

more largely grown in past years. The disadvantage in growing the crop is the uncertainty of a market. Much larger quantities, however, could be used at home to advantage. Manitoba is importing and paying duty upon thousands of dollars worth of cured hog products every year, which should be produced at home. The supply of hogs this year is not even sufficient for the home demand for using fresh. Potatoes and barley make excellent feed for hogs, and with the large yield of both these crops in this province, it is a shame that so much money is going out of the country for hog products. Our farmers evidently need a few lessons in thrift and economy.

THE LUMBER DUTY.

Though the new tariff bill recently adopted in the United States is generally unfavorable to Canada, it is not uniformly unfavorable in its provisions. An exception is apparent in the case of the lumber duties. The duty on lumber is reduced one half, from \$2 to \$1 per thousand feet. Canada, however, imposes an export duty of \$2 per thousand feet on logs. This was done in order to stop the exportation of logs mainly from the Lake Huron and Georgian Bay region to Michigan, and force the manufacture of the logs at home. The new United States tariff provided that any country imposing an export duty on logs could not have the benefit of the reduction in the duty. So far as the United States is concerned, the duty was reduced on lumber to appease the demand for cheaper material in this line, and in order to force Canada to remove the export duty on logs, it was provided that our lumbermen could not take advantage of the reduced duty until this was done. The bait was thus hung dangling before our eyes, and the Dominion Government have not been slow to make a move in the matter. Last week the news came from Ottawa that a proclamation had been issued removing the export duty on logs. This is no doubt the wise policy for our government to pursue in this matter. The lumber trade is none too flourishing just now, and there would have been a great outcry if our government had refused to allow our lumbermen to take advantage of the lower duties in exporting to the United States. The removal of the export duty on logs will benefit Canadian lumbermen in two ways. It will first permit of their taking advantage of the lower duty; and secondly, it will take some of the pressure off the home market, by allowing the export of logs to the States, which would otherwise be sawn for the home market.

So far as the export of logs is concerned, it appears that Canada imports more logs from the United States than she exports to that country. While logs are exported from portions of Ontario, they are imported from the state of Minnesota for our mills on the Lake of the Woods, and also imported into New Brunswick. Therefore it seemed unwise to place an export duty on logs, as it might provoke retaliation of the same nature on the United States. The new tariff reduces the duty on white pine shingles from 35 to 20 cents per thousand, and on other shingles the rate is reduced 5 cents to 30 cents; and on timber hewn or sawn, the

duty is reduced from twenty per cent. to ten per cent. Squared timber is reduced from 1 to $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per foot.

UNITED STATES CROPS.

The last official crop report from Washington gives the yield per acre for the entire country, as follows: Winter wheat, 10.8 bushels per acre; spring wheat, 11.5; the wheat crop, 11.1; oats, 19.8; barley, 21; rye, 11.8 bushels. The effect of last winter frosts upon wheat is shown by the low rate of yield to have been severe. The figure would have been lower but for the reduction of area by plowing and planting of the worst fields in other crops. The yield of wheat in Dakota varies from a bushel or two to twenty-five bushels, making an average of nine bushels per acre. Minnesota returns 12 and Wisconsin 12.5 bushels per acre. The estimated yield of oats of 19.8 bushels per acre for the whole country is the lowest ever reported. The indicated yield of oats by the Government crop report is for a little over 500,000,000 bushels. The report points to a probable wheat crop of about 403,000,000 bushels, including nearly 251,000,000 bushels of winter and nearly 152,000,000 bushels of spring. It indicates that the total wheat crop of Minnesota and the Dakotas will be about 82,000,000 bushels. Last year they yielded in the aggregate 87,103,000 bushels and in 1888 65,917,000 bushels. The yield per acre of corn is equivalent to a total crop of about 1,555,000,000 bushels.

The final returns for the United States show the general condition of crops to be quite as poor as has been indicated by earlier reports. Canada will come out a long ways ahead of the United States this year in the leading cereal crops. The following table, giving the official estimates of the yield per acre of the crops named, in the United States, as compared with the provinces of Manitoba and Ontario, will be of interest:—

	United States.	Ontario.	Manitoba.
Fall wheat.....	10.8	20.6	
Spring wheat.....	11.5	16.0	24.6
Barley.....	21.0	23.3	34.3
Oats.....	19.8	30.1	41.3

WHEAT VALUES.

Some time ago THE COMMERCIAL ventured to suggest that the large wheat crop, of fine quality, which has been gathered in Ontario this year, would have the effect of curtailing the demand for Manitoba wheat from the millers of that province, for mixing purposes. Manitoba wheat, THE COMMERCIAL stated, would therefore not likely bring a price this year in advance of its export value, as has been the case in some past years. One of our smaller provincial exchanges gave this journal a sound belaboring on account of the paragraph referred to, stating that it was written with the object of bearing wheat, in the interest of the grain trade. Just here we might say that the support THE COMMERCIAL receives from the grain trade is trifling, and were it vastly greater than it is, it would not have any influence in inducing this journal to deviate from its course in its efforts to fill the position of an impartial commercial authority.

Now it happens that an eastern commercial authority, the *Montreal Journal of Commerce*,

in an article last week upon wheat values makes substantially the same statements as were made in this journal some time ago. The *Montreal paper* says in effect, that eastern millers will want but little Manitoba wheat this year, on account of the large crop of fine wheat which they have at home. On this account, the *Journal of Commerce* believes, that prices "in Manitoba will be fixed by export value to a greater extent than usual."

The increase in the flour duties last winter it is evident will be of no value to Manitoba farmers this year. Were the quantity of wheat grown in Canada considerably less than home requirements, the duty would increase the cost of flour and wheat, but with a surplus of wheat over home requirements, it is difficult to see wherein the wheat and flour duties are of much advantage to the grower, though of course it is some benefit to the miller to have exclusive control of the home market.

FIRES AT THRESHINGS.

It is time that something was invented in the line of furnishing power for threshing machines, which would be less dangerous in the direction of freedom from fire. The quantity of property destroyed every year by fire at threshings must be very great. No sooner has the threshing season commenced, than reports of the destruction of grain and sometimes other property from fires, begin to come in. No doubt many of these fires are caused by carelessness, or lack of proper knowledge on the part of the operators of the machinery. Still, even with the best of care, the danger must be very great. In dry weather a stray spark from the engine will readily ignite the stacks of grain. In regard to the operators of the machinery, there is complaint that they are not always qualified to take charge of the engines. The wisdom of having properly qualified men is very apparent, and it has even been intimated that the legislature should interfere to prevent the operation of threshing engines by other than parties who had passed an examination entitling them to undertake such work. The difficulty in the way of such a regulation is the scarcity of men, and were anything of this nature enforced, it might interfere with getting the crops threshed out in reasonable time. The owner of the threshing machine usually loses his property as well as the farmer for whom he is threshing in case of a fire. This is probably a very good feature, as it will make threshers more careful. But notwithstanding this, many fires could no doubt be avoided if threshers exercised every possible care.

WINNIPEG'S HIGH ASSESSMENT.

Last week in these columns, comment was made upon a paragraph from the *Ottawa Citizen* speaking of the effects of the real estate "boom" of 1881-82 in Winnipeg, and of the fact that the assessed value of the city was too high. The *Citizen* said among other things that "Winnipeg is by far the most over-assessed city in Canada, and it is probable that there is no other city on the continent where property is placed at so high a nominal value." THE COMMERCIAL endorsed the statement of the *Citizen* to the extent that in many instances the assessed value of property in Winnipeg is far