

THE COMMERCIAL

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MANITOBA EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

Brandon, Jan. 22.—Mr. S. A. Bedford, superintendent of the Brandon Experimental farm, has just issued his annual report for the department which is being published in the form of a great many interesting reports on new work in addition to the usual reports of the past year. The report is being granted an interview by the general superintendent, Mr. Bedford talked at a most fascinating hour of the farm during the past year. The most important facts are as follows: Varieties of grain have been tested with satisfactory results as regards yield.

Wheat—Among a very large number of varieties of wheat tested the goose, a standard wheat takes the lead with a yield of 42 bushels per acre. It follows seventh and averaged 30 bushels per acre. The yield of the 12 best varieties was 30 bushels per acre. A feature of this year's experiments with wheat is the raising of a large number of hard wheats from the Minnesota experimental station, where they were bred by Prof. Hays, who is an specialist in this class of work, and of whose work the United States department of agriculture recently published a extensive bulletin form. These varieties are quite promising and will be re-own another year. Another interesting series of wheat was obtained from the United States, No. 11, was amongst the 12 best varieties, yielding 30 bushels per acre.

Feeding trials of a series of experiments was carried on in connection with a newly introduced variety of winter wheat, the "Cramer." This has always done exceedingly well on the Brandon Experimental farm, and grain than either wheat, oats or barley per acre. Tests were also made in regard to finding the value of this variety for fattening steers, with satisfactory results. The steers fed on a mixture of wheat, oats and barley pound for pound. This year the food was raised on the field, and being tested on the farm. Experiments were also undertaken for purposes of ascertaining the producing capacity of grain to sow, and it was found that it required heavier seeding than is the general practice. This undoubtedly is owing to the large size of the grain.

Oats. The experimental farms have always made a specialty of testing oats, believing that the yield from this grain is largely influenced by the varieties than perhaps in the case of any other grains. Over twenty varieties of oats have been tested, the best was obtained from the Early Maine variety, viz: 91 bush, 20 lbs. per acre. The second best yield was from the best variety, viz: 88 bush, 10 lbs. per acre.

The average yield, however, for the past six years has been 81 bush, 27 lbs. per acre, Banner oats yielding an average of 86 bushels per acre. The latter variety, Mr. Bedford thinks is the best for general culture. The most notable advance in the work of the farm was a kind imported from Great Britain called Tartar King. It is a white side oat with a long straw, and makes a magnificent showing in the field. No variety of oats in this province so much resembles the variety as this oat. The yield, however, was not remarkable. This is often the case with new varieties. The first few years, and it is expected that this variety will make a better showing later.

Barley. This grain has not done as well as we would expect this year, largely owing to rust, which is very prevalent. It was a grain very seldom grown in Manitoba has always given excellent returns and the sample is usually far superior to that obtained in Ontario. This is owing largely to the fact that we are not troubled with rust in this province. The average yield of the best twelve varieties last summer was 40 bush, 18 lbs. per acre. The average yield of the best twelve varieties of six years is 42 bush per acre. This year the sample is almost perfect.

Rubber Crop.

The root crop on this farm this year was phenomenal. For instance one variety of potato gave a return of 737 bushels per acre. The yield of the twelve best varieties was only a little below 600 bushels per acre and the quality was the very best. Field roots, such as turnips, mangels and carrots were also of excellent quality and yield.

Fodder.—The experimental farm here has always paid considerable attention to the hay and fodder crop. It was excellent, so much so that even now some of the fields are nearly covered with stock and the surplus to dispose of. The average yield of the six best varieties of hay was 1,000 pounds within a fraction of 23 tons of green fodder per acre. This yield was obtained by the use of the best varieties and is about two tons above the average. Mr. Bedford recommends the early ripening varieties of clover, such as, as they give a fodder of high quality. Bromo grass has also done well. An interesting incident occurred this year in testing the value of this grass as pasturage for steers. Two steers weighing about 1,000 pounds each were pastured all last summer on one acre of bromo grass. They made a gain of about 200 lbs. each during the months of May and August and are worth at present about \$17.15 more, or in other words the crop paid for the original cost of the land and 12.15 besides. Mr. Bedford is of the opinion that if farmers would break up many of the old pasture fields and re-seed them with bromo grass seed they would be able to quadruple the size of their herds on the same amount of pasturage.

