

The Commercial

A Journal of Commerce, Industry and Finance,
specially devoted to the interests of Western
Canada, including that portion of Ontario
west of Lake Superior, the provinces
of Manitoba and British Colum-
bia 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 desks of the great majority of business men in the vast district designated above, and including northwest 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, OCTOBER 31, 1892.

The Cattle Markets.

The Liverpool cable of October 31 says:—There were no Canadian cattle or sheep offered here to-day; but the supply of cattle was very heavy and there was a big break in prices, averaged mixed shipments making 4½d. to 5d.

The Montreal Gazette of Oct. 31 says:—The season for the shipment of live stock is fast drawing to a close, and the time for the last boat to sail cannot come too quick to please the shippers. The markets on the other side do not show the slightest signs of improvement. The supplies of home cattle are heavy, and the British feeders are suffering almost as much as our shippers. The idea seems to be that good cattle would make some money, but as we have nothing above the middling grades our shippers cannot reap any benefit in this respect. The price of fat cattle has been so low that the British farmers seem to be afraid to handle store cattle at any price. There should be good profits made next season, however. Home bred cattle have been so cheap that the feeders are buying them in preference to Canadian beasts. They have been bought cheap, and reports are that the supply of feed is in fair supply. This freer buying of home cattle no doubt explains the marketed decrease in the shipments from Canada. The shipments to date are 94,815 cattle and 15,955 sheep, a decrease of 11,546 cattle and 15,231 sheep compared with last season's shipments to the same date. An examination of the figures will show a general decrease during the month to all ports, but the falling-off in the exports to the stocker ports is most marked. During the past month not a single bullock was sent to Dundee, Aberdeen shows a decrease of over 1,000 and Glasgow a decrease of over 2,000, the total decrease for the month being over 5,500. There is every reason to believe that the prediction made in these columns early in the season, that the

shipments would not reach the 100,000 mark will no doubt prove correct. There are 12 boats announced to sail this week, which are expected to carry about 3,000 head. If they carry this many cattle the figures will still be 2,000 below the century, and it is not likely that over this number will be carried during the next week, which will probably bring the season to a close. It is a noticeable fact that not a single sheep was sent from Montreal last month. While speaking of the season's shipments it might be well to mention that the losses up to the end of October were only 179 head which speaks volumes for the Government regulations which came into effect just one year ago, and the able manner in which they are enforced by the inspectors, Messrs. Pope and Morgan. Word was received to-day that the steamship Sarnia lost eleven head on the voyage just concluded at Liverpool. The steamship Monte Videau lost one and the Plassey three head. When the reports of the extraordinary stormy weather on the Atlantic are considered, these figures are more than satisfactory. Judging from the cable advices from the other side it would appear that the Britishers are much more excited over the reported pleuro pneumonia in Canadian cattle than the people most interested—the Canadian shippers—who seem to look on the whole affair with a "there ain't nothing in it" air. They have not the least doubt apparently but that the Monk Seaton case will turn out to be a case of Canadian lung, or some other non-infectious disease, being confident that Canada enjoys a clean bill of health.

At the East End abattoir, Montreal, on Oct. 31, there were 400 cattle, 100 calves and about 600 sheep and lambs offered for sale. There were no good cattle offered, and anything approaching good brought better prices, a few of the best offering making 4c. A few cars of stockers were taken at 3 to 3½c, which about represents a basis on which the greater part of the trading was done. Some of the scrubs sold at less than 2c. Calves sold at \$4 to \$12. Sheep were in better demand at \$2.50 to \$4.50, and lambs sold at \$2.25 to \$4 each.

A Comparison between the Riches of Manitoba and Ontario.

