

The Commercial

A Journal of Commerce, Industry and Finance, specially devoted to the interests of 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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The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much larger circulation among the business community of the country 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 great majority of business men in the vast district designated above, and 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, APRIL 17, 1893.

Weather and Crops in Europe.

Seasonable spring-like weather has continued to favor farmers and vegetation generally in the past week, although the nights have been cold and frosty. English farmers complain of the low price of wheat, and to judge by what they are doing in parts of Cambridgeshire and Suffolk—where oats are taking the place of wheat, owing to the ruinously low return for the latter—the area under wheat will show a further diminution this year. From France, Germany, Belgium and Holland the crop reports leave little or nothing to desire, and from Italy, too, satisfactory accounts are received; in Spain farmers complain of the dry weather; while in the southern part of Tunis, where no rain had fallen for 45 days, the crops are utterly destroyed. According to the latest Hungarian official report the growing crops had suffered in some districts from the stormy and severe weather, but generally speaking wheat and rye promised satisfactory results. Barley and rapeseed, however, were said to have suffered severely in many districts. The Indian wheat has not been favored by the weather, this week's cables again reporting rain at Kurrachee and other places.—Beerbohm, March 24.

The Cattle Trade of Southern Manitoba.

The important trade in beef cattle that is springing into existence in Southern Manitoba shows that the people here have at length discovered, through necessity, what they might have been taught by intelligence years ago. In a country where food for animals is so plentiful and can be so easily provided, and where every buffalo skull that marks the prairie tells a story to the observing agriculturalist, it requires very little sagacity to see that cattle and their products should be the chief dependency of the people of the rural districts. Experience has developed the fact that all who have made the possession of a good herd their chief reliance

have prospered. It is most gratifying to see the number of excellent animals now produced in the country and especially in Rock Lake district, where the conditions are very favorable both as regards food and water. The time has gone past when men can afford to hesitate about the system of farming that it is prudent to follow, for in almost every case those who have been relying on the export of grain in order to increase their prosperity have been disappointed and are compelled by stern necessity to change their method or quit farming altogether. It will be observed that very few calves are sold to butchers and that every promising young animal is raised and that much attention is given to improvement of stock. A strong effort will be made to feed expressly for the English market, and heavy, well finished steers will soon be produced in considerable numbers on every farm.—Pilot Mound Sentinel

Dominion Finances.

For March the public revenue amounted to \$3,306,207, and the expenditure to \$1,520,175. The revenue for the previous eight months was \$24,528,392, and expenditure \$21,172,730, making for the nine months a total revenue of \$27,834,630, and expenditure \$22,692,906, and leaving a surplus of \$5,141,724. The surplus for the corresponding nine months of the previous fiscal year was \$3,349,477 a difference of \$1,792,247 in favor of the present year. Besides the foregoing expenditure there is an expenditure on capital account amounting to \$2,592,736. So that even if this sum, which is represented by assets in the way of valuable public works and aid to railways be deducted from \$5,141,724, there remains a surplus of revenue at the end of the third quarter of the current fiscal year of \$2,548,988 over and above expenditure of all kinds. The total net debt of Canada on March 30 was \$237,613,602, a reduction of \$1,786,667 during the month.

United States Grain Trade and Crops.

The past week has been all that could be desired for the winter wheat crop as a rule in the west, although many districts have been favored with moisture and warmth and satisfactory advancement in growth. The larger portion of the area is deficient in moisture, and disappointments have widened, so that an unexpected extent of area is being abandoned to other crops. This is more notable in Illinois and Kansas than elsewhere. In Ohio the crop is in good average promise; in Indiana there is considerable impairment, as also in Kentucky, with much uncertainty in Michigan. A rather surprising feature is the frequency of reference to liberal holdings of wheat in the interior. A reduction of 75,000,000 bushels in the winter portion of the wheat crop, if the spring crop should have a favorable outturn, would furnish an ample supply for the year, with the surplus on hand, to admit of an average volume of exportation.—Cincinnati Price Current April 7.

Steamships for Australia.

The government has made arrangements with G. B. Hunter, of the shipping firm of Swan & Hunter, of Wellsend, England, for the establishment of a line of steamers to run between the Pacific coast and Australia. Hunter is agent for the Australian steamship navigation syndicate, of Huddard, Parker & Co., whose steamers run between Australia and New Zealand, and the Fiji islands and other foreign points. Under the provisional arrangements effected with the Dominion government, which lasts for one year with the privilege of renewal monthly, a steamship service is to be established between Vancouver and Sydney, N. S. W., calling at Honolulu each way. The first vessel of the new Canadian and Australian line will sail from Sydney on the 10th of May. A subsidy of \$100,000 was voted by parliament several sessions ago, but this is the first offer

that any company has made to accept a subvention and undertake the establishment of the service.

Keeping Apples Perfectly.

A prominent apple grower at Portland, Me., confidently asserts that he has discovered by actual experience how to keep apples perfectly; and in proof of his claim he has on hand sound samples of no less than three distinct crops. His procedure is so simple that it is well worth experimenting on. Select sound winter fruit, wipe dry, wrap in tissue paper, pack in dry sand and place in a dry cellar. The result, it is claimed, will be the perfect preservation of the apples thus treated.

It would be well to refuse credit not only to individuals known to be dishonest, but also to those who have proved that they lack business capacity, and to all who are surely known to sell goods at less than cost.

C. H. Fildes, representing Greene, & Sons Co., of Montreal, arrived in Winnipeg last week. This well known firm will continue to push trade in the west, as heretofore, and is ready with the latest lines of samples for the fall trade.

William Cunningham, the well known cattle shipper, has just returned from a visit to Great Britain, says a Montreal telegram. Speaking of the prospects for the Canadian cattle trade during the coming season he says: Trade in Great Britain at present is very bad, but he thinks Canadian shippers will make some money early in the season if they buy their cattle right and get a fair rate of freight.

A trip through the Farmers' Binder Twine and Agricultural Manufacturing Company's works, says the Brantford, Ontario, Courier, reveals the fact that this great concern is now in full operation. The samples of twine that are being turned out are very creditable. Of the many splendid factories we have in our city there is none that surpasses in equipment, situation, sunshine and ventilation, the Farmers' Binder Twine Company.

T. H. White, Canadian Pacific Railway engineer, who last year was in charge of the "Soo" line construction, arrived in Winnipeg from Montreal recently, where he has been spending the winter. There is snow along the "Soo" extension, and grading will not commence until a month has passed. Work on the bridges will, however start at once, over 100 cars of timber from British Columbia being expected. There is considerable trestle work to be done near the Souris river, which will require a large staff of men to complete.

A dispatch has been received at Ottawa from the Colonial Office, London, conveying the announcement that the Spanish Government has decided that imports from Canada were hereafter to be admitted into all Spanish West Indian ports at the same customs rates as are applied to similar imports from the United States. Besides this the Government of Spain has issued an edict to the authorities of her West Indian colonies directing a return of duties in excess of this amount which have been collected upon Canadian goods since July.

A number of Montreal wholesale merchants and importers met Comptroller of Customs Wallace at the board of trade of that city to urge the adoption of some scheme to give a uniform appraisement of customs. The complaint of the trade was that the customs department did not charge uniform customs fees at different ports of entry, and that Montreal merchants paid higher custom dues than did outside parties. The comptroller replying, admitted that the grievance of the merchants was in many respects correct, adding that the government was now endeavoring to improve the working of the Customs Act, and that it should try to secure some uniformity of appraisements.