

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, MARCH 10, 1890.

THE CONVENTION.

The Retailers' Convention, which has been perhaps the most important matter before the trade of Manitoba and the Territories for some time, has come and gone, and it may fairly be claimed that it has been a success. When the proposal of holding a convention of the retail merchants of the country was first mooted, it was recognized that there were many difficulties in the way. However, when THE COMMERCIAL asked for the opinions of merchants as to the advisability of holding such a gathering, the flood of letters which came in from all parts of the country, favoring the proposal, were sufficient to warrant the calling of the convention. The many replies received showed that the merchants really desired that the convention should be called, and the large number who promised to attend, was a guarantee from the start that the attendance would be good. It was evident from the first that the merchants recognize the disadvantages in connection with the system of doing business in this country, and that they are in earnest in desiring a reform. With these assurances, the convention was called with the belief that much good would be accomplished, in spite of the knowledge of the difficulties in the way.

The expectations in regard to attendance have been realized. The attendance was large and representative, almost every commercial community in Manitoba being represented by one or more merchants, while a number from the Territories were also present. Quite a number of those present were sent as delegates duly appointed by the merchants of the town whence they came, and they therefore represented others as well as themselves. Many came doubting that anything practical could be accomplished, but at the same time they were willing to make an effort to accomplish something. Those who came with such a belief, will certainly go away pleased with the result. Others who were more enthusiastic, may be somewhat disappointed that more practical work was not done. When everything is taken into consideration, however, there is every reason to be pleased with the result.

The direct result of the convention is the organization of "The Manitoba and Northwest Retail Association." This in itself is no small matter. The retailers of the country now have a thoroughly organized association, with officers duly elected, and a definite programme in view. An association is now in existence which has for its object the improvement of the position and condition of retail trade in this country. Yesterday the retailers of this country were a divided people, without any means through which they could make their desires known. Now they have a mouth piece through which they can speak officially and authoritatively. They came together, strangers to each other, without any definite programme, and with vague ideas of the course which might be pursued. They were all at sea as to what might be undertaken at the convention; beyond the

belief that certain subjects were to be talked over. They depart with the knowledge that they have now an association to look after their interests, and that they belong to this organization. The merchants of the country are not now strangers to each other, every man on his own account, but members of an association working together for the common good.

The formation of the Manitoba and Northwest Retail Association should mark a new era in the history of the country. If the objects sought are now faithfully followed up, the association will certainly be the means of doing great good. As Mr. Ross, of Rapid City, remarked at the convention, now is the time to lay the foundation right. While the country is young and the number of business men few, is the time to establish business on a proper basis. It will be much easier to place business on a proper basis now than years hence, when the number of traders has greatly increased. Every year that passes by will render it a more difficult matter to correct the greivous evils which have crept into our system of doing business.

The new association has a work before it, a start upon which has now been fairly made. Though a good deal has been accomplished as a result of the convention, yet it may be said that the preliminaries have only been arranged and the work only fairly commenced. This indeed is all that could be expected, considering that the merchants came together without any definite programme and without any organization. A great deal of time must of necessity have been consumed at the start in getting things in running order. Now this work is all done. When another convention is decided upon, this preliminary work will not have to be done over again. The members will be able to come together with a definite programme in view, and in fact they will be able to start where they have this time left off.

In addition to the more apparent results accomplished by the convention, those present will receive much benefit personally from the discussions upon the various matters brought up. The thinking man could not fail to learn much that would assist him in his business. Ideas are developed by these discussions, and those who take a part in them will be generally brightened up. From this point of view alone the convention has done much good, and the meetings of the association in the future will do good in the same direction. The live business man on this consideration cannot afford to miss future meetings of the association. The acquaintanceship worked up among merchants should also be of benefit to them. It will induce a feeling of sympathy, through the knowledge that they are working together for the common good. This feeling should assist in eradicating to some extent the little petty jealousies among merchants, which is often the cause of injury to the trade of an entire community. The matters discussed at the convention are dealt with elsewhere in this issue, and for the present further comment will be withheld. In conclusion we may only say that the ball has now been set rolling, and that there is every reason to hope and believe that the reforms so necessary to place the retail trade of the country upon a proper basis, will in due time be carried out.

THE NEW EXTRADITION TREATY.

The extradition treaty between Great Britain, Canada and the United States, has been amended by the Senate of the latter country, by striking out the clause relating to obtaining money or goods under false pretences. This offence will not therefore be extraditable. The senate has also amended the clause relating to manslaughter, by defining what is meant by the clause. The changes made by the senate must be accepted by Great Britain before the treaty is formally ratified. There is little doubt, however, but that this will be speedily done. The additional offences which will be extraditable in the event of the ratification of the amendments by the British government will be as follows:

1. Manslaughter (under the definition adopted by the senate).
2. Counterfeiting or altering money; uttering or bringing into circulation counterfeit or altered money.
3. Embezzlement, larceny; receiving any money, valuable security or other property, knowing the same to have been embezzled or stolen.
4. Fraud by a bailey, banker, agent, factor, trustee, or director or member or officer of any company made criminal by the laws of both countries.
5. Perjury, or subornation of perjury.
6. Rape, abduction, child stealing, kidnapping.
7. Burglary, housebreaking or shopbreaking.
8. Piracy, by the laws of nations.
9. Revolt, or conspiracy to revolt, by two or more persons on board a ship on the high seas, against the authority of the master; wrongfully sinking or destroying a vessel at sea, or attempting to do so; assaults on board of a ship on the high seas with intent to do grievous bodily harm.
10. Crimes and offences against the laws of both countries for the suppression of slavery and slave trading.

Offences extraditable under the present existing treaty are: murder, assault with intent to murder, piracy, arson, robbery, forgery and the utterance of forged paper. These with the additions likely soon to be made by the treaty now pending, make a pretty full list. The Jay treaty of 1794, which was the first treaty between the United States and Great Britain in which extradition was provided for, made provision only for the surrender of persons charged with murder or forgery. The next treaty, that of 1842, extended the list to seven, enumerated above, and the new treaty likely to be ratified extends the list to sixteen. The next step in advance should be to hand over all persons accused of crime, without regard to the nature of the offence.

The right of way agents of the Northern Pacific & Manitoba will start out shortly to secure the right-of-way for the branch which will be built to the Souris coal fields.

The second large party of colonists left the Union station, Toronto, by the Canadian Pacific railway, on March 4, for the west. There were 132 persons and 23 cars of stock. The trains were run in two sections.