

In this class has been made up by the Doukhobors. I estimate the total number of settlers now living in the west as over 50,000 more than we had last year at this time. That is 50,000 arrivals, you understand. These are not the numbers that registered at this office, of course. The number distributed throughout the country from Winnipeg would come close around 35,000 souls. That leaves 15,000 other settlers who came in from the United States via the Soo line through North Portal."

"What class of people were they?" "Well, rightly speaking, they should be classed as citizens of the United States though originally they are all classes, Germans, Norwegians, Icelanders, and others. Taking them, therefore, as United States agriculturists with their families, numbering 15,000 people, that is the biggest number to any one class. As one colony, of course, we have the biggest in the Doukhobors, who are now settled here for their first Christmas, to the number of about 9,000 souls."

"Do your reports show how much land is now occupied by these settlers?"

"They do, and when completed it will be found, if I am not very much mistaken, that when the number of homesteads, C. P. R. lands, and Hudson's Bay lands which have been purchased this year is known, that is when all reports are completed, that the increase over last year will be close on to 200 per cent. By the amount of land taken up you will be able to check off the number of new settlers and it won't be necessary to allot to each homestead as has been done formerly five persons to make up our 50,000 new arrivals. It is no guess work in giving this number either, for there is not one that I could not tell you of his whereabouts. We have the name and destination of every one of them."

C. P. R. Land Sales.

The C. P. R. land department is winding up one of the most prosperous years in the company's history. The increase in the sales of 1899 over the previous year is very marked and over the previous two years shows an increase of 100 per cent. In an interview Commissioner Hamilton stated that in giving the total amount which represents the year's business as \$2,000,000 he made a conservative estimate of what the returns would show at the close of the year on Saturday night. This amount covers the farm land sold in Manitoba, the Territories, the town lots and various town sites and farm lands which were handled by the land department. The land sales of the C. P. R. company for the year of 1899 are given by Mr. Hamilton as 410,000 acres for \$1,350,000. The Canada North West Land company's sales aggregate \$455,000, from the sale of \$3,000 acres. This compares very favorably with last year's figures. The sales of C. P. R. lands for the year 1898 were 348,000 acres for \$1,121,000; the C. N. W. Land company's sales being 71,000 acres for \$383,000. For the year of 1897 the sales amounted to 129,000 acres for \$665,000, about 100 per cent below this year's figures. The collections this year, Mr. Hamilton states, are quite in keeping with the increase in the business, showing that the financial condition of the country is good.

The month of December has been a busy one, some of the heaviest sales ever made being transacted. The big-

gest day's business probably ever done was put through in this month, 10,000 acres of land being sold through the local offices.

"There are several reasons for this increase over last year," said Mr. Hamilton. "One is the construction of branch lines by the C. P. R. A strip of land was sold along the newly opened branch of the C. P. R. from McGregor and on the extension from Beloraine to Waskada. The extension of the Pipestone line to the Moose Mountain district induced a number of settlers to pick up land in advance of the road. There has been a big percentage of land taken up by farmers of the better class who have come from the states. The Alberta district has especially felt the incoming of these farmers; only as far back as yesterday eleven quarter sections were sold to a man and his two sons who came from Dakota, in ten settling near Wetaskiwin. Sales in the Alberta district have been for the year in the neighborhood of 120,000 acres selling for about \$400,000 which is nearly equal to the sales made in the province of Manitoba. It is extraordinary that in a district like Alberta, where there are free lands under the homestead act, that the company are able to dispose of so much land. The reason is that the settlers go in for mixed farming, having a certain number of cattle which makes it imperative that they should have, to make a successful farm, about 360 acres, but as they can obtain only 160 acres by homestead they must add to this additional lands."

"There is now greater encouragement to farmers to settle in the west on account of better markets obtainable for produce in British Columbia. There is no district in Canada in which farmers can better dispose of their products than in British Columbia. New towns have been springing up, the populations of which are so increasing, owing to the mining resources of the country, that an increase in the demand for the products of Alberta is bound to be created. It will also follow that an increase in the sale of lands here can be looked for."

Commercial Reports.

