

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, AUGUST 25, 1885.

INCREASING EXPORTS.

At the present moment, when the sickle is actively at work in cutting an abundant harvest of grain saved in first class condition, or at least being saved so, every person interested in the Northwest has his attention directed mainly to our grain affairs, and if prospecting in any way on the future, a market for this grain is the principal point of consideration. No doubt the marketing of our grain crop is the substance of our export trade, and is worthy of all the attention given to it, but like all other primary important matters, it is not at all likely to be overlooked in any respect, and the commercial machinery at work for its handling will doubtless increase and extend as circumstances dictate. The quality of a crop saved as ours is being this year, will do much to improve our distant markets, and create a demand for Manitoba cereals such as has not been heard of heretofore.

But there are always in connection with the affairs of a new country just developing its export trade a number of side issues, which if properly attended to just make up the difference between struggling to grasp the work of progress, and gliding easily into a prosperous growth. For a year THE COMMERCIAL has been calling attention to the proper handling of our dairy products, and this year when we were in a position to have exported a large surplus of butter, we found eastern markets in such a state that no profitable shipment could be undertaken. In the middle of this dilemma we found out that no arrangement of any kind had been made for exporting to European markets, not a single house in the province having opened up arrangements with European consignees. Eastern men were clamoring about the Northwest market being now closed to them owing to our increased local production, and to reach a market in Europe we had to trust to these very eastern men and allow middlemen's exactions off our shipments. As a natural consequence no direct exports to Europe have been made, and the few consignments made to eastern cities have been so slaughtered, as to give very little encouragement to the develop-

ment of our dairy resources. Last week we drew attention to the rapid increase in our pork products, and indicated a coming glut in these. The necessity for export in this branch is not so immediate, as proper arrangements for the packing and curing of the products, will be sufficient, and with our local supply driving the imported article out of our market, will give scope enough for all we can produce for a year or two to come. But with these packing and other distributing arrangements at hand we are more than half prepared to take hold of foreign export business as soon as it becomes necessary. Another branch of producing, which is fast moving towards requiring export arrangements, is cheese making. Before the close of 1886 it will be found necessary to export such goods, if the progress of manufacture goes on with anything like the rapidity it has been moving with during the present year. Already we are beyond the necessity for importing a pound of eastern cheese, and our wholesale dealers can find some twenty odd factories in the province, from which an ample supply can be drawn to suit the home trade, and it will be found that some of these produce an article in no way inferior to the best we have been importing. In several other articles of Northwestern produce it will be found, that we are fast nearing that point where exporting becomes a necessity, and it is high time that some of our strongest and most reliable mercantile houses should begin to grapple with the difficulty. Hitherto the mercantile arrangements of this province outside of the retail distributing have been formed and managed to suit import demands only. But we are about out of our babyhood in the matter of food products, and no longer require the eastern hand to spoon feed us with such necessities. We must now turn our attention to export arrangements, and not be content with merely slashing our surplus stock into Ontario and Quebec markets there to be slaughtered. The completion of the C.P.R. to the Pacific coast will open up a market, in which we will have great advantages over eastern competitors but even this will be altogether too limited in the course of a few years. Our aim must be to open up export arrangements direct with Europe, and then among the crowded millions of the Old World find a market where cheap and pure food is the most pressing demand.

We are now confined to wheat as an article for export, for within a year we will have an available surplus for export of almost every article of farm produce, which can be raised in a fertile country like our own. It is high time some of our best mercantile houses were making a start in this foreign export business, for assuredly there is wealth awaiting those who are first to secure a good footing in it.

POLITICAL MUTTERINGS.

As yet the people of Manitoba are not called upon to choose new representatives for the local Legislature, but if we are to judge by the action of Mr. Norquay and his colleagues and supporters and the leaders of the opposition, an election contest is a thing very likely to take place before the spring of 1886 dawns. Already we are hearing about what the Government and their following have stolen, squandered and misappropriated from the public treasury, while the misdeeds of prominent oppositionists for twenty years back are being resurrected and made to do duty as political scarecrows. Unbiased onlookers cannot be blamed for looking upon the prospective struggle with a skeptical and even cynical feeling uppermost in their minds. They do not require to be told about the dishonesty of the crowd of political vultures who hover around Mr. Norquay's Government and feed upon the carrion thrown to them. Sensible men know well that this crowd contains more than one who would not be out of place in a penitentiary and in a convict's garb, while an honest man among them would be as difficult to discover as would a supply of holy water in an Orange demonstration. If we turn to the Opposition and its following we may not find quite as disreputable an array, for the presence of the flesh pots is sadly missed and their demoralizing effects are not apparent. But we question after all, if the muster of this crowd would display any more purity in its ranks, than the cold shade of Opposition and the absence of the nourishment of official pay for a few years has the effect of producing. To come down to plain language the political affairs of Manitoba are at present in the hands of the "Bummer" element, and we have for three years been governed or rather misgoverned by a crowd, the great majority of whom are little if anything above what we may term the scum of society.