

THE COMMERCIAL

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

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The Commercial certainly enjoys a very large circulation among the business community of the vast region lying between the Superior and the Pacific, and is the only paper in Canada, daily or weekly, who Commercial also reaches the following whole or in part: commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Ontario, Canada, the United States, office, 51 and 57 Merchants Bank Building, Telephone 224.

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THE BRANDON FAIR.

The annual exhibition under the auspices of the city of Brandon was held from Tuesday to Friday of this week. The arrangements for this event were most elaborate and the results a large attendance and a success in every particular. The attendance was larger than the housing capacity of the city would warrant and many people were subjected to some inconvenience on this account, but beyond this there was nothing to mar their enjoyment and a very satisfactory week was spent. The weather was much cooler than during the Winnipeg exhibition and in times almost equal to the other extremes. There was also a rainstorm on the opening day.

The exhibits were more numerous than last year and of a high order, the judges having difficulty in making their decisions in some classes. The live stock were a particularly fine lot and included many animals which were not shown at Winnipeg. The attractions were hindered on the opening day by the rain, but were successfully completed on the subsequent days to the great satisfaction of the immense crowds who turned out to witness them.

Altogether Brandon is to be congratulated upon the excellence of its fair this year.

THE SENECA ROOT SITUATION.
The present situation in the seneca root market is absolutely unique in the history of that commodity. The Commercial has been recording prices at Winnipeg for upwards of 20 years, and its files furnishing as complete a record as can be obtained of the course of seneca prices here since trading in root began, and a look back over the 12 years reveals the fact that at no time during that period has the situation been so favorable to the digger and country dealer as it is at present. We make these remarks for the reason that it has become apparent during the past few weeks that country shippers are holding back root in the expectation that higher prices than those now obtaining will be paid later on. Such a course, if widely adopted, can only have one effect upon the market, and that is to force prices lower.

The very large stocks of root which were held at New York and other points of accumulation some two or three years ago, have, it is true, become exhausted and Western Canada is being looked to by manufacturers for a considerable proportion of their fresh supplies which they must have in order to carry on their business. This means that there is a good market for root, and the fact that as high

as 70c per pound has been paid for it here this year is proof that buyers are willing to bid pretty high if they have to. In order to get the goods. It does not necessarily follow, however, that because at odd times fancy prices have been paid for small quantities that such sales can be repeated at the close of a season when digging has been free and large quantities are known to be held in the country. There is, of course, no means of telling what will happen in a market, and no one can at this moment say that root will not go up to \$1 per pound within a month, but it can be said that the signs are all in favor of the price moving in the opposite direction. Seneca has always been the subject of a good deal of manipulation and buyers have not been in the habit of manipulating the market in favor of the producer or country shipper.

We have taken the trouble to compile a table showing the price at which seneca was saleable in Winnipeg at the beginning of August in each of the following years:

Year. Price.
1901 27
1902 29
1903 29 1/2
1904 30 1/2
1905 30 1/2
1906 30 1/2
1907 30 1/2
1908 30 1/2

If these figures teach anything it is that 48 to 50c, the price ruling to-day, is an abnormally high figure for root, nearly double the average for the above series of years. This should be sufficient to convince the country merchant that it is dangerous to stock up at present prices and then hold in expectation of a rise as some are now doing. Even if by holding for a year a few cents more should be secured there would still be an actual loss on the transaction, owing to the heavy shrinkage which root will show in weight when held for that time.

This article has not been written with the intent to advise or urcate to those country merchants who have acquired stocks of root and who think they can see a profit in holding for an advance over present prices. We are not in the habit of proffering unsolicited advice in trading matters and are always ready to believe that the country merchant knows his business better than we do. We have thought, however, that such information as the above would be useful at this time in helping those who have not the means

of obtaining it elsewhere to understand the situation with regard to seneca root and especially the relative position of present and past prices.

AUTOMOBILE REGULATIONS.

Winnipeg is beginning to realize that it has another street problem to deal with; another street grinder to face. The motor vehicle has appeared this year in considerable numbers and of various sizes and makes. The question is now how are these machines to be dealt with in relation to speed and their rights and limitations as compared with other vehicles. So far they seem to have had complete license in this respect and the speed at which they tear around the city makes the ordinary citizen who cannot afford one gasp. Those who drive horses are told that they will be fined if they travel through a city street at more than six miles per hour; electric cars are also limited in this respect and the bicycle, but the automobile can spin along Main street at a rate equal to 20 or 25 miles per



MANITOBA FARM HOMES—ISAAC BOWMAN, MIAMI.

