

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.

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Publ'her.

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, AUGUST 10, 1901.

IMPLEMENT DUTIES.

The federal authorities have created an office in connection with the customs department, to be known as the inspector of machinery and agricultural implements. It has frequently been alleged that implements imported into Canada are undervalued for customs purposes, thus giving advantage to the importers. The valuation of binders for duty purposes has been a subject of inquiry and controversy in the past. Canadian manufacturers have claimed that the valuation for customs purposes (cost of manufacture at the point of shipment) has been too low. As United States implements and machinery have a large sale in Canada, the appointment of an officer whose business will be to enquire into the cost of machinery and see that they are not undervalued for customs purposes will be a matter of interest to the home manufacturers.

A FARMER COMBINE.

So the farmers are to have an organization (combine if you like) to protect their elevator interests. The farmers' elevator companies of Manitoba have formed an association. A very wise and proper thing for them to do, by the way. It will certainly be better for these companies to work systematically, than to be working at sea-saw, each company having a different system. Farmer combines are all right in their place. That is when they are in favor of the farmer. All other combines are wrong. Hideous monstrosities, designed and existing to fleece the poor lamb-like farmers, and they should be legislated out of existence and their originators publicly executed as a warning to others.

DOCTORS DIFFER.

Doctors differ and patients die. We have had a great ado of recent years about the danger of communicating tuberculosis from animals to mankind. It is well known that the bovines are subject to tuberculosis. Particularly is this the case among cows kept closed up for city dairies. Governments have been taking official action in the matter, systems of inspection have been inaugurated, and a general destruction of suspected animals has even been advocated. Now comes Dr Koch, the greatest living authority on tubercular diseases, with his theory that bovine tuberculosis is distinct from human consumption. He further

asserts his belief that bovine tuberculosis is not communicable to man. Coming from such a source, after all the hubbub we have had of late about the necessity of protecting mankind from infection from brute sources, something like consternation has been caused in the medical and associated camps. Many eminent authorities have boldly declared their belief that Prof. Koch is in error, and to the lay and plebeian mind it would appear that the great weight of evidence is against Dr. Koch, brilliant though has been his past career. "An aberration of a brilliant intellect" is what the scientists say of Dr. Koch's statements. Yesterday it was becoming a generally accepted belief that bovine tuberculosis was communicable to man. Now Dr. Koch has at least drawn a cloud over the matter, and has given opponents of protective measures an opportunity to press their objections. But whether or not bovine tuberculosis is communicable to man, there is no question but that it is communicated from one animal to another. This alone would justify the repressive and preventative measures that have been taken. Besides this there is the almost general belief among medical scientists that the bacillus of bovine tuberculosis is identical with consumption in man, and that the disease is communicable and infectious.

PROTECT THE FORESTS.

At a recent meeting of the horticultural society in Winnipeg, Mr. E. Stewart, superintendent of forestry, under the federal government, called attention to the advisability of preserving the forest region in Manitoba known as the Riding Mountains.

Mr. Stewart said he never addressed a Manitoba audience without feeling compelled to urge upon them the need of preserving the forests of the Riding Mountains, not only on account of their timber value but in order to conserve the moisture of the province. Most of the streams that feed the Assiniboine river had their source in these mountains, and if these mountains were to be denuded of their timber it would very seriously affect the conservation of moisture, these forests acting as a natural reservoir. The Dominion government owns one million acres in the Riding Mountains which they intend to preserve as a public park, and he thought the people of Manitoba should move in the direction of impressing upon their representatives in the local house the necessity and the wisdom of the provincial government moving in the same direction. There was a passion among a certain number of settlers, particularly the Icelanders, for acquiring farms on these mountains. This should not be allowed. The land was much of it too high for successful cultivation, and it would be much better for the people to settle elsewhere and leave the Riding Mountains as a great natural park.

The Commercial has frequently in times past called attention to the desirability of preserving certain forest areas scattered throughout the prairie region, particularly the Riding Mountains. It is of the utmost importance to Manitoba that this policy should be vigorously acted upon, and we heartily endorse all that Mr. Stewart has said in reference thereto. As the lands of the province, however, are not vested in the provincial government, there is a difficulty in the way of provincial action. The federal government has maintained control of the provincial lands, and is best able to set aside the desired reservations. Of course the provincial government should assist in every

way possible in conserving the timber areas. If the federal government has unwisely alienated portions of the timber lands which it is now thought necessary to preserve by public grant or otherwise, an effort should be made by the Dominion authorities to recover them. We believe the federal authorities are now alive to the importance of the question of preserving our forest areas, but action has certainly been very tardy in this matter. An enormous destruction of our priceless timber areas by fires and otherwise has occurred during recent years. Next to the reservation of the land, the prevention of forest fires is the great desideratum.

ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL.

The influx of farm laborers has commenced, and it is to be hoped that a sufficient number will come to supply the required amount of help necessary to harvest our big crop. Several special excursion parties are arriving from Ontario this week, and additional excursions are being organized in other parts. It has been previously announced that 20,000 men will be required to harvest the crops of our prairie region, in addition to the usual home supply. Fears have been expressed that it would be impossible to obtain this number in the eastern provinces, owing to the high wages and scarcity of labor in those provinces. The Dominion government has undertaken to supplement the usual supply from the east by an effort to obtain men in the United States. An advertisement has been inserted in several thousand United States papers to the following effect: "Wanted—4,000 farm laborers at once to help save the immense wheat crop in Manitoba, Canada; \$35 to \$40 per month and board given to right kind of men; low railroad rates. Apply to E. Davies, Canadian government agent, 154½ East Third street, St. Paul." This is a wise move. It is in the first place a good advertisement for Western Canada, which offers a home and prosperity for thousands of agricultural settlers. Secondly, from a national point of view, the plan of draining population from the eastern provinces is not good policy. The most densely populated portions of the eastern provinces afford room for more farmers. Providing we can get the right kind of men in sufficient numbers in the United States, it would be better policy to try and secure them from that quarter. Many of those who come as farm laborers ultimately become permanent residents here. To look at the matter from above the provincial standpoint, it is like robbing Peter to pay Paul to induce these people to come from the eastern provinces. Of course we must have the help required from some quarter, but it would be worth while trying to secure a larger annual portion from the United States.

BRITISH COLUMBIA FRUIT INDUSTRY.

The British Columbia fruit growers appear to be making an earnest and intelligent effort to establish their industry on a sound and profitable basis. They have secured skilled teachers to instruct the growers in the best methods of preparing fruit for shipment. Next, they have been making inquiries as to the requirements of the market where they expect to place their fruit. It is needless to say that British Columbia fruit growers look to the great prairie region as their natural market. Here they will certainly find a market for all the fruit they will in all probability be

able to supply for many years to come. At present the bulk of the fruit consumed in the prairie region, except apples and grapes, comes from the United States. The British Columbia fruit growers have the advantage over the United States, so far as this market is concerned, in nearness to the consuming centres, lower freight rates, and exemption from customs duty. With these advantages in their favor they will no doubt in time be able to supply a large portion of the fruit required throughout the great prairie country.

The British Columbia government has given the Fruit Growers' Association of that province a grant to assist them in carrying out work necessary to establish their industry. This has been expended in procuring skilled assistance from California, to instruct the growers as to the proper time for picking and the best modes of packing fruit, for shipment. The government has also sent a commissioner to visit the markets in the prairie country, with a view to looking into the requirements here. Mr. R. N. Palmer, of Victoria, has been commissioned to do the latter work. The British Columbia growers will certainly find dealers here ready and willing to handle their goods, if they can send it in good condition. Heretofore much of the British Columbia fruit shipped to Winnipeg has arrived in poor condition, sometimes entirely unfit for sale. The growers, however, appear to be going about the matter in a businesslike way, and no doubt in time they will gain the knowledge and experience necessary to enable them to overcome these difficulties.

The varieties of fruit the British Columbia growers will be prepared to supply are plums, prunes, pears, oranges, and apples; also all varieties of small fruits, though the scarcity of labor is a difficulty in the way of growing small fruits. Good peaches are grown in some parts of the province, but the quantity of these is limited and the growers, we are told, do not at present contemplate attempting to compete with California for the peach trade of this region.

In connection with the British Columbia fruit trade, it is refreshing to learn that the growers do not have a freight rate grievance. Mr. Palmer states that they have no complaint about rates, the rate of \$1 per 100 pounds on plums to Winnipeg, for instance, being satisfactory. From Oregon and Washington, the principal plum states, the rate to Winnipeg is \$1.25, and the plums from the States are subject, besides, to a duty which amounts to about 12 cents per case. This gives the British Columbia growers a great advantage on plums, and this is the fruit which they are at present in the best position to supply.

The producers and shippers of the prairie districts look to British Columbia for a market for a considerable quantity of butter, eggs, cheese, flour, meats, etc., and they will in turn be ready to take all the fruit, as we have already said, which the British Columbia growers are likely to be able to supply for a long time to come. In fact the market here has been growing more rapidly than has characterized the development of the British Columbia fruit industry.

The president of the International Longshoremen's Association has instructed the members to refuse to handle the freight of any Anchor line boats out of sympathy with the striking longshoremen of Erie, Pa. The Anchor line being a member of the Lake Carriers' Association, an organization which includes the entire fresh water fleet, it is said, will be backed up in their position.