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 Province of Manitoba and the Territories.

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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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New C. P. R. Rolling Stock.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company is making immense preparations for the heavy passenger and freight traffic anticipated next fall, and although their shops at Montreal, Perth and Farnham are working night and day, it has been found necessary to place orders with other firms. The number of freight cars will be increased to 25,000, and this will require the building of 2,650 new cars. Of this number 2,500 will be of 40-ton capacity. There will be 300 coal cars built for the west, and 50 new vans. These will be followed by 50 ore cars. To meet the demands of the passenger traffic 40 new first class coaches, finished in mahogany, two magnificent parlor cars, seventy feet long, and built upon a magnificent scale, two diners, twelve sleepers and seventeen express cars are built or are in course of construction.

The diners are seventy feet long, and of great weight. The outside is finished in mahogany, while on the interior special efforts have been made. The dark African mahogany, green carpets, draperies, tables and ceilings unite to give a quiet and luxurious effect. In the sleepers the slumbers of their passengers will be subject to no jarring, as these cars are long and heavy. One cannot fail to be impressed by the beauty of the finish of these cars, the delicacy of their colors, the grace of their outlines, and the care taken to make the passengers' stay a delight; they can be styled as palatial. At both ends, where are the ladies' toilets and the private stateroom and the men's toilet and smoker, respectively, the cunning hand of the builder is manifest, for here are all conveniences in an incredibly small space. The floor is carpeted with green Brussels, while the ceiling, which is finished in green tints, stained glass deck lights give a fine effect. These are all 14 section cars. The seat ends are solid, with heavy brass feet. The windows are plate, and double Acme lamps are used at night. In the smoker are sofas and wicker chairs, finished in plush. The state-room, which has a capacity for five people, is a beautiful little apartment, entirely separate in every respect from the rest of the car.

The company's motive power is also being largely increased, and no fewer than 86 locomotives will shortly be added to the equipment. Of these 68 are freights, 15 passenger and three switch engines.

Canadian Pacific Earnings.

Montreal Gazette: The Canadian Pacific Railway's net earnings for the month of May indicate that the increase in the profit-producing capacity of the system is being kept up, as they are over 15 per cent. greater than in May, 1901. For the eleven months the increase in earning power is even more marked, being over 22 per cent. compared with the corresponding eleven months in 1901. If the volume of traffic is maintained during June, and there is every reason to expect that it will, if it is not sensibly increased, the company during its present fiscal year ending June 30th, will have earned almost 18 per cent. on its increased capital of $85,000,000. The figures in detail are:—

Canadian Pacific Railway Company's statement of earnings and expenses:—

	May, 1902.	July 1 to May 31, 1902.
Gross earnings...	$3,227,083.33	$34,323,082.68
Working expenses	2,070,189.95	21,083,907.61
Net profits...	$1,166,892.38	$13,239,175.07

In May, 1901, the net profits were $1,010,284.42, and from July 1st to May 31st, 1901, there was a net profit of $10,987,843.10. The gain in net profits over the same period last year is, therefore, for May, $156,607.96; and from July 1st to May 31st, $2,251,231.-97.

Weather and Crops in Northern Alberta.

