

THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters pertaining to trade and progress in 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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or which profess to express the opinions of this
Journal, will not be inserted.

Office: 181 McDermott 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 Can-
ada, daily or weekly. The Commercial also
reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manu-
facturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, MAY 27, 1899.

Brandon Experimental Farm.

The blue book containing the annual
report of the Dominion experimental
farm for 1898, just out, contains as
usual a great deal of valuable infor-
mation relating to the farming indus-
try in Canada.

With the farms in Eastern Canada
we have not so much to do in the
prairie country but the work on the
Brandon and Indian Head farms is of
immense importance to us and the
work on the farm at Agassiz, B. C.,
is also of interest as it deals with
problems which have direct bearing
upon our future supplies of fruit, etc.,
and upon the progress of the west
generally.

At the Brandon farm the work
done last year was more varied and
important than ever. Experiments
were carried on in the cultivation of
grains, grasses, trees, shrubs, fruits,
berries, vegetables, live stock, etc.
Wheat growing still occupies the lead-
ing place in the list of experiments.
The tests of varieties are still con-
tinued and yield most useful results.
No less than forty-two different kinds
of wheat were sown. The land for this
test was summer-fallowed the previ-
ous year. The soil was a clay loam.
One twentieth of an acre was sown
to each kind and the date of sowing
was April 20. The largest yield was
obtained from a variety called Goose,
but the quality was not so good as
that of Fyfe wheat. It is also longer
in ripening. Monarch is another very
promotive variety which Mr. Bedford
says would pass readily for Red Fyfe.
White Fyfe has for three years given
better returns than Red Fyfe. Crown,
a cross-bred wheat, bearded, gave
very good results. These seem to be
the varieties that give the best re-
sults.

A test of average results for five
years with wheat placed White Fyfe
first with Red Fyfe a good second.

The average yield of the former was
37 bushels and 28 pounds and of the
latter 35 bushels and 28 pounds.

Wheat after a clover crop was an-
other interesting experiment. It was
found that the yield on land on which
sweet clover had been grown exceed-
ed that from wheat stubble, but was
not equal to the summer-fallowed
land.

Land rolled after sowing wheat
gives better results as regards yield.
Drill sowing is shown to be by far
the most satisfactory method of put-
ting in seed. Experiments in regard
to the amount which should be sown
to the acre showed that five pecks
of wheat per acre gives the best re-
sults.

Experiments in smut prevention pro-
ved the continued efficacy of bluestone.
In order to secure perfect results it
was shown that smutty seed even if
bluestoned is not so desirable as clean
seed thus treated.

Tests of different ways of prepar-
ing land for seed showed that the
best results are obtained after pease.
Wheat following flax is always a small
yield. Early, medium and late sowing
was also tried and conclusive proof
obtained of early sowing. This same
rule applies to other grains, although
barley does not suffer much if sown
after wheat and oats.

Extensive experiments were carried
on with oats. As regards rotation,
wheat, oats and fallow is recommend-
ed for some soils. In a test of varie-
ties, White Giant, American Beauty,
California Prolific Black, Bavarian,
Memnite, Oxford, Pense and Ban-
ner yielded the best results. Bluestone
and formalin are recommended for
smut in oats. In a test of average
results for a given number of seasons
Banner oats gave the highest yield,
at 93 bushels and 12 pounds per acre.

Barley experiments were large-
ly carried on. The season
was favorable and the results very
useful. The best varieties of six-rowed
were found to be those called Stella,
Baxter, Pioneer, Common and Troop-
er. The best varieties of two-rowed
were Kirby, Danham, French, Cheva-
lier, Beaver and Leslie.

These were carefully tested at Bran-
don last year. As a result it is recom-
mended that these be sown on a
strong, stiff, clay loam. The field
should be summer fallowed the previous
year, and it should not be harrowed
in the spring before sowing. The grain
should be sown as early as wheat, with
a drill, and as deeply as possible. From
2 1-2 to 3 1-2 bushels of seed should be
sown to the acre, according to the
size of the pea. If the crop is to be
cut with a binder, two pecks per acre
of oats should be sown with the pease.

The year was a good one for flax
culture. The largest average yield of
flaxseed was obtained from plots sown
so late as May 28th, being 25 bushels
to the acre.

As yet very few western farmers have
any regular rotation in sowing their
crops, but sooner or later, Superintendent
Bedford says, they will have to
adopt some system suited to their in-
dividual needs. This feature of farm
work has been the subject of some ex-
periments. Wheat alternating with
roots or corn have given the best re-
sults, but the outlay has been propor-
tionately large. The second best re-
sults were obtained from wheat and
oats sown alternately, but the land
became very weedy.

Corn formed the subject for some
interesting experiments. The tests
were principally with a view to its
use as fodder. The variety known as

Thoroughbred White Flint seems to
have done the best.

Field roots, such as turnips, mangels,
carrots, beets, potatoes, etc., receiv-
ed attention and were found to yield
splendidly under the late rains of last
year. Grasses and clovers also did
well.

As a result of a series of experiments
in cattle feeding it was proven that
hay is not essential to the successful
fattening of steers in this country, as
straw yields practically the same re-
sults mixed with other suitable feed
such as turnips and barley.

Poultry and bees were experimented
with to some extent. Large and small
fruits also received a share of atten-
tion. Fair success has attended the
efforts in the direction of small fruits,
but it seems doubtful if any use-
ful variety of apples can be obtained
which will stand the severities of our
winter climate.

Wool.

The Toronto Globe says: The out-
look is anything but reassuring. To
begin with, it is estimated that 75
per cent of the clip of last year is
still held in this province. A good deal
of this wool was purchased from 16c
to 18c for washed fleece, while the
price bid for it to-day in this mar-
ket is 13c. Not only is the bulk of
last year's clip still held, but a Can-
adian exporter has at an American
point a large lot of the 1897 clip. The
position of the Canadian clip for the
present season is this: The greater
part of the last clip is unsold. The
best price that can be obtained in the
United States for Canada fleece now is
27c. The duty is 12c, the freight
charges 0.55 of a dollar, the consular
charges 0.25, and the commission for
selling on the other side of the line
1 1-2 cents per pound, which makes a
total of 14.30 per pound for charges
after the wool is purchased here. This
would leave for the purchaser of the
wool in Canada, reckoning on a sale at
27c in the United States, 12.34c per
pound for washed fleece, and that
price leaves no margin of profit for the
exporter. This is the situation at
present as it is figured out by local
exporters. The position of unwashed
is even more unpromising. Within the
past few weeks a Toronto dealer has
sold some unwashed at 18c in Boston,
which, after paying the duty and
freight and other charges, makes the
value of the unwashed wool in this
market exactly 6 1-2c per pound.

The Northern Pacific Railway Com-
pany's publication, "Wonderland, '99,"
a guide to the holiday resorts tribu-
tary to its lines, exceeds in beauty of
appearance and attractiveness of sub-
ject matter anything that has heret-
ofore been attempted by the com-
pany in that line. It is almost as
good as a holiday to skim through the
pages of this neat little publication.

The Commercial is in receipt of a
pamphlet giving an address delivered
by Dr. Saunders, director of the Do-
minion Experimental Farms, Ottawa,
before the Ontario Fruit Growers' As-
sociation at its annual meeting on the
subject, "Manitoba and the North-
west Territories as Markets for On-
tario and British Columbia Fruit."
This address puts the case in a nut-
shell, and is worthy of perusal by
every person interested in the Cana-
dian fruit growing industry.

The Dominion government has defini-
tely decided not to favor any insolv-
ency legislation in the house this ses-
sion.