

THE COMMERCIAL

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

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Office: 181 McDermot 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, JUNE 10, 1899.

B. C. Experimental Farm.

Annual Report for 1898.

The most westerly of the Canadian experimental farms is that at Agassiz in British Columbia. It is within the belt affected by the coast climate of British Columbia, about 70 miles east of Vancouver and 62 miles from New Westminster. The site was selected with a view to combining as well as possible the various climatic and soil conditions of British Columbia. This object has been admirably secured and the work done has accordingly been most valuable to all sections of the province. The total area of the farm is 1,100 acres, but only about 350 acres of this is under cultivation.

It is well known that British Columbia is admirably adapted for fruit growing and it is along this line that the efforts of the farm are mainly directed. Already about 2,500 varieties of fruit trees have been brought together from all countries having similar climates to British Columbia. A large number of forest trees have also been planted representing for the most part the valuable hardwoods of the east such as black walnut, hickory, elm, ash and oak. Many of these latter are making good growth. The forests of British Columbia are deficient in hardwood timber trees and if these can be grown to advantage in that climate on rocky hillsides, such as are of no value for agricultural purposes, this branch of tree culture may become a profitable industry. Many different sorts of ornamental trees and shrubs are also under trial.

As at the other branch farms many useful lines of work have been carried on in the cultivation and testing of different sorts of grain, fodder plants and roots to find out those best adapted to the coast climate. Trial

plots have also been established for several years to gain information as to the best time for the sowing of different sorts of farm crops. Many experiments have also been tried with different breeds of cattle, swine and poultry. A large number of varieties of vegetables and flowers are also tested every year, and thus is made helpful and interesting to all classes of the community.

Taking the experiments in the order outlined above we find that among the large fruits apples occupy a leading place. The year 1898 was an off one for apples in old orchards or where the trees had been bearing continuously for several years. Of winter apples, Salome, Scott's Winter, Baldwin, Ben Davis and Sutton Beauty were the only varieties amongst the old trees that bore a fairly good crop. A large number of Russian varieties of apples fruited for the first time last year. These have proved to be strong growers and early bearers, but nearly all of them are summer or early autumn apples. A number of varieties of crabs are being tested with satisfactory results.

Pears were experimented with to considerable extent. Very few of the older pear trees bore fruit last year and in those cases where they did the fruit was small and inferior in quality. About fourteen varieties bore fruit for the first time with varying success.

The European varieties of plums appear to find a congenial soil and climate in British Columbia. No other fruit on the farm is so persistent and regular in producing crops. Japanese and American plums were not so successful.

Cherries yielded a light crop. Russian varieties tested have been pronounced excellent. Peaches, apricots, nectarines, mulberries and medlars were all successfully grown.

Among the small fruits gooseberries, grapes, currants, raspberries, blackberries and strawberries, produced well, and are found to be more or less productive.

Forest and ornamental trees received the usual amount of attention last year. The forest tree plantations are making very strong and healthy growth in the cleared land, and many of those planted on the mountain side, which is one of the physical features of the farm, did very well. The hedge plants are also going very finely. Nut and almond trees are doing well.

The experiments with grains were carried on as usual. Sixty-six varieties of oats were tested. All the seed was treated with bluestone before sowing. The kinds known as Danish Island, Imported Irish, Bavarian, American Triumph and Cromwell were the five best in point of yield.

Forty-one varieties of barley were sown. Hot and dry weather ripened the plots earlier, but lessened the yield. Of the two-rowed sorts Kliver Chevalier, Beaver, Prize Prolific, Pacer and Danish Chevalier proved to be the best and of the six-rowed sorts Phoenix, Royal, Mensury, Argyle and Empire were the best.

Forty-four varieties of spring wheat were tested in 1898. Dry weather spoiled to some extent a promising yield. White Connell, Huron, Black Sea, Monarch and Progress were the five best kinds. Red Fyfe was eleventh in the list.

Forty-seven varieties of pease were sown with varying success. The King variety headed the list in point of yield.

Indian Corn seems to do well in British Columbia.

Turnips, Mangels, carrots, sugar beets, potatoes and the usual list of vegetables received attention and were all found to be capable of profitable production.

Experiments with Japanese millet, Soja beans and horse beans proved the utility of these for forage crops. Soja beans were particularly successful and the cattle preferred this food to any other.

This covers the ground of the principal experiments at the farm. Nothing has been said about the work with poultry, bees, cattle, etc., but these all received attention and many valuable lessons were learned.

Ontario Crop Bulletin.

The Ontario department of agriculture published on May 9th through its bureau of industries a bulletin giving the agricultural condition of that province up to May 1. Serious injury is reported to the fall crops, and other vegetation by late frosts, which came after the snow had partially disappeared, thus depriving the ground of its natural protection. As a result of the inclemency of the weather, the fall wheat crop is practically a failure in many localities. Some of the area sown to fall wheat has been plowed up. Slight losses have occurred from insect pests, wire worms and the Hessian fly having appeared last fall in a few localities in the western part of the province. Rain was urgently needed in some sections at the time correspondents wrote.

Considerable variation occurs in the reports of correspondents regarding spring seedling. While some of the reports state that the seed bed has been favorable, a large number describe the soil as being too wet, or inclined to be 'sad' and 'run together,' to quote several correspondents. In the west and north clay soils were said to be heavy from the weight of snow, while in most eastern localities the fact was pointed out that there was an unusual depth of frost in the ground. The season was generally regarded as being late, but the remarkably fine weather prevailing as correspondents wrote made the outlook for the getting in of spring crops an encouraging one. The prospects are that a full area of spring grains will be sown, particularly of oats.

Monthly Trade Returns.

The customs returns of the Winnipeg office for the month of May were as follows:

| | 1899. | 1898. |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Goods exported | \$ 94,161 | \$172,582 |
| Entered for consumption— | | |
| Dutiable | \$328,164 | 295,973 |
| Free | 157,387 | 145,272 |
| Total | \$485,751 | \$441,245 |
| Duty collected | \$88,514 | \$78,830 |

The inland revenue collections for the month of May in the Winnipeg district were as follows:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Spirits | \$18,738.50 |
| Malt | 2,671.99 |
| Tobacco, mfd. | 16,491.69 |
| Tobacco, raw leaf | 757.74 |
| Cigars, ex-factory | 589.20 |
| Cigars, ex-whole | 1,506.60 |
| Petroleum, inspection fees | 96.55 |
| Licenses | 10.00 |

\$40,862.53
Collections, May, '98 37,279.31
Increase \$3,583.22