The weather has changed for the better, and it is to be hoped that the change will be permanent. Since the heavy rains of May, which reached a climax in the downpour of the 30th, the weather has been cool, cloudy and showery. The rains were not heavy, but they were frequent. They did not make conditions, as to roads and crops, worse than they were before, but they prevented them from improving. On Thursday afternoon, however, there was a change for the better. The whole condition of the atmosphere seemed to be reversed in a few hours. The early part of the day had been raw, cloudy and showery, but in the afternoon the sky cleared, the wind blew softly from the south, and the country at once took on a different look. The promise of Thursday has been continued to the present, and prospects are now as bright as they were before discouraging. During the long continued wet there was a tendency to panic on the part of the weak-hearted ones. Now that the change has come and it is possible to look over the situation, it is found that nothing is very much the worse. Although grain has not grown much during the past three weeks, it had a good start, and the danger of injury by great heat suddenly followed excessive rain has been averted by the coolness of the past two weeks. The land dried sufficiently during that time so that heat coming now will not injure the grain except on wet or very low lying land. Wherever the crop has been covered by water no doubt it is injured if not destroyed. But the proportion in that condition is very small. Although the district is not hilly, it is sufficiently undulating to protect the bulk of the crop against being covered with water. The principal damage done has been in the case of weak seed, the weak plants from which could not stand the unfavorable conditions. This has made some of the crop thin, and should be one more strong reminder not to sow any but perfect seed. No doubt under favorable conditions there is little difference between sound and partially unsound seed, but the difference is very great when growing conditions are unfavorable. Wheat has stood better than oats, and oats better than early sown barley. Late sown barley will be all right, and the acreage of barley is larger than usual. Any ground which was unsown when the heavy rains set in have been put in barley. Potatoes have suffered more than grain. Those planted early in low ground have frequently rotted. It is said on good authority that potatoes planted whole are much safer in either a wet or a dry season than those which have been cut for planting. It is not too late to plant potatoes yet, and where the seed has missed this should be done.

Roads are drying up but the mud holes remain and the creeks are still high. The ground which was dry for years has become completely soaked, and the sloughs and creeks need not be looked for to dry up as in former years even with the continuance of fine weather. Improvements will be needed that were not thought of in former years. But after all the rain, although not all good, has done more good than harm. The country has become very dry. So dry that surface water was becoming scarce, and the luxuriance of vegetation, for which the district is noted, was becoming less marked. The renewal of moisture ensures a continuance of luxuriant growth, even during dry seasons, which to the stranger arriving in those seasons seems unaccountable.—Edmonton Bulletin.

Interesting Legal Decision.

A case of some interest to piano dealers was recently tried before Judge Prudhomme and he has now given judgment. In the month of January last Louis St. Laurent, of St. Boniface, bought from the Mason & Risch Piano company a piano on the instalment plan; it was a second-hand instrument and the price agreed on was $350, which St. Lauren was to pay at the rate of $25 every three months. He paid $10 in cash and arranged to pay $15 the following month, February. A few days after the piano was supplied the Mason & Risch company were surprised by the piano being returned to their shop. It was subsequently discovered that St. Lauren had in the meantime bought a Williams piano. The defendant did not carry out his agreement the Mason & Risch company sued him for the balance of the unpaid purchase money under the agreement. St. Lauren contended that he had a right to rescind the contract because, he claimed, the piano he had bought had been used for a longer period than that represented to him by the Mason & Risch company; the plaintiffs showed at the trial that the piano was a $400 piano and that $50 had been thrown off because it was not perfectly new; they denied the statements made by St. Lauren that there had been misrepresentation as to the length of time the piano had been in use. Judge Prudhomme gave judgment in favor of the Mason & Risch company, and held that St. Lauren must carry out the agreement he had made; he therefore gave judgment for plaintiffs for $340 and interest.

Furniture Men Raise Prices.

The cost of furniture has advanced from 10 per cent. upwards, and this is another indication that the cost of living is increasing daily; in fact, the increased cost of living is placed as one of the causes for the advance in the price of furniture. The manufacturers and dealers in furniture and staple house furnishings have notified their customers of their intention to raise prices and have issued new lists to the trade cancelling all previous catalogues. One of the circulars opens by remarking: "You will notice that prices have been raised so as to allow a living profit to the manufacturer." Further it states:

"Furniture has been much too low in price for some time, hence the manufacturer has been either out of pocket or has made no headway. Lumber and all other raw materials used in the manufacture of our goods have gone up 20 to 25 per cent., and wages have also advanced considerably, so that we had either to continue running at a loss, or raise prices. We chose the latter, and you will admit, the wiser course."

There is but little hope held out to the consumer as the following paragraph shows:

"We might say that we consider a further raise might still be necessary as the prices in enclosed list are yet very low as compared with cost. We will, however, try to run along for the rest of the year, and if conditions change for the better, which, to be honest, we hardly expect, it may not be necessary to make any further increase."—Montreal Gazette.

