

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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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, MAY 18, 1896.

Manitoba.

Morner & Co., grocers, Brandon, have decided to retire from business.

J. M. Stewart, baker and confectioner, Pilot Mound, has sold out to Chas. Secord.

Chas. Bunnell, who formerly conducted the dining department of the Clarendon hotel, Winnipeg, including the bar and billiard rooms, has now taken the management of the entire house.

Daniel McLaren, manager of the Winnipeg business of the Ontario Glove Works, of Brockville, died suddenly at the Winnipeg general hospital on Sunday, May 10, of peritonitis. Mr. McLaren was only ill for a few days. He was a young man of quiet disposition and was highly respected by those who knew him.

A joint stock company has been formed, says the Selkirk Record, to carry on a general store in Selkirk under the name of the Selkirk Trading Company. The capital stock is placed at \$10,000. The place of business will be in the Dagg block. The Company has purchased the entire stock of M. Finklestein.

It is the intention of the Central Canada Loan and Savings Company to erect a three storey building of solid brick with stone foundation and stone dressings on the northeast corner of Notre Dame street east and Main street, Winnipeg. The company will occupy the ground floor.

The Northern Pacific hotel, at Wawanesa, was totally destroyed by fire on May 12. The fire began on the third flat, where the chimney from the kitchen stove entered the roof, and is supposed to have originated from a defective chimney. There was virtually nothing saved from the two upper flats and what was taken out of the lower flat was badly damaged. The hotel was owned and carried on by Frank A. Tamblin. It was insured, together with the contents, in the British American and Commercial Union for \$5,000 and was valued, with contents, at \$8,000.

Alberta.

Mr. Fraser, the oil expert, who had charge of the boring operations at the Athabasca landing, last summer, has gone again to the point to resume the work. When boring ceased last summer a depth of 1,780 feet had been reached. The intention is to go a little

deeper with the object of seeing whether oil can actually be struck. The experience gained will be of service in the event of boring operations being commenced on another site.

A. J. Hipperson, tinware, Lethbridge, is selling out and leaving for Nelson, B. C.

James Lawronco, hardware, Lethbridge, has sold out to David Brodie.

F. B. Roseborg, restaurant, Lethbridge, is succeeded by J. W. Keon.

Assiniboia.

The council of the Regina board of trade has passed a resolution in reply to the request from England for a list of importers of British goods, that the tariff at present existing in Canada prevents free intercourse of trade between the mother country and this colony, and the council fears that these tariff restrictions frustrate the object in view.

Patrick O'Lone, has opened a hotel at Maple Creek.

The stock of F. W. Campbell, harness, Whitewood, has been sold by the sheriff.

World's Available Wheat Stocks.

The total quantity of wheat in the United States and Canada, both coasts, on the 1st instant amounted to 85,572,000 bushels, a smaller amount than had been held at a like date since May 1, 1892, when it was 51,870,000.

The enormous increase in the total quantities of available wheat in the United States on May 1 in late years as compared with the quantities so held on May 1 in 1889, 1890 and 1891 is made plain, available stocks on the date named in recent years being about two and one-half times what they were at the periods mentioned in years specified.

The decrease in available supplies east of the Rocky mountains during April must be characterized as disappointing, it being a little less than in April last year, and, although larger than the decrease in 1894 and 1893, it is again less than in April, 1892. When stocks on both coasts are considered, the total falling off last month is seen to be 10,227,000 bushels, as compared with 11,148,000 bushels in April, 1895, 6,901,000 bushels in that month in 1894, 9,252,000 bushels decrease in April, 1893, and 10,468,000, decrease in April 1892.

