

# THE COMMERCIAL

A Journal of Commerce, Industry and Finance, especially devoted to the interests of Western Canada, including that portion of Ontario west of Lake Superior, the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Territories.

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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. By a thorough system of personal solicitation, carried out annually, this journal has been placed upon the desks of the majority of business men in the district designated above, including Northwest Ontario, the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia, and the Territories of Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, AUGUST 23, 1897.

## WORTH INVESTIGATING.

Last week The Commercial referred to a peculiar disease, or probably damage by some insect to the Manitoba wheat crop this year. The most serious reports come from the southern and southeastern districts, but the trouble appears to be spread over a very wide area of territory. This is the appearance of dead heads in the grain. In some instances the damage is so slight as to be hardly worth mentioning, but in other cases it is quite serious. A party who has travelled through several districts, carefully examining the crops, writes as follows:

"Carman settlement will average about 18 bushels to the acre; Rathwell, 20 bushels; Treherne, 25 bushels; Holland, 22 bushels; Cypress and Glenboro, 16 bushels. Now, the greatest drawback to the yield in the whole of this territory is the number of what I term dead heads of grain, varying from 5 to 20 per cent on the crop. What is the cause of this dead head? There need be no doubt that it is an insect. What is the insect? I am of the opinion that it is a wire worm, killing the root of the growing stalk. A friend of mine positively asserted this morning that he was convinced it was the Hessian fly, on account of the stalk being killed at the first joint. Whatever it may be, it is pretty conclusive that it is an insect, and that insect is alive and healthy to-day in our soil."

The Commercial would suggest the advisability of having an investigation of this matter made at once, by some competent person. Either the Dominion or the provincial government should take the matter up, with a view to arriving at the cause of the difficulty and the possibility of providing a remedy. A certain mode of cultivation for instance, might be a preventative, or on the other hand might facilitate the working of the supposed insect. At any rate, the matter is sufficiently serious to be worthy of prompt attention.

## THE MANUFACTURE OF PULP.

Last week The Commercial referred to the position of our lumber trade since the passage of the new United States tariff. Our pulp trade is in much the same position. The United States has placed a duty upon pulp, to keep our product out of their market but they are willing to take our raw material free. There is a large exportation of pulp wood from Quebec province, and many mills in the United States are largely dependent upon Canada for their raw material. It would appear from the reports of those who are informed upon the pulp wood trade, that we have the remedy largely in our own hands. If the United States will not take our pulp, they should not be allowed to have our raw material, with which to keep their mills running. The manufacture of pulp wood is a very important industry, particularly in the province of Quebec, and a large export business can be done to Great Britain, so that we are not dependent upon the United States for a market. In this trade we are far more independent of the United States than we are in the matter of lumber. United States mills are now securing free raw material in Canada, with which they compete with Canadian mills in export markets. The remedy is, to place an export duty on pulp wood, or prohibit its exportation entirely. Canadian pulp mills would thus secure a distinct advantage over the United States in catering for the export trade, as the principal source of supply for many of the United States mills would thus be cut off. News and cheap book papers, manufactured from Canadian pulp wood, in United States mills, are now exported quite largely from the United States. This trade we should apparently keep at home. In our article last week upon the lumber trade and the exportation of saw logs, we said that our natural wealth should be conserved. In the case of the pulp trade we apparently have by all odds the best of the situation, if we decide to prohibit the export of our raw material to a country which refuses to take any of our

manufactures. The industry of manufacturing the pulp, as well as to a considerable extent also the paper and other goods made from pulp, should be carried on at home. Our supply of pulp wood is enormous, while the supply in the United States is limited. In placing of a prohibitive duty upon manufactured pulp, the United States has probably just overreached a bit in the selfish policy shown all through the new tariff bill. If the facts are as stated by those familiar with the pulp wood and pulp trade, we have in this matter at least, a good opportunity to build up a very important home industry by prohibiting the exportation of pulp wood.

## EXPERTS AT GRABBING.

Large sales of steel rails have been made by United States firms for shipment to British India, the United States firms having been successful in tendering against British manufacturers. Of course the British manufacturer has no advantage over the United States in selling goods to India, in the matter of tariff. Just fancy the United States owning a colony or dependency in which foreign countries would be permitted to compete on equal terms with United States manufacturers? It would be simply absurd to suppose such a thing possible for a single moment. Many United States papers delight to prate about the land-grabbing tendency of John Bull. It is true Mr. Bull has gained a pinch upon a large portion of the superficial area of this mundane sphere but when he does take possession of a bit of property he throws it open to all comers for trade purposes. His own subjects are given no trade advantages over foreigners, and if they cannot compete on the same terms with all comers, they will simply have to step to the rear. Even the natural wealth of his possessions, such as gold and other precious metals, are thrown open to foreigners on the same terms as to British subjects. Talk about the grab-all propensities of John Bull. Was there ever anything perpetrated by any nation, of a more utterly selfish and grab-all character, than that singular and wonderfully made act yecept the Dingley tariff. Those United States editors who have so freely condemned John Bull for his alleged land-grabbing tendencies, should now run their heads in the grass, or take to the woods for sheer shame. Mr. Bull has certainly been successful in appropriating any loose real estate which was found lying around without being held under a clear title by some strong power, but when it comes to right down narrow selfishness and sharp practice in trade and business matters, it would be utterly useless