

# 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 east region lying 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 the great majority of business men in the district designated above, 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, APRIL 12, 1897.

## Manitoba.

Pineo & Merrick, of Virden, have opened a dry goods store at Griswold. J. Paul is the manager.

A large store and warehouse has been completed at Griswold for J. Humphry, who is adding furniture and implements to his business.

Adam Reid has been appointed city agent for Winnipeg for the Confederation Life Association.

The business formerly carried on at Holland, by T. H. Pentland & Co., has been sold to John Fumerton & Son, of Fallbrook, Ont.

J. P. Shannon, who has been employed with Penner & Co., of Gretna for many years, is opening a hardware store at Glenboro. He expects to be ready for business about April 20. Mr. Shannon is very favorably spoken of by Gretna people, where he is well known. The business will be carried on under the style of J. P. Shannon & Co.

The Virden Banner newspaper has ceased to exist, and the Virden News takes its place.

Walpole Murdoch, of Pilot Mound, is starting a paper at Cypress River. The first number will be out in a couple of weeks. Mr. Murdoch was formerly connected with the Pilot Mound Sentinel, which was one of the best papers in Manitoba.

Daly & Coldwell and Ewart, Fisher & Haman, two Brandon law firms, are about to dissolve. G. R. Coldwell, Q.C., of the latter firm, joins G. B. Coleman, of the former partnership in making the combination known as Coldwell & Coleman. Mr. Daly has moved to the Kootenay.

J. P. Shannon & Co., Glenboro, hardware, are opening up about the 15th of April. The Manitoba Dairy Co., La Borderie, is applying for incorporation.

W. H. Wilson, fruit and fish, has sold the business to Geo. Dickson.

A. Gibson, groceries, etc., Winnipeg, has sold his Higgins St. branch business to B. J. At.

The Richardson Stationery and Mfg. Co., has sold the stationery department to the Ford Stationery Co.

## Alberta.

Two by-laws were voted on at Calgary recently. One to raise \$3,000 to replace the Elbow bridge; the other for the same amount for a bridge to Island Park. The former carried, the latter was defeated.

Frank Mariaggi has returned from the Kootenay, to Fort Saskatchewan, where he will re-open the Mausion House, which he has re-rented for the coming season.

## Assiniboia.

Plans have been prepared for a fine new store to be erected this spring by the Hudson Bay company at Fort Qu'Appelle.

The merchants of Mousomin have agreed to close their stores at 7 p.m. from the 1st of May to August 31st.

At a recent meeting of the Regina board of trade, committees were appointed to report on a scheme for the settlement of vacant lands; the erection of an abattoir, the local grain market. The latter committee desire to enquire into all complaints in reference to the marketing of grain here and will receive any information that can be verified by statutory declaration.

Fraser & Cameron are opening business at Indian Head in sash, doors, etc.

## Northwestern Ontario.

The Toronto Evening News says: "The Ontario cabinet has decided on a railroad policy for the present season. The only line to be bonused will be the Rainey River railway, connecting Port Arthur with Fort Frances, some 160 or 170 miles in all. The bonus will be to the full statutory limit of \$3,000 per mile. It is decided for the present that no subsidy be given to the James Bay Railway company, despite the representations made by Mr. Blake and his friends."

The Rat Portage Miner newspaper, is now issued as a daily.

L. Dobson & Co., butchers, are opening business at Norman.

Paul Proulx, of Proulx & Laurin, hotel, Rat Portage is dead.

## British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, B. C., April 6.

The weather on the seaboard has been very fine for the past week and has given a great impetus to trade. If the weather continues fair and the snow melts gradually, not fast enough to fetch the unwelcome water to the rising rivers, it is confidently expected that trade will assume very large proportions in comparison to the average volume in the past. Immigrants are arriving here from all parts of the world and there are at present not sufficient houses in Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria to accommodate them, so that new buildings are being put up in every part of the cities. This is especially so in Vancouver, where the hotels are doing a large business.

There are few changes in the wholesale markets, but it is thought the heavy demand for camp supplies which will take place, and has already set in, may advance prices all around. Hay is advancing at the rate of a dollar a week, and the flour and feed men do not dare to prophesy at what point the price will go to. In the fruit market apples and oranges, navel, are very stiff at present prices, and will advance. In groceries sugars have advanced  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a cent.

In the Interior, cattlemen have had a solid five months winter and it will be at least another month before there is a green blade for the cattle. The herds in the Upper Country have been reduced 50 per cent., and

the end is not yet. To make matters worse a sudden access of warm weather at this time will have a serious effect on roads and rivers by flooding streams. This week Burchell Howey arrived from Manitoba with 14 car-loads of cattle, about 200 head. Mr. Howey intends to make shipments every month from Manitoba.

The increase of business of last month, compared with March, 1896 is shown by the customs returns in Westminster the increase is \$10,000 and in Vancouver \$54,000.

The investigation into the timber agency at Westminster has been very thorough. The investigation has been suspended for a short time. Already it is said that one witness at the investigation has been arrested for falsifying returns and another has been requested by the department to hand over certain notes to the agency, which it is supposed were diverted from their proper channel.

A letter in the London Globe written by a Manchester correspondent named Wood, alleging that often in his own experience rotten salmon were packed in the B. C. canneries for consumption in England, and an editorial in the same paper headed "death lurks in the tin," has caused consternation among the cannery men here. The local legislature and the boards of trade are taking steps to most emphatically deny, through proper channels, the ridiculous statements.

## THE MONTH REVIEWED.

R. P. Rethel & Co., Ltd., in their monthly freight and shipping report, say: During the month there has been a slight recovery in wheat freights, and at the close 16s 8d net to Cork for orders may be quoted. There is however no disposition on the part of owners to charter freely at that figure, they are more inclined to wait for new crop loading. The prospects for a bountiful harvest this season are excellent, so no doubt the surplus available for export will be large. Rates for lumber vessels still maintain an upward tendency and the quotations for most destinations show some advance on those ruling a month ago. Our annual statement of the British Columbia pack of salmon will be found attached. Considering that 1896 was what is known as an "off" year, the total of 601,570 cases is not a little surprising. Various theories have been put forward to account for this, but the truth appears to be that the operations of the hatchery are now beginning to bear fruit, although of course considerable allowance must be made for the increased number of canneries engaged.

## United States Wool Market.

Buyers are operating freely, and the market shows a further advance in values. Territory wools have been considerably reduced in stock since the first of the year, and good staple lines are scarce. For fine and fine medium lots of good quality the secured basis has advanced to 34 to 35c., while staple wools will command 37 to 38c. Fleeced wools are scarce, with XX and above Ohio quoted up to 22c., while delaines are held at 22 to 24c. No 1 fleeces are in short supply and would sell at 23c. for Ohio combing. For one-quarter and three-eighths blood unwashed combings the market is firmer but nominal at 19c. for choice lines. Australian wools have met with a sharp demand, and spot lots are selling freely at the full market. The price is governed largely by the cost to ship based on the London sale. The United States has taken about 45,000 bales thus far at the London sale and are bidding freely on all suitable lots. South American wools are selling freely, while scoured foreign wools are in good demand. Carpet wools are quiet but firm.—Bradstreets,