

THE COMMERCIAL

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The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much
larger circulation among the business community
of the vast region lying between Lake Superior
and the Pacific Coast than any other paper in Can-
ada, daily or weekly. The Commercial also
reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manu-
facturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada

WINNIPEG, JULY 14.

THE EXHIBITION.

The week after next brings around the time for the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition again and already a good deal of interest has been taken in the event by the general public. The arrangements this year appear to have been made on a larger scale than ever and the directors look forward to a successful exhibition. As this is the closing year of the 19th century an effort has been made to give the show an epoch marking character. The governor-general of Canada, Lord Minto, will preside over the opening ceremonies and the city is to be decorated and illuminated in honor of his coming. Exceptionally low railway rates from all parts of the west have been secured for the carriage of both passengers and exhibits and cheap excursions will also be run from Ontario and from the neighboring States. It is expected that American day, when the southern excursionists come in, will be the biggest day of the fair. Abundant accommodation has been arranged for all who attend the fair and every effort is being made to ensure their safety and comfort while here.

The business community are looking for a large influx of country customers and big preparations are being made for their entertainment. Travelers will all be in off the road and house clerks all in their places to receive visitors. The numerous new warehouses which have been completed and occupied by wholesale concerns since the last exhibition will no doubt be great centres of attraction for country merchants.

A number of organizations have arranged for meetings in the city and this is helping to swell the number of prospective visitors. It is to be hoped that the week will be as free from accidents of all kinds as it has been in

other years, and that fine weather will add its charms to this season of western holiday-making.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

The presidential campaign in the United States is now on, and business men generally look for the usual disturbances to trade and industry which accompany the presidential contests. The candidates for the presidency are the same as in the last election, and the issues appear also to be much the same, although they have the new element of imperialism and anti-imperialism also thrown in. Wm. McKinley is the unanimous choice of the Republican party for president, and W. J. Bryan has been chosen with unanimity to represent the Democratic cause. There seems every likelihood that free silver coinage will be a prominent feature of the Democratic platform in opposition to the gold standard cry of the Republicans. Protective vs. revenue tariff will also be a feature. The Republicans have declared themselves in favor of the expansion policy of the present administration, while the Democrats will probably favor the traditional policy of the United States in this matter. The corporations and privileged classes are with the Republicans in this as they have been in all recent struggles for the presidential chair, while the common people are for the most part with the Democrats. The weakness of this party lies in its continued adherence to the sixteen to one heresy, which has come to be regarded with greater suspicion than ever by a great majority of the people. The Democratic pronouncement against trusts and combines is one of the most popular in their programme, and will no doubt win a great many votes that on all other questions would have gone to the other party.

TRADING STAMPS.

The trading stamp seems to have had its best day in Winnipeg. The steady schooling which the merchant and his customers have had on the falsity of the underlying principles of the trading stamp business from those few who have taken the trouble and had the courage to look below the surface has had its effect and already one of the leading grocers in Winnipeg who has had personal experience with the trading stamps has declared himself against it and given up the use of stamps. Others will no doubt follow. It has been truly said that whatever advantage a merchant gains from adopting trading stamps or similar schemes is lost again when his competitors also adopt the same scheme, and this is exactly what has happened in Winnipeg. Two companies competing for the business have so extended the number of merchants using stamps as to nullify the advan-

tages—if there are any—of the system. The retail merchants find themselves exactly where they were before the stamps were introduced as far as the volume of business done is concerned and they have the additional disadvantages of having to keep up the stamp companies and bother with the stamps.

Push and enterprise are the only things which can continuously and permanently be brought to bear for the success of any business. Scheming may do for a time but these others are the qualities which count for the most and the merchant who decides to apply them and leave outside schemes alone will find no difficulty in keeping abreast of all competitors.

STREET PAVEMENTS.

Now that Winnipeg seems to have definitely decided to go on constructing cedar block pavements it might be well to consider and see if some method of treating the blocks to prevent rotting cannot be devised. This has been done with great success in large European cities and also in some places on this continent. In London, England, nearly 200 miles of pavement has been laid of creosoted wood and more is being laid annually. Paris is rapidly substituting this pavement for asphalt, and other large cities are doing the same. Galveston, Texas, has creosoted block pavement, which is still in good condition after twenty-five years' wear. Creosote oil is a great wood preserver, and it can be economically applied to the blocks intended for pavements so as to preserve them for an indefinite length of time. It cannot be washed out of the wood and has valuable antiseptic and germicide properties. The process of treating the blocks is simple, and any kind of wood can be used, but there are several kinds which are much more suited to the purpose than cedar. The bed for the blocks should be of concrete.

Winnipeg should certainly not go on laying the old fashioned an unsanitary block pavements any longer if by some such process as that suggested the streets can be made good as the best in London, Paris and other cities without too great expense.

Indian Head Experimental Farm Report.

The annual report of Angus Mackay, superintendent of the Indian Head, Experimental farm, for 1899, like that of Mr. Bedford, of Brandon, contains much information about the business of farming in the west which cannot be obtained elsewhere. Speaking of the season's weather Supt. Mackay says the preceding winter was exceptionally long and cold, the spring late and seeding considerably delayed. June was cold, wet and backward; July, dry and growth rapid. On August 4 there was a slight frost and again towards the end of the month. In Assiniboia the harvest was one week later than