

# THE BRITISH COLUMBIA COMMERCIAL JOURNAL

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## FARMING POSSIBILITIES.

"Advices from the chief hog sections west and north of Toronto state that owing to the profitable nature of hog raising last season, farmers are paying special attention to this industry, having raised large quantities, which will come upon the market during the coming winter. Owing to the low prices of corn, farmers say there is more money in turning it into pork than selling it. Fat hogs were, no doubt, the best paying product that the farmer had last year, and if it does not prove so this year, it will not be because of a shortage in the crop. There are potentialities in Canada for hog production which cannot be accurately gauged and there is little doubt that in this respect, as well as in butter and cheese, and corn and eggs, she has a bright future. At present she has not had too much encouragement to proceed from the Mother Country."—*Trade Review*.

It has been shown that there are sections of British Columbia where hogs can be profitably raised and fattened. Then why, we ask, should we be obliged to import our pork, bacon and hams from Ontario and elsewhere, thus occasioning a constant drain of money from the province which would benefit our people by its circulation among them? As for butter and cheese, the fact of our procuring them from other provinces and countries causes strangers to laugh at us and ridicule our economic policy. We have a fine agricultural country, and the exhibitions of the present fall have shown how great things British Columbia farmers can achieve, if they only lay themselves out to do it in a proper manner. Hon. Mr. Foster, when at Vancouver, made a reference that ought to gall some of our people—if such a thing as galling them were possible—that is when he commented on the fact that our poultry raisers appeared to be so helpless that they procured their chicken feed from Manitoba and the Northwest. Now, we ask why should this be, considering the adaptability of large sections of the province for grain raising?

Moreover, with the fine open winters which we usually have, it seems outrageous that eggs—and those not fresh natives, but packed in Ontario—should go up to such ruinous prices. Our province ought to be the poultry man's paradise, nevertheless, despite all our natural advantages, consumers are badly supplied with poultry and their products, while their cost is almost double in winter what they are in the cold and otherwise disadvantaged province of Quebec. Our farmers ought to look up. The papers have year after year been accustomed to talk in the most eulogistic manner of the Spanish agricultural show and to dwell upon the

vast amount of things which the farmers raise that would be put on the Victoria market so soon as the railway was built. A gentleman from the east who happened to be present at the last show says that the exhibition was not equal to that of a very ordinary third or fourth class show in Ontario, although he admitted that the natural advantages were much superior at Saanich and its vicinity. Let the farmers look alive, and, if they will do so and make every use of their opportunities, then no longer will they or any one else have to growl about city people buying their vegetables from Chinamen.

## THE ASH HEAP.

The following table shows the property valuations in the United States for 17 years with the losses by fire. In spite of the fact that the cities are equipped with all the modern fire-fighting appliances, the ash heap grows higher year after year, and the record for 1893 will show losses estimated at \$150,000,000:

Year	Property Valuation	Losses by Fire
1876	\$38,200,000,000	\$61,630,000
1877	39,827,107,217	68,265,800
1878	39,239,103,710	61,313,900
1879	39,881,196,911	77,703,701
1880	43,612,000,000	74,613,100
1881	40,179,223,681	81,239,000
1882	42,229,378,186	81,505,924
1883	43,917,029,000	100,119,228
1884	51,616,331,535	110,008,611
1885	55,215,030,883	162,818,796
1886	56,740,323,157	101,924,759
1887	57,151,000,000	120,283,055
1888	59,001,000,000	110,885,075
1889	60,710,000,000	123,916,883
1890	62,610,000,000	108,923,792
1891	61,500,000,000	143,761,967
1892	66,500,000,000	151,516,923

The total loss by fire during the period amounted to \$1,631,737,119, a yearly tax of \$2.30 on every man, woman and child in the country. The fire loss is increasing more than three times as fast as the wealth of the nation; fire insurance has multiplied twelve times in thirty-one years, while property has multiplied but four times. Every fire causes an absolute loss to the public which can never be reimbursed, and Griswold, the standard authority on insurance, states that two-thirds of the fires originate in fraud.

## CANADA ABROAD.

The Ottawa know-all of the *Colonist* has announced that it has been definitely decided that Canada will not take part in the proposed Midwinter exhibition at San Francisco in the beginning of 1894. This may be the case; but it is difficult to understand why in the same despatch it is stated that Canada will be represented at Antwerp in the agricultural, horticultural, mining and fishing departments. Of course, this decision will in no way determine the action of the different provinces, some of which at least will send their contributions to the Midwinter fair at the Golden Gate. Opinions will differ as to the wisdom of this course on the part of the Dominion. The country is devoting some attention to the development of trade with the colonies of Australasia and it would appear that, with existing facilities for travel, a large number of people from the Antipodes will attend the Pacific

coast show, and if Canada makes a mean showing there the effect will not be the most encouraging. We agree with the idea of making a good display at Antwerp; which is the centre of a large section of country from which Canada may expect to derive a large amount of emigration within the next few years.

We notice that some of the United States papers announce that a considerable number of settlers in the Canadian Northwest are preparing to remove to some of the Western States; but we cannot see what need there can be for any change on their part. If it be on the score of climate, the Northwestern states are just as inclement as any part of this country is; while the facilities for getting produce to market are very little behind those of our neighbors, though it is certain that both as to rates and service the Canadian Pacific can be much more accommodating than it now is. We are inclined to regard the despatch to which we refer as to some extent a piece of American bluff, inasmuch as Canadian immigration agents have been successfully at work in both the Western and New England states, and there is nothing in which our neighbors delight more than in retaliation. Moreover, if they do not succeed in enticing people away from this country, there is nothing in the American code of political or international morality which is likely to prevent them saying that they do.

## EX-PRIMEIR ABBOTT.

Since our last Sir John Abbott, ex-premier of Canada, is dead, having succumbed to an operation performed on him for cancer of the bowels. Throughout his career the deceased was a man of mark, but it was in his chosen profession—that of a lawyer—that he excelled. As a commercial jurist it would have been difficult, in the prime of his life to have found his equal at the bar of the Province of Quebec, though the present Judge Cross and Mr. Strachan B. Thune, Q. C., his brother-in-law, were, and the latter still is, among its brightest ornaments. Mr. Abbott had much to do with Canada's legislation on the subject of Insolvency. He was Solicitor-General in the old Parliament of Canada, and session after session occupied with marked ability the Chairmanship of the Committee on Banking and Commerce of the House of Commons. He became legal adviser of the Canadian Pacific Railway with the inception of that project, which with his political duties more recently, compelled him to retire from general practice. It is needless to attempt to sketch his career; he was a man of mark, what he did he was accustomed to do well; still it must be confessed that his devotion to the Canadian Pacific Railway interest had the effect of weakening his influence and caused his political opponents to continually discern in his actions the little finger of the great Canadian railway, whose presence in Canadian affairs, particularly in politics, has very frequently been the reverse of beneficial.

Things are looking brighter in England and fire insurance shares are rising all round.