

wares. There is another competitor in the field, or rather will be in the field in due time. This is the railway which the Russian government is building across Siberia to the Pacific coast. European traffic with China is now handled via the Suez canal. This railway will do away with the necessity of an ocean trip from Europe to China, though no doubt the water route will still carry the bulk of the trade, after the completion of the railway. The railway is understood to be a light structure, and intended more for freight than passenger traffic. The *London Chamber of Commerce Journal* refers to the trans-Siberian railway as follows: "The press generally in Russia has given up much space recently to the discussion of the prospects waiting for realization on the construction of the railway across Siberia. Up to the present it is thought that only a tithe of the trade which should be done with China and Japan has fallen in the way of Russia, but it is now calculated, that, when the railway comes into actual operation, if only one-fifth of the Chinese and Japanese goods now sent to Europe are carried over the railway, this will provide a revenue alone of 17 million roubles. Moreover, it is expected that the line will revolutionize communication between the east and west. The transport of goods, for instance, between Shanghai and London, which, by sea, now takes 41 days at least, will, if directed over the Siberian railway, only occupy 20 days. Notwithstanding the estimated cost of construction being placed at 300 million roubles the *Stet* anticipates that the railway would—even in the present condition of Russian commerce and industry—produce a gross revenue of 56 million roubles annually, and this would be sufficient to pay working expenses, interest on capital, still leaving a margin of net profit.

HELP WANTED.

Farmers in Manitoba are likely to profit by the experience of last year, and endeavor to make provision for assistance in taking off their crops. Last harvest men were very scarce, and on this account the wet weather during harvest time (an unusual thing in Manitoba) proved more disastrous than it otherwise would have been. Farmers were so short of help that they could not make rapid progress with their crops during the dry spells between the frequent rains. The Canadian Pacific railway authorities very laudably endeavored to relieve the situation by running cheap harvest excursions from Ontario, with the object of bringing up hands from the east to assist in the gathering of the heavy Manitoba crop. This was a good idea, but it was undertaken rather late in the season to be of much value.

This year a great deal of help will be required to gather in the crops, if the present harvest prospect is realized to even a considerable extent. It is certain that there are not nearly enough available harvest hands in the province to gather the crops in anything like reasonable time. Farmers are aware of this, and they are already engaging men for the harvest as fast as they can. Men are now scarce in a number of districts though we are nearly a month from harvest time yet. This only indicates what the situation will be when the rush commences.

We think it would be a great assistance to Manitoba farmers, if the railway company would continue the harvest excursions this year, and make arrangements to that end as early as possible, so as to have the dates thoroughly advertised in the east some time beforehand. This would give parties likely to come time to make arrangements accordingly. In fact, the excursions might almost be started at once, so far as employment for those coming is concerned, for the immediate demand for farm hands would be sufficient to provide places at once for those coming, as fast as they arrived.

THE IMPERIAL BANK.

The annual report of the Imperial Bank of Canada, which was received too late for our last issue, appears in this number of *THE COMMERCIAL*. The many friends of the bank will be glad to note the continued prosperity which attends this deserving institution, as shown by the annual report. The capital was increased to two million dollars, the rest account was increased to 50 per cent. of the capital and a bonus of one per cent. was allotted to the shareholders, in addition to the usual dividend of eight per cent.

The Imperial Bank is one which especially has earned the friendship of the people of Manitoba and the Territories. It has ever been foremost among the financial institutions of Canada in recognizing the needs of the west, and its progressive policy in opening new branches and generally extending its business in the west, indicates clearly that its managers have full faith in the future of this country. This bank has now six branches west of the Lakes, which places it at the head of the list, so far as the number of agencies is concerned, which any of the eastern financial institutions have in the west. These agencies are at Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Calgary, Prince Albert and Rat Portage.

Montreal Hardware and Paint Prices.

