

THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters pertaining to trade and progress in Western Canada, including that part of Ontario west of Lake Superior, the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Territories.

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Office 210 McDermott St. Telephone 24.

D. W. BUCHANAN,
Publisher.

The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much larger circulation among the business community of the east 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 3, 1901.

THE EXHIBITION.

The Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition held during the week now closing has apparently proven as great an attraction as ever to residents of Western Canada and the neighboring portions of the United States. The attendance from outside points was so large that many had difficulty in securing accommodation notwithstanding all the arrangements made for housing and feeding the crowds. Railway trains coming into the city from all directions have been crowded to the doors every day since the end of last week, and besides those brought in in this way many people drove into the city from nearby points. This may safely be taken as the fairest measure of the popularity of the show and the directors are to be congratulated upon the splendid attendance secured. There might have been a still larger attendance but for the fact that haying operations and the near approach of the wheat harvest kept many farmers at home.

A fairly complete description of the exhibition itself is given in another part of this issue. The big feature has again been the live stock exhibits, and it may fairly be said that a finer aggregation of pure bred stock of all descriptions it would be hard to find. The exhibits of manufactures, while quite representative, were not as numerous as might be wished. Those which were shown were very creditable and indicate that the west is slowly developing along this line. There was a fair array of art products and fancy goods. The time is not suitable for profuse exhibits of agricultural products but there was still a fair representation of these and also of dairy products.

The sports and attractions' features seem to have been as pleasing and popular as ever and the crowds have gone home apparently well satisfied with the arrangements made for their amusement.

In town there has been the usual amount of calling and social intercourse among business people. Wholesale merchants have entertained all callers from the country in good style and some business has been exchanged as well.

SPELTZ.

Dr. Saunders, director of the Dominion government's experimental farms was before the select standing com-

mittee on agriculture and colonization of the house of commons in March giving evidence on the results of his work and in the course of his very interesting and valuable addresses took occasion to say of speltz:

In concluding my evidence this morning in connection with the experimental farms, I wish to call your attention in the first place to a variety of wheat which has been much lauded in some of the seedmen's catalogues for the past year, and which is known as speltz wheat. This is different from ordinary wheat, in that the chaff is not easily separated, it does not separate by threshing unless you have special apparatus for the purpose, and it sticks almost as closely to a most varieties of barley. It has been highly recommended for feeding stock and has been stated to yield a very much larger quantity of grain than other varieties of cereals that are used for this purpose. This is not a new thing. It was tested at the experimental farms some ten or eleven years ago, when we imported several varieties of Speltz wheat for trial. It is a wheat that is grown in the mountainous districts in some parts of Europe where the land is very poor and will produce a crop in comparatively unfavorable soil. It is like rye in that respect, and will put up with a small amount of fertility in the land and will give a better crop under such circumstances than ordinary wheat. The results of our early experiments were not encouraging, we did not find it equal to our best barleys for food and it did not produce as well, so after two or three years we abandoned it and did not take it up again until it was revived and began to be advertised by some seedmen in the western states two years ago. It was then tested in Dakota, and in the autumn of 1898, when visiting the experimental station in that state, I heard it spoken of favorably, and ordered another supply to test it again in Canada. The results last year were as follows: It yielded at the Central Experimental Farm 2,000 pounds per acre, at Napan 2,610 pounds, at Brandon 2,740 pounds, at Indian Head 1,320 and at Assiniboia 1,310 pounds, making an average yield at the experimental farms of 2,008 pounds. Taking the bushel at the ordinary standard of wheat at 60 pounds to the bushel, this would be equal to 33 bushels 28 pounds, or comparing it with barley with which it is more comparable at 48 pounds per bushel it gave an average of 41 bushels 40 lbs to the acre. The six best yielding varieties of barley which we have tested for the past five or six years at the experimental farms have averaged 47 bushels 39 pounds per acre, showing a little over six bushels per acre in favor of the barley, indicating that the speltz wheat is not so wonderfully superior to barley as has been represented by some of the seedmen. At the same time this variety of wheat may have its use in some parts of the Dominion where the land is poor and where it may be difficult to grow other wheats to advantage.

