

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 desks of the great majority of business men in the vast district designated 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, DECEMBER 26, 1892.

The Area of Wheat.

Letters from North Dakota, Montana, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, lead the *Milling World* to the conclusion that the total wheat area of the United States is to-day really greater, by at least 2,000,000 acres, than the usually accepted area. It is beyond doubt that in the other states the area sown to wheat has fully held its own, and it is also beyond doubt the increase in the above named states and Minnesota, Wyoming and California has not been adequately reckoned. No observer of market movements can fail to note, year after year, the fact that the area and average yield of wheat fail regularly to account for the crop as revealed by actual movements. The returns by the statistician of the Department of Agriculture regularly fall short by millions, of the movement. The *Milling World* believes that the work of the Department ought to be extended, so far as to cover the cereal area by school districts, by townships and by States. In no other way will the actual crops in this country ever be known.

New York Storage Capacity,

According to the latest annual report the storage capacity of New York was 4,500,000 bushels in railroad elevators and 20,250,000 bushels in regular warehouses, besides 2,525,000 bushels in private warehouses. Within a few days the "West Shore Elevator" has been made regular, increasing the railroad capacity to 6,000,000 bushels. The regular warehouse capacity has been increased to 21,750,000 bushels, while the private warehouses have been reduced to 1,925,000 bushels. The net result is an increase in storage capacity from 27,275,000 bushels to 29,675,000 bushels. This does not include the storage aloft of the Lackawanna, Baltimore & Ohio, Lehigh Valley and Reading roads which have no elevators.

The grain which can be held aloft in canal boats and barges is limited to the number which comes in at the end of the season. The transferring capacity of the New York elevators and warehouses reaches the enormous figure, including the floating elevators, of close on to 500,000 bushels per hour. The warehouse capacity can be further increased so that, with the storage aloft, 40,000,000 bushels of grain can be held here.—*American Elevator and Grain Trade.*

Immense Cattle Movement.

Something like 675,000 cattle arrived at Chicago during the autumn months of October and November, and receipts for the year are running away ahead of last year. During the first eleven months closing with November a total of 3,282,476 cattle arrived, against 2,969,220 for the same period last year, or an increase of more than 300,000 head. Shipment of live cattle during the period named were a little more than a million head against 973,323 for the first eleven months of 1891. The trade seems to be working into fairly satisfactory shape in the recent past, in spite of big offerings, and there is a general good demand for desirable heaves with the English market showing considerable strength. It is nearly five months since as high a figure has been reached as was realized this week. A bunch of fine steers, 59 in number, averaging 1,670 pounds, sold at \$8, for shipment to the East.—*National Stockman.*

Our Mormon Settlement.

C. A. McGrath, of Lethbridge speaking of the Mormon colony in Southern Alberta says: "Of the Mormons as a class the outside world knows very little. They are honest, thrifty and industrious. They obey the laws of this country in every particular. Polygamy is now forbidden by the Mormon church and it is gradually dying out. They are extensive breeders of cattle and sheep and follow agriculture. There are about 500 in the colony.

They have a saw and grist mill in active operation. They are now proceeding to build a stone church and are furnishing one-third of the cost of building a bridge over the St. Mary river—the government furnishing the other two-thirds."

Weather and Crops in Europe.

The weather is becoming more seasonable in character, with sharp night frosts. Until quite recently, however, the weather had been very open and mild, and the early sown wheat was showing above ground very well; nor is the season considered much later than usual. In France also the weather is becoming colder, but had remained mild long enough to enable farmers in the north to sow their usual area with wheat, which at one time did not seem likely. In Germany the weather is fine and cold, and farmers are satisfied with the outlook. In Hungary, according to the latest official report, the early sown winter crops have made a fair start, but mice have done serious damage in some parts. On the Danube the weather up to the present is relatively mild; at Odessa, however, it is cold, and the Azof ports are practically closed by ice. The young wheat and rye plants in Russia are in some parts of the country complained of, but generally speaking there has been some improvement. From the Argentine and Australia, where wheat cutting has now begun, the latest reports are still for good crops.—*Beerbohm.* Dec. 8.

Origin of Fife Wheat.

The *Chicago Elevator and Grain Trade* says: "The Chamber of Commerce at Grand Forks, North Dakota, in talking over the seed wheat question a good many years ago when the fife wheat first began to attain its present popularity and was known as "Scotch fife wheat," thought perhaps superior seed might be ob-

tained in Fifeshire, Scotland, where it was supposed to have originated, and sent to a correspondent in that country an order for 20 bushels "Scotch fife wheat." They were considerably surprised to receive a reply stating that there was no such wheat known in Scotland, and in fact no spring wheat of any kind raised in Fifeshire. This led to an investigation into its origin and after many inquiries it was discovered that the fife wheat originated in Canada in the vicinity of Manitoba. It appears that when Sal Kirk brought over his Scotch colony to Manitoba, about 1853, he purchased for them a supply of seed after their arrival, and among other lots he obtained a supply of seed wheat from a Scotch settler named Andrew Fife, which was so different in character from the rest that it was kept separate and sown by itself and called after the man from whom it had been obtained. Fife seed. Its strength, hardiness and power to resist disease soon made it a favorite with the colony, and it spread into the Red River valley and Minnesota and after a few years was raised extensively."

In the territorial Assembly at Regina last week, Dil presented the report of the standing committee on agriculture drawing the attention of the Canadian Pacific Railway company to the large number of cattle annually killed on the track and intimating a desire that the track be fenced. Davidson moved a resolution asserting that freight rates on wheat and coal were excessive and a hindrance to the progress of the country. The motion was carried unanimously.

Over 200 stars are now known to vary in brightness. Differences in the phenomena observed have led to the following classification, proposed by Prof. Pickering, of the Harvard College Observatory: 1. Temporary or new stars, of which only very few have been recorded. They blaze out suddenly, remain visible for a short time, then disappear, never to return. A small temporary star discovered in 1848 in Ophiuchus is still perceptible, but has faded from the fourth magnitude to the thirteenth. 2. Variable stars, with regular periods of considerable length. The periods range from about 100 to 700 days, and the fluctuations in brightness from about one to more than eight magnitudes. 3. Irregular variables, having no definite period, and usually only slight variation. 4. Variables of short period, most of them under eight days. 5. Variables of the type of Algol, of which only ten have been discovered. At regular intervals the light suddenly fades, and continues diminished for only a small portion—a few hours—of the star's period.

Certain physiologists have been able, with injected fluid, to wash out the system through the natural channels of circulation; and Dr. Max Hildebrand, of San Francisco, states that it is possible to infuse into the veins, without danger to the organism, an amount of fluid equal to four times the normal quantity of blood. In experiments made about three years ago, a 0.7 per cent. solution of salt was injected directly into the veins of dogs and rabbit. At a certain rate, the salt water could be forced for hours, and was promptly discharged in the urine, but too great pressure was fatal, and the injection was safe only when the heart was healthy. By a new method, due to Cantani, the injections are now made hydropically without risk, this process being called "hypodermodylysis." It was first employed to prevent drying up of the tissues after great loss of blood and in cholera, but has been given promising results in cleansing the blood from poisons, such as those of typhoid fever, uraemia, septic blood poisoning, gastric or intestinal ulcers, and snake bites. In asphyxia from chloroform it has saved life when electricity and artificial respiration had failed. The salt water, with antiseptic precautions, is injected into the cellular tissue under the skin, usually of the abdomen, causing a tumor which lasts two or three hours. The usual time for injecting 30 ounces of solution is about five minutes.