

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, FEBRUARY 8, 1897.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

ONE principal reason for the recent weakness in wheat is the fact that United States stocks have refused to disappear as rapidly as was predicted. Earlier in the season there was much talk about a short crop in the United States, and some alleged authorities tried to prove, and did prove to the satisfaction of many, that the available surplus for export would be exhausted before this time, at the rate shipments were going out. Instead of this, there is still plenty of wheat in sight. Early in November last The Commercial said: "Notwithstanding the talk about a short wheat crop in the United States this year, The Commercial would point out that the quantity of wheat marketed on this crop exceeds the quantity marketed for a similar period last year. The quantity of wheat marketed from July 1st to November 1st this year is about 95,000,000 bushels, compared with 81,000,000 bushels for the same period last year. The movement would indicate that the crop is as large, or larger, than last year." What The Commercial then predicted is now generally admitted, namely; that the wheat crop of 1896 has been considerably under estimated.

SOME of the papers in the Territories have worked themselves up into quite a state of frenzy over the proposal to extend the boundaries of Manitoba westward to take in a portion of the Territories. This is a question which, like all others, has two sides to it. While the mere proposal has apparently aroused much opposition in sections of the Territories, the people in Manitoba have been saying nothing about the matter. Really, however, Manitobans have about as good reason for opposing the proposal as residents of the Territories have. The extension of the provincial boundaries of the province would increase the cost of government, without bringing any proportionate increase in revenue. Manitoba would not secure control of the public domain in the territory proposed to be added to the province, as that is vested in the Dominion government. The province would secure an increase in the capitation allowance from the Dominion, but this would not compensate for the increased expenditure. The residents of the added territory, supposing an extension of the boundary is made, would at once be coming in with a demand for assistance to secure better railway facilities. Manitoba, with the exception of the eastern district, is now well supplied with railways, but immediately beyond the western boundary of the province there are settlements which are greatly in need of railway communication. These would have to be supplied, and the provincial debt would be increased in order to supply these needed roads. Unless a more favorable financial arrangement can be made with the federal government, the wisdom of asking for an extension of the provincial boundaries is a matter of considerable doubt.

LAST week The Commercial expressed the hope that the great natural resources of the Crow's Nest pass region would not be allowed to fall into the hands of political favorites or monopolists. In this connection reference was made to the great sacrifices which have been made of the public domain in British Columbia. We may now add that a portion of the wealth of the Crow's Nest pass is within the boundaries of the territory of Alberta, and thus comes under the jurisdiction of the federal government. In British Columbia the public domain is owned by the province, except the belt surrounding the main line of the Canadian Pacific railway, which was handed over to the Dominion. In the Territories, however, the public domain is vested in the Dominion government.

WORD has been received from Ottawa that the tariff commission will be in Winnipeg on Monday, February 8. The commission will be prepared to hear evidence during their two sessions each day on Monday and Tuesday, and they will remain over a third day if necessary. Business men who have any interests which they wish to represent before the commission, will be at liberty to attend and present their case.

IT IS earnestly to be hoped that the Canadian commissioners who go to Washington, will be able to arrive at a satisfactory settlement of the labor question along the boundary. The new United States law, which is likely to soon go into effect, will increase the irritation felt in Canada on account of the alien labor laws of the United States. Already a strong feeling is being aroused in favor of retaliation. Canadians have good reason to feel irritated over the action of the United States in this matter, but it is to be hoped we will not allow this feeling to get the better of our common sense. Every effort should be made to bring about and continue the most cordial feeling of friendship between the two English speaking nations on this continent. It would be wisdom for Canadians to repress their feelings in the matter for a time at least, in the hope that the causes of irritation will be speedily removed, as there is every reason to believe they will be. If we approach our neighbors in a frank, friendly and manly spirit, we have every reason to hope that they will reciprocate. The trend of events is decidedly in the direction of more friendly relationship with our southern neighbors. The readiness of the Washington authorities to come to an arrangement with Canada in the quarantine matter, gives us hope that in this labor question they will also be ready to come to a satisfactory settlement with our commissioners.

THE live stock quarantine regulations between Canada and the United States were abolished by mutual understanding on February first. This will be a great help to trade in live stock between the two countries. At last Monday's market at Buffalo, New York, twenty-five cars of Ontario cattle were offered as a result of the removal of the quarantine. At this rate the change will be

very beneficial to the farmers of Eastern Canada. It will also enable Canadian breeders of fancy stock to sell freely for shipment to the United States. Canadian thoroughbred animals are in demand in the United States for breeding purposes, but heretofore the quarantine has stood in the way of the development of this trade. Manitoba and the West will benefit by the removal of the quarantine, in the matter of immigration from the United States. Many good farmers have been prevented from moving from the States to this country on account of the quarantine, as it prevented them from bringing their live stock with them. As farmers could not always dispose of their live stock to advantage at home, they would not sacrifice their stock in order to carry out the desire to move to Canada.

THE Commercial quite agrees with what the Macleod Gazette and other Western Territorial papers have said regarding the removal of the quarantine, so far as their remarks apply to a censure of the government for not having consulted the range live stock interest before agreeing to abolish the quarantine. We believe the government did not give due consideration to the interests of the western stockraisers in this matter. At the same time, all the arguments advanced by the western press, in favor of retaining the quarantine, apply to questions which should be considered on their merits, aside from the quarantine. If the western ranchers require more protection, in order to hold the British Columbia markets, let the matter be considered on its merits, aside from the quarantine. If there is danger of the ranges becoming overcrowded by the introduction of cattle from the United States, let that also be considered on its merits. These are both questions which have no direct connection with the quarantine and are only incidentally related thereto. It is not too late for the government to take up both of these questions, in the interest of the western stockraisers.

AT THE recent election trial at London, Ontario, Judge Robertson is reported to have said: "I have been listening for the last eighteen days to people making statements under oath in one way, and another set of people affirming the other way that the statements were not true. I think there will have to be a few indictments for perjury throughout the country to make people aware that it is an offence to state an untruth under oath. Up in a certain part of the country where I have been my confidence in what people say under oath has been much shaken." Perjury in the courts, according to legal gentlemen, is a very common offence. A Winnipeg lawyer stated to the writer not long ago, that perjury was very common, in civil as well as in criminal cases, "but then," he added, "there is no use in trying to prosecute the cases. Many legal gentlemen become so used to listening to what they know is perjury, that they pay very little attention to it." The writer has only been interested in a few legal contests, but in every one of them, absolutely false evidence was given by one or more witnesses,