

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, JULY 7, 1890.

THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

On Wednesday the ratepayers of Winnipeg will be called upon to vote on the question of granting aid to the extent of \$30,000 to be applied towards furnishing grounds and buildings for an industrial exhibition to be held annually in the city, commencing with the first in September next, and it is to be hoped that no short-sighted considerations of a false economy will be brought to bear for the defeat of the by-law.

In bygone years Winnipeg has expended liberally for much needed city improvements, and for other purposes, nearly all of which were of a purely civic character. The Winnipeg general hospital is perhaps the only great institution which the city has aided greatly in building up, and which is for the benefit of the West generally. In fact, the city has through its council squandered large sums for which the citizens have received nothing beyond experience, that commodity often too dearly bought. In connection with a permanent annual industrial exhibition, Winnipeg is again asked to contribute to an institution which will be for the benefit of the province and territories at large, while it will undoubtedly prove of great value to the city itself. An undertaking which will prove of such value to Winnipeg itself will lose none of its local advantages from the fact that it will place advantages within the reach of other localities, where the people are interested in the common work of building up and developing this great and fertile land we live in. Such "dog in the manger" considerations as the belief that it will, can find no tenure in the minds of a progressive western community, so that from such a source there is no danger of any opposition to the by-law being brought to bear. In fact, there can, in the interests of progress, be no opposition to its passing; and should there be any, it can only come from that small number of parsimonious, poor devils to be found in almost every community, who never can take any pleasure in life that costs a cent, and would try to enforce their own narrow ideas upon others.

Most of our citizens remember that a few years ago Winnipeg could have had the Provincial Agricultural Exhibition located here for ten successive years for a consideration of \$10,000, to be paid to the Provincial Government. Many ratepayers thought that the citizens followed a very short-sighted policy in not taking advantage of that opportunity, and they were right in thinking so. The location of the exhibition grounds at Saint Boniface has proved a failure, as did the changing of its location each year, and has made it plain that only in Winnipeg can an exhibition be carried out with sufficient attraction to insure the patronage of the province generally. Besides, the present movement to establish an exhibition is one made by citizens of Winnipeg themselves almost entirely at their own expense, and will therefore be an institution for the establishment

and carrying out of which the Provincial Treasury will not have to bear the burden, as it had in connection with the unsuccessful attempt made at Saint Boniface. If the citizens of Winnipeg will only take a few such steps, calculated to benefit other portions of the province while benefiting themselves, there would be less of that "frog and the bull" jealousy sometimes displayed towards the city by other less important places in Manitoba.

BUTTER.

The movement inaugurated at Virden, Man., to secure an improvement in the quality of butter, is worthy of special notice. The first feature to attract attention in connection with this movement is, that it is a joint effort on the part of the merchants and farmers. Heretofore any action taken by dealers upon the butter question has almost invariably been looked upon with suspicion by the farmers, and has generally been denounced as an effort to oppress them. When the merchants who met in Winnipeg last winter undertook to consider means of improving the condition of the butter trade of the country, together with other matter, it was evident that the movement was regarded with a great deal of mistrust, and demonstrations were made against the merchants in certain rural districts. Notwithstanding these demonstrations, the proposals endorsed at the merchants' convention, if carried out, would be in the interest of farmers as well as dealers. Owing to this feeling of suspicion so common among farmers, it is pleasing to note that in the case of the Virden movement, the makers as well as the handlers of butter have united in a joint effort to improve the quality of butter. If a similar united movement could be made throughout Manitoba, there would be great hopes for the future of the butter trade of the province. The farmers should be more directly interested in this matter than the merchants, and they should be the first to make an effort to improve the quality of butter, instead of looking with suspicion upon and endeavoring to retard any such efforts.

It is true that heretofore there has not been much in the manner the butter trade of the country has been handled to encourage farmers to endeavor to attain the best results as to quality in making butter. The custom of taking all qualities of butter at one price, which has prevailed to such an extent, has been alone sufficient to ruin the butter trade of the country. To a considerable extent, therefore, the merchants are to blame for the quantity of poor butter marketed. Now that the quantity of butter made in the country has increased to such an extent that the article has become a drug on the market, at least so far as medium and poor qualities are concerned, it has become necessary to put forth a strong effort to remedy the evil features into which the trade has fallen. Let the merchants do their part to encourage the making of good butter, by buying according to quality and insisting upon proper care in packing and handling. If, as in the case of the movement at Virden, they can induce the farmers to co-operate with them in an organized effort, with a definite plan of action in view, to secure the desired result, so much the better. Under such joint action success would be

achieved in half the time, and by uniting the farmers in the movement, there would not be ground for that suspicion with which movements by merchants alone have been regarded by farmers. THE COMMERCIAL would suggest that the committee having the matter in hand at Virden, should publish a full report as to the working of their plan and the results attained under it, so that it could be applied to other parts of the province if thought desirable.

There is every indication that the present year will be one of unprecedentedly low values in butter, and merchants will be obliged to exercise unusual care in handling the article, if they are to get through without loss. Quality is therefore of first importance in the present condition of the butter trade. Anything but best quality is likely to be practically unsaleable this season. The existing conditions point to very low values for butter in all the leading markets, both in Canada and the United States. It has been stated on reliable authority that eastern makers are offering to lay down creamery butter at Vancouver at 20c per pound. This statement is in keeping with the general conditions of the situation in butter, and Manitoba merchants will require to exercise every care in buying and handling butter this year, if they are to come through the season without loss.

FAILURE CERTAIN.

From recent information it appears that already the organization commonly known as the "Kay Farming Company," which started out with a great flourish of trumpets a year or two ago, has met with severe reverses. THE COMMERCIAL predicted at the time the company was organized, that it could not be conducted successfully on the lines laid down at that time by the management. In fact, to those who knew anything about the conditions ruling here, it was a foregone conclusion that failure would result from efforts put forth in the direction indicated by the head of the concern.

The Canadian Agricultural, Coal and Colonization Company, the organization to which reference is made, started out with the intention of carrying on farming and stock raising on an immense scale, in the Territories. Large tracts of land were secured at points along the Canadian Pacific railway, between Regina and Calgary, and Sir Lester Kaye, by whose name the concern has been popularly known, was placed in charge as general manager. The first announcement of the titled manager was to the effect that he would conduct the concern as an English institution, and in a manner befitting an English enterprise of the kind. This announcement was alone sufficient to seal the fate of the Canada Agricultural, Coal and Colonization Company. Its high-sounding name would not save it from the fate of similar enterprises previously undertaken in this country. The experiment of farming in Canada on English principles has been tried frequently, and as often has resulted in failure. Herein lies the great disadvantage which Englishmen have had to contend with in becoming prosperous Canadian farmers. It appears to be a most difficult matter for them to conform themselves to the requirements of