

THE COMMERCIAL

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D. W. BUCHANAN,
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, JULY 7.

BRANDON EXPERIMENTAL FARM REPORT.

The annual report of S. A. Bedford, superintendent of the Manitoba experimental farm, for the year 1899, appears in the blue book recently issued by the Dominion government on this important department of its work. In introducing his report Mr. Bedford notes that the season began very unfavorably. Seeding did not commence until April 15, and was stopped again for five days on the 19th of that month. May was unusually cloudy and wet. June was rainy in its earlier part and bright and warm later. The wheat crop for the year was remarkably uniform in character, and the quality of the grain was much above the average. In certain districts injury was caused from bleaching in the stook, which is partially accounted for by the inadequate supply of threshing outfits and the very risky practice of threshing from the stook. A few districts report damage from the Hessian fly, something almost unknown in former years. The usual tests of varieties of spring wheat and other grains, grasses and vegetables were made at the farm. A variety of spring wheat known as Early Riga was found to ripen very quickly, and is pronounced a promising kind for districts troubled with frost. It ripens 20 days earlier than Red or White Fife. The tests for five years back have resulted in Goose wheat taking first place in point of yield; White Fife second place, Crown third, and Red Fife fourth. Lodoga wheat, a variety once much talked about in Manitoba, is now away down in the scale. The respective merits of summer fallowing and of spring and fall ploughing were obtained in a test covering date of ripening, yield of berry and straw, &c. This resulted in fall ploughing giving the best returns, but general

experience of previous years has been in favor of spring ploughing. Other tests with wheat included: Ploughing under of green crops, and early, medium and late sowing. Similar tests were made with oats, barley, pease, etc. Banner oats gave the best results, and Odessa and Canadian Thorpe barley. The yield of oats for the season was very satisfactory and the sales of this grain for oatmeal and feeding purposes are increasing each year, and will probably continue to do so if a sufficient quantity of No. 1 grade is grown. A fairly pure and clean sample of heavy Manitoba oats is looked upon with much favor by oatmeal millers throughout the Dominion and finds ready sale at remunerative prices; but much of the oats offered are smutty, badly mixed with wheat and below the standard in weight. This, Mr. Bedford says, is due to farmers growing this grain on land partly exhausted by repeated crops of wheat instead of sowing them in the order of a regular rotation. The experience at Brandon is that not more than two crops of wheat should precede an oat crop, the first crop of wheat being sown on fallow.

Speaking of barley the report says: The six-rowed varieties are the best adapted for general cultivation in this province, they ripen early and can be sown after all other grain and will ripen early enough to escape injury from fall frosts. The straw is unusually stiff and bright and the ears fill well.

Fifty-one varieties of pease were tested during the year, on the results of which the report says: It is a matter for regret that pease are not more extensively grown in this province. They yield high, the pea bug is unknown, the sample is equal to that grown in the best pea sections of Ontario, and the price obtained is high.

Indian corn for feed purposes yielded about an average crop last year. Among the promising varieties for this country are Pearce's Prolific, Longfellow and Sanford, and North Dakota Flint. These are all excellent for dry fodder or ensilage purposes.

The spring and early summer of 1899 were favorable for the growth of field roots and no injury was experienced from insect enemies. The harvest weather was, however, too dry for turnips and mangels. Grasses and clover also done well. Brome grass seed is in great demand.

Experiments in cattle feeding showed that wheat straw has considerable value as a fodder in Manitoba when used in connection with roots and grain.

The experiment with fruit trees showed that the wild Siberian crab apple again gave a large crop. These wild crabs are as yet too small to be of commercial value.

Among the small fruits considerable success was achieved. Currants

yielded fairly well. Two varieties of gooseberries, Smith's Improved and Houghton done so well as to be recommended for general cultivation. Raspberries yielded abundantly.

A forest tree shelter belt which was planted in 1889 has now reached an advanced stage of growth and the trees are doing well. The belt comprises Box Elder, Elm, Ash, Birch, Cottonwood, Poplar, Spruce, Pine and Arbor Vitae.

These and many other experiments of great interest to producers in Manitoba were carried on at the farm during the year.

Winnipeg City Council.

The regular fortnightly meeting of the Winnipeg city council was held on Tuesday evening of this week. A motion was passed accepting the tender of the Bell Telephone Co. to continue the fire alarm system now operated by them for two years. The early closing by-law was passed. The finance committee report recommending that the tender of the Continental Life Insurance Co. of \$10,050 and accrued interest for \$10,000 of ten year debentures was accepted. The recommendation of this committee that a proposed bonus to certain officials of the health department for services in connection with the late small-pox quarantine be not agreed to, was referred back to committee. The board of works recommended a large number of sidewalks, pavement and boulevard improvements which were agreed to and after discussion of other matters the council adjourned.

New Tariff.

The increase in the preferential tariff on British goods made by the Dominion house during its present session, went into effect on Monday morning last. The tariff now provides a reduction of 33 1-3 per cent. of the duty on all goods manufactured in Great Britain coming into Canada instead of 25 per cent.

Early Closing.

The Winnipeg clerks and their friends who have assisted in the movement are to be congratulated upon the passage of the by-law by the city council last Tuesday evening making it compulsory for stores to be closed at 6 o'clock, excepting on Saturdays. This is a reform which will work hardship to no one and will do a great deal towards rendering more pleasant and agreeable the lot of a very worthy class of citizens. The only people who appear to be disappointed are the Jews and pawnbrokers.

The Twine Market.

The weakness of the twine market has been further emphasized by another decline in price. The sellers who were endeavoring to maintain the maximum price, 11 cents for sisal and standard, have chopped off another cent and 10 cents is now the highest price asked by any house for those grades. Meantime, some other houses have issued quotations cutting sisal and standard to 9 cents, Manila is generally held at 12 cents and pure manila at 13. A few open quotations by postal card or circular have appeared.—Chicago Farm Improvement News.