

# The Commercial

WINNIPEG, JUNE 17, 1895.

## CROPS IN THE UNITED STATES

The June report of the United States department of agriculture shows a decrease of about 4 per cent in the winter wheat area, as compared with the area harvested last year. There is a decrease in the spring wheat area of one-half of one per cent, which makes it practically the same as last year. The greatest decrease in winter wheat is in the state of Kansas, where the decrease in the area is thirteen per cent. Of the spring wheat states, Minnesota and North and South Dakota have the same areas as last year.

The condition of winter wheat has fallen decidedly since the last report, being now 71.1 per cent., against 83.9 on May 1st. The condition reported June 1, 1894, was 83.2 per cent. The condition of spring wheat shows an average for the whole country of 97.8 per cent. The average percentage of all wheat acreage is 97.1 and the condition of same is 78.6 per cent. The preliminary report places the acreage of oats at 103.2 of last year's area. The returns make the condition 34.8 against 87 last June. The returns as to barley make the average condition of the crop on June 1, 90.3 per cent, against 82.2 last year.

## THE PRICE OF WHEAT.

On one occasion some time ago it was reported that the price of wheat was a few cents per bushel higher across the boundary in Dakota than was being paid to farmers in Manitoba. The matter stirred up quite a little agitation at the time and there were lots of charges about a combine among the buyers to keep down the price of wheat in Manitoba. Now the situation is very much reversed. Wheat is not only a few cents, but very much higher in Manitoba than is being paid just across the boundary in Dakota. At Gretna, in Manitoba, farmers have been paid 85 cents per bushel, while just across the boundary in Dakota the ruling price is 65 cents. It is now time for the Dakota people to agitate and point out the superior advantages which the farmers of Manitoba have over them.

The comparatively high price of wheat in Manitoba is due to the limited supply caused by the heavy exportation of wheat last fall. The advance in price to 15 to 20 cents over prices in the United States is possible through the duty of 15 cents per bushel on wheat coming into Canada. This is one instance in which protection has been a benefit to the farmers who held some wheat over, and quite a quantity of wheat has been marketed in Manitoba at the high prices ruling for some time back. While The Commercial does not approve of the protective policy on general principles, the benefit it has been to Manitoba farmers in this instance cannot be

denied, for without the duty on wheat price could not be maintained here at an advance over United States markets.

Of course, the circumstances are exceptional and may not prevail again for a long time. It was also owing to exceptional conditions, as The Commercial pointed out at the time which enabled Dakota buyers to pay a little higher last fall than was being paid in Manitoba. Certain wise men here, however, who knew next to nothing about the wheat trade, tried to work up an agitation by asserting that the slight difference against Manitoba was owing to a combination here and to mixing wheat. Their arguments could be applied to the present situation, with conditions exactly reversed, with just as much reason.

## PREVENTING EXPORTS TO PROTECT GAME.

An interesting case has been decided in British Columbia recently by Chief Justice Davie. The legislature passed an act for the protection of animals, birds and fishes. Among other things this act provided that no one should export certain animals or birds or any portion of them, out of the limits of the province. Deer are included among the animals which must not be exported out of the province. Joseph Boscowitz, a Victoria fur dealer, has been convicted under the act for having deer skins in his possession with intent to export. The case was appealed to test the constitutionality of the act, with the result that the act was upheld. The objection to the act was based on the ground that it was an interference with trade and commerce and that the Dominion had sole jurisdiction to legislate to regulate trade. The British Columbia Chief Justice, however, held that game is the property of the province and that it is within the provincial rights to protect game by legislation. The case is a very interesting one as indicating the authority of any of the provinces to legislate in the matter of game protection.

## THE WINNIPEG INDUSTRIAL

Arrangements are progressing favorably for the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition which opens on Monday, July 15 and continues during the week. The prize list and programme is now ready and intending exhibitors should send to the secretary of the Industrial Exhibition Association, Winnipeg, for a copy. The railways have again very generously agreed to carry all exhibits from Manitoba and the territories free of charge both ways. Exhibits from the east will be returned free of charge. Very low passenger fares will also be given for visitors to the exhibition. This practically ensures the success of the fair.

The grounds and buildings will be open for exhibits on Friday and Saturday, July 12 and 13. Exhibits of live stock and dairy products will also be received during Monday, July 15, and up to Tuesday morning, but other exhibits are expected to be in place by Monday morning. The exhibition will be fully open to the public on Tuesday morning. On Friday evening the exhibition closes.

An attractive programme of sports and amusements has been provided, including a long list of horse races, dog races, bicycle races and parade, live stock parade, foot races, drill competition for banner, musical ride by the Mounted Dragoons, military sports, children's drill and calisthenics, music competition, etc.

The prize list is a good one amounting to \$15,000 in all, single prizes running up to \$30. A number of gold, silver and bronze medals and diplomas are also offered, besides a number of special prizes running up to \$125 for single articles.

Exhibitors should get a copy of the prize list early and note the date for closing of entries, as entries in some cases close early in July.

With the fine crop outlook there is every prospect of a very successful exhibition this year, and intending visitors to Manitoba should make a note of the date and endeavor to be here during exhibition week.

## MANITOBA CROP REPORT.

The first official crop report for Manitoba for the present season, a brief reference to which was given in our last issue, is certainly a very encouraging one. The crop area shows a large increase all around, and particularly in flax and barley the increase is very large. The smallest increase in the area of any crop is in wheat. In this grain the increase in the area is about 18 per cent, as compared with last year, which is a much greater increase than was expected. In oats the increase is about 17 per cent, and in barley about 80 per cent. Flax shows the enormous increase of about 250 per cent, this is a very gratifying showing as indicating the rapid progress being made by the farmers of Manitoba.

The area reported in acres of the principal crops, compared with the area sown last year, is as follows:

	1895.	1894.	Increase.
Wheat	1,140,276	1,010,186	180,100
Oats	482,658	418,686	68,972
Barley	153,839	119,528	34,311
Flax	32,668	23,540	59,128
Potatoes	16,716	18,800	8,416
Roots	6,685	7,890	*1,195

\*Decrease.

The total area in all crops is 1,887,796, being an increase of 295,402 acres over last year.

Besides the crops mentioned above, there is a limited area in rye, peas, buckwheat, corn, etc.

All correspondents speak very highly of the condition of the crop. No material damage is reported from any cause, there has been abundance of moisture and the crop is vigorous and healthy and well advanced for the season. The wild hay crop is not so good, the light snowfall last winter leaving very little water in the hay meadows. The abundant rains of late, however, may improve the prairie hay crop.

In dairying as well as in grain growing, the June bulletin shows that Manitoba is forging rapidly ahead. The bulletin says: