

THE COMMERCIAL

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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 Canada, daily or weekly. The Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, SEPT. 16, 1899.

AN INTERESTING DECISION.

An interesting decision has recently been rendered by the United States Interstate Commerce Commission regarding several matters in dispute between grain shippers and the railway companies. The points raised were as to whether railway companies have a right to make a lower rate to the seaboard on grain intended for export than on grain intended for consumption at the terminal or intermediate points? Whether railroads have a right to charge a disproportionately higher rate of freight on flour intended for export than on wheat and whether they should be allowed to make better rates on flour intended for export from an interior point such as Minneapolis than from intermediate points between there and the seaboard.

On the whole the decision given is adverse to the railway contention. The commission holds that it is wrong for United States railroads to permanently transact business for foreigners at a lower rate than that which they give to domestic customers. This ruling disposes of the first point. On the second point the commission rules that both public policy and private interest require that the same rate be charged on export wheat and export flour allowing, of course, a small margin, estimated at not more than 2c per 100 pounds for the difference in bulk between the two. On the third point it is decided that no such discrimination, as a lower rate on export flour from Minneapolis than is given to points between there and the Atlantic railway terminals is allowable.

These decisions are regarded by the

interested parties as of far reaching importance although largely of a theoretical character as the commission's decisions will have to be fortified by rulings in court before they are rendered effective.

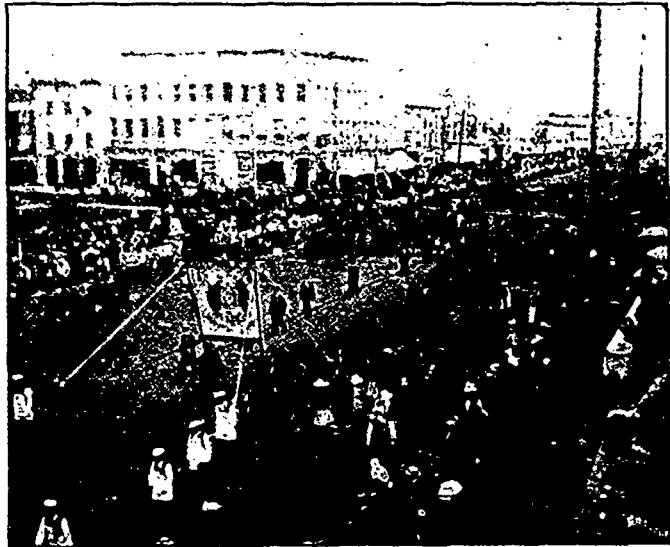
PROSPEROUS FARMERS.

The Canadian farmer is experiencing this year a period of prosperity which has seldom been equalled in the history of his business. There has been a decided improvement in the value of farm property and also in the current quotations for farm products. This is bringing its natural results in a betterment of the farmers' condition all around. For example the western farmer is getting a much higher level of prices for his grain this year than for some time past, live stock prices have advanced fully 25 per cent., and butter, cheese and eggs are each realizing higher than an average price. As an instance

comes greater, as it seems bound to do. In the meantime it is pleasing to know that the farmers are doing well and in many cases becoming better off by far than their neighbors who live in town.

LABOR DAY PARADE.

On this page is shown a view of a section of the recent labor day parade as it passed along Main street Winnipeg. The parade this year was a very large one and embraced practically every branch of labor and handicraft which is carried on in the city. Great pains were taken by its organizers to make the parade a success and they may fairly be congratulated upon the results of their efforts. A pleasing variety in the proceedings another year might be obtained by following the examples of the Minneapolis unions and opening a labor and industrial exposition in connection with the regular demonstration.



Section of Labor Day Parade, Winnipeg, Sept. 4, 1899.
From amateur photo by A. G. Wat on.

of the improvement in live stock prices horses which have been looked upon as unprofitable for a number of years may be mentioned. These are now yielding handsome returns to those farmers who are fortunate enough to have any for sale, while sheep and hogs are worth good figures at country points to-day. Manitoba should produce more of these animals and could do it at but very little cost if the business were given more attention. It seems too bad to see a fine farming country like this importing the horses which are used on the farms as well as a large percentage of its mutton and pork. More attention to these lines would pay handsomely at such prices as have prevailed this year. There is no doubt but that these neglected opportunities for augmenting his income will receive due attention from the farmer as time goes on and the demand be-

COLLECTION DEPARTMENTS.

This is the time of the year for western merchants to see that their collection departments are thoroughly organized. Although the credit system has been very much cried down in this country during the past three or four years, and the extent to which credit is given greatly curtailed, still the fact remains that much of the retail business done, especially at country points is on a credit basis, and probably always will be. There are practically only four months in the year when money can be said to be plentiful throughout this country and it is during these four months that most of the trading bills are met. With this fact in view, it is a good thing for the merchant who has accounts on his books to thoroughly prepare himself for the collection season. This is a de-