Pig Iron—There has been only a small quiet trade in pig during the week, with no special transactions to mention. Prime brands of pig are steady ex-store at about \$21 to 21.50 with small lots a shade more and lower brands, such as Carnbroe, etc., accessible at \$19 to 19.50. The same applies to other brands. There has been only an ordinary sort of business to note in a jobbing way, with little doing from first hands. The basis for round lots is \$20, with a proportionate advance when smaller quantities are under negotiation. Hoops and bands have the same easy tendency as bar, and we quote \$2.40, last week's figure.

Tin Plate—There has been little stock come to hand since our last, and stocks are in the same small compass as we noted a week ago. Cokes are scarce and firm in consequence at \$2.65 for best and \$2.25 for wasters. Charcoal little to be had at \$5.25.

Canada Plate—There has been some business to note in this line, and supplies in first hands are still more reduced, while the fresh supplies at hand are not large and mainly controlled by one dealer. We quote \$2.90 ex-ship and \$3 ex-store.

Pig Iron—Caldor, \$21.50 to 22; Sumnerlee, \$21.50 to 22; Gartehorrie, \$21.50; Eglinton, \$19 to 20; Carnbroe, \$19.50.

Bar Iron, per 100 pounds—Ordinary crown, \$2.20; best refined, \$2.35; Siemens, \$2.25; swedes, \$3.75 to 4; lowmoor, \$5.25 to 5.50; hoops and bands, \$2.40; sheet iron, \$2.40 to 2.60.

Copper, per pound—Ingot, 13½ to 15c; sheets, 20½ to 24c.

Canada Plates—Good brands, Terne plates, charcoals, IC 20x29, Orion Crown per box, nominal; IC 20x23, lower grade, no stock.

Tin Plate—Coke, \$4.65; charcoal, \$5 to 6; ingot tin, 22½ to 23c.

Lead, per 100 pounds—Pig, \$3.60 to 3.75; sheets, \$4.75; shot, \$5.75; lead pipe, \$5.50 to 5.75.

Wrought Iron—Scrap, \$18 to 18.50.

Zinc—Sheets, \$6.25 to 6.50; spelter, \$6 to 6.25; remelted, \$4.75.

Russian sheet iron, per pound. 10c; galvanized iron, according to brand, basis No. 28. per pound, 5 to 7c.

Iron Pipe—Discount 62½ to 65c.

Copper—There is nothing particular to note regarding this article, the feeling being firm as heretofore, and we quote, 13½ to 15c as a range.

Terne Plate—With little or no stock here as we noted a week ago, values are nominal and we cannot quote any price out of first hands. Supplies near at hand are inconsiderable, in fact, nothing is definitely known regarding quantity.

Nails—There is little to say about the market, but some new business in a jobbing way is reported at \$2.15 to 2.20, but order are still under way on the old basis. They, however, represent negotiation done pretty far back.

Oils—There is no special feature in the oil market to note. Cod remains steady, while seal has been served out at 47½c jobbing out at a slight advance on this. Linseed remains unsettled, as noted last week, at 62c for raw and 64c for boiled. Cod, Newfoundland, 40c; seal, steam refined, 47½ to 50c; linseed, raw, 62 to 64c; linseed, boiled, 64 to 66c; castor oil, 9½ to 10c; cod liver oil, Norway, 95c to \$1.15.

Glass—There is no change in glass and we quote \$1.35 for lots in a round way, with \$1.40 to \$1.50 for smaller quantities.

Leads—The market is the same. We quote. Choice, \$6; No. 1, \$5.50, No. 2, \$4.50; No. 3, \$3.25; dry white lead, 6c; red, do, 4½c. *Gazette*.

Canadian Eggs in England.

It will be seen by a perusal of our special correspondence from London, England, that Canadian eggs are beginning to attract the attention which their quality and style of packaging merits in the British markets. During the month of May last over 500,000 great hundreds or 5,000,000 dozen Canadian eggs were received into Great Britain, which as our correspondent remarks looks as if the trade had been established on a firm basis for our eggs on the other side. He also says there is "nought but praise for arrivals from Canada."—*Montreal Trade Bulletin*.

Burnett & Co., wholesale clothiers, Montreal, have been served with a demand of assignment by A. F. Gault. Liabilities are about one hundred thousand dollars direct and indirect.