

THE COMMERCIAL

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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, OCTOBER 4, 1897.

A CARELESS PRACTICE

The attention of The Commercial has been called to the careless practice now quite largely in vogue of sending around sample packages of patent medicines to private residences without taking any precaution to prevent the samples from falling into the hands of young children. The usual custom is simply to throw the packages into the doorway, where they are left to be picked up by the first observer, and in households where there are children it will usually be the children who will discover the samples. Sometimes the samples are handed to little toddlers who may be about the gate or yard, when the delivery is made. In one case under observation, a package containing three kinds of medicine was handed to a child not more than three years of age, and part of the contents of the package was in the form of two or three pills, which looked very much like little candies, and therefore very tempting to a child. Another package contained several worm lozenges, put up like candies, and said to be as pleasant to the taste as candies, one of which was said to be a dose for a large child. As these worm lozenges usually contain very powerful drugs, it was certainly a gross piece of carelessness, to leave them within the reach of mere babies, and that unknown to any adult member of the household.

PATERNAL RUSSIA

We English speaking people are apt to hear very little about the Russian government of a favorable nature. The popular belief is that the government is a crushing despotism, employed mainly in grinding down the people. Occasionally, however, items of news are made public which are of a more favorable nature. The Russian government is not without enterprise outside of merely military matters, and several of its enterprises which have recently been spoken of in the press, pertain to the material advancement of the Russian people. Lately we have heard considerable about the great railway which the Russian government is building across Siberia, and which will open up a vast and rich territory. The popular idea about Siberia being a frozen waste, is gradually being dispelled. While the northern portion is cold, rocky and barren, there is a vast region, possessing a rich soil, where farming can be carried on to good advantage, so far as the natural conditions are concerned. If this vast country were opened up fully, it would almost double the wheat lands of the world, available for the commercial production of wheat.

The Russian government has given much attention to Canada, and naturally so, as Canada in many respects resembles Siberia in its soil, climate and resources. The construction of our great transcontinental railway was watched and reported upon by agents of the Russian government, and no doubt the great development which has attended the construction of the Canadian Pacific railway, has largely influenced the Russian government to push the Siberian railway ahead.

Now we learn that the Russian government is buying seed grain in Canada, for Siberia. Professor Saunders, director of the Dominion experimental farms, who was recently in Winnipeg, says that as a result of the visit of a commissioner of agriculture from Russia, who inspected the country during the summer, the government of that country has ordered ten tons of choice seed grain from the Dominion experimental farms, to be shipped to Vladivostock, in Siberia, and to be distributed among the farmers there, in the hope of improving the grade of the wheat of that territory. From another source it is reported that the Russian government have been buying seed grain in Eastern Canada, for distribution to the farmers of that great empire. This certainly indicates that there is something paternal about the Russian government.

The question of interest to our western farmers is, the effect which will be produced in the grain markets of

the world by the opening up of the vast black soil districts of Siberia. Notwithstanding the recent government railway extension in Siberia, however, that country is a long way behind Canada in its facilities for handling and shipping grain, and there need be no immediate fear of an inundation of Siberian wheat.

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS

Professor Saunders, director of the Dominion experimental farms, recently returned from a western trip, during which he visited the government farms at Brandon, Man., and Indian Head, in Assiniboia territory. He gives the following report of the yield of grain crops at these farms this year:

At Brandon the record of the yields for the season were, per acre: Wheat, 23 to 40 1-2 bushels; oats, 39 to 78 bushels; barley, 36 to 46 bushels; peas, 36 to 46 bushels; and at Indian Head, wheat, 25 to 42 bushels; oats, 50 to 101 bushels; barley, 49 to 77 bushels; peas, 20 to 45 bushels. As to the experiments on stubble and summer fallow the results were very noticeable, the yield on the former ranging from 20 to 25 bushels per acre, while on the latter it advanced to from 30 to 40 bushels per acre. The crops in the Northwest, as a whole, are said to be the best harvested for many years, and especially in the Indian Head district, where the average yield of wheat will be about 30 bushels per acre, as computed by good judges."

COMPLIMENTARY REFERENCE

The Toronto Shoe and Leather Journal says: "In connection with the new tariff The Commercial, of Winnipeg, has made a departure that will prove of great value to every business office receiving that journal, and that will win for it the praise of all its subscribers and advertisers. It is a complete reproduction of the official copy of the new tariff, gotten up in a neat book form, of a size that is very convenient for the desk or to be hung on the wall."

We may add that an extra supply of the pamphlets were printed, and all new cash subscribers will receive a copy, while they last.

PLOWING IN MANITOBA

Our illustration this week is a plowing scene. While the common long plows are largely used, a good many sulky and gang plows are also used, and on some of our large farms a string of teams may be seen at this season following each other around and around an immense stubble field. It seems tedious work, even with a three furrow gang plow, to turn over the soil, owing to the large area