The Commercial

WINNIPEG, JUNE 1, 1896.

FARMING IN NORTHWEST ONTARIO.

The vast country lying between the eastern boundary of Manitoba and the older settled portions of Ontario is not supposed to be very valuable from an agricultural point of view. All the way from the upper Ottawa river through to the eastern boundary of Manitoba the country as seen from the lines of railway is rocky and uninviting. There is considerable timber wealth in this great region, and untold mineral wealth lies hidden among the rocks which everywhere abound. Gold, silver, copper, nickle, iron and other minerals abound. Some fabulously rich silver mines have been discovered and worked, and the gold sections of that region are now attracting great attention. The nickle mines are also very rich, while there is abundance of copper and iron in some sections. Agriculturally, however, as we have said, the country has generally been considered as of little or no value. It must be remembered, however, that only a small part of the country can be seen from the railway, and even in that portion through which the railways pass there are areas here and there which are adapted to settlement for general farming or stock-raising. One of these districts which is apparently capable of supporting an agricultural population is situated at Barclay, on the Canadian Pacific Railway, between Fort William and Rat Portage. The Ontario government has established an experimental farm at that point and this spring quite a number of settlers, mostly from Ontario, have located in the district. The Rainy River country is another good agricultural section. For all the country looks so forbidding, it will no doubt in time support a considerable population engaged in dairying, stock-raising and general farming. Of course while choice open prairie land can be so easily and cheaply obtained farther west, people will be reluctant to look for homes in this great rough, rocky region, except in a few of the most favored localities.

GRINDING WHEAT IN BOND.

A report has recently come from Duluth, to the effect that the United States customs department has made a ruling that Manitoba wheat can be milled in bond. According to the reported ruling, nineteen twentieths of the 20 per cent. duty on wheat will be refunded when the wheat is exported. It is understood, however, that this refund of the duty will not be allowed when the imported wheat is mixed with home grown grain. Quite a quantity of Manitoba wheat is exported in bond via Duluth and the freight rate is the same as on grain shipped by our Lake Superior ports. So far as transportation facilities are concerned, it would be quite convenient for the Duluth or Superior mills to grind Manitoba wheat in bond. There are several very large mills located at those cities, and if they chose to use it, they could handle millions of bushels of Manitoba wheat annually. At the same time it is doubtful if the grinding-in-bond privileges will be of any great value to Manitoba. The Duluth and Superior mills have an inexhaustible supply of wheat always at their doors, much of it of a similar quality to the Manitoba article. It is therefore not likely that they would go to the trouble of grinding wheat in bond when they could obtain unlimited supplies of wheat of a similar quality, free from the bother of bonding arrangements. Under certain abnormal market conditions, the Duluth and Superior mills might be induced to grind some Manitoba bonded wheat. Under the usual market conditions, however, The Commercial cannot see what inducement there would be for the Duluth mills to establish bonded storage and go through the other expensive or annoying routine necessary to enable them to grind Manitoba wheat.

British Columbia Business Review.

Vancouver, May 26, 1896.

With the exception of the usual activity in the fruit trade at this time of the year business is very quiet. Collections are about the same. The lumber mills are still running night and day. Local shipping lines are very busy. The freight department of the Canadian Pacific Railway report unusual activity, while the passenger traffic of the Oriental and Australian lines are at high water mark. Meats are steady. Groceries are unchanged. The feature of the flour and feed market is the drop in flour. Last week an agent of a Manitoba firm on the coast notified wholesale houses that a 30 cent drop had taken place in their flour, a drop in all other lines at once followed.

There are 12 vessels loading in British Columbia at present with an aggregate capacity of 17,426 tons. Fruit growing is receiving great attention just now. A series of meetings are being held by the British Columbia association in the Upper country with a view of inducing all fruit growers in that section to join the British Columbia fruit exchange. If this can be done the provincial association will have taken in all the fruit growers in the province and fruit will be one price throughout British Columbia.

