

is being shipped mainly to British Columbia points. The Crow's Nest railway construction has also taken quite a quantity, and by reason of this demand good prices have been realized. At South Edmonton an oatmeal mill has been established and this has been an important factor in the situation.

The grain from northern Alberta which has come eastward has been practically all wheat, and of this it is our intention to speak. The wheat shows that the farmers of northern Alberta have some experience to gain in raising this cereal to the best advantage. In the first place, nearly all the wheat from that section of the country is affected with smut. A Winnipeg dealer who recently received six or eight samples, found every one of them was affected with smut. Another party here, who is particularly well qualified to speak, as nearly all of this wheat has passed through his hands, says that three-quarters to nine-tenths of the wheat from northern Alberta is affected with smut. This shows a very bad record, and it further means a heavy loss to the farmers, as smutted wheat will not bring anywhere near the price of sound grain.

This smut is not the fault of the country. It is owing to lack of knowledge and experience on the part of the farmers. Manitoba farmers had to learn the same lesson by dear experience. It took a great deal of persuasion as well as dearly-bought experience to induce Manitoba farmers to treat their seed grain to prevent smut. The loss from smut on some crops was enormous. Now that the farmers have been finally taught to bluestone their seed smut has largely disappeared.

The disease is a preventable one. This has been clearly proved in Manitoba, over and over again, in spite of the opposition and unbelief of a few farmers. An effort should be made to distribute information regarding treatment for smut among the farmers of northern Alberta, at once. If they intend to continue to grow wheat for shipment, they must get rid of the smut. It will not pay them to grow smutty wheat. Where the wheat is used only for local purposes, the matter is not of as great importance, but when the grain is put through elevators for shipment, the smut balls get broken and the wheat becomes tagged, or dusted over with the foul-smelling smut. Even after smutted grain is put through an expensive cleaning process, it is not worth as much as sound wheat.

Besides the prevalence of smut, the most of the wheat sent from Northern Alberta shows that new seed is required in that district. Most of the wheat is a mongrel soft variety, re-

sembling the wheat grown by the old Red river settlers. On this account it will not compare in value with Manitoba wheat. Out of eight samples received recently by a Winnipeg dealer, one was a fine red type, but smutty; one was a pure Ladoga wheat, good of the kind, save for the presence of smut, but a very poor kind; another was a mixed Ladoga, and the rest were mixed soft wheats. Ladoga wheat is no good, as millers do not want it, and it should not be grown. The old soft wheat should be got rid of and new seed used. Seed wheat is carried at special low freight rates, and those interested in the district should make an effort to have new seed introduced at once.

Some wheat has also been handled here this year from the Prince Albert branch. While the presence of smut is not so noticeable in the grain from that branch, the wheat shows a large admixture of Ladoga and also of soft varieties. The Prince Albert wheat is even more mixed than that from the Edmonton branch, and evidently new seed is badly required in that district also. Ladoga wheat shows up in many of the Prince Albert shipments, thereby reducing the value of the grain. Both these districts can no doubt raise just as good wheat as is grown in Manitoba, if the right kind of seed is used, and treatment of the seed is made for smut. It is in the interest of the farmers of these districts that The Commercial calls attention to the matter in the hope that those most directly interested will follow it up and endeavor to remedy the disadvantage to the shipment of choice hard wheat from these districts. In Manitoba it was only through the persistent efforts of the millers and grain men and others interested, that the farmers were induced to abandon other varieties in favor of red type wheat, while the experience of low prices for smutty wheat was a strong argument in favor of bluestoning their seed. Now red type is used almost universally, and there are few farmers who are so foolish as not to treat their seed to prevent smut.

MAP OF OUR GOLD TERRITORIES.

We give as a supplement with The Commercial this week, a map which will prove very interesting to our readers. The intense interest which is taken in the mining districts of western and northwestern Canada, at the present time, on account of the great mineral discoveries of recent years, has created a great demand for maps and information about these regions. Many maps and pamphlets have been published, purporting to give information about our fabulously rich mining territories. We believe the map sent out

with The Commercial this week is the most accurate one yet published. This map was prepared and first published by the Hudson's Bay Company, and it is reproduced in The Commercial with the consent of the company. The Commercial therefore does not take any credit to itself for compiling the map.

The Hudson's Bay Company, for about 200 years, exercised full authority throughout the vast region comprising western and northern Canada. The trading posts of the company are dotted all over this great expanse of territory. The trading posts are still the only indications of civilization throughout districts as large in territorial expanse as some of the countries of Europe. The company, therefore, has within its reach, information about the north country which is not obtainable from any other source. This information has been made use of in compiling the map, and this is one reason why we believe this map is the most valuable one yet published.

Nearly all the other maps published have been prepared in the interest of certain districts, or with the object of showing the particular advantages of certain routes. Under these circumstances it may be taken for granted that other districts and other routes would hardly receive perfectly fair treatment. In the case of the Hudson's Bay Company, there is no partiality for any particular district or route. The company has supply posts at every out-fitting point, and it matters not what route is taken. It will be all fish that comes to their net. This is another reason why we believe this map is more nearly correct than any one yet published.

The map itself shows the great mineral districts of British Columbia and the territory to the north of the province. At the south we have the famous Kootenay district, rich in gold, silver, coal and other minerals. Farther north the old Cariboo district is shown, which first made British Columbia famous as a gold country. Northward again we have the promising territory of Omineca, and still beyond that the Cassiar territory is shown, which created quite an excitement a few years ago. Last but not least is the renowned Klondike, which at the moment is on every one's lips the civilized world over. In the territory shown on the map there are areas as large as some of the countries of Europe yet unprospected, or at best only skimmed over by a few adventuresome prospectors, and no doubt within this area many rich mineral districts remain yet to be discovered.

The map has another feature which is of great importance to many people at the present time. It shows a