

The Commercial

A Journal of Commerce, Industry and Finance, especially devoted to the interests of Western Canada, including that portion of Ontario west of Lake Superior, the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Territories.

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The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much larger circulation among the business community of the country between Lake Superior and the Pacific Coast, than any other paper in Canada, daily or weekly. By a thorough system of personal solicitation, carried out annually, this journal has been placed upon the desk of the great majority of business men in the vast district designated above, and including northwestern Ontario, the provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia, and the territories of Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, JUNE 27, 1892.

Manitoba Crops.

The first official crop bulletin for 1892, has been issued by the Manitoba department of agriculture. It is a summary of returns from about 350 correspondents in all parts of the province, written on June 1.

The system of dividing the province into electoral divisions to facilitate the compilation of the bulletin has been discontinued, districts made up of municipalities being substituted. The following table gives the acreage under crop and the amount of fallowing and fall plowing done together with the figures for last year for purposes of comparison:

| | 1891 | 1892. |
|-------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Acres under Wheat..... | 916,091 | 876,990 |
| " " Oats..... | 305,644 | 332,974 |
| " " Barley..... | 89,823 | 97,011 |
| " " Pease..... | 555 | 2,183 |
| " " Potatoes..... | 12,705 | 10,903 |
| " " Roots..... | 9,301 | 17,493 |
| Acres Fallowed for crop of... | 205,232 | 250,255 |
| Acres Fall plowed for crop of | 509,188 | 325,717 |

WEATHER.—In answer to the question put to correspondents "Was the weather during seeding time favorable for work and growth?" the answer with very few exceptions was "favorable for work, but not for growth." During April, and in fact during the most of May, it was exceptionally cold. In the former month, a severe storm made the ground very damp in some places, and seeding operations were considerably retarded. Seeding became general all over the province on the 19th April.

FALLOWING AND PLOWING.—The quantity of land fallowed exceeds that of the previous year by 45,023. Fallowing appears to be pretty generally carried out over the province as the areas each year show a decided increase. The quantity fall plowed shows a falling off of 183,421 acres from last year.

WHEAT.—The acreage under wheat has fallen off 40,074 acres. This may be accounted for by the winter setting in early and farmers

neglecting their plowing to attend to their threshing. Correspondents report the plant as being healthy and vigorous and all speak encouragingly of the prospect of a good crop.

OATS.—This crop is doing finely, the warm weather during the latter end of May having brought it quite up to the average notwithstanding the lateness of sowing. Correspondents agree that the prospects for the crop this year are of the very best. The area under crop is shown to be 332,974 acres, being an increase of 27,330 acres over that of last year. Each year shows an increased area under crop of this grain, which goes to show that stock-raising as an industry is commending itself to our people.

BARLEY.—The area put under barley this year shows an increase over that of last year of 7,816 acres. The weather just at the time that this crop was being put in was somewhat unfavorable, but as a result of the fine growing weather during the past month it is looking well and promises a good crop.

PEAS, RYE, BUCKWHEAT AND CORN.—The areas sown to these kinds of grain show a gratifying increase over last year. The principal rye fields are in the vicinity of Rosenfeldt and Gretna in the municipality of Rhineland.

FLAX.—Reports this year go to show that farmers are discovering the value of this crop. The area sown this year is 1718 acres. As there is likely to be in operation in the province before long, binding twine establishments, we may look for the area under flax to increase very much in the next few years. Like rye, this crop is now chiefly grown around Rosenfeldt and Gretna.

POTATOES.—The area planted in potatoes shows a falling off from that of last season, but at the time our reports were sent in farmers had not finished their planting. The total area under this crop last year was 12,705, while this year it will be seen that the total area is 10,003 showing a falling off of 2,702 acres. It is very probable that the area will be about the same as last year.

ROOTS.—The area planted to roots this year is nearly double that of last year. The area last year is given at 9301 acres, while this year it is 17,493, a clear increase of 8,197 acres. The root area is nearly equally distributed over the province, each of the districts show about the same acreage.

