

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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or which profess to express the opinions of this
journal, will not be inserted.

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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 Can-
ada, daily or weekly. The Commercial also
reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manu-
facturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, JANUARY 14, 1899.

Annual Meeting of Winnipeg Grain Exchange.

The annual meeting of the Winnipeg
Grain and Produce Exchange was held
Wednesday in the board room of the
new exchange building. Mr. Robert
Muir, president, was in the chair, and
the attendance of members was very
large. Mr. Muir opened the meeting
with a few introductory remarks ex-
plaining that the new board room in
which the meeting was held, was not
quite finished, and that new fixtures
and suitable furniture would be in
place within a few days. Mr. C. N.
Bell then read the minutes of the last
meeting, which were confirmed. Mr.
Muir then read the president's custo-
mary annual report. Extracts from
which follow:

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

Winnipeg, Jan. 11, 1899.

To the officers and members of the
Winnipeg Grain and Produce Ex-
change:
Gentlemen—

As the term for which I was elected
president has now expired, I desire to
briefly review matters of interest to
the trade, suggested by the past
year's operations.

THE CROP.

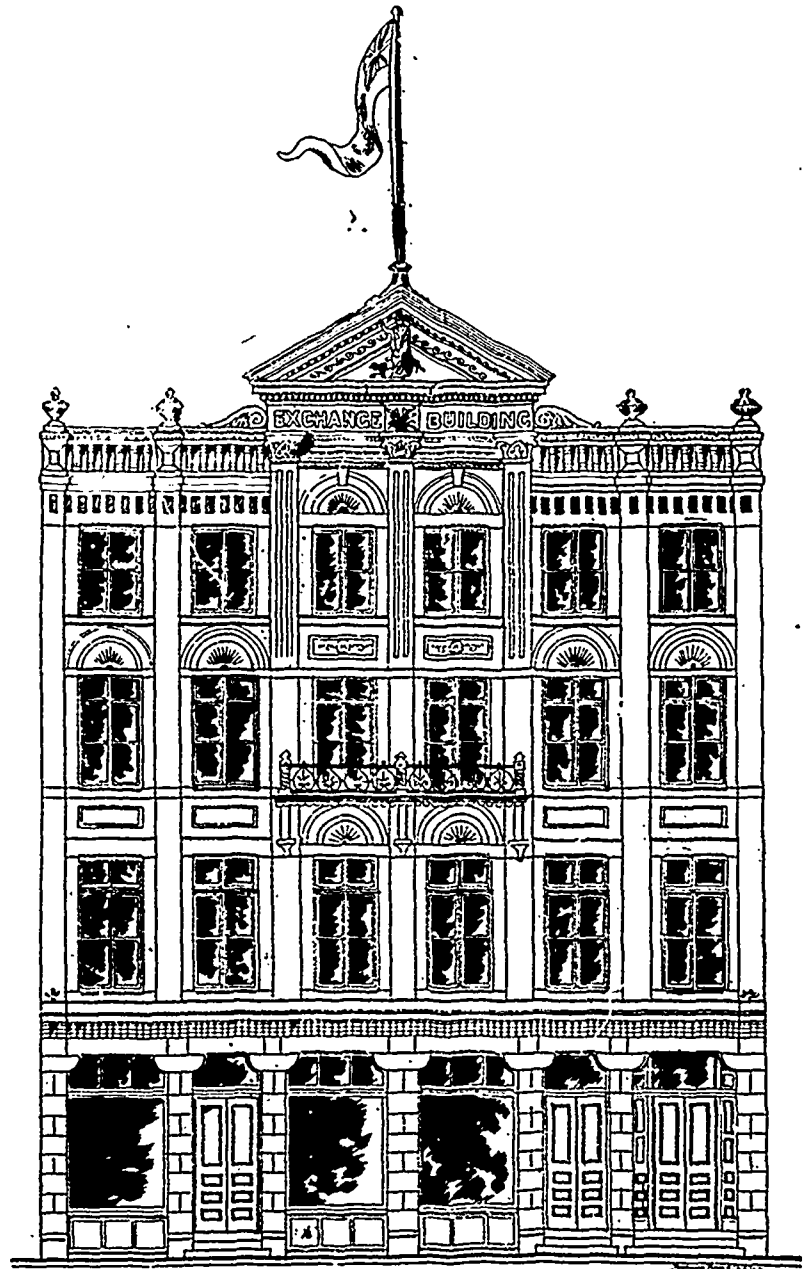
A favorable spring, resulting in
early seeding, was followed by a
period of dry weather, which retarded
the growth of the grain to such an
extent that at one time it was feared
the crop would be an almost total fail-
ure. Rains came, however, in time to
revive and mature the grain; result-
ing in the harvesting of the largest
crop ever produced in Manitoba and
the Northwest Territories. Experts
estimated the crop of wheat at about
30,000,000 bushels. Later, the Mani-

toba government crop report made
the yield of wheat for the province to
be 25,313,745 bushels. In the absence
of crop reports from the Northwest
Territories nothing can be stated of-
ficially as to the yield in the Territor-
ies. It is a cause of congratulation
that even if the total yield is not like-
ly to be as high as the early estimates
still, our farmers have harvested the
largest crop on record for the North-
west. The acreage has been large-
ly increased, and, at the same time,
the farmers are following more land

total loss so great, that grain drying
plants were a necessity. A number
of firms, recognizing this, have, at
great expense, installed plants, and I
trust that the bulk of this crop can
be made marketable.

RAILWAY RATES.

The Canadian Pacific Railway com-
pany, in accordance with an agree-
ment with the Dominion government,
have reduced the rates on grain to
Fort William 11-2c per 100 lbs. This
allows of better prices being paid our



NEW WINNIPEG GRAIN EXCHANGE BUILDING

than ever before. This with the large
area of new land broken, will, I am
convinced, result this year in a larger
acreage under crop than ever before.
While our crop was large, it is a mat-
ter of regret that owing to rains and
cloudy weather during harvest time
it was not taken off in as good condi-
tion as might have been hoped for;
a large percentage being damp, result-
ing in great loss to farmers and deal-
ers. The quantity of damaged grain
has been so large, and the danger of

farmers. Export rates—Fort Wil-
liam to the seaboard have been re-
duced, but not sufficiently to enable
the trade to export all rail at a profit,
and consequently a comparatively
small movement has resulted. The
stop-over charge made by the C. P.
R. for all rail shipments out of Port
Arthur, in addition to regular elevator
charges, also bears heavily on the
trade, and should be removed.

FINANCE.

The year's operations have been