

THE COMMERCIAL

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Office: 181 McDermott Street.

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, AUGUST 26, 1899.

Ontario Crops.

The Commercial gave last week a summary of the crop report of the Ontario bureau of industries of August 1, which gave the acreage devoted to the various crops and the probable yield. Fuller advices to hand since give a good deal of interesting information about the years work on the farms of that province and the condition of the crops, etc., at present. As is well known the fall wheat crop came through the winter in bad shape, much of the seed being winter killed. With the exception of Algoma and a few other sections where there was plenty of snow, the report says the yield has turned out to be a very small one—in fact the lowest for years. The quality of the grain also varies greatly. In sheltered spots the berries are plump and full, which shows the value of wind breaks. Rust has been more common than usual. Insect injury to the crop was light.

The spring wheat crop is looked upon as a good one. This variety is grown more in the eastern half of the province. The yield this year is above the average and the quality is also satisfactory. Wet weather at seeding time was the greatest drawback the crop suffered.

The hay and clover crops are estimated to be somewhat below the average, the heavy frosts of last winter having killed a good deal of the clover. Wet weather interfered with cutting in some of the western sections.

The year has been a highly successful one with the barley crop. The harvest is now complete in Lake Erie and Lake Ontario counties and is progressing rapidly in other parts. Rust seems to have affected the crop in a few localities and smut in some others, but on the whole the yield has sustained remarkably little damage from pests or parasites. The demand for malting barley having fallen off somewhat in Ontario the crop is now more largely of the food grades.

The oat crop has been a rather backward one, but the reports as to its condition and prospects now are highly satisfactory.

The cold and wet weather prevailing at the time corn should have been

planted delayed that work considerably, and the consequence is that at the time of reporting the crop was hardly as far advanced as usual. Reports from some counties show a most promising crop, the favorable weather of the latter part of July having brought the crop along with a bound. Taking all the reports received, the crop is likely to turn out to be a fair one should the lateness of the season not bring it into frosty weather.

Flax will be a fair crop this year, but the acreage is not nearly as large as usual owing to the falling off in the demand for milling flax. Several of the flax mills in Western Ontario have been closed for some time.

The bureau's correspondents in Essex and Kent counties where tobacco is now being grown to a considerable extent report the area sown to be very much smaller this year owing to the low prices realized for last year's crop. The plant is a little late, but generally speaking in good condition.

Root crops, more especially in the eastern and northern parts of the province, suffered from too much moisture at seeding time, which caused some loss. At a later period the want of rain was severely felt in many localities, which if continued may result in light crops. On the whole, however, the mangels, carrots and beets promise well. Of turnips the correspondents do not speak so encouragingly.

There promises to be a good yield of potatoes, though in many quarters rain is badly needed, and in consequence of long-continued drouth the early potatoes have been somewhat small in size. Reports as to the present appearance of late potatoes are generally favorable, one specially encouraging being the decrease in the numbers and destructiveness of the potato bug, caused by the severe frosts of last winter. In some neighborhoods however, this pest is still as active and injurious as ever, and on low-lying lands a good deal of damage was occasioned by excessive wet in the early part of the season.

Ontario Fruit Crop.

According to the Ontario government's crop bulletin of August 1. There is likely to be a scarcity of fruit this season, owing to various causes. The severe winter destroyed a large proportion of the fruit trees in some sections and appears to have injured many which survived. Heavy rains during the blossoming season greatly interfered with fertilization, as did frost in some neighborhoods. The tent caterpillar, curculio, codling moth and other injurious insects have also made great havoc among the orchards, except where they have been kept in check by systematic spraying. The apple crop is very light, but as a rule the quality is good and the fruit fairly free from scab. The winter varieties promise better than the earlier kinds. Plums have done rather better than apples, though greatly subject to attacks of the curculio. The yield in most localities where they are grown is poor, but they will be abundant in some places. The peach crop is practically a failure, owing to the general destruction of the trees which suffered more severely from the winter than did the other varieties. Those which remain have borne fairly well in some neighborhoods, but the total product is small. Pear trees have not been so prolific as usual, and the supply will be light. There was about an average crop of cherries, though some damage from worms and black knot is specified. Reports concerning the vineyards are

highly encouraging, the vines being healthy and well laden, promising an abundant supply of grapes. Berries and small fruit have been generally plentiful and good, though in many localities they have run rather small in consequence of the drouth.

Vancouver Board of Trade Report.

The twelfth annual report of the Vancouver Board of Trade for the business year 1898-99 is now being circulated. It is a neatly printed volume containing a full report of the board's transactions for the year which naturally forms a business history, more or less complete, of British Columbia for the year. The volume contains a number of fine engravings showing street scenes in Vancouver, past and present, harbor scenes, etc. As the matter contained in this report was presented pretty fully to the readers of this journal at the time of the board's annual meeting it is not necessary to review it again now. It is sufficient to say that no better presentation of the industries and capabilities of the coast provinces can be obtained than the annual reports of this important commercial body.

Business at Vancouver.

Vancouver, August 21.

The Vancouver bank clearing house returns for the week ending August 16th were: Clearings, \$382,802; balances, \$179,829. The returns for the previous week, the largest in the history of the Vancouver Clearing House, were: Clearings, \$1,014,277; balances, \$216,986.

The returns for the Victoria Clearing House for the week ending August 15th were: Clearings, \$711,575; balances, \$299,072, as compared with clearings, \$741,037, and balances, \$133,935 for the week ending August 8th.

British Columbia shipping is still very active. The Oriental and Australian steamship lines sailing this week are heavily freighted, the Oriental steamship taking the largest number of cabin passengers this season. The arrival of the two big sailing vessels, the Drumblair and River Falloch, is also important. They bring over very large consignments of glass and cement, much needed in the province. The northern boats are unable to carry the freight offered, every steamer sailing for Skagway having so many "hurry up" orders that freight is left standing on the wharf to enable steamers to fill contracts for quick delivery.

Canners are hopeful this week, a most gratifying state of affairs after their dismal forecast earlier in the season. The run at the mouth of the Fraser continues good, but coming late in the season the weather has been at times very bad, which has caused several poor fellows to lose their lives, while in numerous cases nets had to be cut adrift to save the occupants of the boats. The short run to date has been heavy, many canners having to refuse fish to enable them to get rid of the surplus supply. Another good feature is that the fishermen have been enabled to keep up the price, which has averaged about 20 cents all through. At 20 cents a fish the margin for the cannery man is much reduced, as on previous seasons they sold as low as eight cents, but the high price means a greater distribution of funds by the fishermen in the coast cities.

There has been a most unexpected rainfall this month which will retard