

The Commercial

A Journal of Commerce, Industry, and Finance specially 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 desk of the great majority of business men in the vast district designated above. The Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale, commission, and manufacturing houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, MAY 28, 1888.

A. SYLVAIN, Board of Trade hotel, Winnipeg, has sold out to Robert McLellan.

ED. ROBERTS, Grand Central hotel, Winnipeg, has sold out to A. Sylvain.

LOUIS G. GAONON, general storekeeper, St. Anns, has assigned in trust to S. A. D. Bertrand.

A. T. W. GOLDSMIDT, general storekeeper, Binscarth, has obtained an extension of time from creditors.

ASSINIBOINE VALLEY STOCK & DAIRY Co., Winnipeg, are selling out to the Canadian Pacific Colonization Corporation.

JAMES LAWRENCE & Co., dealers in hardware, Stonewall, have dissolved partnership; business continued by James Lawrence, jr.

THE Manitoba Land company reports an increased debit balance from £554 to £1,534. The directors propose to issue 8 per cent. cumulative preference shares to meet current maturing debentures. The directors are hopeful of the prospect.

THOS. SPENCE & SON are opening a general store at Oak River, Man. Mr. Spence, senior, is an old timer, and well known throughout Manitoba. Oak River is situated about 20 miles west of Rapid City, on the line of the Northwest Central railway, now under construction. The district is well settled with a thrifty class of people.

THE Northwest Land Corporation of Canada reports continued belief in the future of the Northwest: The directors propose to write off ten shillings per share as capital lost so as to start with a clean sheet and call up ten shillings per share in order to provide for liabilities. This will divide each share into three fully paid up shares of one pound each.

A SECOND brewery will be erected at Brandon.

NAVIGATION opened at Port Arthur on Monday last, May 21st. A large number of steamers had for several days previously been endeavoring to break through the ice which was still firm in the bay. The first arrivals outside the harbor were fully a week working in the ice, before an entrance could be made.

AFTER all it appears that the Territories are not to receive freedom from railway monopoly for another year yet. The bills before Parliament for the construction of railways to the United States boundary, in Manitoba and the Territories, were thrown out, on the ground that the bill providing for the purchase of the C.P.R. monopoly rights had not then received the royal assent. This seems a somewhat paltry excuse, but it is an excuse, and that is all that was wanted. So far as Manitoba is concerned, it will make little difference. It is not at all probable that any other roads than the Red River Valley will be built to the boundary this year. Anyway the roads could be built under provincial acts, which have been obtained. In the Territories, however, roads can only be built under Dominion acts, and the effect will therefore be to prevent for the present the construction of the proposed Territorial roads. The promoters of the scheme to extend the Galt road to the boundary, will feel the greatest disappointment, as it is understood that it was the intention to push on this road at once.

A MEETING was held in Winnipeg last week, in the interest of the formation of a company to operate for oil in the Lake Dauphin district, Man. Mr. Case, who is familiar with oil territories in the east, said he went to the district last March and speedily discovered the existence of oil by the discoloration of the snow which was caused by gas exuding from the earth. By this means he located the veins and traced them for some distance. Wherever the snow was discolored the ground beneath was not frozen, a sure indication that oil was present in considerable quantities. He asserted that there were better indications on the surface in the Lake Dauphin district than could be found in Pennsylvania at a depth of 200 feet. The shale exposed on the side of the hill by land slides was so saturated with oil that it could be ignited with a match and would burn freely. He expressed a positive belief that oil existed on the company's claim, and was certain that it would be found in paying quantities beneath the rock formation. It was decided that the board of directors should be limited to seven members, and the following gentleman were proposed for election: Dr. Clark, C. Stewart, C. F. Brown, T. G. Mathers, J. G. Moore, C. O. Wickenden, F. H. Schofield, A. R. Anderson, W. L. Harrison, W. P. Johnston. It was resolved to make application to the Legislature immediately for letters patent of incorporation under the provisions of the joint stock companies act. The capital stock of the company has been placed at \$100,000, divided into shares of \$25 each. Other companies will operate in the district, and if the territory proves as rich in oil as it is generally believed to be, a flourishing oil industry will soon be built up in the province.

E. J. SPARLING, grocer, Portage la Prairie, Man., has given up business.

J. E. LEATHERLAND & Co., merchant tailors, have commenced business at Winnipeg.

WM. COCHRANE has taken charge of the boarding department of the Commercial hotel, Morden, Man.

WM. BULL, late of the Windsor hotel, Port Arthur, has leased the Canadian Pacific hotel at Fort William West.

THE Beaubier house, Brandon, is being renovated and refitted by the proprietor, Beaubier, who will reopen the establishment about June 1st.

THE Beautiful Plains Banking Company has been organized at Neopawa, Man. J. Crawford, M.P.P., and J. P. Curran, late of this city, will be managers.

CHAS. WESBROOK, of Moosomin, Assa., late of the firm of Wesbrook & McKinnel, has opened business again in agricultural machinery, implements, etc., at the place named.

THE Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha railway has adopted, commencing May 15th, a vestibuled train service, for the convenience and safety of passengers.

THE tenders submitted for the completion of the R. R. V. R. were considered by the Executive Council on Wednesday, and the award made to J. D. McArthur. The amount of the tender was \$234 per mile. There were eleven tenders altogether. The work was to begin on June 1st, and it is expected it will be finished by the middle of July.

A FIRE at Portage la Prairie, Man., last week, did damage to the amount of about \$20,000. The buildings burned were nearly all old structures and several were vacant. The fire originated in the Marquette flour mill, which was vacant, Bourne, the lessee of the mill, having lately given it up. It was an old stone mill, run partially on the roller process, and valued at \$6,000; no insurance. It was completely destroyed. Pratt's block, vacant, was next consumed. Valued at \$4,000; no insurance. The Lorne hotel, kept by Wm. Lyons was also burned. Valued at \$6,000; well insured, including \$1,000 on furniture and \$400 on stables. H. Grannis, of the Queens hotel, lately burned, had \$1,000 worth of furniture in one of the buildings, which was consumed. The Club house, vacant and a couple of other buildings were burned. The value of some of the buildings was mostly nominal.

THE New Douglas House, Winnipeg, was formally opened under its new management, on Wednesday evening last. Invitations were issued by Starkey & Co. to their opening dinner, and a large number of the friends, patrons and guests of the house responded, the spacious dining hall being filled to its full capacity. The spread was one of the best ever given in Winnipeg, the large bill of fare being crowded with a list of dishes long enough to bewilder the guests. Everything was of the very best in point of quality, and excellent wines and cigars were furnished in abundance by the landlord, Mr. F. Starkey, whose health was most enthusiastically drunk. The usual toast list was gone through with in a jovial spirit, all seeming to thoroughly enjoy themselves.