

The Commercial

A Journal of Commerce, Industry and Finance, especially devoted to the interests of Western Canada, including that portion west of Lake Superior, the provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Territories.

FIFTEENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION.
ISSUED EVERY MONDAY.

Subscription, \$2.00 PER ANNUM in advance.)

ADVERTISING RATES MADE KNOWN ON APPLICATION.

Fine Book and Job Printing Departments.
Office, 186 James St. East.

JAMES E. STEEN,
Publisher.

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 desks of a great majority of business men in the vast district described above, and including Northwest 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, FEBRUARY 1, 1897.

Manitoba.

The annual meeting of the Winnipeg board of trade will be held on Tuesday, February 2, at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

J. R. Haney has purchased the plant of the Virden Banner.

The machinery for the Merner & Senkboil felt factory which will be started at Brandon, has been shipped from Germany and the firm expect to have the factory ready during March.

It has been decided to discontinue the publication of the Manitoba organ of the order of Patrons of Industry—Patrons' Sentinel—because of the insufficient support accorded the paper.

One night recently thieves entered the general store of Ed. Guilbault, St. Boniface, and made off with a large collection of all sorts of articles. Two young men by the name of Simpson were arrested charged with the robbery. The greater part of the stolen goods were found in the possession of the prisoners.

The business men of Dauphin have decided on forming a board of trade, and at the initial meeting Messrs. McIntosh, Barker and Rintoul were appointed a committee to communicate with the Winnipeg board as to constitution, by-laws, etc.

F. W. Heubach, manager of the Industrial exhibition, has received word that the Canadian Pacific Railway company will accord the same liberal terms as was given last year for the conveyance of passengers and exhibits to and from the exhibition. This practically assures the success of the exhibition for 1897.

The Board of Trade banquet at the Hotel Manitoba, Winnipeg, on Tuesday evening promises to be a very successful affair. The sale of tickets indicates a large attendance. The annual meeting of the board will be held on Tuesday afternoon of the same day.

R. J. Whitla & Co., Winnipeg, have subscribed \$250 to the Manitoba fund for the relief of the India famine sufferers.

The Rathbun Co., Winnipeg, are moving to the Gurney building on Rupert street.

M. W. Rublee, wholesale fruits, Winnipeg, has returned from a trip to Washington state, where he has been in the interest of the fruit trade.

Alberta.

The following, showing the highest and lowest temperature at Macleod for the week ended January 22, will give an idea of the weather in the range country:

	Max.	Min.
Jan., 16	88	25
" 17	88	17
" 18	45	81
" 19	44	30
" 20	45	17
" 21	46	22
" 22	23	0

A Calgary report says: "The removal of the cattle quarantine in Alberta is looked upon with almost unanimous disfavor by the cattlemen. They fear an inrush of United States grazers, also the loss of the Kootenay markets, which the adjacent United States territory will supply. The Calgary board of trade is preparing a memorial for the government on the subject."

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, January 26,

There are fourteen ships in Vancouver loading lumber. The largest lumber fleet since the old days when Vancouver was known to the world alone as a lumber port. Lumbermen claim that the margin in the lumber trade is small, but they cannot complain of the size and extent of the trade, and the city in the meantime reaps great financial benefit from the number of traders in port. The wholesale business is reported rather slow and collections difficult, but this only a lull before the spring activity. Crops are not so numerous during this season of the year and wholesalers feel the consequent effects.

Flour and feed are firm but no change is reported in the market.

Hay and oats are not being bought freely at present prices. Dealers are playing a waiting game. In fact a great deal depends on the weather which has continued mild for months, some day being warm and sunny, many flowers are in bloom and trees are budding. Should a cold snap come it would be disastrous to fruit trees. In the meantime fair weather has increased the quantity of eggs in the market, and local eggs are retailing at 80 and 85 cents.

California and Japanese oranges have declined, and there are certainly too many apples on the market, and a warning at least will prevent any more being dumped on the B. C. market. They are now being retailed at \$3.50 a barrel, and will be sold much lower later on as many barrels are decaying in the cellars.

British Columbia Mining News.

The stock market is very quiet in Vancouver. Those with money enough to venture in stock speculations in the Sea board cities are now looking for ground floor interests, as a quicker road to wealth. In the meantime the really good stock of proved mines are being taken up very quickly, the greater favorites being free milling propositions. The popular stocks on the market now are the Athabasca and the Orphan Boy, the Golden Cache stock is simply taken off the market and cannot be secured for money; it has gradually dawned on the people that the Golden Eagle is a proved mine of immense value, and the stock has drifted into the hands of investors who have it now to hold for dividend purposes. Rich strikes are being constantly made and the mine is now one of the richest in the province.

The Athabasca a free milling proposition of Nelson mentioned before in these columns, is also having its innings. Since this very

valuable property became partially the property of the British Canadian Gold Fields Company of Toronto, the stock jumped to an indefinite price a few shares were sold for 20 and 25, then they could not be purchased at all although held by almost every adult male in Westminster. The Orphan Boy, another free milling proposition in the Big Bend Country is having a similar experience. This week 120,000 shares were sold to a San Francisco syndicate, at a good figure and now it is difficult to secure the stock unless a big price is paid for it. J. W. Haskins is at present in San Francisco buying a mill to erect on the property. Ten assays from the mine run from a few dollars to \$180 in gold to the ton, and there are 1,000 tons of ore on the dump.

Dairy Trade Notes.

The Montreal Gazette says: "The cheese market is almost bare of stock, and for this reason it would certainly take 1 1/2c to do any business today. Practically all the stock remaining, a few thousand boxes at the outside, is the property of one firm. They are all white goods, and the owners are firm holders at the price above mentioned. Colored goods also seem to be impossible to obtain. One shipper this morning claimed to have orders that would allow him to bid 1 1/2c, but he could not get the goods."

A Montreal report says: The winter-made creamery offering is the reverse of satisfactory for export purposes, the advance of the season developing little improvement. It is all right for immediate consumption in a local way, but exporters hesitate about shipping it.

Hides, Wool, Etc.

Calfskins have advanced 1c at Montreal to 7c for No. 1 and 5c for No. 2. Hides steady at 7c for No. 1 and 6c for No. 2.

Cured hides at Toronto last week were 1/2c lower, in sympathy with a similar decline at Chicago.

G. P. R. Earnings.

The Canadian Pacific earnings for December, 1896, were: Gross earnings, \$1,925,870; working expenses, \$1,001,438; net profits were \$924,432. In December, 1895, the net profits were \$874,465, and for twelve months ending December 31st, 1896, the figures are as follows: Gross earnings, \$20,681,597; working expenses, \$12,574,015; net profits, \$8,107,502. For twelve months ending December 31st, 1895, there was a net profit of \$7,480,951. The increase in net profits over the same period of last year is therefore for December, \$19,967, and from January 1st to December 31st there was an increase of \$626,631.

On January 28 the weather was reported very severe throughout the New England states, with heavy snow and railway traffic deranged.

It is understood that the Dominion tariff commission will visit Manitoba early in February, before the 10th of the month, and hold a session in Winnipeg.

Exports from Canada for the past six months show an increase of \$7,681,660; imports increased a million dollars. The mines, forests and agricultural products are largely responsible for the increased exports.

A telegram from Ottawa on Jan. 27 says: Mr. Davies, minister of marine and fisheries, to-day made a selection of a vessel for service in the Hudson Bay expedition, telegraphing the acceptance of a contract with Job Bros., St. John, Nfld. Dr. Wakeham will be placed in command.