present large building being unable to hold the number being entered.

While a large portion of people attending fairs are deeply interested in the exhibits, there are a greater number who go to be amused, and make a holiday of it in every sense. Keeping this in view the directors have spared no pains or expense to make the amusement feature of the programme an excellent and varied one. Early in the season a deputation was appointed to visit the large American cities and secure attractions which would prove novel and entertaining and this they were successful in doing, having secured some of the best to be seen on the vaudeville stage.

The race track is also being put in the pink of condition so that lovers of horse racing will no doubt have an opportunity of seeing some record time made.

Another pleasing feature of the programme will be the drilling of two hundred cadets, girls and boys, under the command of Capt. Frank Irwin. These young people in their neat and natty uniforms are not only a credit to their instructor, Mr. Irwin, but to Brandon.

Visitors to the fair will have an opportunity of visiting the experimental farm where they will be made welcome by Supt. Bedford, and will also have an opportunity of inspecting the binder twine factory in which so many farmers throughout the country are interested, and see this article going through its various courses of manufacture.

Railway and Traffic Matters.

D. J. McArthur expects to have his contract for grading thirty-five miles of the Yorkton extension of the C. P. R. completed in about a week. He says the past ten days has been most favorable for the work.

The Liverpool Journal of Commerce is authority for the statement that the Canadian government has invited Messrs. Allan, Holt, Jones and other Liverpool ship owners to make tenders for a service of 18 knot passenger steamers between Vancouver, Australia and points on the Pacific, and also for the service of commodious and quick passenger steamers on the Atlantic.

A deputation from Rapid City, Man., was introduced to Wm. Mackenzie at the C. N. R. offices, Winnipeg, on Thursday. The deputation asked that the Beaver extension be continued west from Rapid City. Mr. Mackenzie said that the question of building a line through this district would be looked into, and if found advisable some arrangement would probably be made for constructing it.

Arrangements have been made by the Brandon Exhibition Association that passengers from Regina and stations west having purchased tickets to the Winnipeg exhibition may stop over at Brandon for the Brandon exhibition by depositing their tickets with the C. P. R. agent at Brandon station, on or before July 31st. Tickets will be extended for return leaving Brandon up to August 3rd. Arrangements have also been made with the C. P. R. and the Winnipeg fair manager that total freight charges on exhibits going to Brandon fair will be refunded on exactly the same basis as if goods were reshipped to original point of shipment.

Supt. Brown, of the C. F. R., in the course of an interview on the improvements to the company's tracks between Winnipeg and Fort William, said all the sidings between Fort William and Winnipeg had either been lengthened or paralleled, giving capacity for two full trains. New sidings were being put in at different points where any grades were. Ignace and Fort William yards are being enlarged, and when completed the former could hold six hundred cars, and the latter about thirteen hundred. The new sidings shorten the distance between stopping points, and enables the company to handle trains faster. Improvements were being made on elevators A and B, which would enable them to unload in the neighborhood of 500 cars a day.

The Horse Market.

In regard to the foreign horse trade, the Chicago Drovers' Journal says: There has not been such a stagnation in the English horse market in many years as now depresses the trade. Foreign imports have closed for the nonce, and nearly every foreign operator has recalled his buyers. Joseph Hoar, of London, who visited the Chicago market early in January, predicted an unusually good season for the industry, on account of the increased demand for horses which the coronation ceremonies and festivities would create. The elaborate preparations made by transportation and bus companies for handling immense crowds required extensive purchases of equipments, and the unexpected postponement of the festivities has left jobmasters and transportation companies largely overstocked. The extra horses have earned nothing for their owners, have consumed expensive feed, and through an indifferent and limited demand are much lower than when purchased. The English markets are glutted with horses, for which there is no urgent demand, and which have declined in value fully $25 to $40 from original prices. Many parties who ordered horses for use coronation week find the animals on their hands with no service to perform. Jobmasters and large contractors who purchased largely on the speculative demand, stand to lose heavily in the transaction. Trade will border on stagnation until the large surplus is worked off, and it will take considerable time to recover its normal tone. The strong prices current in our domestic wholesale markets are also militating against any large volume of exports until values are improved in Europe.

Labor Notes.

The Canadian Northern Railway Company took action in the courts this week against four men who were charged with assaulting its section hands at Oakville, Man. One of the men was acquitted and two sent up for trial.

Some of the Canadian Northern Railway Company's employees working on the section near Oakville on the Portage-Winnipeg branch, were assaulted by strikers last week. It is said that stones and other missles were used. Some arrests have been made in connection with this trouble.

The carpenters of Calgary went on strike a short time ago and have now succeeded in making the terms they desired with their employers. An agreement has been signed under the terms of which contracts taken to May 1 last will be finished at the old scale of wages. Upon contracts taken after that date the new scale will apply.

Tenders.

Tenders will be received by Arthur Stewart, Winnipeg, on or before Monday, the 28th July, for all trades in connection with the erection and completion of a brick and stone chapel, and morgue, for the Elmwood Cemetery Company.

Tenders will be received by the undersigned till the 15th day of August, for the excavating and construction of a drain in Ward 4 of the Municipality of Hamiota. The amount of excavating is estimated at 5,000 cubic yards, and about 1,200 feet of drain pipe will be required. L. B. Latimer, clerk, Hamiota, Man.