Pilot Mound Sentinel: It may have escaped the notice of some persons that in Manitoba, especially in favorable seasons, plants, vines, bushes, trees and flowers produce much larger quantities of blossoms, berries, seeds, fruits or nuts, than is usually borne by the same varieties of plants and bushes in Ontario, while in the east the growth of wood is generally greater than is the case here. Take the Manitoba red and choke cherry as an example. At this season of the year the woods are red and black with ripe cherries, as the trees usually grow together in groves. The same condition of things exist in seasons where Saskatoon blossoms have escaped frost, then for hundreds of miles along the rivers the woods are purple with ripe and luscious fruit. In autumn the thorn apples cover the hawthorns with large masses of red haws until the trees look like pyramids of fruit. In the oak woods acorns adorn the trees in clusters on every hand, no matter how small the oak may be. The cranberry bushes become loaded until the branches are threatened with destruction by the weight of clusters. The quantity of raspberries on vines in Manitoba are sometimes marvellous; the same may be said of currants and gooseberries when the bushes are taken care of. It will be noticed that flowering plants in this country become covered by an extraordinary profusion of blossoms. A comparison between the wild rose of Manitoba and the wild rose of Ontario will discover the truthfulness of this and the rule applies to nearly every variety of flowers, wild and cultivated, even a potato field, when the vines are in blossom, becomes covered by flowers in a remarkable manner, and an acre or two of buckwheat presents a solid sheet of white when in blossom. With the different varieties of grain the case is the

same, first the flowers, then the fruit in great abundance, and the cause may be traced to the extraordinary richness of the land of the country and the long warm days of summer with generally a sufficient and even a heavy rainfall. Perhaps the best proof of the correctness of these statements can be found where the hazel bushes cover the ground in the vicinity of the woods, there, in a good season, ripe nuts will be gathered in such quantities that grain bags can be filled and a wagon loaded in a few hours by two or three persons. Nature generally distributes her gifts according to the necessities of her creatures, and where a long northern winter has to be provided for the riches of the summer are increased in proportion to the requirements of the cold season. In Manitoba there is grain, fruit, grass and cattle; in the far north the whole wealth is in the waters of the sea.

The Farmers May Be Right.

[From the Liverpool Corn Trade News.]

It does not always follow that because deliveries are liberal, and the visible supply increased, that the crop is necessarily a large one; for on two or three occasions the American farmer has acted as he is doing now, and afterwards sold his holdings most advantageously. One occasion strikes us in particular, viz., in the year 1881, when there was supposed to be a serious deficiency in the American corn crop, and scarcity was apprehended, but when merchants saw the visible supply mounting to an unheard of height in the autumn of that year (it exceeded 28,000,000 bu before it culminated) they became sceptical and concluded that something was wrong with the reports of the crops, and that there could be no question of prospective scarcity seeing that stocks were twice as heavy as ever before—yet, after letting prices fall back 3 to 4s per qr for a period of three or four months, many were left out in the cold later in the season and saw rates advanced 10s or 12s per qr without profiting by the rise. It was then laid down as a first principle by one of the shrewdest operators upon the Liverpool market, that when the American farmer stored his grain in abnormally large quantities early in the season, that it foreboded comparative scarcity before the end of the season. Time will show if the axiom is a sound one now.

Holding Wheat.

As a rule, wheat is sold more freely when prices are low than when they are high. That is shown in the comparative records of seasons of high prices and seasons of low prices, before this year and last, as well as in these years. Before the large crop of 1882 there was a small yield and before the large crop of 1884 there was the small crop of 1883. The large crop of 1889 was preceded by the small yield of 1888 and the larger yield of last year was preceded by the 1890 crop of less than 400,000,000 bu. Instead, this year, of a large crop following a small one as in all other seasons it is a big yield succeeding a big yield. There is enough in that to make all the difference that exists in prices, now and at the end of the season from the small yield two years ago. While the circulars to hoard wheat did not merit respect when they were issued, and were as absurd then as they were impotent later, they were as highly commended, at the time, by the press generally as their propriety is now generally condemned by the same press, which conveniently shifts to the shoulders of the authors, its own part in them, to avoid the public ridicule it fully earned. Farmers of experience have been too often told by self constituted advisors when to hoard wheat and when not to hoard it, to be so easily done for by the cry for help of every drowning speculator that tells them to "wade in."—Minneapolis Market Record.