

# The Commercial

WINNIPEG, DECEMBER 12, 1892.

## FREE LUMBER.

Free lumber is likely to be one of the early results of the Democratic victory in the United States. Free lumber is one of the things for which there has been a popular demand in the United States for years, and even the high tariff party thought seriously of making lumber free. When this is the case, the new administration is likely to consider lumber as one of the first things from which to remove the duties. Lumber is an article which may be considered raw material to a great extent. It is an article which is required for improvements, and the very nature of the uses to which it is put makes it one of the last things which should be taxed. A duty upon lumber is a direct tax upon the homes of the people, and it is a tax upon improvements. Besides, in the United States, there is the important question of the exhaustion of the forests of the country.

The admission of lumber into the republic free of all duty, will be a good thing for the mill owners of eastern Canada, and it should materially increase the value of Canadian timber lands also, while at the same time, the privilege of getting free Canadian lumber, will be a great boon to the people in a good many parts of the republic. Here in Manitoba we are not in a position to export lumber to any great extent, and were lumber put on the free list in each country, we would probably import to a considerable extent, to supplement our local supply. In northern Minnesota and northern and northeastern Wisconsin there are large forest areas of pine which could be conveniently supplied to Manitoba in the shape of lumber. Thus, while free lumber would benefit the mill owners of eastern Canada, reciprocity in lumber would enable the mill owners of Minnesota and Wisconsin to ship their lumber into western Canada to the mutual benefit of the shippers and the people here.

## FREE AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

A journal published at Minneapolis, Minnesota, in the interest of the agricultural implement trade, says that "Canadian competition may be encountered in the implement trade by another year." It evidently has reference to a belief that the new administration in that country will lose no time in placing agricultural machinery upon the free list. The Minneapolis journal does not say whether or not the manufacturers there fear Canadian competition, but it is to be inferred they do, as it is about the only competition they would have, and they would not be anxious to keep up the tariff tax if they did not fear it. Most people in Canada imagine that our implement manufacturers would not be able to compete at home with United States makers, if they were not protected by heavy duties. However, some of our manufacturers claim that if the duties were removed simultaneously by both countries, they would not be afraid of the result. So long as

Canadian agricultural machinery is kept out of the republic by high duties, our implement men say it is only fair that they should be protected at home. Our market is limited, in comparison with that of the United States, and as our harvest is later than in that country, the large makers there could slaughter any surplus they had remaining at the end of the season in Canada, were it not for the duty. This of course would be for the benefit of the Canadian farmer, if not desired by the manufacturer. However, if the Canadian makers are given the privilege of competing in the whole of the United States on equal terms with manufacturers there, we presume they will not object to competition on the same terms at home. Though they would have increased competition here, they would have a vastly larger market to sell in, which should more than make up for the loss of some home trade. They would be able to manufacture on a larger scale, and therefore more cheaply.

The Canadian farm machinery and implement manufacturing industry is no doubt in much better shape than it ever was before, to meet increased competition and extend its trade. The wiping out of some of the weaker concerns during the last few years, and the amalgamation of some of the remaining establishments, has placed the industry on a more solid basis. Some of our establishments at least in this industry would no doubt be able to compete for the trade of the continent, with good results. At present Canadian harvesting machinery competes on equal terms with United States makes, in Australia and other outside markets, and why not in America. The farmers of each country would undoubtedly like to see the competition started.

## RAISING HOGS.

THE COMMERCIAL has repeatedly called attention to the subject of raising hogs, with a view of pressing the matter upon our farmers. This journal has referred to this important matter at intervals for a number of years, as often as it was thought advisable to do so, without being open to the charge of harping too much upon one theme. We have no hesitation in saying now, that Manitoba has lost thousands of dollars annually, through neglect of this industry. We are still importing large quantities of cured hog products, besides a number of cars of live hogs which have been brought in from the east this year, all of which should be produced at home. Instead of importing high priced hog stuff, we should have a surplus for shipping eastward, after supplying the requirements of British Columbia in this line. We have here an abundance of cheap grain, suitable for feeding swine, and in some seasons we have quantities of grain which cannot be sold for shipment at a profit, but which, if fed at home, would return a good profit.

Experiments have been made at the Central Dominion Experimental farm at Ottawa, in feeding swine, the results of which are related in a bulletin just issued, by Jas. W. Robertson, agriculturist. Among other experiments was that of fattening swine on frozen wheat, which is related as follows:—

With heavy swine, when the frozen wheat

was fed, ground and soaked for 12 hours, 11.3 pounds of increase in the live weight were obtained per bushel of wheat; while when the frozen wheat was fed unground and soaked for 12 and 42 hours 9.1 pounds of increase in the live weight were obtained per bushel of wheat. From the tests with younger and lighter swine weighing an average of 61 pounds each in one pen and an average 104 pounds each in the other pen, it appears that:—

1. When the frozen wheat was fed, ground and soaked for 12 hours, 14.15 pounds of increase in the live weight were obtained per bushel of wheat.

2. In the feeding of swine from an average weight of 61 pounds, each until they reached an average weight of 145 pounds each, 15.16 pounds of increase in the live weight were obtained per bushel of wheat.

3. One pound of frozen wheat was the equivalent of 7.91 pounds of skim milk in increasing the live weight.

The parts of one side from a pig of the lot which were fattened upon frozen wheat exclusively were sent for opinion to William Davies, of the Davies Packing Company, (limited), Toronto. The following is the sum of the verdict of Mr. Davies upon its quality.

"It is excellent, rather too salt but very rich and luscious. I consider it superior to hogs fed on peas alone. The complaint regarding pea feed bacon in England, is that the lean is hard and this is the case to some extent with the fat also. It would be well if farmers in Canada would mix the grain and grind it, then give it to the hogs with whey, butter milk or skim milk."

In those parts of Canada where a less or greater quantity of wheat may be injured by frost or other climatic conditions, the farmers should fortify their positions by providing means whereby to market, in the best way, this product which cannot be sold at any paying prices in the form of grain. From 9.1 pounds to 15.46 pounds of increase in the live weight of swine have been obtained per bushel of frozen wheat consumed. When the swine are fetching 5 cents per pound live weight, with an allowance of 5 per cent. deducted for shrinkage, the frozen wheat fed under the least favorable of ordinary conditions, may realize 43½ cents per bushel. At the same price for swine the frozen wheat, fed under the favorable conditions in the quality and age of the swine and the preparation of the feed, may realize 73.45 cents per bushel.

The conditions required for the profitable feeding of swine are (1) clear, dry, warm quarters, protected from winds and draughts; (2) as much wholesome feed—if grain, preferably ground fine—as they will eat it clean, three times a day; (3) and free access to a mixture of salt and ashes, to soda or to soil.

## RAISE MORE POULTRY.

Why does Manitoba not produce more poultry? Surely we should have enough poultry to supply our own requirements; but we do not by a long ways. The season of heavy demand for poultry is now on, and the local supply is as usual so short that dealers are obliged to import dressed poultry by the car lot from eastern Canada. Poultry in car lots is now arriving to supply the Winnipeg market, and even the market in smaller country towns, which should receive a sufficient supply from their immediate vicinity, have to look to outside sources to meet the demand. Manitoba should have abundance of poultry raised at home, not only to meet local requirements, but also to ship outside of the province. In addition to the large quantity brought in from the east to supply the deficiency in the local demand, many car lots from Ontario pass through to British Columbia. This demand should be filled from Manitoba, besides supplying our local markets.