

THE NEW WESTMINSTER EXHIBITION.

A partial description of the Dominion Exhibition at New Westminster, British Columbia, received last week, was held over for a fuller account promised but which, however, has apparently gone astray in the mails. We, therefore, supplement our own information with some particulars obtained from Western newspapers. Our correspondent declares that the event was a very creditable and successful one. He says, the West made a very good showing of its riches from out of the soil, and some parts of the East arose to the occasion. The grounds were well arrayed and the buildings attractively colored. The industrial building, which is of good size, was much needed, and the cattle sheds proved a great improvement. It was a fine occasion for the rich district of which New Westminster is the centre, to show its rich agricultural resources.

Ten days was the period during which the Exhibition was given, and in that time no fewer than 92,500 persons passed the gates. Inasmuch as the cash receipts at the gates are stated at \$24,231, it is manifest that revenue was derived from other sources than men and women, girls and boys, who at 25 cents per head would have yielded \$23,125. There must have been a goodly number of horses and also traps, for, indeed, the residents thereabout are great riders and drivers. The Exhibition had unfortunately to contend against rainy weather; else probably the attendance was still larger. But the figures quoted attest the efforts of the management and the response of the residents of New Westminster and neighborhood. The \$50,000 given by the Dominion Government to assist in making this a Dominion Exhibition was money well bestowed.

THE WESTERN GRAIN YIELD.

A special despatch from Winnipeg to the "Mail and Empire," under date 24th October states that Mr. Frank O. Fowler, secretary of the North-West Grain Dealers' Association has issued the following revised estimate of the 1905 crop of Manitoba and the Territories. The figures are compiled from 700 reports received from all points in the West. It will be noted that Mr. Fowler now estimates this year's yield of wheat at 86,810,400 bushels, as compared with his estimate made last month of slightly over 91,000,000 bushels.

Grain.	Acres.	Yield per acre.	Total.
Wheat	4,019,000	21.6	86,810,400
Oats	1,423,000	46.6	66,311,800
Barley	433,800	31	13,447,800
Flax	34,900	13.7	478,130

There had been wheat marketed on October 21st of this year as follows:—

	Bushels.
Inspected to date.....	15,515,000
In store at country points.....	10,719,000
In transit, not inspected.....	1,000,000
Total	27,234,000

COMPETITION IN BUTTER MARKETING.

While we suppose it may be true to say that the quality of the dairy products exported from Canada is tending towards improvement, there can be no mistake that every now and then the industry is given a serious set-back through the carelessness, or worse, of shippers. Perhaps if the latter fully understood and realized the very great competition which is now going on in these products, especially in the British markets, they would amend their ways, in their own interest and to the good name of Canada. Mr. P. B. Ball, Canada's wide-awake commercial representative in Birmingham, sends to the Department of Trade and Commerce at Ottawa a copy of an article which had appeared in the "Times" on "Butter

Control in Holland," which, describing as it does the steps which the Netherlands Government has deemed it advisable to take in order to add to the reputation of the butter shipped by that kingdom, should be of interest to all those interested in the industry in this country.

The following are excerpts from the article in question:—

The virtue of cleanliness, for which the Dutch people are so deservedly famed, is nowhere better exemplified than in their butter factories, and the success of these must be largely attributed to this circumstance. To produce a pure article, however, is one thing; to ensure it against adulteration is another. The latter point has not been lost sight of; for the first Butter Act of the Netherlands was passed in 1889, and was rendered more stringent in the following year. Infringements of the Act are punishable by imprisonment for a period not exceeding three months, or a fine of 300 guilders; also by imprisonment not exceeding six months, or a fine of 600 guilders. If the infringement relates to goods extended for export to other countries, the penalty is doubled.

To enforce the provisions of this Act a separate service has been brought into operation, comprising an inspector and a number of visiting inspectors. Samples taken by these officials, or by the police, of any article resembling butter, and not marked according to law, are examined by qualified analysts. These examinations used to take place at the Government experimental stations; but, by a Royal decree of February, 1903, the work was transferred to a Government dairy station, for the establishment of which at Leyden the same decree made provision. This dairy station acts for the whole of Holland. It exercises supervision over all the stations known as "butter control" stations, which have been established by agricultural societies and dairy associations. They are partly under the supervision of non-interested persons, including usually members of the Provincial Governments.

TAXES ON COMMERCIAL TRAVELLERS.

Few things have occurred of late in connection with Canadian trade more than the imposition of the obnoxious tax on salesmen from outside Quebec Province to arouse the indignation of merchants from elsewhere in Canada, or merchants in the United Kingdom who do business in that province. Mr. J. B. Jackson, commercial agent at Leeds, writes to the Ottawa Department of Trade and Commerce that the operation of this tax is causing him no end of trouble with the Yorkshire exporting firms, and is having a very retarding effect upon Canadian trade. The average exporter, he says, does not readily grasp the difference between a Dominion and a Provincial tax. Englishmen say: "Why do you impose a duty upon our goods, and at the same time impose a tax upon our travellers? It is unfair and in direct violation of the spirit of the British preferential tariff."

The official named remarks that British exporters having resident agents in the Province of Quebec are in grave doubt as to the position in which members of a firm would be if they went over to Canada to assist their resident agent. "The large firms in the West Riding of Yorkshire pay their resident Montreal agents either salary or commission, and they think it very hard that, having such resident agents, the head of a firm desiring to take an occasional run over to Canada to assist his agent should run the risk of incurring penalties ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 for each offence."

A very decided expression of disfavor with regard to this tax appears in a resolution adopted at the autumnal meeting of the Association of Chambers of Commerce of the United Kingdom, held last month at Liege, Belgium. The resolution, which was moved by Mr. S. B. Wheway of Walsall, was as follows:—

"That this association notes with regret the proposal of the Quebec Legislature to impose a tax upon commercial travellers in Quebec, including British commercial travellers, and would respectfully urge upon His Majesty's Government the desirability of a strong protest being lodged with the Quebec Legislature in particular, and with all the colonial governments, against this practice of taxing British commercial representatives in the colonies."