New York, Dec. 29.—Bradstreet's review of Dominion trade for the week states that it was seasonably quiet in the wholesale trade, but the holiday business has been the best for years. Collections at Montreal were affected by lack of snow; money is tight, but regular commercial borrowers can get accommodation at old rates, discrimination being against call loans on collateral. Business in the maritime provinces has been moderate and holiday trade was not up to expectations, and British Columbia Christmas trade has been heavy, though prices are reported cut owing to keen competition and collections are only fair. Toronto reports wholesale trade slow, but holiday trade returns were in many lines the best ever reported, both as regards volume and value of purchases. Sales for 1899 show gains of 20 to 50 per cent over last year. Canadian stocks are recovering some of the ground lost last week. Business failures for the week in Canada number 22 as compared with 29 last week and 16 in this week a year ago.

R. G. DUN & CO.'S REVIEW.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s review: The holiday trade was exceptionally good throughout Canada, but many sections report the usual quiet at this season

in wholesale business. St. John's report is quiet trade, with general stock-taking. The year's business has been good and advances in prices in most lines gave better margins and had debt losses are small, with prospects encouraging for the coming year. Halifax reports the best in many years, with collections satisfactory and failures few, while the outlook for the winter is most encouraging. Quebec has had a brisk holiday trade, but wholesale circles are quiet, although remittances are coming in well. At Montreal wholesale trade is of the usual holiday character, but Christmas retail trade has been excellent. Money is firm at 7 1/2 per cent, but easier rates are expected for the new year. Toronto reports wholesale trade quiet, but a profit in excess of former years. Trade conditions are unchanged at Winnipeg and collections continue rather slow. Victoria reports wholesale trade only fair, but retail business during the holiday season was exceptionally good.

BANK CLEARANCES.

For the Dominion of Canada the bank clearances were as follows: Montreal \$13,750,641, increase 13 per cent.; Toronto \$9,120,990, increase 26 1/2 per cent.; Winnipeg \$2,365,829, increase 30 3 per cent.; Halifax \$1,418,652, increase 40 per cent.; Hamilton \$700,894, increase 12 1/2 per cent.; St. John \$600,925, increase 18 1/2 per cent.; Vancouver \$746,750, increase 37 1 per cent.; Victoria \$541,234, decrease 12 per cent.

Minneapolis Markets.

Flour—Prices in barrels: First patents, \$3.35 to \$3.50, second patents, \$3.15 to \$3.30.

Milled—Shorts in bulk, \$10.00; bran in bulk, \$10.50; corn feed, \$11.00 to \$13.50 per ton, as to quality.

Oats—No. 3 white, 23 1/4c.

Barley—32 to 40c.

Corn—Quoted at 27 1/2c for No. 3.

Flax seed—\$1.43 3/4 per bushel.

Eggs—16 to 17c for strictly fresh, including cases.

Butter—Creamery, 22 to 25 1/2c for choice to extras; seconds, 21 to 22c; dairy, 21 to 22 for choice to fancy; seconds, 19 to 20c.

Cheese—9 to 12 1/2c.

Poultry—Spring chickens, 7c; fowl, 4 to 5 1/2c; turkeys, 7 to 9c; ducks, 6 to 6 1/2c; geese, 7 1/2c.

Potatoes—30 to 35c per bushel for car lots.

Hides—Green salted hides, 9 3/4c for No. 1, 8 3/4c for No. 2; steers over 60 lbs.; 9 1/2 to 10 1/2c; sheepskins, 30 to 75c each; veal calf, 10 and 11 1/2c for No. 2 and No. 1; tallow, 4 1/4 to 4 1/2c, seneca root, 30 to 35c.

Hay—Timothy ranges at \$6.50 to \$9 as to quality.

Dressed meats—Veal, 6 to 9c; mutton, 5 to 6 1/2c; lambs, 5 to 9c.

Beans—Hand picked, \$1.50 to \$2.00 per bushel; good medium, \$1 to \$1.40.

Honey—Per lb., 7 to 10c, sections, 11 to 18c.

Live stock—Hogs, good packers, \$4; light, \$3.80, butcher cows and heifers, \$2.35 to \$3.50, butcher steers, \$4.10; stock cows and heifers, \$3.25 to \$3.95; stockers and feeders, \$3.00 to \$4.10.

The Northern Pacific Railway Company has opened general offices in Vancouver.