

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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JAMES E. STEPHEN,

Publisher

The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much larger circulation among the business community of the east coast lying 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 the great majority of business men in the district designated above, 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, MARCH 22, 1897.

Manitoba.

A clothing and men's furnishings store to be known as "The Ideal," will be opened by Ben. H. Swaffield at 563 Main street.

The stock of Jas. Lamont, boot and shoe dealer, Winnipeg, who recently assigned, has been sold to Burke Bros., of Winnipeg, at 70 cents on the dollar.

Mr. McChesney has disposed of his interest in the Portage la Prairie Review newspaper. J. M. Robinson resumes the proprietorship of it.

Wilcox & Ramsay, general merchants, Virden and Elkhorn, have dissolved partnership as noted last week, Mr. Ramsay retiring and Mr. Wilcox continues in Virden alone. F. W. Clingan who has been manager of the Elkhorn branch, has been admitted as a partner, and the Elkhorn business will be conducted under the style of Wilcox & Clingan.

Schultz & Hansen, general merchants, carrying on business at Greta and other points in Southern Manitoba, have dissolved partnership. Greta and Altona book debts and accounts are to be paid to Otto Schultz and Albert W. Stiefel, doing business as Schultz & Stiefel. Winkler and Morden book debts and accounts are to be paid to H. P. Hansen. Schultz & Stiefel will pay the liabilities of the late firm of Schultz & Hansen.

Northwestern Ontario.

An Ottawa telegram says that a strong company has been formed to erect an establishment at Rat Portage for the treating of the ores of the district. Mr. Mather, of the Keewatin mills, is interested. The old Dick & Banning water power has been secured and a fifty stamp mill will be erected as soon as possible.

A deputation of citizens of Toronto, Kingston, Port Arthur, Fort William, Rat Portage, etc., has waited on the Ontario government asking for aid to the Rainy River railway. The road is already subsidized by the Ontario government to the extent of \$3,000 per mile for eighty miles, and the deputation asked \$5,000 for 150 miles, to be traversed from the point at which the line crosses the Port Arthur, Duluth and Western,

forty miles west of Port Arthur, until it reaches Swell Bay on Rainy Lake, 20 miles east of Fort Frances. It was urged that the province would be amply repaid by the sale of mining and agricultural lands and increased trade from the development of the district.

Dairy Trade Notes.

R. Scott, of Shoal Lake, Man., has ordered eighty Alexandra hand cream separators for the patrons of his butter factory.

The supply of Canadian fall made cheese in England, it is said, will fill the requirements of the trade at the present rate of consumption until July 1st.

Filled cheese are being imported into Great Britain from the States in defiance of the law, being double banded and having the branding smudged in order to evade the regulations of the revenue department.

A cable from England to a Montreal produce firm says: Advise the cheese factory men throughout the country not to open their factories before May 1st. Canadian fodder cheese are being offered in thousands for future delivery on the English market at a price equal to 7 cents in Montreal, thus causing great demoralization in the trade.

The growing importance of the dairy interest in Manitoba and the Territories is indicated by the decision of R. A. Lister & Co. of Dorsley, England, to open a branch in Winnipeg. The company manufactures a very large line of dairy machinery and supplies, including the Alexandra cream separator. These goods have been sold in Winnipeg for some time, and owing to the growing trade the English firm has decided to open a direct branch here. Wm. Scott, who is well known in Winnipeg, having been for several years connected with the dairy trade here, has been appointed manager of the branch. The company is fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Scott, who we believe is fully competent to handle the business to good advantage.

The Hardware and Paint Trade.

The Montreal Gazette says: "The firm feeling in white lead continues in sympathy with all lead products. Zinc oxide is scarce and somewhat dearer. Liquid paints are in good demand and values fully maintained. And active trade is reported in varnishes both for manufacturing and jobbing. A decline in gum shellac has been recorded in sympathy with lower quotations for forward delivery, and pale orange on spot is now quoted at 27 to 28c. Paris green is now quieter, but prices show no change. The weak feeling in linseed oil noted last week has continued and prices show a further decline of 1c per gallon. Raw in five barrel lots and over is offered at 43c and boiled at 46c. Seal oil is quiet and steady, while the stock of cod is in few hands and prices are firmly held. Castor oil has advanced £5 per ton in expectation of the export of the seed being prohibited from Calcutta, and the inside price on spot for barrels is now 9½c. Montreal prices are: Choice brands white lead, Government standard, \$5; No. 1, \$4.62½; No. 2, \$4.25; No. 3, \$3.87½; dry white lead, 4½c; red lead, pure, 4 to 4½c; do No. 1, 3½c to 4c; zinc, white, pure, \$7.25 glass \$1.85 first break; \$1.50 second break, per 50 feet; \$3.30 for third break, per 100 feet; linseed oil, round lots, raw, 43c to 44c; boiled, 46c to 47c; cod oil, 32½c to 35c; seal oil, 48c to 50c; castor oil, 9c to 9½c; putty, in bulk, \$1.75."

