

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. The Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, JUNE 23.

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS REPORTS.

One of the most important blue books issued by the Dominion government is that relating to the work carried on at the five experimental farms which are located throughout the Dominion. The blue book for 1899 has recently been issued and is now being distributed for the use of farmers and others in all parts of the Dominion. In his prefatory remarks Dr. Saunders, director of the farms, notes a large and increasing demand from farmers everywhere in Canada for the annual reports and other literature issued from the experimental farms, which is a most gratifying thing, as there is no way in which a farmer can secure so quickly and accurately the information which will be of most use to him in carrying on his work. Dr. Saunders also remarks that "during the thirteen years which have passed since these farms were established, great changes for the better have taken place in farm life. The position of the farmer in the community has been improved and his work is now carried on with greater intelligence and with more financial success. In most instances the home has been made more attractive, the family surrounded with greater comforts and much of the drudgery formerly associated with the farmers' calling has been lifted from his shoulders by the introduction of methods of co-operation, by improvements in machinery, and by the dissemination of valuable experience gained in reference to all branches of farm work in this country." It may be said that this notable improvement in the conditions accompanying the agricultural industry of Canada are due in no small degree to the very able manner in which the experimental work carried on by successive governments

has been made to apply to the every day needs of the farmer.

In referring to the crop results of the season of 1899, Dr. Saunders says that the year "was characterized by good crops over the greater part of the Dominion," which success was achieved mainly by a more thorough preparation of the soil and greater care in use of barnyard manure and selection of seed, all of which may easily be practiced by the average farmer.

Just two classes of general experiments are spoken of by Dr. Saunders, and in each case his conclusions are of the utmost importance to the west. In regard to selection of varieties of grain, he says: "The relative earliness in ripening which under some conditions is almost as important as productiveness, has been further investigated, and the results reached confirm the views held by most careful students of this subject, that as a rule any great increase in earliness in ripening of grain is accompanied by a decrease in yield," and as regards early, medium and late sowings, he says: "The experiments which have now been continued for ten years to gain information as to the best time to sow, has furnished evidence so conclusive in favor of early sowing that it will probably not be thought necessary to continue these any longer."

At a later date the reports of the western farms will be dealt with separately in these columns.

UNION BANK STATEMENT.

Canadian banks have been making some very satisfactory statements at their annual meetings recently held, among them being that of the Union Bank, which held its annual meeting at the banking house in Quebec on Thursday, June 14. The profits for the year as shown by the directors report after deducting expenses of management, and making appropriation for bad and doubtful debts, etc., were \$162,931.49, which added to the balance carried forward from 1899 of \$33,108.89, made the total surplus for the year \$196,040.38. Out of this fund after paying the regular dividend \$50,000 was carried to the rest account and \$25,040.38 carried forward. The directors expressed themselves as being well satisfied with the business done in the new Pincher Creek and Yorkton branches in the Northwest Territories.

THE MUTUAL LIFE ASSURANCE CO. OF CANADA.

Elsewhere in this issue of The Commercial appears the report of the 30th annual meeting of this well known Canadian life insurance company. The points of most interest to the insurance public in connection with the various companies which seek to do business with them are the respective stand-

ings of the companies their strength and vitality. The Mutual bears itself well in each of these respects. The number of policies it now has in force is 18,819, amounting in all to \$26,940,441.20, and its reserve, which is on a four per cent basis, amounts to \$4,324,080.04. Its premium income amounts to \$808,254.98, and its total income to \$1,051,402.67. Its total assets are \$4,663,553.45. The amount paid to policy holders during the year was \$358,901.80, of which \$169,174.71 was for death claims. As showing the vitality of the company it may be noted that last year no less than 3,313 applications for insurance were received, of which 2,896 for \$4,751,026 were accepted. This business was the largest in the history of the company. It will be noted that this company is now known as the Mutual Life Assurance Company of Canada, its old name, The Ontario Mutual having been changed recently by act of parliament at its own request.

Winnipeg City Council.

The Winnipeg city council met in regular session on Monday evening. The finance committee recommended that the tender of A. Stewart, manager of the Central Canada Loan & Savings' Co., of \$129,900 for \$129,202.71 twenty years four per cent debentures be accepted and that the offer of A. J. Andrews of \$101,283.93 with accrued interest to the date of delivery for \$26,591.40 of fifteen years and \$14,592.53 of nineteen years debentures be accepted. These recommendations were adopted. The contractors for the engine and pumping plant at the new Winnipeg waterworks asked for an extension of time for completion of work, which request was held over. The sewer laborers employed by the city, wrote protesting against a reduction in their rate of wages. Deputations were heard on the early closing by-law for and against, and the questions raised were referred to a sub-committee. The committee on works recommended a number of sidewalks, sewers and pavements for construction. The tender of W. T. Lee for supply of sewer pipe was accepted. Tenders for painting stables at the Exhibition grounds and for erection of a British Columbia building were accepted. Thursday August 16 was fixed as civic holiday.

The building of a pulp plant at Grand Falls, N. B., at a cost of \$7,000,000 is said to be assured. It will be the largest in the world and will give employment to 1,000 hands. As the power capable of being generated by Grand Falls is very great it is expected that other industries will also be started.

Considerable experimenting has been done in Europe and America with steel tracks on highways. It is claimed that even with iron and steel at their present high price a steel track of two rails can be laid at about the cost of macadamizing a road, and of course much less power is necessary to move a load on steel rails than on the best stone road.

The work of rebuilding the E. B. Eddy Company's planing mill and woodenware establishment at Hull will be rushed forward and the company expects to be turning out paper by next October.