

THE COMMERCIAL

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Office: 131 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, DEC. 23, 1899.

LAC DU BONNET COMPANY.

The Commercial has rarely undertaken to recommend mining, or in deed stocks of any kind, to the public as a safe investment. In the Lac du Bonnet Mining, Developing and Manufacturing Co., however, we believe that we have an enterprise which it is perfectly safe to recommend to those who are looking for profitable investment of surplus funds. While this company holds some promising mining claims, their principal enterprise is more in the line of a manufacturing industry, and their product is of a nature that it will find an unlimited market at home, supplying indeed a "long felt want." The valuable properties held by the company, together with the nature of the industry, are such as to practically warrant the belief that the company will be able to realize good profits from almost the beginning of their operations.

The Lac du Bonnet company is composed entirely of local men, well known in business circles here. The properties which they own, and the industries which they propose to develop are moreover, situated within the province. The business is one which will be of great advantage to Winnipeg and Manitoba at large, as it will be the means of supplying the home demand for goods which are now largely imported from the States. In addition, therefore, to the fact that the enterprise has every indication of being a safe and profitable one, there is the further incentive that any investment in this stock will assist in building up an important local industry.

A few words about the company and its properties. The company holds a charter under the provincial joint

stock company's act and an act respecting mining companies. The capital authorized is \$2,000,000 in \$1 shares. The company has acquired by purchase thirty-four mineral claims, extensive clay beds, agricultural and wooded lands, red and grey granite quarries and also by purchase and leasehold, important water power privileges. The properties are located on Lac du Bonnet and the Winnipeg, and Bird rivers. Whitemouth, on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, east of Winnipeg, is the nearest railway point at present, but the Canadian Pacific Railway Company is building a short branch road to the properties, which will be completed early next year. The fact that this branch road is being built, is alone a sufficient guarantee that the industry is likely to prove a most profitable one. Before undertaking to build the road, the railway company had the properties examined and were assured of their value and importance. The company would certainly not build this branch railway unless they believed it would be a paying investment, and this depends on the development of the industries which the Lac du Bonnet Co. have in view. The railway company were assured by the investigation which they made of the ample supply of the material for carrying on the proposed industry; and they were assured of the quality of the material. They did not need any assurance as to the demand for the manufactures, the latter being self-evident to any one.

We need not say anything about the gold and nickel mining claims owned by the company, nor will we give any space to a description of the grand water-powers, and the agricultural and timber lands owned by the company, including a large area of fine pulp timber. Reference only will be made to the clay deposits. In these alone the company has a source of wealth which forms the basis for the large manufacturing industry which is now being established at Lac du Bonnet. While the other properties are likely to prove of great value to the company in time, it is to the clay deposits that they look for an immediate return for their investments, and in the development of which the present expenditure is being made. There are two large deposits of a very superior clay, suitable for brick, sewer or drain pipe, pottery work, etc. One of these deposits makes a light buff colored brick, and the other, when burnt, produces a rich, dark terra cotta. By mixing the two clays, any color, from almost a white brick to a deep red can be obtained. The company has invested upwards of \$20,000 in plant and labor, and a quantity of brick, sewer pipe, etc., have been made, showing a quality far su-

perior to anything heretofore made in Manitoba. It is a well-known fact that, an enormous quantity of fine brick and other building material made from clay is imported into Winnipeg every year from the United States. Heretofore we have not been able to produce anything but the common stock brick. This clay makes a most superior article of stock brick, and besides is suitable for sewer pipe, drain pipe, terra cotta ware, roof and floor tile, paving brick, pottery ware, etc. The samples already made show a very superior quality in all these lines. The rapid development of the country now going on has created a large demand for these materials, and the company has already the assurance of almost more business than can be handled for the next year. A number of persons and companies who will build in Winnipeg next year, have examined the samples made by the Lac du Bonnet company and decided in favor of using this material in preference to any of the imported qualities. Even the common brick will bear the heat necessary for glazing, and it makes a solid and heavy brick. The sewer pipe is close and fine in texture, being much less porous than common pipe. A good vitrified brick can also be made from this clay.

The object of the company in placing a limited amount of stock on the market at present is to secure funds to increase the plant, so as to be in a position to supply the demand for next season's trade in brick and such like building material. It is the intention to put in a most complete plant this winter, for the manufacture of the lines herein mentioned. It will certainly be a great advantage to the country to have the large demand for this class of material supplies by a home industry.

As a financial investment this enterprise seems to present unusually favorable features. We certainly advise those who desire making some such investment, to at least look into this matter. Considering that the object is to establish such an important local industry, we believe the public spirited business men of Winnipeg will quickly take up the amount of stock necessary to place the company in possession of the funds required to carry on the work.

The Season's Cattle Trade.

What has proved to be—in spite of great initial discouragements—one of the best live stock shipping seasons in the history of the trade in the west has just been brought to a close and the cattle dealers are now enjoying a well-earned rest after unusually arduous labors. The shipping season of 1899 has been one of the shortest in the history of the trade, the wet weather of the early summer having kept the cattle out of condition till the latter part of July and the good