

The Commercial

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

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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 east 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, SEPTEMBER 2, 1895.

Manitoba.

S. T. Hopper, of Rapid City, is opening a stock of goods at Pettapiece on the Northwest Central railway. W. K. Wolstenholm will be in charge.

Metcalf & Burton, general merchants, High Bluff, have dissolved partnership, Wm. Burton having sold his interest in the business to L. R. Metcalf, his partner.

G. F. Pearson, butcher, of West Solkirk, was instantly killed at that town on Monday by being thrown from a horse.

R. D. Patterson's planing mill, Winnipeg, was damaged about \$500 by fire on Saturday evening. Covered by insurance.

Geo. McKay's carriage shop at Morden was burned on Aug. 21. No insurance. Very little stock saved. The buildings belonged to J. B. McLaren and Archibald & Howell.

A fire occurred at Rapid City on Aug. 27 in Neil McKelvie's store. It was discovered before it had made much headway, and put out. Considerable damage was done to the building and stock.

The partnership existing between Thomas Dado and John McDonald, proprietors of the Globe hotel on Princess street, has been dissolved. Mr. Dado has purchased the entire interests of his partner.

Geo. H. Ham, a well known ex-Winnipeg newspaper man, is on a visit to the West. Mr. Ham is representing several English and Canadian newspapers. He will make an extended trip through the country, as far as the Pacific coast, with a view to securing information about the country. Some interesting articles may be looked for from the journals which he represents.

"The Assets and Trusts Corporation" is applying for a charter under the Manitoba's Joint Stock Company's Act. The objects for which incorporation is sought are: To deal in property, real and personal, lend and invest money, issue annuities, and wind up estates, etc. The chief place of business of the company will be Winnipeg and the incorporators are: J. H. Brock, R. T. Riley, R. W. Jameson, Hugh John Macdonald, J. S. Aikins and A. V. McCleneghan, all of Winnipeg, who are to be the first directors of the company. The amount of capital stock is \$100,000, divided into 2,000 shares of \$50 each.

Assiniboia.

W. G. Knight, brewer, Regina, is dead. Hallett & Hallett, general merchants, Salt-coats, have dissolved partnership. Wm. H. Hallett continues the business.

W. G. Knight, for many years post master and dealer in patent medicines at Swift Current, dropped dead from heart disease while sorting the mail on Aug. 27.

Walter Scott, partner of J. K. McInnis of the Regina Standard, has purchased in conjunction with some others the Regina Leader, Mr. Davin's paper, and assumes control on Sept. 1st.

Northwest Ontario.

R. Matthew, fruits, Rat Portage, has assigned.

E. J. Rochon, of the Algoma hotel, Fort William, has rented the Fort William hotel of the same place.

S. Willey arrived at Port Arthur recently from the Lake Harold gold mine with the first gold brick ever produced in the Port Arthur district. It weighed forty-seven and one-half ounces, and is valued at \$9,000. This is the product of about 70 tons of ore run through a five stamp Fraser & Chalmers mill, in 117 hours, or less than five mill days. The concentrate which have to be smelted are valued at about the same amount.

The steamer Alberta, now running between Windsor and Fort William, will make her last trip on August 31, and for the balance of the season she will no doubt be kept busy on the line between Fort William and Owen Sound, as the heavy fall traffic season is now setting in. The Canadian Pacific railway officials are well satisfied with the patronage received by the steamer.

Practical Education.

Perhaps the greatest need of the age is practical education. It is becoming generally recognized that the education imparted to the rising generation in our public schools is not just what it should be. Our educationists, in aiming at higher education, have got away from what should be the true aim of the public schools; namely, to prepare the young for the practical duties of life. The idea followed seems to be to advance the scholars as fast as possible in book learning and theoretical knowledge, and to turn them out as graduates holding third, second or first-class certificates, as the case may be. Thus we have it that many young men who hold such certificates, are utterly at a loss to know what to do to earn a livelihood. Every day we meet young women, graduates of seminaries, academies and public schools, who are said to be thoroughly accomplished, but who are as helpless as the babes in the wood, if it came to turning their education to practical account in earning a livelihood.

In previous articles upon this subject, The Commercial has held that it is the duty of the state to seek to impart a good common or primary education to the rising generation, making this education of as practical a nature as possible, rather than to seek to carry the student to the higher plane of learning. It is more important that the masses should receive a practical, primary education, rather than that the few should be led into the field of higher education at the state expense. Now that this view of the question of education is becoming more generally recognized, there is hope that in the future the trend will be in the direction of making the education imparted in the public schools take on a more practical aspect. To fit the young for the active duties of life, should be the real object sought in the public schools, rather than to advance the scholars in theoretical learning. Of course the subjects taught in the primary divisions of the public schools are good and necessary, but it

should be possible to make the education of the the young more practical all the way through.

To meet the requirements of practical education, neglected by the public schools, a class of private schools have been established, known as business or commercial colleges. The influence which these commercial schools have wielded of late years has been very great. Every town and city of any importance now has its business college or colleges and schools. The patronage of these schools has rapidly increased of late years, and their influence is now recognized as it never was before. This is a practical age, and so far as business is concerned, the education imparted in these commercial colleges is exactly what is wanted to meet the requirements of the age. A young man may study the theory of book-keeping and kindred subjects in the ordinary way, but when he is placed in the office or counting-house, he is at a perfect loss to know what to do. All his book-learning is of no avail to him. A few months in a practical business college would have made him as confident of his position as if he had been at the desk for years.

Winnipeg, like most other cities, has its business college. The institution has been established here for years, and is now being very successfully carried on under the management of C. A. Fleming as president and G. W. Donald as secretary, who are assisted by capable teachers. The official name of the institution is the Winnipeg Business College. The attendance now reaches from 150 to 200 during the regular terms, the next regular term opening on September 1. This year a summer term was also held, with an attendance of thirty. A night school is also carried on, for the benefit of young people who are employed in the city during the day, and who wish to improve their time in the evenings by taking up some studies which will be of practical use to them.

The regular business course at the Winnipeg college embraces book-keeping, arithmetic, writing, correspondence, mensuration, business forms, commercial law, conveyancing, banking, joint stock companies, partnerships, spelling, practical grammar and auditing. The shorthand and typewriting course includes Isaac Pitman's system of phonography, typewriting, penmanship, and correspondence. There are also special courses in plain and ornamental penmanship and a civil service course. At the evening classes, book-keeping, writing, arithmetic, shorthand and typewriting are taught.

The great advantage of a course at the Winnipeg Business College, as compared with taking the same subjects at an ordinary school (so far as the same subjects are taught at the public schools) is the thoroughly practical system followed. The important business subjects, such as banking, book-keeping, commercial arithmetic, auditing, partnership, correspondence, etc., are taught in such a way that the mode of procedure is exactly the same as in actual business. A bank is kept, supplied with all the various printed forms, and even printed college notes of various denominations are provided as a medium of exchange. Then there is the wholesale purchasing department, where all purchases are made in writing, thus teaching correspondence, book-keeping and commercial arithmetic in a practical way, and in exactly the same way as the student would proceed in actual business. Telegraphing, express business, c.o.d. transactions, shipping, bills of lading and in fact all business firms are introduced in a practical manner. The advantage of a course of this nature will be at once apparent to the young man who wishes to seek employment in a business capacity or engage in business for himself. The Winnipeg Business College issues several publications, which give full information about the institution, and these will be sent on application.