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— IN —

THE COMMERCIAL

It reaches the Trade.

The Winnipeg Industrial.

The manager of the Winnipeg Industrial returned yesterday from the east, where he has been spending four weeks' holidays. He states that he met with very gratifying responses to applications he made on behalf of the Industrial, both from the minister of the Interior and the Canadian Pacific railway. The gift from the C. P. R. of an amount equal to the revenue they derive from freight on exhibits is indeed a donation worthy of a twentieth century fair and the sum received from the department of the Interior will enable the board to erect the British Columbia building, which should prove one of the most useful, as well as one of the most attractive features on the grounds. He had an opportunity of discussing the principal features of the British Columbia building and exhibit with Mr. Flummerfelt, ex-president of the Victoria board of trade, and an ex-Winnipegger, and also with Mr. Lewis, a leading lumberman, and both these gentlemen seemed very much impressed with the idea, and kindly promised to take the matter up with the British Columbia government and lumber companies interested on their return to the Pacific coast.

When asked if the Northern Pacific Railway Company and other railways had decided to make any grant towards assisting next year's exhibition, Mr. Fleubach said, that, so far he had not had an opportunity of discussing the subject with them, but in the past the association had always been treated with such consideration, that he felt every confidence that the other railway companies would do everything in their power to make Winnipeg's twentieth century fair, the greatest by far in the history of the association.

The Spread of the English Language.

English as the medium of converse has made rapid progress throughout the civilized countries of the world during the century, the last year of which we have started on. On this head a few statistical facts taken from the Journal of Commerce may prove instructive, we quote: "When the century began these people numbered only 22,000,000, or 16,000,000 less than the people who spoke German. 12,000,000 less than those who spoke French and 10,000,000 less even than those who spoke Spanish. As the century draws to its close, the people who speak English as their mother tongue number 127,000,000—an increase of 477 per cent. and a greater number than all the people who speak French and German combined. At the end of the last century there were in these United States only 5,000,000 inhabitants, the census with which this one will terminate will hardly show less than 75,000,000. In the same period the population of the United Kingdom has grown from 16,000,000 to 41,000,000, and the colonies of English race have increased from a few hundred thousand to between 11,000,000 and 12,000,000. At the beginning of the century the population of the European continent was 170,000,000. At its close the total approaches 348,000,000. Thus, while at the end of the last century the English-speaking family was outnumbered by the nations of continental Europe in the proportion of 8 to 1, it is outnumbered by them to-day in the proportion of 2.7 to 1 only."