

THE COMMERCIAL

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

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Office 210 McDermott St. Telephone 221.

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 Publisher.

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, MARCH 30, 1901.

Seed Grains.

It seems likely that the farmers of this province will have difficulty this spring in securing suitable seed for the grain crops which all expect them to sow. The wheat of last year was not up to the usual good quality of Manitoba wheat and it would be well if it could be changed for seedling purposes, but the farmers have not the means at their command with which to buy other seed. The oats were also a poor crop and are not fit for seed at all. Many farmers who could afford to have bought Northern Alberta oats for seed. Barley was a very short crop and for the most part a poor sample also, which means that much of the seed used will be poor. Flax was about the poorest crop this country ever produced so that unless millers make arrangements as they sometimes have in other years to furnish farmers with good seed there will be some pretty poor flax sown in Manitoba this year. These are the four principal field products of Manitoba and in none of them are the farmers well prepared as regards the quality of the seed, which was damaged by the excessive rains of last fall. Of course a favorable growing season will do much to improve the grain grown from inferior seed.

Civil Service Exemption.

In the House of Commons at Ottawa on Wednesday Mr. Fortin moved a resolution to the effect that "In the opinion of the House the salaries of public officers and government employees should be attachable like those of ordinary citizens." The business element will certainly hope for the adoption of this resolution. It is supposed to be necessary to uphold the dignity of the crown, that salaries of the employees of the government must not be attached to debt. Business people who are made to suffer at the hands of deadbeat civil service employees, however, cannot view the matter in this light.

More Railway Aid.

On Wednesday in the Manitoba legislature Mr. Rogers introduced a bill to grant further aid to railways. It is proposed to grant aid by guaranteeing the bonds to the amount of \$8,000 per mile on 110 miles of railway to be built within the province by the Canadian Northern. Information as to the location of the proposed line is withheld. This, it is stated is not altogether a new guarantee, but is a transfer of aid from one proposed line to another.

Bonusing.

Belleville, Ontario, has had a dear lesson upon the evil of bonusing industrial concerns. The Abbot-Mitell Rolling Mills, at that place, for which a bonus of \$55,000 was voted

two years ago, have already collapsed, and the company is being wound up. Industries which are bolstered up by the aid of bonuses, very often turn out in that way. In most cases it would be better not to call an industry into existence than to found it on a bonus basis.

Yukon Mines.

Dawson, Yukon, correspondence Seattle Post Intelligencer, March 6.—The last ten days has seen the greatest revival in mining in the Klondike since the big rush in 1898. Hundreds of claims have been staked here the last ten days, and during that time a small army of 400 men have taken out free miner's licenses. The activity continues, and men who were thinking seriously of going to new camps on the Yukon, or perhaps returning to the outside, have renewed their hazards in the country, and have taken properties and settled down to steady prospecting and development.

office. The last ten days has seen the offices crowded all day. Twenty clerks are employed in the office, and from morning until evening it is one feverish rush to sweep away the fast accumulating duties. A night crew is also at work.

The new order in council from Ottawa, permitting the abandonment of a claim and the staking of another on the same creek in its stead, is expected to greatly encourage the prospector, it being no longer necessary for him to remain idle on that stream if he finds no pay in the claim he first tests there. The other new privilege of staking one claim on any river, creek, bench or gulch, makes it possible for the prospector, be he Britisher or foreigner, to own hundreds, if not thousands of claims in the district.

However, the fact that it costs \$15 to record every claim staked, besides the first \$10 for a miner's license for a year, will in itself make wholesale staking too great a luxury for the ordinary miner. Further, he will likely not want to stake more claims at a

increase the activity and prosperity of this region.

The refusal to grant the concessions applied for for scores of hydraulic mining schemes on the many creeks, rivers and gulches of the territory, is considered by the individual miners as greatly widening the range given them in prospecting and to be a liberal policy.

Pending these applications thousands of acres of land on gold bearing creeks have been closed against prospecting. The blight is now off. Many of these concessions contain thousands of acres alone, and extend in many single instances miles up and down creeks. They were like great prohibitive blankets, but now over fifty are removed, and it is promised more will meet the same fate. The applicants in many cases, it is considered, were not men of capital, and merely wanted the land on speculation.

With the opening of all of this new mining property and the advent of the spring clean-up, and the fact that the greater number of Klondike streams are turning into summer propositions, it is expected the Klondike will see a prosperous summer this year, and that trade will be good and money plentiful. The spring working on old creeks is already beginning, and there is more demand for labor than during the winter. The number of idle men is not so great as during the early part of winter, but there are still not a few looking for work, and it is not safe to advise laborers to rush in from the coast seeking work. The camp will no doubt be a live one from now on till next fall, but there is not the least feeling that it will be necessary to call for more labor than is now available or likely to accumulate through the natural incoming of men.