Cattle.

In addition to the feeding experiments a number of milk cows are being kept on the farm for experiment. A striking feature of the work of the farm was shown this year. The half sisters, of milk from the two cows, one of large beefy animal, gave, in one year, 1,000 pounds of milk, averaging 6 pounds, 10 ounces per acre, an Ayrshire, while the half sister, one showing that the milking breed was not only less productive, but also made the milking term much longer.

Swine.—Generally speaking, three kinds of swine are kept on the farm. In addition to testing pure bred animals a number of crosses are made with cross breeds. Excellent bacon crosses of Berkshire developed from the work of the farm was done preferably with a Tamworth as the sire. This cross produces a good bacon. In addition to the work of the farm with a large Yorkshire is being made. From a number of experiments conducted at the farm it is evident that the cost of producing it is greatly lessened if the farmers of the province would use pasturage

more extensively for their swine. With the proper kind of pasturage they can be kept very cheaply during late in the summer and then finished with a small amount of grain. The following plants have been found useful for swine pasturage: Bromo grass and clover. At the present time the price for pork there should be large profits for the producer, if proper attention is given to the feeding.

Poultry.

Poultry has also proved very successful on the experimental farm. Generally three breeds of chickens are kept and these vary from time to time, as to test all different breeds in succession and to obtain equal results. At the present time the duck, Anas, are more generally raised this year with a death rate of 2 per cent from the time of hatching. The birds weighed 10 lbs. this fall. Mr. Bedford is, however, of the opinion that the Plymouth Rocks variety of different colors are more generally adapted to our province than any other breed.

Although this short summary covers a good deal of work done on the farm it does not by any means include all the work accomplished during the year. Manitoba is so new that the problems to be solved are both numerous and important. For this reason the work of the experimental farms is increasing rapidly each year.

Winnipeg Free Press.

Rubber Men Meet.

Toronto, Jan. 22.—Meetings of the two bodies interested in the rubber boot and shoe trade were held in this city to-day. The rubber shoe manufacturers of whom there are about 15 in the Dominion held a joint meeting in the Dominion held a joint meeting with the jobbers while the annual meeting of the Rubber Boot and Shoe Jobbers association of Canada was also held. As a result of the joint meeting there was drawn up a revised price list for the trade for the ensuing year. It was stated that there would be no advance in prices, but on the contrary the tendency is towards a local sale, owing to the American competition in the rubber trust in the United States last year, and in order to squeeze out competition reduced prices by about 10 per cent, and this it was expected would seriously affect prices in Canada. However, about the close of the year the trade announced an advance of about 5 per cent, which it is said has had the effect of steadying quotations over here.

At the annual meeting of the Rubber Boot and Shoe Manufacturers' Association of Canada, presided over by Robinson, of Montreal, president, Secretary, B. E. Pratt, of Montreal, stated owing to the organization of the jobbers into an association the trade situation was better than for years past. The demoralization under which the jobbers had been suffering has been done away with. The election of officers resulted as follows: President, A. McLaren, Toronto; first vice-president, W. E. Hanson, Toronto; second vice-president, W. S. Logan, Montreal; third vice-president, R. T. Johns, N. York; fourth vice-president, J. J. Kilgour, Winnipeg; treasurer, J. K. King, Toronto; secretary, J. P. Murray, Toronto. Local executives: Montreal, Jas. Robinson, A. Lambert, Toronto; Jos. Bonnie, A. C. Phelan, St. Catharines; Provinces, W. M. Angus and E. H. Rising, St. John, N. B.; the West, A. Congdon and A. A. Andrews, Winnipeg.

Interesting Legal Case.

