

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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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, AUGUST 5, 1899.

QUARANTINE ON THE WESTERN RANGES.

Considerable feeling seems to have been worked up in the cattle ranges of the west, especially in the country between the C. P. R. main line and the boundary, which includes the rich Medicine Hat and Maple Creek districts, between the ranchers and the authorities of the Dominion government over the quarantine which has been in existence for some time for mange in the cattle herds. Mange has been prevalent this year to a considerable extent and drastic measures have been taken wherever it appeared to suppress it. This disease is due to a large extent to weak and impoverished blood in the cattle and is usually developed by severe winter or spring weather, which prevents the cattle from getting proper nourishment when they need it most. At least this is the explanation of some authorities. Mange was reported to exist in some of the herds last year, but was not nearly so prevalent as it has been this summer. It is fairly easy of treatment and is not looked upon as an alarming ailment. Latest reports from the west state that the measures adopted by the Mounted Police, who have been in charge of the quarantine, for its eradication, have been successful and the disease is now under control.

The lesson of this outbreak should not, however, be allowed to become lost upon the authorities who look after the cattle business in the Territories. It seems that there are ample facilities for inspecting all animals

exported from the range country, but very little provision for inspecting those brought in. It is obviously impossible to maintain the cattle herds of the west in their naturally healthy condition if, as is complained by the ranchers, and the complaint is verified by the Mounted Police reports, United States cattle of doubtful origin and known inferiority to the Canadian animals are allowed to roam at will on the Canadian ranges and to mix with the Canadian herds. The complaint is an old one with the Canadian ranchers and was frequently heard by a Commercial representative who visited the range country recently that there is absolutely no protection against United States cattle on the Canadian boundary and that many Montana ranchers make it a business to feed their cattle in Canada, where the pasture is richer and better than on their own side of the

line. A good deal of money has been spent both wisely and unwisely, in prospecting and developing properties and in bringing the mining industry up to its present state of development and already substantial profits have been made through the judicious investment of money along this line. The fact has also been clearly established that Canada possesses vast deposits of precious metals which will well repay such development work. But, it has been found that in this as well as every other industry, skill and business capacity are required to secure proper returns and carelessness or inattention to these essentials is sure to result in loss to the investor. Mining is at the best a speculative industry although the element may be reduced very much by care and skill in conducting operations. Without the possibilities which it contains of large profits, and sometimes



ELM PARK AND PONTOON BRIDGE OVER THE RED RIVER, WINNIPEG
Amateur Photo by G. A. Lister

line. There is no doubt that disease can be and is conveyed to the Canadian herds in this way and it seems unfair to the ranchers to expose them to danger of such contamination. By all means there should be rigid quarantine whenever disease is known to exist and rigid inspection of cattle before they are allowed to leave the country, but there should also be equally thorough precaution taken that no cattle are allowed to mix with the Canadian herds from south of the boundary which are likely to convey disease to them.

MINING INVESTMENTS.

The experience of the past few years, in which attention has been directed to an increasing extent to the value of the mineral deposits of Canada, especially the gold deposits, has furnished many valuable lessons to those who belong to the investing

class. A good deal of money has been spent both wisely and unwisely, in prospecting and developing properties and in bringing the mining industry up to its present state of development and already substantial profits have been made through the judicious investment of money along this line. The fact has also been clearly established that Canada possesses vast deposits of precious metals which will well repay such development work. But, it has been found that in this as well as every other industry, skill and business capacity are required to secure proper returns and carelessness or inattention to these essentials is sure to result in loss to the investor. Mining is at the best a speculative industry although the element may be reduced very much by care and skill in conducting operations. Without the possibilities which it contains of large profits, and sometimes