PASTURES AND MEADOWS.—The condition of the pastures and meadows could not be better, as the following quotations from reports received go to show:—"pastures good"—"growing finely"—"very good"—"stock have no difficulty in getting a good supply of grass"—"very promising"—"ahead of last year"—"making rapid growth"—"very good"—"average"—"excellent." In some cases, however, the pastures are rather late, but all over the province the meadows are in good condition and promises a good crop of hay.

WEEDS.—The prevalence of weeds of the noxious varieties in so many parts of the province is becoming a question of some importance, and the best means of getting clear of them, and remaining so, is a question which appears to be troubling the farmers in very many places. The Legislature has given the Department an increased grant to cover the cost of sending out inspectors to see that the provisions of the statute in this connection as complied with and every effort will be made by the Department to prevent as far as they are able, the spread of noxious weeds.

LIVE STOCK.—The condition of stock is reported to be first-class, especially horses, which are reported to be in excellent condition for the work of the summer.

GRAIN, ETC., ON HAND.—Reports show no very large quantities of any kind of grain unsold, although there are individual cases in which a large quantity is held, but these form a very small percentage of the original amount of the crop.

Fat cattle are nearly all sold and there are very few store cattle on hand.

FARM RENTALS.—When sending in their reports correspondents were again this year asked

to give the average rental of farm in their respective districts, and the replies received indicate no change from last year. The rental paid varies from a few cents for unimproved lands to \$4.00 and \$5.00 per acre for cultivated lands in the more thickly settled districts. In some of the localities much of the land is worked on shares and in such cases the owner receives from one-fourth to one-half the crop.

LABOR AND WAGES.—Correspondents report that there was a sufficient supply of labor for putting in the crop, but the demand for harvest hands will be as great as ever.

In addition to the above it may be said that a demand always exists for boys from twelve and older for light farm work and herding at from \$75 to \$150 per year with board.

DOMESTIC HELP.—The demand for female help is greater than ever before, although the wages paid are higher than they have ever been.

GENERAL REMARKS.—From the replies of correspondents we learn that some of the grain stacked last fall is not in a very satisfactory condition. This will show the importance of careful stacking.

LATER.—Since the first of June the weather has been all that could be desired for the growing crops. Warm with frequent showers—and the latest reports show they are doing well.

The London Convention.

In the course of the coming month there will assemble in London the second convention of delegates from chambers of commerce in all parts of the British Empire. They are called together ostensibly to discuss the idea of a commercial union or trade league between this country, its colonies and Indian possessions. There is no definite scheme before them. They may adopt general resolutions in favor of commercial federation; but that is hardly what practical men of business are looking for. The desirability of such a union is almost universally admitted; but no one has so far been able to devise a workable scheme, and we believe that the majority of traders are not at all sanguine that it ever will be devised. This country cannot do more in the cause of imperial trade federation than it has done for the past forty years by the abolition of import duties. Will the colonies follow suit?

At present the mother country is asked—especially in the case of Canada—to discriminate in favor of its colonies by placing a duty on foreign products and allowing colonial and Indian goods to enter freely as at present. We have pointed out before that this cannot be done without increasing the price of food and raw material in this country, and probably stiffening the duties already levied on British manufactures by foreign countries. But assuming the possibility of accepting the federationists' proposal, what do the colonists propose to do? Will they discriminate against foreign countries? Will Canada put up say 50 per cent. against United States hardware, and receive our own at 10 per cent.? Canada would of course have to extend the terms granted to this country to Germany and Belgium as well. But that would not prevent the execution and the British acceptance of the proposal. Yet Canada does nothing of the sort. Is it that she is afraid of the retaliation of the neighboring republic? Meanwhile we welcome the approaching meeting of chambers of commerce, feeling assured that even if its efforts to formulate a scheme are bound to fail it will indirectly be the means of strengthening the commercial and political ties which bind the Empire together.

The British negotiators at Madrid for a treaty with Spain have unfortunately failed in their task; and accordingly from the 1st prox. the new minimum tariff comes into operation. This means an increase on the duties of from 150 to 200 per cent. and in some cases even more. The Spanish West Indian possessions, chiefly Cuba and Porto Rico, are also adopting

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