

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, DECEMBER 23, 1895.

THE WINNIPEG INDUSTRIAL.

The board of directors of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition Association have wound up their business for the present year, and the association has been organized for the campaign of 1896 by the election of a new board. From a glance over the names comprising the new board and the officers for the current year, we feel sure that the association will not suffer for lack of ability and enterprise in its management during 1896. In fact, we feel confident that the coming year will prove the most favorable in the history of the Association.

The success of the Winnipeg Industrial since its inception has proved beyond doubt that the exhibition is here to stay. In fact, it would be nothing short of a calamity to this whole western country to lose the association which has done so much to encourage agriculture in Manitoba and the West generally. Thinking persons all over the country, whose views are not confined by narrow sectionalism, are now willing to admit that the association has done a great work for Manitoba. In stockraising particularly the exhibition has been a great encouragement to the improvement of our flocks and herds, while the dairy industry has also been greatly benefitted through the efforts of the association. Anyone who is familiar with the live stock industry here will admit the great improvement in the class of stock raised by our breeders since the organization of the Winnipeg Industrial. The breeders themselves admit that this has been largely a result of the influence of the annual exhibitions held by the Winnipeg Industrial Association, and what they admit no one can reasonably contradict. The live stock associations have gracefully acknowledged the value of the association by resolutions adopted at their annual meeting.

Though mainly supported by the city of Winnipeg, the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition association is in no sense a local affair. It is in reality an exhibition for Manitoba and the territories, and it is the only exhibition representative of the country at large, west of the lakes. It is very creditable to Winnipeg, and speaks much for the liberality of her citizens, that they have maintained this exhibition for years in the way they have. A small annual grant has been obtained from the provincial government, but it has only been a trifle in comparison with the importance of the association and the magnitude of the work undertaken. The supporting of the exhibition has fallen almost entirely upon the city of Winnipeg, and the association has been carried on through the aid of the annual grant from the city and the large annual contributions from private citizens. Now that the people of Winnipeg have established such an exhibition, and shown that it can be made a success, it seems reasonable to expect more liberal assistance from the province than has been accorded in the past. An offer has been made by the

association to the provincial government, to allow a representative of the government on the board of the association. Whether or not the government accepts the offer, it is not too much to urge the financial claims of the association upon the government. The city of Winnipeg has been doing a provincial work in maintaining the association, and those interested are entitled to look to the province to bear a more reasonable share of the expense in the future.

Each year since the association was organized it has been found necessary to enlarge the buildings. A great deal yet remains to be done in the way of providing building accommodation, but owing to financial considerations the association has been obliged to go slowly in the past. It has been proposed lately that the association should raise funds by way of a loan, in order to complete the buildings and put the grounds in first-class condition at once. The plan of adding to the buildings each year, as finances will admit, is really a costly mode of procedure. Erecting the buildings by pieces, or in patchwork style, is really much more costly than it would be to make one job of the whole thing. It would no doubt be cheaper in the end to pay interest on bonds than to go on doing the work as in the past. If satisfactory arrangements can be made to float bonds of the association or in some other way raise the funds required, it would be greatly to the advantage of the association to have the grounds and buildings completed at once, on a scale sufficient to properly accommodate the annual fairs of the association.

THE LIVE STOCK QUARANTINE.

An agitation is starting among the ranchers of the territories in favor of the removal of the live stock quarantine. A meeting of ranchers was held at Macleod, Alberta, recently at which the quarantine question was the principal topic discussed. Opinion, however was by no means unanimous in favor of the removal of the quarantine regulations. The object sought is to obtain an entrance for Canadian live stock into United States markets, the quarantine regulations being the principal difficulty in the way. Of course the removal of the regulations by Canada would not help exports to the United States, unless the latter country would reciprocate. This it is expected the United States would do, though it is by no means certain that the government of the republic would do so. However, if a removal of the live stock quarantine regulations between the two countries is thought desirable, an understanding could be come to between the two governments to this end, before either country took action in the matter.

The strict quarantine regulations enforced by Canada, were adopted with the object of assisting our export trade to Great Britain. For a time Canadian cattle were allowed privileges in British markets which were not accorded to imports from the United States. That is, cattle from the United States were obliged to be slaughtered at the port of entry, while Canadian cattle were permitted to be imported for feeding. In order that these privileges should be maintained for Canadian cattle, it was thought necessary to establish

a strict quarantine against the United States, so that there would be no danger of allowing infected cattle from the United States to mix with Canadian cattle. Of late years, however, the British government has refused to make any distinction between live stock from Canada and the United States, so that so far as the British market is concerned, there is nothing to be gained in keeping up the quarantine against the republic. The question now resolves itself down to the necessity of keeping up the regulations for the protection of our flocks and herds from the importation of infected animals from the United States. The introduction of the scab disease from the United States a few years ago, resulting in great loss to our sheep-raising industry in the western territories, indicates the need of watchfulness at the frontier to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

As for the United States market, it is true that at times it would be an advantage to our stockmen to have the markets of that country open to them. The duty on live animals imported into the United States is 20 per cent. At some seasons it would pay our stockraisers to ship to the United States and pay the duty rather than to export to Great Britain. After the duty, however, comes the quarantine at the boundary, by which shippers would be compelled to hold their stock for ninety days before they would be admitted. This, of course, is too costly a proceeding to be entertained.

There is another question in connection with this quarantine matter which is of great importance to Manitoba and the territories. This is the question of immigration from the United States. The Commercial discussed this matter last spring. It is a fact that the quarantine regulations have kept many good settlers from coming to this country. Many parties residing in the United States who thought of moving to Canada have given up the idea as soon as they learned of the quarantine regulations. Parties in the border states would as a rule bring their stock and effects with them, but when they learn that their stock would be detained ninety days at the boundary, they at once realize the great disadvantage which it would be to come here with their stock. To force the sale of them at home would often mean a great sacrifice, consequently they are led to forego any thought of moving to Canada.

This view of the quarantine regulations is something which should be strongly urged upon the government, and it should be acted upon at once so that parties in the states to the south of us may learn of any change in the regulations in time to come here in the spring. By far the best field open to us for immigration purposes is the country south of the boundary, but so long as the present quarantine regulations remain in force we cannot hope to make much headway in inducing settlers to come in from the United States.

THE PRINCE ALBERT FISH TRADE.

The Commercial last week copied an article from the Prince Albert Advocate relating to the development of an export trade in fish from the numerous lakes north of that place. The Prince Albert paper said: "Efforts have