

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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Changes for advertisements or stoppage hereof, in not later than Thursday morning. Advertisements purporting to be news matter, or which profess to express the opinions of this journal, will not be inserted.

The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much larger circulation among the business community of the vast region west of 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 mercantile houses of Eastern Canada.

Office: Merchants Bank Bldg. Tel. 234

D. W. BUCHANAN,
Publisher.

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New Quarters.

The business office and editorial offices of the Commercial have been moved to the new Merchants' Bank building, Main street.

To Advertisers.

Thursday next being Christmas, there will be no work done on The Commercial that day, and advertisers are requested to send in copy for advertisements and changes thereof one day earlier than usual in order to ensure proper attention. Wednesday noon is the latest hour at which changes for standing advertisements may be made with certainty.

OUR LEAD INDUSTRY.

The impression seems to be gaining ground that the Dominion government will make some move at the next session of parliament to place our lead industry in a more satisfactory position. The government has been repeatedly urged to do something for this industry, particularly by those interested in mining in the Kootenay country. There is a large quantity of lead ore available in the Kootenay, but there is no incentive to refine the lead here on account of the facilities for importing low priced leads from abroad. Since the Canadian Pacific Railroad began operating the smelter at Trail, British Columbia, that company has been giving more attention to the production of lead. A plant for the production of lead by the electric stamping process has been installed. This plant has been found to work very successful, and it is proposed to largely increase the works, providing the home market can be secured for the product. The promoters of the lead industry claim that it will be necessary to increase the duty if anything is to be accomplished in building up a Canadian industry in the production of lead. The duty on lead coming into Canada is 45 per cent, compared with the United States duty of 4 1/2 per cent. It is thought that the home manufacture of white lead, from Canadian lead, would become an important matter if the home lead industry were once established on a good basis.

MANUAL TRAINING.

Manual training schools have been established in several Canadian cities, as a result of private efforts. Winnipeg was one of the points selected for the establishment of these schools. The plan adopted was to provide funds for carrying on the schools for a limited period of time, in the hope that at the end of that time a public effort would be made to continue the schools. About the end of June next the schools will be discontinued unless in the meantime some other plan is arranged to continue the work. The Winnipeg school board has already taken up the matter here, with a view to continuing the work after June, when the private fund will not longer be available. It has been demonstrated by the results attained in Germany and elsewhere that manual training can be made a very important and useful part of the public school system. Manual training is a very practical way of imparting knowledge. All knowledge is not centered in intellectual instruction. The knowledge gained in the manual training school will prove as useful to many persons as the intellectual training of the regular schools. It is to be hoped that the manual training schools will not be allowed to lapse in any of the cities of Can-

ada and religious training of the young people. It is not intended that the school shall interfere or compete in any way with the public schools. The hours for study have been arranged so as not to interfere with the public schools. In addition to the religious instructions, a study will also be made of the Hebrew language and literature.

The Jewish people are nothing if not practical and businesslike in their methods. Instead of sitting down and complaining because they cannot have religious instructions to meet their views taught in the public schools, they have grappled with the matter in what would appear to be the best and most practical fashion. Their plan would appear to be well worthy of imitation by other denominations. We have complaints coming from various sources in our own country because religious instructions are not given in the public schools to meet the views of the complainants. Several of the leading denominations, in point of numbers, may be included in this category. This question of religious teaching in the schools has been one of almost continuous and at times fierce agitation and contention, in one form or another, throughout nearly all parts of our country. Nor has Canada been an exception to the rule in this