Mr. Christian Marker, of the Dominion dairy commissioner's staff, arrived last week to continue the invaluable lessons taught to the British Columbia farmers by Prof. Robertson and his assistants. Mr. Marker is now aiding in getting the Duncan creamery in operation and will afterwards open a dairy school giving a four weeks course on practical and theoretical dairying.

The Golden Era, of Golden, B. C., is rather alarmed at the prospect of floods. The Era says the conditions which prevail now are the same as those which prevailed at the time preceding the big flood of 1894. The snow is seven feet deep in the mountains and should the cool weather continue until the end of May, hot weather will be sure to follow, melting the snow too rapidly for the river to carry it off without overflowing.

There are indications that the salmon run will be light this year and that the predicted "off season" will become a verity. Quantity of salmon unable to reach their spawning grounds have died on the way and have been thrown on the banks. The value of the industry to the province, however, may not be impaired as prices will of course advance according to the scarcity of the fish, while if fishermen cannot earn a living netting salmon, they will go in for deep sea and other fishing and more attention will be given to the halibut sturgeon and cod industries.

The demand for mining and other machinery in British Columbia is so large that the B. C. Iron Works of Vancouver are putting in $100,000 worth more machinery and it is said will establish a branch for the manufacture of hydraulic mining pipes.

British Columbia Mining News.

The mining boom is on in British Columbia, as predicted by "The Commercial" correspondent last winter. There is not a mining agent in British Columbia representing British capital who has not letters in his possession from English connections stating that British capital is being withdrawn from Australia and Africa to be placed in British Columbia. Scores of American and English capitalists are in the Kootenies and Cariboo and the entire inland country is affected with the contageous gold fever. The nervous unrest peculiar to the complaint is also spreading to the cities and hundreds of ambitious, impecunious young men are daily figuring on how they can get to Rossland or Trail or Cariboo, and make their stake. All those returning to town from the affected districts say that the people seem almost crazy with excitement and transfers are being made so rapidly that it is almost impossible to keep track of them. There are, however, 1,000 idle men in Rossland alone, though there are many wild cat schemes the usual mining activity is warranted to a large extent, by the magnificent strikes which have lately been made, and the encouraging reports of some of the most able and reliable mining experts in the world.

ROSSLAND.

The town is full of people. A large number of English capitalists are here with mining experts to examine mines.

The following are the latest quotations of the principal mines in South Kootenay.

War Eagle.....	$1 85	St. Elmo......	$0 15½
Jumbo	1 00	Good Hope....	08½
Josie	55	Gertrude	10
O. K	34	Evening Star.	15
Iron Mask.....	85	High Ore.....	08
West LeRoi Josie	16	Phœnix	10
Poorman	15	St. Mary	06
Virginia	30	Monte Cristo..	15
Lily May......	25	Silverine	10
Great Western.	30	Commander ..	25
Nest Egg......	10	Deer Park	10
Caledonia Con.	8	Eureka Con...	06

The Acme Gold Mining Co., has been incorporated with a capital of $500,000. The company will work the Acme, Walter and Little Gem mines at Grouse Mountain.

The Lilly May vein is now 30 inches wide and runs 70 ounces in silver $4 in gold and 22% lead.

The Curlew has been sold to W. Richie of Spokane for $8,000.

The Poorman is shipping ore, no further assessments will be made.

Men have started developing the C. and C. Columbia Mountain, the Blue chip, at George Gulch, and the Sophia group at Bear Creek.

The Josie Co. will be shipping ten tons a day for the next three months.

An option has been taken on the North Star by Victoria parties for $15,000.

English capitalists have undertaken to develop the Emu group to the extent of $15,000 for a half interest.

The Crown Point Co., has been incorporated at Spokane and extensive developing work is in progress on the mine of that name.

Ohio men have purchased the Consolation at Deer Park Mountain, and the "Camp Bird" at Deer Park. They have paid $65,000 for these claims and have organized a company with a capital of $100,000 to work them.

J. W. Jones, of Spokane, has refused W. A. Ritchie 600,000 shares of the Great Western for $150,000.

This year the Vernon and Nelson Telephone Co. will extend their line to the