

THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters pertaining to trade and progress in Western Canada, including that part of Ontario west of Lake Superior, the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Territories.

Nineteenth Year of Publication
ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY.

Subscriptions—Canada and the United States, \$2.00 per annum in advance, or \$2.25 when not so paid; other countries, \$2.50 per annum in advance.

Changes for advertisements or stops should be in not later than Thursday morning.

Advertisements purporting to be news matter, or which profess to express the opinion of this journal, will not be inserted.

Office 219 McDermott St. Telephone 291.

D. W. BUCHANAN,
Publisher.

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 Canada, daily or weekly. The Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, MAY 25, 1901.

Wealth of the North.

The report of the Ontario government exploration parties who cover-

York. The region is watered by the Moose river, flowing into James Bay, and its tributaries, the Abitibi, Mattagami and Missinable, and by the Albany and its tributaries, the Kenagami and Ogoke. Each of these rivers is over 300 miles in length, and they range in width from 300 or 400 yards to a mile. They are fed by numerous smaller streams, and these in turn drain numberless lakes of larger or smaller size, so that the whole country is one network of waterways, affording easy means of communications with long stretches fit for navigation. The great area of water surface also assures the country against the protracted droughts so often experienced in other countries. The southern boundary of this great tract of fertile land is less than 40 miles from Missinable station, on the Canadian Pacific railway, and the country north of the height of land being one immense level plateau sloping off towards James Bay the construction of railways and wagon roads through every part of it would be a comparatively easy matter.

In the small part of the district of Rainy River which was explored the proportion of good land is not so great, but the clay lands in the townships around Dryden was found to extend north in the valley of the Wabigoon river, with an area of about 600 square miles, or 384,000 acres. There are also smaller cultivable areas at various other points.

Another important fact established by the explorations is that the climate in this northern district presents no obstacle to successful agricultural settlement. The information obtained completely dispels the erroneous impression that its winters are of Arc-

In the district of Nipissing, north of the C. P. R. line, there is estimated to be at least 20,000,000 cords of pulpwood, in the district of Algoma 100,000,000 cords; in the district of Thunder Bay, 150,000,000 cords, and in the district of Rainy River, 18,000,000 cords; a grand total of 288,000,000 cords. The pine region does not seem to extend much beyond the height of land, but on this side, in the country around Lakes Temagaming and Lady Evelyn, and to the north, an area of red and white pine of fine quality was explored and estimated to contain about three billions of feet B. M.

A feature of this region, which it is well to note from an industrial point of view, is the existence of many falls on the rivers and streams. These will no doubt be utilized with advantage in the creation of economical power when the country comes to be opened up.

It was expected that the parties would be able to make a thorough and exhaustive exploration of all the territory assigned to them, and the estimates here given of what has been reported are very conservative. Totaling up the figures quoted, however, we have over 25,000 square miles of good fertile land, or over 16,000,000 acres, and 288,000,000 cords of spruce or other pulp wood. There is also numerous small areas, both of timber and land, which are not included in these figures, but which will all be available when the development of the country takes place.

Hardwood Market Eccentricities.

The course of the hardwood market ever since the beginning of the year

firming up of prices, but the improvement has been nothing such as seemed warranted by the conditions or that would be satisfactory to producers and dealers.

The condition has been the more peculiar because of the marked contrast presented in trade building lumbers. The latter, especially those of general use and not affected by purely local conditions, have been extremely active and buoyant, with prices firm and advancing. The great difficulty has been to secure stock at any price in the ordinary building woods. There is no reason to believe that the industries requiring hardwoods have been any less prosperous than the building trades, and yet depression has been the rule and the actually good sized movement of hardwoods has been of a sluggish character which has not materially benefited prices.

Experienced hardwood lumbermen, however, are coming to believe that the conditions spoken of above, of fair to large stocks in some markets and with many consumers, coupled with a pretty well defined bear policy on the part of the latter, account for the conditions. They believe, however, that new methods must soon prevail. Even the consumers who were best supplied with stocks are nearing the end of their supplies and the stocks in the hands of dealers have also been reduced until the practice of small lot, emergency buying will not much longer be feasible. It is thought that before very long both dealers and consumers must be in the market more actively than for many months past and that when that time comes the actual lightness of stocks will be so clearly demonstrated that there



Manitoba Farm Homes—Buildings of W. Hardy, Pomeroy.

ed new Ontario last summer has just been published. Although portions of it have from time to time been made public, the full magnitude of the resources of that vast region have scarcely been comprehended. The volume contains nearly 300 pages, and is made especially interesting by the presence of scores of photographs, revealing the wealth of many forests, the abundance of many water powers and examples of good farming lands discovered in unexpected places. The report of the various parties is summarized as follows by the Globe:—

The great clay belt running from the Quebec boundary west through Nipissing and Algoma districts and into the district of Thunder Bay, comprises an area of at least 24,500 square miles, or 15,650,000 acres, nearly all of which is well adapted for cultivation. The almost unbroken stretch of good farming land is nearly three-quarters as great in extent as the whole settled portion of the province south of Lake Nipissing and the French and Mattawa rivers. It is larger than the states of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey and Delaware combined, and one-half the size of the state of New

York. The region is watered by the Moose river, flowing into James Bay, and its tributaries, the Abitibi, Mattagami and Missinable, and by the Albany and its tributaries, the Kenagami and Ogoke. Each of these rivers is over 300 miles in length, and they range in width from 300 or 400 yards to a mile. They are fed by numerous smaller streams, and these in turn drain numberless lakes of larger or smaller size, so that the whole country is one network of waterways, affording easy means of communications with long stretches fit for navigation. The great area of water surface also assures the country against the protracted droughts so often experienced in other countries. The southern boundary of this great tract of fertile land is less than 40 miles from Missinable station, on the Canadian Pacific railway, and the country north of the height of land being one immense level plateau sloping off towards James Bay the construction of railways and wagon roads through every part of it would be a comparatively easy matter.

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has been a source of disappointment annoyance and mystification to the hardwood trade and especially to the manufacturers, says the American Lumberman. What it should have been it has not been; what seemed to be the logical results of well defined conditions did not materialize, and even yet, in this fifth month of the year, there is a condition which is exasperating in its inconsistency.

At no time since the beginning of the year have the average hardwood stocks been large and during all this time consumption has been active. Dry stocks especially have been, on the whole, short. To be sure there have been fair to large stocks at some of the markets and with many consumers, but so many of the latter have had scant supplies that there has been an active, small lot, filling-in trade. This movement, while it has not availed notably to stimulate values, has given warrant to the current expectation that movement must soon take on a larger volume, greater urgency and be done at a decidedly better range of prices. Yet nothing of the sort has occurred except in a moderate way. There has been for the last month or two a gradual

will be something like a scramble, resulting in an almost instantaneous firming up of the price lists.

This process will be assisted by the heavy demands which the building under way and contemplated throughout the country will call for a larger amount of finishing hardwoods than for several years past. In view of these considerations the prediction is made that certainly within ninety days and probably in less time there will begin a boom in hardwood lumber such as has not been seen for many years, except in 1899, and it is thought that very likely the record of that year will be surpassed.

The new product, of course, enters into the situation, out from the best advices it will not be above the normal, while the demand is likely to be extraordinary, and at any rate the new cut will not figure in any important way for a good while yet.

"When we're married, dear, you won't be always threatening to go home to your mother, will you?"
"No; I'll threaten to have mother come and live with us."