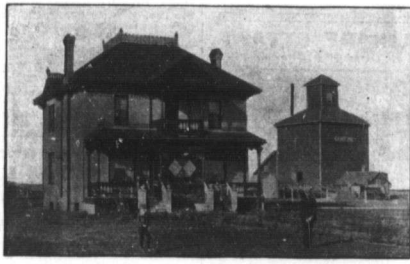
concern in the nature of its administration. Teaching by persons who were not competent to give the instruction in full conformity with these precepts, would not have the effect desired upon the children, and in many cases would be taken lightly as merely a part of the routine of school work. In fact, religious exercise in the schools is too apt to be considered merely a matter of form or routine, and not to be taken seriously. The effect of this feeling is rather detrimental than otherwise to the children. The public school is not the place to look for earnest and sincere efforts in the direction of imparting religious instruction. In the towns and cities, at any rate, it should be possible for the religious bodies to attend to the religious training of the young. Efforts to shove the work upon the secular schools, looks like an attempt of the religious organizations to abridge the duties which should reasonably devolve upon them. Let the churches study the example of the Jewish people of Winnipeg. If more religious instruction is necessary, let the churches undertake the work. Most of the denominations have buildings wherein such instructions can be given, so that they would not be at any expense in this direction. The labor of devoting an hour to such teaching two or three times a week, would not be very great, and competent teachers could be secured, who would impart the instruction in a more earnest and forceful manner than could be expected from any such teaching in the secular schools.

BANK OF OTTAWA.

The annual statement of the Bank of Ottawa, presented at the recent annual meeting of this institution, shows that the bank has enjoyed a year of prosperity. The business of the bank has grown to such an extent that it has again been found advisable to increase the available capital. The directors have been authorized to make an issue of stock to the amount of \$1,000,000. Of this sum \$500,000 will probably be allotted as soon as the consent of the government is obtained. In the year 1897 the capital of the bank was increased to \$2,000,000. That a further issue of stock is now found necessary indicates the extending business of the bank. The bank made a net profit of \$298,504.59 upon the business of the year, which enabled the management, after paying \$180,000 in dividends upon a capital of \$2,000,000, to carry \$100,000 to their next account, which now amounts to \$1,865,000. During the year branches have been established at Emerson, in Manitoba, Prince Albert, in Saskatchewan, and at North Bay and Maxville, in Ontario. Thus two out of the four new branches, it will be seen, are in the west. The growth of the reserve of this bank is one of the favorable features of its financial position. The reserve in the past ten years has grown from \$707,540 in 1892 to \$1,865,000 in 1902. This is certainly a very good record.

A report from the Peace River country says the catch of foxes and mink is good, and that of marten fairly good.

Canada's foreign trade for the five months ending November shows a very substantial increase over the same period last year. The aggregate trade for the five months was \$198,021,087, as against \$189,842,135, an increase of \$8,178,952. The increase was excluded from the returns, the increase in the aggregate trade for the five months of the year 1902 over 1901. The imports show an increase of nearly five millions, and the exports of over three millions.



Manitoba Farm Homes—Residence of T. E. M. Banting, Treesbank.

ada. The work has been maintained for three years in twenty cities in the Dominion. At several of these places, besides Winnipeg, the decision has already been arrived at to continue the work, after the end of June next. Every effort in the direction of making the education of the young more practical should receive every encouragement. We have been doing a good deal of boasting in Canada about the soundness of our system of education, but we are beginning to find out that we are not as far in advance as we thought we were. In fact, in some respects we are decidedly behind several other countries, and this particularly in the line of practical education. The gentlemen who have interested themselves in the introduction of manual training have done the country a great service, which it will be well for us to keep in mind.

RELIGIOUS TRAINING.

The Jewish people of Winnipeg have recently inaugurated a movement to secure religious instruction for their children which is worthy of special attention from those who are clamoring for religious instruction in the public schools. The adherents of one of the Jewish congregations in the city have erected a substantial building which will be used as a school for the moral

respect. The same trouble and turmoil over religious teaching in the schools has been, or is still being felt in many civilized countries.

The most reasonable solution of the question, we believe, is the plan adopted by the Jewish people of Winnipeg. This plan would appear to particularly commend itself in a mixed community like Canada. If all the people thought alike in matters of religion, it might perhaps be advisable to give religious instruction in the public schools, though even under such exceptional condition as this, it is questionable if the schools would be the best place for such instructions to be given. But when it comes to such a mixed up community as we have here, religious instruction in the schools seems practically out of the question.

By all means the best place for the religious and moral training of the child is the home. No amount of religious instruction in the schools could make up for neglect of training in the home. Next to the home, denominational work in the Sunday school, church, etc., should be productive of good results. The public school is not an effective place for such instruction, for one particularly forcible reason, namely: that many of the teachers are not competent or suitable persons to give such instruction. Religious teaching should be impressive, earnest and sin-