

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, MAY 6, 1895.

Manitoba.

Tenders for the supply of hardware for Winnipeg city corporation has been awarded to J. H. Ashdown, Miller, Morse & Co., and C. A. Baskerville.

E. W. Day, who for ten years has been connected with the Masser-Harris Co., has been appointed manager of the Globe Savings and Loan Company, at Winnipeg.

W. R. Ross, barrister, of Munson & Allan's law office, has entered into partnership with Frank S. Nugent, Winnipeg. The new firm will be known as Nugent and Ross.

Geo. A. Jenkins, general merchant of Carman, has made an assignment to S. A. D. Bertrand. A meeting of the creditors will be held on the 9th of May at Winnipeg.

J. D. McGregor, of the firm of Munn, McGregor & Co., Brandon, left recently for California to bring to Manitoba two carloads of standard-bred fillies from the Del Paso ranch.

Inland revenue returns at Winnipeg for April were. Spirits, \$11,817.97; tobacco, \$12,021.59; malt, \$2,028.13; cigars, \$563.40; petroleum inspection fees, \$67.01; other receipts, \$8; total \$26,036.10.

The transactions of the Dominion government savings bank at Winnipeg, for the month ended 30th April, were as follows: Deposits \$16,956.00, withdrawals \$27,160.39. Withdrawals exceed deposits by \$10,204.39.

Hugh McKellar, chief clerk of the department of agriculture, has returned from Oakville, where on Friday he addressed a meeting of farmers on the question of establishing a creamery or cheese factory in that neighborhood, about thirty farmers being present and much interest was manifested in the address.

There was a large attendance at the last meeting of the Winnipeg Retail association. R. T. Riley and Jas. H. Ashdown, promoters of the new local fire insurance company, were present for the purpose of explaining the nature of the project. Mr. Riley addressed the meeting at length, going fully into details and urged upon the retailers the importance of supporting a home company and assisting in keeping at home a portion of the large sum now annually sent out of the country in premiums. Mr. Ashdown made a few remarks on the subject, and the meeting then endorsed the scheme and gave assur-

ances of hearty support from members of the Retail association. The membership committee reported thirty-five new members enrolled during the past week. The early closing committee reported some infractions of the early closing by-law in the north end, and it was decided to notify the police, and ask them to take action accordingly. The association has now a membership of 200.

Alberta.

McClelland & Smyth have bought out the interest of Ratcliffe Bros. in the Calgary creamery enterprise.

W. B. Stannett, fur buyer, of Edmonton, has been buying furs along the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway to Golden B. C. He purchased \$935 worth of fur while absent.

The Edmonton Bulletin has the following news from the north: C. Johnston, trader, of Athabasca Landing, is in town. He sold a \$1,400 lot of fur to R. Secord. Ice went out of the Athabasca river on the 15th of April. The Hudson's Bay Co.'s steamer is being prepared for the season's service. The government oil boring party are ready to commence work as soon as manager Fraser arrives.

Grain and Milling News.

W. W. Ogilvie has been elected a director of the bank of Montreal, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of the late W. H. Meredith.

Senator Boulton will move for a return in the senate showing the number of bushels of grain delivered to the elevators at Fort William and grade of the same, during 1891, and the number of bushels shipped from the elevators and graded, as well as the nationality of the vessels carrying the grain. Also a copy of the grade of wheat as established by the board of inspectors assembled for the purpose of fixing the grade for the year 1891.

An order of the court has been made on the application of the liquidators of the Commercial bank, giving the liquidators leave to sell the elevator at Virden, Man. It was put up by Robert Adamson, formerly manager of the Virden branch of the Commercial bank, and cost \$11,000. The intention was that farmers around Virden should subscribe to the elevator and take it over to run it themselves; but this scheme fell through and the bank was compelled to complete it.

A report from New York received here recently was to the effect that space on a vessel there had been engaged for 120,000 bushels of Manitoba wheat for the United Kingdom. This is a part of the wheat that was shipped to Buffalo last season and holders made an attempt to re-ship to the Canadian markets, but were prevented by the customs authorities. If the wheat could have been shipped back to Canada it could now be sold at a much higher price than it will bring in any export market.

Martin, member for Winnipeg, is moving in the commons for papers re inspection of wheat at Fort William and Port Arthur. He said it was reported that inspector Gibb's received about \$25,000 a year from fees and other sources, and that by combining the insurance with inspector's duty, he practically commanded all the insurance policies. He contended the fees for inspection should be much lower or that the inspector should be paid a reasonable salary, and only sufficient fees charged to recoup the government for the expense of grading. Comptroller Wood said Martin had been misinformed as to amounts. Gibb's receipts were \$9,000 a year, but he would bring down the papers. He admitted that a re-arrangement of the office and charges were necessary.

Effects of Higher Oil Prices.

The New York Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter says: "The effects of the advance in price on the petroleum industry have been far-reaching. In the oil regions of Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia and Indiana it has been to stimulate the drillers to a degree of activity never before equalled, except, perhaps along Old Creek in the sixties. Every available plot of ground has been leased on which to locate wells, and most exorbitant prices have been paid for leaseholds, the prices varying according to their supposed probability of insuring remunerative returns.

Freight Rates and Traffic Matters.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin of April 26 says. Further business has been done in grain freights since our last issue, engagements being reported at 1s 3d to Liverpool, and it is understood this figure in some instances was shaded. Space for London and Glasgow is reported taken at 1s 3d. To Hamburg 2s is the reported rate. In sack flour, engagements were made at 7s 6d London, and 7s Liverpool and Glasgow. To Hamburg the rate is 14s. Cheese has been taken at 20s London and 15s Liverpool, and box meats to Liverpool at 10s. Hay is quoted at 20s to 25s and further space for cattle has been taken for Liverpool at 45s. From Fort William to Montreal 6c is quoted on wheat, and from Kingston to Montreal 2½c wheat and 2½c corn.

The Increase in Beef Prices.

A Washington dispatch says Dr. Salmon has reported to Secretary Morton of the United States agricultural department that there is an undoubted diminution of the class of cattle from which the beef supply is drawn. Taking the figures of the statistical division, which he believes to be approximately correct, and excluding dairy cows, there were in 1892, 37,651,239 head of cattle in the United States, or 576 to each 1,000 of population. In 1895 there are only 31,364,217 of such cattle, or 493 to each 1,000 of population. This shows a great diminution in the beef cattle of the country, and also that the increased prices of such cattle in the stock yards is legitimate. The price of beef in the eastern cities has gone higher than is justified by the price of live cattle.

Shoes and Leather.

A report from Chicago says, shoes may go up in price. The cost of leather is skyward bound, and as a consequence footwear, especially the cheaper grades, may rise also. Leather is one of the things in the list of commodities the upward whirl of which has attracted the attention of the commercial world. Prices of certain grades of leather have gone up from six to nine cents a pound—a rise in some instances amounting to over sixty per cent. Lower grades of shoes have advanced in some cases fifteen per cent. Manufacturers' agents in Boston, the great centre of the boot and shoe business, are writing customers declining to duplicate orders at prices recently quoted. Jobbers and manufacturers believe the advance in shoes must, at a moderate estimate, amount to fully twenty-five per cent. before the snow flies. They see no marked indications of a change in the conditions which have mainly brought about the rise. Shortage in the receipts of live cattle and the supply of hides is given as the cause.

A dividend of 5 per cent. has been declared by the Bank of Montreal for the current half year, making a total distribution of 10 per cent. on the paid up capital for the year.