

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, MAY 16, 1892.

THE TIDE HAS TURNED.

Time was when Canada annually sent a large number of people to the United States. From the older settled districts of this country and the United States there is a steady stream of emigration toward the new regions of the west. There are many persons who for one reason or another desire to move. A family of young men grow up in the east, and as each one cannot possess the old homestead at home, there must be a scattering to distant parts, and naturally the face is turned toward the new West. The large number of farmers who operate rented farms in the east also have a longing to come out and possess land of their own in the west. As the older portions of eastern Canada became more closely settled, the stream of emigration began to flow out, and their choice as a rule was the western states. The only new districts at home which they could go up and possess were the heavily wooded and somewhat rugged regions of northern Ontario. To locate in the northern sections of the province named, meant a home in the backwoods, distant from railways. It meant long years of arduous toil in clearing the land and preparing it for cultivation, and it would be a lifetime almost before the country would be opened up and the comforts and conveniences of civilization brought in. Some indeed selected lands in the northern regions of their own province, and gradually the forest region to the north has been encroached upon, but the great majority went to the western states. At this time these states were being opened up to settlement and railways were being extended rapidly throughout the region. The country was prairie or mixed prairie, and to the new settler it presented none of the hardships which must be endured in hewing out a home in the forests of northern Ontario. These western states were at this time being extensively advertised throughout Canada, and nothing too good could be said about the country as a field for settlement. With no new districts at home open for settlement but the backwoods, it is therefore no wonder that thousands of our young men and middle aged men found their way to the great El dorado of the west.

Then followed the opening of what is now Western Canada for settlement, and during the last decade or two the stream of immigration from the old districts of eastern Canada has been turned mainly into this new portion of the Dominion. Still, since the opening of Manitoba and the west to settlement there have been a reduced number of Canadians going to the States, due perhaps to the fact that their friends had gone before them. The last year, however, has witnessed quite a change in the movement of emigration on this continent, and now the very region which a few years ago was drawing so many Canadians from their homes to a foreign land, is sending quite a stream of settlers to Canada. Last season a movement set in which has already resulted in adding considerably to the

population of western Canada. This was nothing less than the settlement here of quite a number of families from the states to the south. Previous to last year a few families had come in, but it was not until last season that the movement began to assume such proportions as to attract attention. Many of these new settlers were persons who had moved from eastern Canada to the western states, before the Canadian west was opened for settlement. They have not found the country to be the land of milk and honey which it was represented to them by the agents of railway corporations and other interested individuals, and now they are again seeking a home in the new Canadian west.

Last year a number of persons from the Dakotas and other states visited Manitoba and the Canadian territories, coming as delegates to spy out the land and report to their friends at home. In every instance these delegates were more than pleased with what they saw here, and their reports have invariably been very eulogistic of our country, describing it as a most desirable field for settlement. These visits of last year have borne fruit in bringing an increased number of settlers to us this spring from the south. Already this spring some parties of delegates have arrived from the States, one party coming from Michigan and another party from the far eastern state of Maine. These delegates have reported favorably, and we may now expect a number of settlers from these states as a result of the visits.

It now seems that the tide has fairly turned, and instead of sending annually a large number of persons to the States, we may look for a considerable inflow of population from the republic to Western Canada. As stated, quite a number of those who have already come, are Canadians who moved to the States years ago, but they are not all Canadians. Canadians will be welcomed back again, but other citizens of the republic who choose to make Canada their home, will also be as freely welcomed. Coming here they will come among a people who speak their own language and whose customs are similar. Here they will enjoy every advantage of free institutions, liberal and enlightened government, education, etc., which it is possible to enjoy in any portion of the great republic. They can make themselves at home at once, and fall in line and be one with us, for they are already educated in our language and civilization.

There is no reason why Western Canada should not share in a portion of the large stream of population which is constantly flowing from the eastern to the western states. A stream of immigration from some of the western states has already been turned in this direction, and an effort should be made to increase it, and also to induce some of those moving from the eastern states to come here. The way matters look now, there would appear to be no more promising field wherein to seek settlers for our broad prairies, than in the United States, both east and west. It is worthy of consideration, if it would not be more profitable to work this field thoroughly, than to spend time and money seeking settlers in some European countries. We can hope for no better

class of settlers than those who would come from the United States, and quality is of vastly more importance than quantity, in this matter of immigration. Those who are not likely to succeed here, we do not want at all. The knowledge which those coming from the States would possess, as to the mode of farming on this continent, would give them an advantage over most European settlers.

EARLY SEEDING.

Something over a year ago, THE COMMERCIAL published the results of experiments carried on at the Dominion Experimental farm, at Ottawa, Ontario, with a view to test the value of early seeding. These experiments went to show that the early sowing of cereals resulted in a much larger yield of grain than when sown later. THE COMMERCIAL commented to some extent on the showing, with a view to emphasizing its importance. At the time one or two of our contemporaries replied to the article somewhat sharply, contending that the conditions at Ottawa were not similar with Manitoba, and that the rules which worked there, would not prove favorable in Manitoba. In fact, these papers claimed that the theory of early seeding was altogether faulty, as applied to Manitoba, and should be denounced, rather than encouraged. Some of these papers have again taken up the same question recently.

THE COMMERCIAL does not pose as an authority upon agricultural topics and we will not therefore feel put about by the criticisms of our contemporaries. Quite probably, the results obtained at Ottawa may be reversed here, in some particulars. Perhaps also it may be a disadvantage to sow grain too early in Manitoba. Observations extended over a number of years, however, lead THE COMMERCIAL to believe, that considerable seeding is done annually in Manitoba at too late a date. Farmers who have a large area in crop, are often too late at the finish, and if some of them would stop with fifty or one hundred acres less of crop, instead of continuing to sow grain after the season is well advanced, the general result would be more satisfactory. Perhaps in some instances grain is sown too early in the season, but we are convinced that there is a great deal more poor crop from too late, than from too early seeding.

We notice that the published accounts of experiments made at the Dominion Experimental farm in Manitoba last year, do not show unfavorably for early seeding. For instance, two plots of red fife wheat sown on April 8, yielded 52 bushels 55 pounds and 45 bushels, 5 pounds, respectively, per acre, and each plot was ripe on August 19. Red fife sown on the same farm, on April 13, returned 29 bushels, 40 pounds, and was ripe on September 2. The yield of the earlier sown plots is thus very much larger, and the length of time taken in ripening was less, the two plots sown on April 8, ripening in 133 days, while that sown five days later was not cut until 142 days after sowing. There may of course have been some local cause of which we are not aware which operated against the later sown wheat, and the less favorable showing may have been due to some other cause than the later date of sowing.