

THE COMMERCIAL

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or which profess to express the opinions of this
Journal, will not be inserted.

Office: 151 McDermot Street.

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, APRIL 23, 1898,

FURTHER RAILWAY AID

The Manitoba government is going in for aid to railways on a large scale this session. In the legislature on Wednesday a resolution was introduced to grant aid to the Northern Pacific, to the extent of \$1,750 per mile, for a line from the Morris-Brandon branch, near Belmont, westerly to the C. P. R., at or near Hartney. Also a further payment of the gross sum of \$20,000 for special aid in crossing Lang's Valley, and by exempting said railway company, its property and franchises from taxation for a period not exceeding twenty years.

BONUSING

The Manitoba legislature has again, and wisely The Commercial believes pronounced against the principle of bonusing. A bill having a clause which provided for the repeal of the act preventing municipalities to grant bonuses for flour mills, was recently defeated in the legislature. An act previously passed prevented municipalities from granting bonuses. Exception was made, however, in the case of flour mills. Last session the prohibition was applied to flour mills also, and this act has again been upheld. While there may be exceptional circumstances under which it would be safe to grant a bonus, the thing has generally proved an evil, and the close restriction of bonusing is no

doubt in the interest of the community at large.

THE WINNIPEG INDUSTRIAL TRIAL

It is very doubtful if the executive of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition association have made a wise move in asking for an amendment to their charter to provide for the election of a board of directors for terms ranging from one to three years, instead of having the full board elected annually. In the opinion of The Commercial the effect of this change, instead of having the full board of directors elected annually, would be to lessen public interest in the association. Such a result would be deplorable. A loss of public interest would probably lead to a loss of confidence, to some extent at least, in the management of the association. The annual meeting for the election of directors is the only link between the stockholders and the board of management. Extend the term of office of the directors to three years, and this link is practically wiped out. Certainly it would seem that such an important change should not have been asked for until at least the matter had been discussed at a general meeting of the association.

The opposition which has also developed to the system of proxy voting seems to be founded on good reason. It is admitted that the rule has been abused in the past, and it may occur again. The plan suggested of providing out of town members with a membership list, from which they could make their own selection for the directorate, seems worthy of consideration.

THE OATMEAL DUTY

The statement has been made in opposition to changes requested in the oatmeal duty, that the present conditions in Manitoba are exceptional and will not occur again. This is not a fair view to take of the matter. The same conditions which prevail this season have prevailed in some past seasons, though perhaps not in as acute a form as this season. It is also quite probable that these conditions will prevail at intervals in future years. This situation is owing to the fact that Manitoba farmers do not make oats an important crop. The majority of our farmers give their attention mainly to wheat, and they only put in about enough oats to meet their own requirements for consumption on the farm. The consequence of this is, that in years like last season, when the oat crop is light, the supply is not sufficient for home requirements. When this local shortage of oats occurs, as it has done in several past years, the local price is advanced far

above the value at markets east and south. With the duty on oats and oatmeal arranged as at present, the Manitoba oatmeal mills will be forced to close down, as they have been this season, every time this situation recurs. The duty as at present arranged discriminates against the importation of oats and in favor of bringing in the manufactured product. Consequently, instead of bringing in oats to keep our mills running when there is a local scarcity of this grain, the manufactured product is brought in and the home industry is crushed out. This is a situation which cannot be defended either from a free trade or protectionist standpoint. Nothing but an error or an oversight could have led to the present tariff arrangement governing oats and oatmeal, and it certainly seems most surprising that the government has refused to remedy such an unjust and unreasonable tariff enactment after the absurdity of the present tariff in this matter has been pointed out.

If oats were allowed to come in free for milling purposes, it would not affect the price received by the few farmers who have oats to sell in a season like the present. The home demand for oats has not been increased any by the tariff discrimination, for the mills have been closed, while the equivalent quantity of oats has been imported in the form of meal. It would certainly be better to have the situation reversed, and have the oats brought in instead of the meal, and thereby keep an important local industry running.

A HANDSOME AD.

Mr. F. W. Thompson, manager of the Ogilvie Milling Co., Winnipeg, has had a very handsome painting made of his own design, which will make an admirable print for advertising purposes. The central feature of the design is a queenly figure representing Canada, holding a British flag by one hand, while the other hand rests upon the head of a splendid specimen of the British lion. Several packages of Ogilvie's flour appear in the foreground. The inscription "What we have we'll use," is a taking feature of the picture, bearing, as it does, a resemblance to Chamberlain's famous words: "What we have we'll hold," which latter saying has also been illustrated in a striking manner. It is the intention of the Ogilvie company to have a print made from this painting, for distribution in Great Britain. The words "Best in the British Empire," appear at the bottom of the picture.

Mr. McRae, representing the D. McCall Co., reports a good business since opening their Winnipeg branch.

The Manitoba Northwest Land company has been amalgamated with the Canadian Landed and National Investment company.