Year. Price.
1901 27
1902 29
1903 29 1/2
1904 30 1/2
1905 30 1/2
1906 30 1/2
1907 30 1/2
1908 30 1/2

hour and the policeman pays no attention. We suppose the authorities are waiting until a few prominent cases have been killed or maimed before they do anything, or perhaps it is because the mayor and city engineers are numbered among those who have become owners of these machines that no action to govern their use has been taken. If it is accidents the council is waiting for there will be plenty of them in due season. It is more by good luck than good guidance that deaths have not already occurred. Runaways have been almost daily occurrence since the fast running and evil smelling auto appeared and several narrow escapes from injury to the occupants of carriages have been recorded. Other cities are laying down laws for the control of autos and some have made them very stringent where congested traffic districts are concerned. In every case the speed is limited to what is considered to be a reasonable one and the owners of machines are made liable for damages resulting from infringement of these regulations. The sooner Winnipeg follows this example the better.

CAR FAMINE THREATENED.

A Chicago correspondent of the Wall Street Journal says: There are marked signs of another shortage on the eastern railroads in the near future. It is rather early for such indications as these to appear, traffic officials say, but they have appeared, nevertheless, at this end of the route, and unless there is a lull of business soon, the deficiency of equipment which ordinarily comes during the fall months, will be several weeks earlier than in

former years. Few, if any, of the large carriers are holding empty cars now, and such a condition is regarded as phenomenal when the fact that west-bound tonnage decreased this far greater volume than ever before in this season of the year. East bound there is an ample traffic to maintain west-bound movement. This is another evidence of an extraordinary business condition in through and local traffic of miscellaneous character. The principal articles of tonnage forwarded eastward this season are iron and steel, and this assertion. Compared with the previous year there was a loss of 2,818,000 bushels of wheat, and a gain of 2,818,000 bushels of flour. In last year there was a deficiency of 27,000 bushels of grain shipments decreased 284,000 bushels from the preceding week, and were 184,000 bushels less than a year ago. The loss in provisions from the week before aggregated 6,785 tons, and were 7,883 tons less than the same week in last year.

In the face of this showing traffic officials say there is great difficulty in finding cars with which to meet the demand promptly. The unusual showing is attributed to the fact that business now coming forward that was held back at the end of the month, and the crop shortage in all around. It is believed that the car shortage this coming fall will be much more severe than last year, although all the roads are making great preparations to care for business.

DEFECTIVE CHEESE.

Prof. G. G. Publow, chief instructor of the syndicate system adopted this season by the Eastern Ontario Dairy men's Association, in the manufacture of cheese calls attention to a peculiar taint in the milk found throughout eastern Ontario, and in consequence, the difficulty being experienced by makers in turning out cheese of fine quality. It is so prevalent and of such serious nature as to demand the immediate attention of the association. The reason of the taint is thought to be due to the nature of the season, which for the past three weeks has been moist and favorable for the growth of the bacteria producing the taint, which are to be found in large numbers in the milk of the farms and cheese factories having poor sanitary conditions. Cheese made from milk of this nature is open and not sweet in flavor, the openness taking the form of small round or oblong holes increasing in size as it ripens, and continuing the growth in the cheese in the process of curing, producing a bitter flavor and making it a very undesirable article for the English market. To remedy this difficulty it is necessary to get at the source of the contamination of the milk, and in the endeavor to find this out the services of Dr. Connell, bacteriologist of Queen's college, have been secured, and he will undertake a scientific investigation at once. Dr. Connell and Prof. Publow were in Brockville, and visited several cheese factories in this section, samples of selected cheese were obtained and with these the bacteriologist was enabled to see that everything in and about their factories be thoroughly cleaned, especial attention being given to the milk tanks at the factories where the whey is being returned in the milk cans to the producer. Milk in the cans should be thoroughly scalded, the milk cooled to a normal temperature immediately after milking, and not allowed to stand near cow stables. Prof. Publow looks upon the taint as one of the most serious which has confronted dairymen in many years.

President Shields, of the Consolidated Lake Superior Company, has made another appeal this week to the stockholders of the company for financial assistance in a sum of \$250,000. He sent an announcement that unless the proposed \$125,000,000 bond is taken the whole property must pass into the hands of the creditors.

A wire from Tacoma, Washington, says: With cheap labor and no restrictions on the amount of fishery, it is announced, are preparing to engage in salmon fishing on the Siberian coast. It is expected that they will be sharp competitors for the trade now controlled by American salmon canneries. It is also expected to be established at Pankara and Barankoff Bays, on the Siberian coast.