Wages range on the average from \$3.50 to \$4 or \$5 a day and board, with the lower figures more often quoted. T. S. Lippy, of 16 Eldorado, the Seattle Klondiker, pays the biggest wages in the camp, namely \$1 an hour. The next best is paid by Stanley & Worden, on the same creek, 80 cents an hour. Lippy and his manager, J. J. Putraw, are among the most liked in a general way in the camp, probably because of the liberal wages they allow. Forty men are working on the Lippy claim.

Dominton particularly is experiencing an awakening just now. There has not been much work on that stream of late. On Gold run heavy work has been done.

The chief operators on Gold run, and perhaps the heaviest operators in the camp, are Chute & Wills. They employ 150 men, and have three camps. They operate eight boilers in thawing and receive on their claims seventy cords of wood a day. So extensively does this firm have to engage in wood hauling that it employs two men to sprinkle water on the trail where the wood teams travel in order to keep it covered with ice.

The dumps which have been gotten out by Chute & Wills look like mountains.

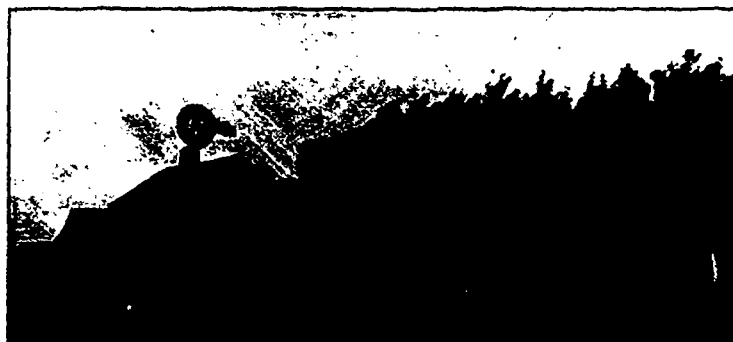
Goose or Macaroni Wheat.

Considerable interest is being taken in experiments in the United States with macaroni wheat, with a view of capturing some of the trade which Canadian exporters have worked up with some European countries in that excellent variety of macaroni wheat known in Ontario as goose wheat, which has met with such favor among macaroni manufacturers abroad. The Cincinnati Price Current prints a dispatch from a point in South Dakota which says that the wheat has been grown in that state for the past twenty-five years by the German-Russians near Tripp, the original seed having been brought by them from Russia at the time they emigrated from that country. The same source of information gives these facts: American macaroni manufacturers and others wishing to engage in the business were anxious to have the question investigated why macaroni made in America sold at a price greatly inferior to the imported article. It was evident that Italy and France got better raw material than the United States did. If the recent samples of the macaroni wheat brought from Russia for trial in the western states gives no better results than those already tried, it is evident that Ontario goose wheat will not have any serious opposition from western Ontario farmers.—Toronto Globe.

MANITOBA FARM HOMES



Residence of R. Smith, Brandon.



Barn of R. Smith, Brandon.

In a phase the Klondike has renewed its magnetism. The cause of this renewal may be attributed to three important new government innovations made within the last ten days, and initiated during the winter.

The more important of the innovations of the last few days are: The throwing open of all crown claims and fractions in the territory, save a few for compensation in litigation, amounting to thousands of properties; the refusal of the government to grant applications for fifty or more hydraulic leases on many of the principal creeks of the district; the issuance of an order from Ottawa that surveying to the amount of \$100 be allowed to apply on representation on quartz; another sweeping order in the council from Ottawa is that hereafter the restrictions of districts in the Yukon, confining a miner to one claim to the several sub-districts be abolished, and that he be allowed to stake at least one claim on every bench, gulch or river in the territory, and another order that a man may at any time abandon a claim that does not pay and stake a second claim on the same creek on proper proof of no pay on the abandoned property.

This avalanche of innovations and new rulings has precipitated a rush of business at the gold commissioner's

time than he can work. Heretofore the Klondike country was divided into six districts, and a miner could stake but one claim in each district. Now there is no limit save one to each bench, river or creek.

The orders on the whole are looked upon as being designed to encourage digging; in other words, prospecting and development, and raising the output of the ground of the region to the maximum. Everywhere the new laws are commented on as most liberal.

The crown properties just thrown open to staking are the last, with the exception of a few kept for compensation in cases of litigation, that the government has reserved, and practically clears out the government's stock of mines in the Yukon. The choice properties were sold at auction during the winter. Hereafter no reservations of mining property are to be made in the territory, or, more plainly speaking, to the unacquainted, in the British Yukon country.

It is the common belief that the evident intention of the government is now to expand the mining industry in the Yukon to its maximum capacity, and let the prospector and the working miner have the widest latitude possible, so that he may help