Winnipeg City Council.

At the Winnipeg city council meeting on Monday evening, a number of matters of importance to the business community were discussed. A number of new sidewalks, pavements and boulevards were recommended for construction. The matter of a new street railway line to the exhibition grounds was discussed, and the proposal to construct it with Dufferin avenue endorsed. A committee to devise a more equitable scheme of taxation for corner lots was appointed. The matter of appropriating $15,000 for purchasing a site for the Carnegie library was brought up, but nothing was done with it. A motion to provide that the collector be instructed to collect all arrears of business taxes, unpaid on July 10, 1902, by distress, where there are distrainable goods on the premises, carried; also one to provide that all lands on which certain taxes are and have been due and unpaid for more than one year of Dec. 31 of the year in which the rate was struck, be listed, and such lists to be authenticated by the mayor in the manner prescribed by section 392 of the Winnipeg charter, and that the treasurer shall proceed to advertise and sell the lands included in such lists.

A New Food For Cattle.

It is understood that plans that were first taken into consideration about a year ago have been developed in the last few months to the point where some of the great packing establishments in Chicago have begun experiments on what may prove a revolution of the cattle industry of the country. The project involves the settlement of several hundred thousand acres of what is at present nearly valueless land in northern and northwestern Florida and southern Alabama, the cultivation on a large scale of the cassava root and its use in feeding cattle and hogs. If the plan develops, as it is now in the minds of the leading packers, the southern States will become a great cattle-raising centre. It is stated that arrangements are now being made for the accommodation of a considerable number of cattle to be shipped from the stock yards in Chicago to northern Florida to be fed on cassava root. The results of the fattening process will be compared with similar work in the west, regarding which the conditions and the cost are already definitely known. The result obtained will determine the future of the cassava experiment.—Bradstreet's.

The Twine Market.

The withdrawal of prices by several large concerns and an advance of ½ cent by those still selling are the features of the twine market for the week. The advance took effect Tuesday and is believed to have been universal among the houses that still have twine to sell. The withdrawal from the market of a number of leading sellers was prompted by the realization that their respective capacities were practically sold up. In some cases unsold stocks are so small that the houses are assured of selling them on second orders to their regular trade and in dropping out of competition for new business they have in view the protection of their agents in the event of a shortage. These houses have not advanced their prices as yet and will probably continue for a short time billing at the last rate orders received from dealers holding contracts with them. They have no more twine on which to solicit new contracts and may later put up their prices on second orders. That is a matter still to be determined.

The advance, like the last, is based upon the prospect of an extremely close run between supply and demand, if not an actual shortage. Our reports from various important trade centers indicate a scarcity of twine. It appears that all urgent orders have been filled thus far, but stocks at some of the leading jobbing points are exhausted and sellers are depending upon shipments arriving from day to day, all twine received being immediately reshipped.

The demand for winter wheat will be supplied. For oats, because of unequal distribution, it may not be met in some sections. It will depend largely upon the date of harvest. Considerable twine will be manufactured within the next few weeks. Spring wheat will be late, giving an opportunity to increase the supply for that crop. The most conservative of manufacturers still hold to the belief that on the whole the supply will be sufficient, while others feel that a shortage is already assured. Much depends upon the time still allowed manufacturers to produce supplies.

The new scale of prices, manila quotations being practically nominal, is as follows, central delivery:

Sisal	12½
Standard	12½
Manila (500-foot)	13¾
Manila (600-foot)	15
Pure manila	16½

Car lots ¼ cent less. Five ton lots ⅛ cent less. Fall terms.—Chicago Farm Implement News.

Bridget and Pat were sitting in an arm chair reading an article on "The Law of Compensation." "Just fancy," exclaimed Bridget; "accordin' to this, when a man loses wan av 'is sinses another gets more developed. For instance, a bloind man gits more sinse av hearin' an touch, an——" "Shure, an' it's quite thrue,' answered Pat. "Ol've noticed it meself. Whin a man has wan leg shorter than the other, begorra the other's longer."—Philadelphia Times.