

Now the natural sequel to this unbusinesslike method is being told, in the receipt of letters from importers in Great Britain, complaining of the quality of the eggs received from this country. One firm in England says that the price now being paid for Canadian eggs is ridiculous, but not more so than the quality of the same. Several lots have been sold at prices which will not pay for more than their freight charges. Needless to say, the shipping of eggs from Canada, which are not strictly fresh-gathered, will injuriously affect the sale of even such as are truly fresh; the reputation of the whole body of producers will suffer for the sin or the carelessness of some amongst them.

No doubt, much of the state of things complained of is due to a combination of unfortunate circumstances. The eggs probably were gathered during the extremely hot spell; or they were put on the market at a time when large quantities were arriving from other places. The fact remains, however, that the chief cause for the low prices which Canadian eggs have been fetching lately in the British market is the poor-ness of the quality of many of them. It is a known fact that several lots have been shipped by parties who did not know how to handle the business wisely, and who did not take the necessary precautions to see that the eggs had been properly candled.

It is the hardest thing in the world to establish a reputation for our goods in the face of such unbusinesslike methods as these mentioned. As we said before, to a large extent all must suffer for the sins of the few. If the small shippers would think a moment, however, and would realize what large possibilities lie in this business, properly managed, they would also realize how largely their own interests would be served by a rigid adherence to honesty, and a system of the most careful selection in packing. Only in this way can a great Canadian egg industry be built up.

THE CONDITION OF THINGS IN MANITOBA AND THE NORTHWEST.

A journey to Manitoba this fall has enabled me to speak of the conditions there from actual observation. To begin with, I may say that no one can visit the city of Winnipeg, after an absence of a few years, without being struck by its extraordinary expansion and improvements. The city is not only increasing in size and population, now about 50,000, but in the remarkably improved character of its buildings and streets. The main street, which is more than one hundred feet wide, is now completely asphalted, instead of being, as it was not many years ago, in the condition of a mere country road, almost impassable in wet weather from the extraordinary sticky nature of its black soil. Nearly all the adjacent streets in the business part of the city are now asphalted, too, and numbers of the suburban streets present the same improvement. The handsome buildings on both sides of Main street would do credit to either Montreal or Toronto, and the bank buildings that have been erected during the last year are a really remarkable feature of it. The buildings just about being completed for the Dominion faith of the directors of those institutions in the commercial future of Manitoba. The Bank of Ottawa has occupied for some time also a very handsome building, and while I was in the city the foundations were being laid of the large seven story building, of modern design and appliances, to be erected for the Merchants' Bank of Canada. The numerous new wholesale warehouses rising up in all parts of the centre of the city are a remarkable indication of the growth of the wholesale

trade. They also demonstrate the faith of the commercial community in Winnipeg as the great future centre of trade, not only for Manitoba itself, but for all the adjacent provinces and territories as far as the Rocky Mountains, and even beyond. The suburbs have wonderfully improved also, and present an appearance, with their beautiful boulevarded avenues of shade trees and handsome mansions and villas skirting them, much more like an old established city than of a place that was a mere village less than thirty years ago. The Canadian Pacific Railway, with its vast increasing interests in the Northwest, is likely to recognize them in a practical form before long by building a great modern station in the city, and a handsome modern hotel. The Hudson Bay Co., which at one time was absolutely *everything* in Winnipeg, the whole village being dependent on its fort at the mouth of the Assiniboine, is still a great factor in the industrial and commercial development of the Northwest. It has a splendid establishment near where the old fort used to be, comprising large and well equipped warehouses for both a wholesale and retail trade; in addition to which it has a Land office, which is more like a great city bank than anything else. From this office is managed the great land business which still appertains to the company, the area of which is spread over the whole northwest; in almost every municipality in which the company's lands are or were situated.

The rise in the value of prairie lands in certain districts is one of the most remarkable features in the condition of Manitoba. From particulars of recent sales of school lands, at which about 190,000 acres of selected prairie lands were disposed of, I learned that the average price realized all round was a little over \$8 an acre; while in certain districts the average of all sales, in two cases was about \$10 an acre, and in one even as high as \$16. These prices, it must be borne in mind, were averages, and in districts with a large amount of settlements and improvements in the way of roads, schools, churches, etc., around them. The progress of settlement continually improves the value of adjacent lands. But there are large tracts still in the condition of prairie within twenty or thirty miles of Winnipeg up to which settlement has hardly reached as yet, although it is steadily progressing in that direction. The value of these would be increased largely by drainage, and then settlement would give an increasing stimulus to the growth of the city. But the area of good lands adjacent to a railway, or within a reasonable distance of good roads, is steadily diminishing. I should think from my own observation that the most desirable place for settlers with a little capital is on such lands as these round about Winnipeg, for the proximity to a great market is steadily enhancing their value. Lands on the east side of the Red River within a few miles of the old Pacific road from Emerson to Winnipeg, are being steadily taken up by the children of the Mennonite settlers, who are working their way northward and eastward from their original settlements near Emerson. I passed over many of these lands and could not help being struck with the growth of settlement in and about them, and the improved appearance of the region generally.

With regard to the crops, the wheat and grain had nearly all been cut, and in many districts there was evidently a considerable amount of it. But not much had been stacked owing to wet weather. It was all in the fields, in shocks, stretching as far as the eye could reach in some localities, and only wanted a few days of dry weather to enable it to be gathered in, stacked and threshed. From subsequent reports it appears that opportunities of doing this have generally occurred. So, although the quantity will be less than the average, and the quality also below the average, as a rule, there will still be a considerable crop available for export. And we must remember that the price is fully forty per cent. higher for the same grades, so that fifteen million bushels of the same quality will realize as much money as twenty millions did last year or the year before.

Then the dairy interest is evidently a growing one: creameries and cheese factories are spreading, and already there are cases in which, as a farmer's wife said to me, "she could keep the house on the cream she sold." In passing westward from Winnipeg the progress of settlement and the rise of small villages into the position of towns with banks and other appliances of civilization was quite marked. In many of these the Hudson Bay store was one of the main features of the place, showing that this enterprising company is still abreast of the