On being questioned as to the value, etc., of speltz Dr. Saunders stated that it is usually sold at about the same price as barley, or in figures at from 40 to 50c per bushel, but that in America seedmen have this year been asking as high as one dollar per bushel for it. The measured bushel usually weighs about 45 pounds.

These statements regarding this grain are interesting in view of the fact that a number of Manitoba farmers are growing speltz this year from which they are hoping to get very superior results in feeding stock. The seed used by Manitoba farmers cost for the most part \$1.50 per bushel and they were led to expect very large yields of the grain.

THE JUNE BANK STATEMENT.

The Dominion government has just published its monthly statement of bank returns covering the month of June. The position of the country's finances as embraced in this statement shows improvement both as compared with the previous month and the same month of the previous year. The combined paid-up capital is now \$67,095,715, as compared with \$67,002,280 at the end of May and \$61,735,145 at the end of June, 1900. The

combined reserve amounts to \$36,437,736, as against \$36,402,913 for May and \$32,792,608. The amount of bank notes in circulation amounts to \$19,119,419 as against \$16,148,231 in May \$45,577,387. The domestic demand deposits amount to \$92,897,813 as against \$93,500,053 in May and \$99,702,539 a year ago. The notice deposits amount to \$222,877,616 as against \$222,175,817 in May and \$177,551,111 a year ago. Deposits from foreign parts amount to \$21,638,289 as against \$22,210,588 in May. These are the main features of the liabilities side of the account. The total liabilities of the banks amount to \$417,320,761, as against \$411,181,789 in May \$440,295,278 a year ago.

As regards assets the statement shows that at the end of June the chartered banks held specie to the amount of \$11,695,053 as against \$11,983,876 at the end of May and \$10,185,868 a year ago. Dominion notes to the amount of \$19,088,896 as against \$19,862,775 in May and \$18,037,608 a year ago, call loans domestic amount to \$33,573,533 and foreign \$11,190,251 as against \$32,961,442 and \$30,166,397 respectively at the end of May, Canadian current loans foot up to the large total of \$282,872,134 as against \$257,205,997 at the end of May. Besides these amounts the assets show considerable money invested in government securities, municipal securities, etc.

HARVEST HELP PROBLEM.

The prairie wheat belt seems to be confronted with a very serious problem in the scarcity of labor for the harvest. Climatic conditions this season have favored a remarkably rank growth. With the large increase in the crop area and the enormous bulk of straw to be handled, the harvesting of our grain crops will entail an immense amount of labor upon the farmers. It is one of the features of our mode of farming in the West, that a large number of extra men are required during harvest. Where wheat or grain is almost the sole interest of a large number of the farmers, the year's work is crowded into a short period. A farmer who may require half a dozen men during harvest, can get along with one man during a considerable part of the year. One way to overcome this situation would be to grow less grain, or give more attention to stock, etc., which would give employment for more men during other seasons of the year.

This, however, will not help the present situation. It is estimated that we will require as many as 20,000 harvest hands from outside in addition to the usual home supply. Two years ago, with a smaller crop area and a much lighter crop, over 10,000 persons were brought in from the east to assist in the harvest. This would indicate that the 20,000 estimate is not really excessive. Men are well employed in the East this year and wages are high there, so that the prospect of obtaining the required assistance from the eastern provinces does not seem encouraging. It has been suggested that a number of men could be procured from the new settlements in Northern Alberta but the surplus supply there, if any, would be limited. Possibly the Japanese population of British Columbia, who are a thorn in the side of the labor element of that province, might be drawn upon to a limited extent, but it is doubtful if they would be of much service in the harvest field. The main supply of useful farm help must be drawn from the older provinces or from the States to the south, and if they cannot be procured in that direction there will undoubtedly be a shortage.