At the court house, Winnipeg, Mr. Justice Dubeau delivered judgment in Davidson vs. Francis, a case which started, tried before his lordship a short time since. In June, 1899, plaintiffs entered into a contract with defendant to erect an addition and make alterations to a block of stores at the corner of Notre Dame and Isabel streets. The work was completed by Aug. 15, to the satisfaction of J. O. Greenfield, the architect. If the contractors failed to finish the work at or before the time specified they were to be ordered to erect \$3 a day while unfinished. The contractors finished the work about Jan. 20, 1900, when the architect gave a certificate, purporting to be a final certificate, of completion of the work, except four small items. Plaintiffs instituted this suit to re-

cover \$410.32, the amount due. Defendant declined to pay, alleging the work was not done in a proper and workmanlike manner; that he had instead of being finished on Aug. 15, 1899, was only completed on Jan. 23, 1900. They claimed inferior material was employed by the contractors the flooring of a portion of the building was made with flat grain instead of edge grain lumber as required by the specifications, and was of very short lengths; there was a gap of four feet left under the window sashes and the ceiling was not done and those around the old place were made to make an appearance of a complete floor mark at some places 2 to 3 1/2 inches lower than the level of the catch basin, so that water remained in the cellar; the outside of walls from footings to eaves were cemented, but it was not done, or done so badly that rain got through and damaged defendant's goods. The work was improperly done, so that water and ice leaked through it, and defendant had to pay another man \$25 to do it. Other defects were shown to the contractor and architect, by defendant, but they did not correct them.

Defendant also claimed damages by way of counter-claim, for damages to small amount of goods which were damaged or destroyed by water and by his wife being obliged to remain away between the 15th and 23rd of the middle of January, 1900, on account of the noise caused by the work going on, for having been deprived of the same period of an increase of \$10 a month rent from each of his two tenements. He also claimed for a sum of \$3 a day provided for by the contract for the delay which occurred between Aug. 15, 1900, and Jan. 23, 1900, should be allowed to him. His lordship decided that, taking in consideration all the circumstances of the case, he would hold that the plaintiffs were not entitled to recover any judgment, but that the defendant, with costs of suit, Mr. Taylor for plaintiffs, Mr. Ewart, K. C., and Mr. A. C. Ewart for defendant.

Ontario Lumber Cut.

The output of pine logs in the lumber belt of Ontario, according to estimates received by the Ontario department of crown lands from the timber inspectors, for the year 1901, is 945,000 cubic feet. This is the largest amount of lumber cut in the province for any year. Last year the quantity was estimated to be 700,000 cubic feet, but was actually 621,000 cubic feet, the difference being doubtless due in part to the great assistance by sawmills. The chief assistance by sawmills in 1901 was in the year 1901, 600,000 in each of the Webwood and Saginaw-Marie districts. The cut of sawn lumber this year amounted to 945,000 cubic feet. The wages in the lumber woods range from \$25 to \$30 per month with board, which is higher than usual.

The cut in the various districts this year is estimated as follows:

Pine logs—	Feet, B. M.
Perry Sound	168,000
Webwood	139,000
Ontario	139,000
St. Charles	139,000
Robur	100,000
St. John	60,000
Port George	60,000
Peterborough	40,000
Bevinsville	40,000
Port Arthur	100,000
Bevinsville	100,000
St. Charles	200
Port St. Marie	600,000
Pembroke	600,000

Winnipeg River Water Power.

It is reported that New York parties have been making a study of a proposal to develop water power on the Winnipeg river, 65 miles from the city. It is estimated that 100,000 horse power will be developed at once, and the power will be sold at a rate of \$10 per horse power per annum. The present cost of power in Winnipeg is estimated to be \$10 per annum, or to \$15 per horse power per annum. It is stated also that pulp and paper mills will be built, and a large quantity of pulp wood in the vicinity of the water power.

Ralph Jarvis has been appointed secretary of the Toronto board of trade in succession to E. A. Willis, whose resignation was recently announced.