

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 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, JANUARY 6, 1896.

Manitoba.

T. G. Dagg, butcher, Winnipeg, has sold out.

Robert Elliott, millinery, Winnipeg has assigned.

Penner & Co., have sold their branch general store at Plum Coulee to John J. Bargon.

A very handsome calendar and hanger has been received from Blackwood Bros., Winnipeg.

Mr. Tees, of Tees & Persse, Winnipeg, has returned with his family from a prolonged visit to London, much improved in health.

The stock of J. S. Douglass & Co., Winnipeg, will be sold at a rate on the dollar on Wednesday the eighth day of January. Stock consists of furs, boots and shoes, etc., to the value of \$6,650.

The Winnipeg school board finance committee's annual report for the financial year ending 31st. December, 1895, as nearly as can be stated at this early date, gave the total receipts for the year to amount to \$228,315.05, and the expenditure to \$232,722.67, leaving a balance in the way of an overdraft at La Banque Nationale amounting to \$9,407.62. The amount received on account of capital during the present year is \$80,997.20; the amounts expended are \$52,407.70; balance, \$28,589.50. To ascertain the running expenses for the year these payments, which are chiefly on buildings, should be deducted from the above total expenditure, reducing it to \$178,564.97.

Alberta.

E. C. Clarke, hotel, Calgary has assigned.

The shareholders of the Edmonton creamery company held their annual meeting recently. The financial statement showed liabilities \$3,800; assets,— plant \$1,750, unpaid stock \$1,384. The butter sold last season realized 5¢ per lb. clear of expenses. It was decided to make a call of 20 per cent. on all shares.

A Year's Failures.

The Total number of business failures reported from the Dominion of Canada and Newfoundland for the calendar year just closed is 1,923, or 50 more than in 1894, while the aggregate liabilities are \$15,793,559 as compared with \$23,985,283, a decrease of

60 per cent., which can only be construed as a remarkably favorable exhibit. The corresponding falling off in assets of failing trades in the Canadian Dominion and in Newfoundland is a little more than 50 per cent.

The total number of failures in the United States in 1895, as reported to Bradstreet's, is 13,013, contrasted with 12,721 in 1894, an increase of 2.2 per cent. This is the largest number of failures ever reported since the record was begun, with the single exception of 1893, two years ago, when the aggregate was 15,560, compared with which year the falling off in 1895 is 16 per cent. An increase in the second year following one of panic is exceptional. In the panic year 1881 the total number of failures was 11,620; in the following year the aggregate was 11,116, and in the year succeeding it was 10,563, nearly 5 per cent. less than in the first year after the panic of 1881. The year 1891 was conspicuous during the greater portion thereof for marked depression in trade, following the reflection here of the Baring panic, and may therefore be regarded as having followed a panic year. The total number of business failures in that year was 12,394, an increase of 16 per cent., but in the year following there was a sharp falling off in the number of failures, amounting to more than 17 per cent.—Bradstreet's.

Parliament Meets.

The sixth session of the seventh parliament of Canada was opened on January 2. The Governor-General read the speech, which is summarized as follows.

The bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed is a cause for the deepest thankfulness to the Giver of all good. I congratulate you upon the evidence of increased activity in the various branches of commerce and industry. Several such indications have come under my personal observation during a tour made recently in the Territories and British Columbia. In particular, I noticed the extension of mining enterprise in British Columbia, where the vast mineral resources are in certain localities being now developed and utilized upon something like an adequate scale.

A special feature of the same tour consisted in the opportunities obtained for visiting a number of the Indian reservations and also the Indian industrial schools. On the former, I was received with hearty demonstrations of loyalty and good will, while in connection with the latter, the proofs of proficiency and intelligence on the part of the children were highly encouraging. As to the work of the Indian department as a whole, the manner in which it is directed and administered appears to be very satisfactory. A reference to these topics would be incomplete without an allusion to the valuable services of the Northwest mounted police, which may justly be regarded by Canadians generally, as indispensable under present conditions to the well-being of these extensive and promising portions of the Dominion, in which they are stationed.

Immediately after the prorogation of parliament, my government communicated through the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, with the government of that province in order to ascertain upon what lines the local authorities of Manitoba would be prepared to promote amendments to the acts respecting education in schools in that province and whether any arrangement was possible with the Manitoba government which would render action by the federal parliament in this connection unnecessary. I regret to say that the advisers of the Lieutenant-Governor have declined to entertain favorably these suggestions, thereby rendering it necessary for my government in pursuance of its declared policy to introduce legislation in regard to this subject.

Your attention will be asked to measures intended to provide for the better arming of our militia and the strengthening of Canadian defences.

The growth of population in the Territories, as disclosed by last enumeration, calls for additional representation in parliament. A bill for this purpose will be laid before you.

The commissioners appointed by Great Britain and the United States for the purpose of delimitating the boundary between Alaska and Canada have concluded their labors and have signed a joint report for presentation to their respective governments.

You will be asked to consider measures for the extension and development of our trade in agricultural products with the United Kingdom and other markets.

The accounts of the past and the estimates for ensuing year will be laid before you. The latter have been framed with every regard to economy consistent with the requirements of public service. You will be pleased to learn that the revenues of the country show a gradual and continuous increase and that the promised equilibrium between income and expenditure on consolidated fund account for the current year bids fair to be realized.

Reference is also made to the action of the Imperial government in assisting the proposed fast Atlantic service while the Pacific cable scheme is also under its consideration.

The Cental or the Bushel.

The grain tables may save time and energy to those who use the bushel as a standard unit of measure, but the adoption of the cental would do away with both the bushel and the tables and save much more time to everyone connected with the trade. No reductions would be necessary and the dealer would know the quantity of grain in centals the moment he saw its weight, for instance, a wagon load weighed 5,321 pounds or 53.2 centals. No system is so simple as the decimal system of weights and measures, and its adoption by the grain trade would not only save labor and money, but its use would greatly reduce the number of errors and facilitate all transactions in the grain trade.

The change that the adoption of the cental as the standard unit of measure would destroy the value of statistics in comparison is true, but new statistics could easily be compiled from the old tables to show the quantities in units of the new system. The bushel used by the grain trade is not a measured bushel, but a definite number of pounds, which varies with different grains in different states, so that there is such a lack of uniformity as to make comparison in many cases impracticable.

If the 100 pounds was used as a unit of measure the crops and stocks would not seem so enormous to the speculator and the price would not seem so small to the farmer. If there are any dealers who are opposed to changing to the cental system we would like to have their views on the subject, and their reasons for being opposed to it. The champions of the cental system are numerous and the first organized attack they make on the old bushel will sound its death knell.

The beer war, waged for a year or so, in Chicago has ceased. All the brewing companies doing business in Chicago have perfected a mutual agreement by which the price of beer will be advanced on January 1st to \$5 a bar, the present price being \$4 or less. It is estimated that this will result in the closing of 2,000 saloons in Chicago during the first three months of 1896.

F. H. Lyons, formerly a commercial traveler for a Winnipeg house, and who has more recently been engaged in insurance and other lines, was killed on the railway at Kamloops, B. C., on December 31.