

# 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.

FOURTEENTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION.  
ISSUED EVERY MONDAY.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$2.00 PER ANNUM (in advance.)

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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 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, APRIL 20, 1896.

## Manitoba.

Hall Bros. have opened a butcher shop at Gladstone.

Dr. McConnell has purchased a controlling interest in the Mordon Woolen Mill.

M. Wilson has started a pump factory at Gladstone, Man., in connection with his blacksmithing business.

McCorquodale Bros., saw mill, Boissevain, have dissolved partnership. H. McCorquodale continues the business.

Agramovich & Ripstein, pawnbrokers, Winnipeg, have dissolved partnership. Isaac Ripstein continues the business.

H. J. Borthwick, who has conducted the Morden Herald for several years, has sold out his interests in the paper to C. T. Baylis, lately Presbyterian missionary at Rosland.

Extensive additions to the apparatus of the Winnipeg Salt Works are being made by Paul Woods, the proprietor, says the Dauphin Pioneer Press, who intends developing the industry as fast as possible.

The west along, says the Selkirk Record, is a scene of great activity. Owners of steamboats and barges are busy getting the machinery in their crafts placed in position, and the barges are being calked and prepared for a busy season.

E. DePencier, formerly manager of the Hudson's Bay Co.'s store at Manitowish, and lately partner in the firm of DePencier, Winram & Co., of the same place, has severed his connection with the firm, and will go to the British Columbia mining region.

## Alberta.

Ross Bros. have purchased the stock and business of the Edmonton Hardware Co. and will continue the business.

It is reported, says the Tribune, that a wealthy English syndicate is prepared to establish a smelter at Calgary as soon as it is demonstrated to a certainty that good coking coal exists in the vicinity of the city.

## Northwest Ontario.

Inspector Gibbs is erecting a building at Fort William which will be known as the grain exchange. It is conveniently situated near the Canadian Pacific Railway station. The grain inspector's office will be in the building.

## Saskatchewan.

T. E. Baker is erecting a carpenter workshop at Prince Albert to replace the one recently destroyed by fire.

## Grain and Milling Notes.

A machine has been invented for the purpose of expediting the treatment of seed grain with bluestone solution to prevent smut. It was exhibited at the Winnipeg grain exchange recently, to the satisfaction of those who saw it.

It is reported that the Dominion government has made an order to the effect that the grain inspector at Fort William should be paid by fees collected, instead of by salary. This is a return to the old plan and meets with the approval of the trade.

Manitoba flour was unsettled yesterday, says the Montreal Gazette of April 9, and difficult to quote. The smaller holders have been underselling the big millers as much as 80 to 50c per barrel. The latter have got their dander up, and what they are selling at is known only to themselves. In consequence of this no quotation is given today either on Manitoba patents or strong bakers, and cannot be until the cutting is stopped. The volume of business in both was extensive.

## Grocery Trade Notes.

The visible supply of coffee in the United States is 63,025 bags less than it was the same period last year, and 72,193 bags less than two years ago.

In New York, on April 9, all grades of refined sugars except the two lowest were advanced  $\frac{1}{2}$ c, and the price of granulated there now is 5 8-16c.

At Philadelphia on April 13 all grades of refined sugar advanced  $\frac{1}{2}$ c, with the exception of numbers 14 and 15 which advanced 1-16c. The rise is caused by the general decrease in the raw material and the fact that there is no Cuban sugar coming to the country.

Cuba's total sugar crop this year, says a report, will amount to only about 10 per cent. of her nominal product, using the figures of the crop of 1895 as a basis of comparison. This year's product to April 6 is 77,250 tons. Last year's product to the same date 566,000 tons.

The demand has recently increased for dried apples, says a Toronto paper, as no doubt consumers are tiring of the California dried fruits which have lately been filling the market. Evaporated show the most activity and are firmer at  $\frac{1}{2}$ c to  $\frac{3}{4}$ c. Dried sell around  $\frac{1}{2}$ c.

In the New York sugar market  $\frac{1}{2}$ c has been paid freely for crystals, and holders are now asking  $\frac{1}{2}$ c. Since the 31st of March granulated, in New York, has advanced  $\frac{1}{2}$ c per lb, but there has been no corresponding rise in Canadian market.

The New York Journal of Commerce, of April 8, says: The strength in the raw sugar market has developed into an advance of 1-16c for raws and liberal sales have been made on the basis of  $\frac{1}{2}$ c for 96 test centrifugals. Muscovado and molasses sugars are nominally unchanged, but very firmly held. Some holders are not disposed to sell even at the advance and the market presents an exceedingly strong front at all points.

A New York Report says: Currants are unsettled but are tending upward, owing to the report that the local customs authorities had received instructions to assess duty at the rate of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ c per lb on all importations. Some of the cleaners and one or two speculators came into the market this morning and bought all they could get on the basis of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for barrels. Holders, however, advanced their quotations to 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. The market is dull and with a decidedly unsettled feeling among

holders, pending more definite information as to the course that will be pursued by the custom house.

## Dry Goods Trade.

Foreign makers of velveteens have advised their customers that on and after April 1 these goods are and will be advanced.

English fashionists have decreed that tweeds in dress goods will rule next autumn. Judging by the samples displayed by French and German manufacturers' agents, there will be considerable variety. Such goods will be looked upon with the greatest favor. Next in order to these are the chevots, which are coarser than the tweeds.

The Toronto Globe's last dry goods article says: "Jobbers are not inclined to make many price concessions this season, believing that when good weather comes the demand from retailers will be sufficient to move stocks on hand. The demand from customers is small. Serges have received a moderate request. Repeat orders for mohairs have been few as yet, but the number of inquiries for mohairs since the season started indicates that there will be an immense trade done in them ere the season is finished. Orders are being placed on mohairs for the fall. Costume cloths have had only a partial success. Covert cloths, in the better grades, have been good, a mixed effect in subdued colors being looked upon with much favor."

Bradstreet's speaks of the dry goods situation in the United States as follows: "The market continues quiet, with the general situation more or less depressed. The lower prices made for cotton goods has not induced any more trading, as the feeling is that values will keep low for some time to come, notwithstanding the steady tone of raw cotton. Printed fabrics are quiet outside of those fancy specialties which have sold well all of this season. American shirtings and Merrimack shirtings have been reduced  $\frac{1}{2}$ c in price to tempt business. Gingham are slow of sale and featureless. Agents report a fair amount of orders for fall dress woolens being booked, and the prospect favors a fairly good business. Men's-wear woolens are dull, with the market depressed and the mills very sparsely supplied with orders. Much machinery is forced to be idle owing to lack of business."

## Freight Rates and Traffic Matters.

The first boat of the season to leave Duluth was the steamer H. R. Dixon, of the Booth line, which left on April 12 for Isle Royal.

The rates decided upon at Chicago by the new transcontinental freight association are a good deal of a surprise. It shows a considerable advance in rates west bound, but a slight reduction in tariffs east bound. Class rates agreed upon go into effect May 1. The rates show in almost every case a reduction from 10 to 20 cents per hundred pounds.

Lake and rail rates on wheat from Fort William to Eastern Canada points have been fixed for this season. The rate to Ontario points as far east as Peterboro and Belleville is 8 cents per bushel. East of these points to Montreal the rate is 9 cents. This is exclusive of elevator charges. These rates apply only to domestic business. Special figures for export rates.

It has been estimated that electric railways have displaced in the United States no less than 275,000 horses, and the movement has not yet been stopped.

The Province, a weekly literary paper published at Victoria, British Columbia, is steadily coming to the front as one of the best papers of its class published in Canada. The last number is a very fine one.