The States immediately south of the boundary also require a large number of extra harvest hands at about the same time as they are wanted here, so that we cannot get many from that quarter. If an effort is to be made to bring men from the States, it will have to be done in districts further south than the border States.

Chicago Country Hide Market.

Early in the week, says Hide and Leather, a few cars of hides were reported sold on basis of 9c for No. 1 short-haired buff, but later the market had a set back of 1/4c which led to the purchase of several cars of buff by a Wisconsin tanner at 8 1/2c. Conditions are not fully settled. The large number of cattle being forced on the market from the drouth districts is claimed will add to the supply of high hides, especially with the packers. Eastern markets are apparently less rigid and prices are as low if not lower than in Chicago. It is claimed the dealers here are well sold up on nearly all classes of hides, and are not inclined to speculate at present prices.

No. 1 heavy cows, 60 pounds and up, free of grubs and brands, have been held at 10 1/2c to 11c for some time. A few sold at the inside price and later at 10 1/4c for less than a car lot. Harness selection quotable at 10 3/4c; No. 2, 9 1/4c.

No. 1 heavy steers, 60 pounds and over, free of grubs and brands, are in fair call at 9 1/2c to 9c. Several cars were taken at the outside price for short haired stock.

Branded hides, which run a fair per cent of steers averaging 55 to 56 pounds, are quoted at 8 1/2c and 9c flat. Country receipts all weights above 40 pounds, 8 1/2c.

No. 1 buffs, 40 to 60 pounds, free of grubs and brands, are selling for short haired at 8 1/2c; No. 2 at 1c per pound less. The market is pretty well cleaned up at this price. Long haired stock quoted at 8 1/2c.

No. 1 extremes, 25 to 40 pounds, free of grubs and brands, in moderate demand. Sale two cars short-haired at 8 1/2c; No. 2, at 7 1/2c. Long haired hides quoted at 8 1/2c.

Bulls, all weights, are selling at 8 1/2c flat for original lots. Market is called steady. Several lots were taken this week.

No. 1 catfisks, 8 to 15 pounds, which are classed as countries, are quoted at 11 to 11 1/2c. No. 2 1 1/2c per pound less. The market is rather quiet. Sale price same week one year ago was 10c.

No. 1 city catfisks, 8 to 15 pounds, have recently sold at 11 1/2c and 12c; No. 2 1 1/2c per pound less. The market is considered steady at these prices. Sale, one car cities and outside cities in bundle condition at 12c.

No. 1 short haired kips weighing from 15 to 25 pounds, in fair demand at 9 to 9 1/2c; No. 2, 1 1/2c less. Long haired skins dull and have to be sold cheap for glove leather. Nominal quotations, 8 to 8 1/2c.

Deacons, in good demand. Skins weighing from 7 to 8 pounds, well taken off, command 8 1/2c; under 7 pounds, 6c.

Stunks, quoted at 25 to 30c; packers, 50 to 52 1/2c. Market quiet.

Hogskins are selling flat at 30 to 32 1/2c on selection as high as 50c for No. 1. The demand is not as urgent. Tanners complain on account of the bad skinning. So many skins nearly worthless.

No. 1 horse hides, country lots, selling from \$3.20 to \$3.25. The demand is not brisk at present. Many of the tanners have fair stocks of winter hides on hand and are negotiating the summer hides. No. 2, \$1.00 less; culls and ponies, \$1.25 to \$1.50; colts, 50c.

A combine has been formed in the United States for the purpose of controlling the flint glass bottle business. There are about fifty factories making these goods in the country. Prices have already been raised.

The Commercial has been favored with a copy of a chart showing full details of the metric system of weights and measures, which has been published by The Canadian Engineer of Toronto. The principal upon which this system is founded is already fairly well understood by business men but it has remained for the publishers of this chart to put the various features into such concise form that they can be compared with our present English system at a glance.