Available stocks of wheat in the United States increase gradually from July until about the close of December, when they begin to decline, and continue to do so, generally, during the following six months, or until July again. During the ten completed months of the cereal year ending with April 30 last there have been six months of increases and four of decreases. During the latter half of the last calendar year, when wheat stocks were accumulating, the net gain east of the Rocky mountains during that period was 44,110,000 bushels, as compared with 48,457,000 bushels in the like six months of 1894. During the previous four months the decrease was only 17,859,000 bushels, as compared with 88,254,000 bushels in January, February, March and April, 1895. The decrease in the last four months, therefore, has been only about two-fifths of the increase in the preceding six months, while in the like four months of 1895 the decrease was two-thirds of the increase between July 1 and December 30, 1894.

In this feature of the movement of available stocks of wheat is found the relatively unfavorable situation. It was confidently believed that reductions of stocks would be heavy and rapid beginning with January last. They have been little more than one-half of what they were in the first four months of the last calendar year, and a trifle smaller than in the first four months of 1894,

and noticeably smaller than in the like period of 1892.

Combining stocks of available wheat east and west of the Rocky Mountains, it appears that the decrease during the past four months amounts to 21,293,000 bushels compared with a net increase of 44,677,000 bushels in the latter half of the calendar year 1895, a four months' decrease of a little less than one-half of the increase in the preceding six months. In the like four months of 1895 the falling away in available stocks, both coasts, was 86,412,000 bushels, compared with 53,506,000 bushels increase in the preceding six months, a falling off in the first third of the preceding calendar year two-thirds as large as the increase in supplies during the next preceding six months. It is perhaps of interest, and may gratify to an extent those looking forward to the return of bullish influences to note that the decrease of 21,293,000 bushels on both coasts during the past four months is compared with a decrease of only 18,792,000 bushels on both coasts during the like four months of 1894, and with a decrease of only 14,790,000 bushels during the corresponding period in 1893.

Stocks of wheat afloat for and in Europe from all exporting countries on May 1 were 47,774,000 bushels, the smallest quantity of wheat in transit by water for and in store in Europe on a like date for eight years past. Adding available supplies on both coasts of the United States and Canada to those afloat for and in Europe, we have the grand total 131,316,000 bushels available on the date named, as compared with 151,980,000 bushels on May 1, 1895, 170,695,000 bushels on May 1, 1894, 172,039,000 bushels on that date in 1893, and as contrasted with 125,891,000 bushels on May 1, 1892, and with similar totals on May 1 in preceding years.

The shrinkage in United States, Canadian, afloat and European stocks of available wheat on the 1st instant as compared with a year ago is, therefore, 23,661,000 bushels; as compared with two years ago it is 39,379,000 bushels, and with three years ago it is 40,723,000 bushels. On the other hand, as compared with May 1, 1892, preceding accumulations specified are 5,422,000 bushels larger.

The decline in stocks of wheat afloat for and in Europe has had an encouraging effect from the traders' point of view, in that United States, Canadian, afloat and European stocks show a decrease for April of about 13,000,000 bushels, compared with a decrease of only 8,000,000 bushels in April 1895, 5,000,000 bushels in April, 1894, and 6,000,000 bushels in April, 1893. The decrease in that month of 1892, however, was 17,000,000 bushels, and in 1891 4,400,000 bushels, while in 1890 there was an increase of 2,000,000 bushels.

It is worth noting at this time that what may be regarded as the world's available supplies of wheat were nearly as small on May 1, 1896, as on July 1, 1895, and much smaller than on July 1, 1894 or 1893. Between May 1 and July 1, 1894, like supplies of wheat fell away 21,000,000 bushels, and between those dates in 1895 they declined similarly—about 21,000,000 bushels. Should this ratio of reduction of stocks of wheat here, afloat and in Europe be maintained during May and June, 1896, it would push the grand total held on July 1 next down lower than it has been for four years past.—Bradstreets.

Lumber Trade News.

T. D. Robinson, lumber dealer, Winnipeg, wrote to the city board of works, claiming that his tender for lumber was better for the city than that of D. E. Sprague, whose tender had been accepted, by \$35; also that tamarac for crossings at his price was much cheaper than pine. The committee did not agree with Mr. Robinson's conclusions and his letter was ordered to be filed.