

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 vast 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 14, 1896.

Manitoba.

About 1,000 men are working on the Lake Dauphin railway.

B. T. Scott, of Rapid City, is starting a bakery at Neepawa.

D. Clain, flour and feed, Morden, has sold out to Mr. Blanchard.

C. E. Miller, of Brandon, and Mr. Wallace will open a store in Nelson, B.C.

The Winnipeg board of trade excursion party left for the Kootenay country on Saturday.

The Brandon board of trade is in a disorganized state, no meetings have been held for some time.

Mr. Booth, of Belmont, will open up in the drug business at Crystal City about the first of October.

The population of Manitoba has increased from 152,506 in 1891 to 193,425 in 1896. Thus in five years there has been an increase of 40,919 or about 27 per cent.

The Vulcan Iron Works, Winnipeg, have supplied machinery lately for a number of elevators which are being built throughout the country.

The Watrous Engine Works, Winnipeg, report the sale of a good many threshing rigs this year, notwithstanding the lighter crops. They have been busy of late supplying elevator machinery for new elevators.

There is a good demand for farm properties this fall, says the Portage la Prairie Liberal. W. Richardson on Tuesday refused \$4,000 for a quarter section on the plains. Mr. Van Norman has purchased a farm of 320 acres at Roland, from J. W. Phillip, paying nearly \$20 an acre for the property.

Northwest Ontario.

The annual report of the Rat Portage board of trade, officially known as the Board of Trade of the District of Rainy River, has been printed in pamphlet form. Considerable statistical information concerning the district is published with the report, going to show that the board is an enterprising one.

A deputation consisting of Mayor Marks, of Port Arthur; Mayor McKellar, of Fort William; and Jas. Conmee, M.P.P., waited and the minister of railways and Premier Laurier at Ottawa recently, to urge the

Dominion to give a bonus of \$3.20 per mile to 150 miles of the Rainy River road, connecting the Port Arthur Duluth and Western railway with Rainy river. The Ontario government has already plodged aid and the promoters expect the Manitoba government to grant liberal aid to connect the road with Winnipeg, as an offer will be made to reduce the rate on wheat to the head of the lake to nine cents per bushel. Long speeches were made in favor of the scheme. Mr. Blair announced that the government proposed to give no subsidies to anything this session but Premier Laurier spoke encouragingly of the proposed road, and said the matter would get favorable consideration.

Assiniboia.

Mr. Rawe, of Blackwood, has purchased the Sinteluta hotel, Sinteluta.

Alberta

Miners to work in the Lethbridge coal pits are being imported from Tennessee and Alabama. A party of fifteen arrived recently.

The drug business of the estate of A. E. Waldon & Co., Calgary, is being closed up, and the stock will be moved to Winnipeg by the Martin, Bole & Wynne Co.

Grain and Milling.

The report that the big miller's association known as the spring wheat miller's association of the northwest States, had, wound up is denied.

The Regina board of trade, in response to a letter from the department of inland revenue, has named J. S. Donahue to represent the Regina district on the board of grain examiners.

The farmers have secured a sufficient number of shareholders to warrant them in erecting a 25,000 bushel steam elevator at Reston, Man., says a correspondent. Some of the material is on the ground and the contractor is expected in a few days.

The Lake of the Woods Milling Co. is shipping from 4,000 to 5,000 barrels of flour monthly to Australia, from their Portage la Prairie mill. Large shipments were made this week, and orders are in for a considerable quantity to be shipped between now and December.

The Dominion Miller's Association, in session at Toronto, adopted the following resolution: "That whereas the general election in June has resulted in a change of government, now therefore this association, composed of over two hundred members, reaffirm and place on record their strong desire that no change be made in the tariff in regard to the duties on wheat and flour by the new government. Further, that members of this association would view with alarm and disfavor reciprocity with the United States in wheat and flour, and believe it would result in great loss and injury to the farmers and millers of the country. We therefore delegate to the executive committee full authority to take such action, and make such representations as they may deem best to give effect to this association's desires in this matter."

The Flour Mill Combination

The Milwaukee Evening, Wisconsin, of August 18 says: "It is reported on 'change to-day that the big flour milling combine had gone under. Private dispatches from the east stated that the combination was a thing of the past and that the millers were free to do as they pleased once more. Milwaukee members of the combine deny the report, although admitting that there is some founda-

tion for it. They state that the minimum selling price has been removed and that there is now no limit to selling, either way. Otherwise, it was asserted, all of the agreements were in force and the association was fully as active as ever.

The removal of the selling price limit, however, will operate to place the Eastern members on the same footing as the Western mills, especially those at Minneapolis. It is stated that all of the trouble the combine has had has been due to the Minneapolis people. The Minneapolis millers, it is stated, had a way of securing notice in advance of a reduction in prices, and by the time the notice was received by the other millers they would find that the market was glutted with Minneapolis flour. It was this that caused certain Milwaukee millers to drop out of the association. Outside millers now claim that the removal of the minimum price is but one of several steps which the combine has been forced to take lately towards complete dissolution, and they figure that a continuation of the agreement under the conditions which it has to face, and with dissension and distrust among the members, is an impossibility.

Mr. Manegold, speaking of the millers in the association, this afternoon, very emphatically denied the assertion that the combine was weakening in any way. The removal of the minimum price limit, he said, meant nothing and would not alter any of the existing conditions. The minimum price had been fixed so low and so near cost that none of the millers ever sold down to it, so that the members have had, virtually, the fixing of prices their own way all along. Mr. Manegold said that the combine was working successfully and that all of the members were satisfied with it.

Farm Value of Wheat.

The following table shows the average farm value of wheat for each year, in the United States, from 1870:

1870	.....	\$1.042
1871	.....	1.258
1872	.....	1.240
1873	.....	1.150
1874	.....	.944
1875	.....	1.000
1876	.....	1.087
1877	.....	1.082
1878	.....	.777
1879	.....	1.108
1880	.....	.951
1881	.....	1.193
1882	.....	.892
1883	.....	.910
1884	.....	.645
1885	.....	.771
1886	.....	.687
1887	.....	.681
1888	.....	.926
1889	.....	.698
1890	.....	.838
1891	.....	.839
1892	.....	.624
1893	.....	.578
1894	.....	.491
1895	.....	.509

"During the last fifteen years Russia's exports of wheat have increased from 64,000,000 to 112,000,000, and the exports of wheat from Argentina have increased from 4,000,000 to 44,000,000."

At Liverpool, on Sept. 7, in the cattle market, prices were somewhat irregular. Choice United States cattle were quoted at 11 to 11½c and Canadian cattle at 10½ to 10¾c. The market for sheep was stronger and prices advanced ½c since this day week to 11c for Canadian, while Argentines and United States were lower at 10c, on account of the inferior quality.

