

# THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters pertaining to trade and progress in 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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D. W. BUCHANAN,  
Publisher.

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

WINNIPEG, MAR. 24, 1900.

## Rubber Shoe Prices.

The Rubber Shoe Manufacturers of Canada held a meeting last week in Montreal to discuss the situation for the present year, the following companies being represented: Canadian Rubber Co., Granby Rubber Co., Gutta Percha and Rubber Co., Boston Rubber Co., and Toronto Rubber Shoe Manufacturing Co. A letter was read from the Berlin Rubber Co., of Berlin, Ont., stating that they would uphold and carry out any plans agreed upon. It was unanimously decided to adopt a uniform price list for the coming seasons trade, and a sub-committee was appointed to prepare the new price list to be issued on April 1 next. The new price list, says the Canadian Shoe and Leather Journal, it is claimed, will show some changes made necessary by the continued high prices of raw material. Rubber, cottons, fleeces, and in fact everything that enters into the manufacture of rubber shoes, have advanced from 10 to 25 per cent over last season, and wooden cases, not an unimportant item, are costing nearly 75 per cent more than at the corresponding date of last year. We are given to understand, however, that the advance that may be made on the list will not equal the advance in cost of raw material. The companies will endeavor, by economy in manufacturing, to keep prices down as much as is possible. As an evidence of this it is notorious that Canadian prices for some years past have been from 5 to 7 1-2 per cent below the prices at which similar goods are sold in the United States.

It has been decided by the companies to make the rubber year end on the last day of February in each year instead of March, as formerly, so that lists and discounts will be announced in future one month earlier, as more suitable for the Canadian trade. Many houses doing trade in the distant provinces ask for samples in March.

The manufacturers, desiring to meet the wishes of the wholesale trade, have this season sent out letters of inquiry to all the jobbers, requesting their views on the matter of contracts and freights, and the replies to these letters being overwhelmingly in favor

of a contract binding the jobbers as to the prices and discount at which they will sell to the retail trade and an equalization of freights as from competing points, the views as embraced in these requests will be carried out in the arrangement made for the coming season's trade.

Discounts will be announced simultaneously with the issue of new price lists on the 1st April.

## C. P. R. Annual Report.

The annual meeting of the C. P. R. is to be held at Montreal on the 4th of April, at which a statement including the following information will be made by the directors:

A balance sheet of the affairs of the company at Dec. 31, 1899, shows the gross earnings for the year were, \$29,230,088.26; the working expenses were \$16,999,872.77; and the net earnings were \$12,230,165.49.

The working expenses for the year amounted to 58.16 per cent of the gross earnings, and the net earnings to 41.84 per cent, as compared with 59.92 and 40.08 per cent, respectively in 1898. The earnings per passenger per mile were 1.79 cents and per ton of freight per mile 0.74 cents, as against 1.52 and 0.76 cents respectively in 1898. During the year, two hundred and seventy-four miles of the main line were relaid with steel rails weighing seventy-three and eighty pounds per yard, and the policy was continued of improving the railway and its facilities with a view to most economical operation.

To meet the requirements of the traffic, a greater number of cars and locomotives had to be provided than was anticipated a year ago, involving an expenditure of \$1,070,315.36 in excess of the appropriation made at the last annual meeting.

"The growth of your company's business requires an enlargement of the facilities at Winnipeg that cannot longer be delayed. In connection with a new passenger station it is proposed to provide hotel accommodation for the travelling public. During the past year nearly all of the land necessary for these improvements was acquired, but it is estimated that the building and other works will require an expenditure of \$750,000, within the next two years."

You will be asked to authorize expenditures during the current year at Montreal and Winnipeg in connection with these works to the extent of \$750,000; also expenditures for permanent wharves and other terminal work at Vancouver, \$98,817; for improvements to permanent way, \$987,744 for increased yard and other facilities at various points on the system, \$461,928, and for additional rolling stock, \$975,000."

You will be asked to approve a lease by your company of the Manitoba & Northwestern Railway Company's main line and branches, two hundred and fifty-three miles in all, and a lease of the Great North West Central railway, extending from a point on your main line near Brandon, Manitoba, in a northwesterly direction for a distance of fifty miles, with an extension now in course of construction, twenty miles in length, both of these lines are important contributors of traffic to your system, and, therefore, you could not afford to have them fall into other hands.

The land sales for the past year were 416,806 acres, for \$1,327,657, as against 848,608 acres, for \$1,121,774, 1898.

## Wheat Supplies and Reserves. March 1.

The world's wheat stock showed a small gain during the month of February. It is true there was a decrease of 3,000,000 bushels in the American supply, the latter covering the United States and Canada, but European stocks showed a slight increase, while those in Australia and Argentina also showed gains, the result being a gain of 1,368,000 bushels in the aggregate world's supply, as the following table shows:

	March 1. 1900.	Feb. 1. 1900.
U. S. & Canada...	93,384,000	96,396,000
Europe & afloat .....	66,300,000	66,000,000
Australia .....	9,100,000	7,400,000
Argentina .....	7,900,000	5,520,000

Totals ... .. 176,684,000 175,316,000

The aggregate world's supply, it will be seen, on March 1 amounted to 176,684,000 bushels, an increase of 1,368,000 bushels over Feb. 1 and of 1,607,000 bushels over January 1. Compared with a year ago the aggregate stock of wheat is 42,000,000 bushels larger, and as compared with March 1, 1899, which witnessed the beginning of the acute stage of the "Lietor corner," the increase is 50,000,000 bushels. The chief increase in stocks as compared with one and two years ago, it will be seen, was in the United States and Canada, in which stocks are 37,000,000 bushels larger than last year and 44,000,000 bushels larger than two years ago. European stocks are smaller than a year ago by 2,000,000 bushels. Australian stocks are only slightly in excess, while the small quantity in Argentina renders the practical trebling of stocks there of little moment.

European supplies were the smallest on March 1 this year reported on this date for nine years past.

There is shown a decrease of less than 3,000,000 bushels in European and American supplies for the month, while as compared with a year ago the said supplies are 35,400,000 bushels larger, and as compared with 1898 they are 41,000,000 bushels larger, and with 1897, 26,000,000 bushels larger. They are, however, smaller than the stock held at the same time in 1896 by 12,000,000 bushels, and as compared with 1895 the decrease is 33,000,000 bushels.

## New C. P. R. Hotel and Depot.

Notice is being given to the tenants now occupying buildings on the site of the proposed new Canadian Pacific Railway Co.'s hotel in Winnipeg, that they will be required to vacate about May 1 next. The principal building on the property is the Royal hotel. The buildings will probably be sold by auction.

City contractors are now inspecting the plans for this building and preparing their tenders. It is expected that work will commence as soon as the weather will permit. The building is estimated to cost about \$750,000 without furnishings or extras.

The new store adjoining the post office in Portage la Prairie, to which reference was made in The Commercial of March 10, was built and is still owned by A. McKillop, and now by D. McKillop, as stated. The store is 32 by 85 feet, built of stone and brick, and is one of the best in the town.