The Montreal rolling mills have closed down most of their shops, throwing about 400 men out of employment. Wm. Mac-Master, general manager, states that this action is simply due to the uncertainty as to

tarriff changes, as merchants will not buy goods at present, and the company cannot afford to go on manufacturing. Wholesale merchants when they receive an order, simply send word to the manufacturer to have goods shipped direct from the factory, as they are afraid to stock their warehouses. Articles on which there is no duty sell briskly, but there are no orders for those which may be subject to a change in the rate of duty.

Grocery Trade Notes.

Referring to the situation in prunes on the Coast, the California Fruit Grower says in its issue of the 6th instant:—"The demand for the small sized prunes continues good. We learn of a sale of three cars in St. Louis at 8c for 120s to 150s in 80 pound boxes. This is equal to 1½c f.o.b. here. This fruit can be retailed at 5c per pound. One car of 80s to 90s in 25 pound boxes changed hands here at 2½c net. The four sizes are scarce and firm in price.

Direct shipments of tea from the Island of Ceylon for 1897 are three times as great as in 1896.

The New York Commercial Bulletin says: It is reported that the market for red Alaska salmon has an advancing tendency, as the principal holders are not disposed to sell what they have at present prices. Some of the small holders it is stated, are still ready to accept \$1.10 net, but on the other hand it is stated that the buyers stand ready to take up anything that offers below \$1.12½ less 1½ per cent.

Comparative Prices in Staples.

Prices at New York compared with a year ago.

	March 12, 1897.	March 13, 1896.
Flour, straight spring..	\$4.10 to \$4.35	\$3.10 to \$3.60
Flour, straight winter..	\$4.20 to \$4.35	\$3.30 to \$3.80
Wheat, No. 2 red.....	92 3-4	73 1-4
Corn, No. 2 mixed.....	23 1-2	38 1-2
Oats, No. 2.....	22	25 1-2c
Rye, No. 2 Western.....	43½	43
Barley, No. 2 Milwaukee	42½c	45c
Cotton, mid. upld. ...	7 1-4c	7½c
Print cloths, 64x64....	2 9-16	2 5-8c
Wool, Ohio & Pa., X....	18c	18
Wool, No. 1 combg.....	21 to 22c	22 to 23c
Pork, mess new.....	5.75 to 9.00	\$10.00 to 10.50
Lard, prime, cont't....	\$4.37½	\$5.60c
Butter, ex. creamery ..	18c	22c
Cheese, ch. east fly....	12	10½c
Sugar, centrif., 96°....	3 3-10c	4 1-3c
Sugar, granulated.....	4 3-9c	5c
Coffee, Rio, No. 7.....	9 1-4	14½ to 14½c
Petroleum, N. T. Co....	9½c	\$1.39
Petroleum, rfd. gal....	\$0.30	\$7.25
Iron, Bessemer, pg.....	\$10.65	\$12.50
Steel billets, ton.....	\$15.76	\$17.00
Steel Rails.....	\$20.00	\$23.00
Ocean Steam Freight—		
Grain, Liverpool.....	2½d	1 1-4d
Cotton.....	5-64 to 11-128d	3-32d

* Pittsburgh.

Grain and Milling.

The Montreal Gazette of March 13 says: "The feature of the flour market of late has been the cutting in prices that has been going on, and in consequence of which prices have been reduced 10 to 25c per barral all round. The feeling at the moment is very unsettled and the market on the whole is irregular. Prices are: Winter wheat patents at \$1.30 to \$1.50; straight roller at \$3.90 to \$4.10, and in bags at \$1.90 to \$1.95. Manitoba spring wheat patents at \$1.60 to \$1.80, and strong bakers' at \$1.25 to \$1.50"

The case against Beach and O'Brien, of Winnipeg, for dealing in options, has fizzled out, the prosecution having been withdrawn. The case is said to have been brought about by ill feeling over speculative losses.

The feature of the flour market at Montreal on March 12 was the demand from abroad for Manitoba strong bakers', and a sale of 1,000 sacks was made on London account for prompt shipment via Boston.—Gazette.