

THE COMMERCIAL

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D. W. BUCHANAN,
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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, MAY 12, 1900,

TRADE STATISTICS.

C. N. Bell, secretary of the Winnipeg board of trade is making himself useful in various ways affecting western interests, during his stay at Ottawa. One matter he has brought up is the mode of arranging export statistics. The custom has been to publish export statistics in the blue books by provinces. This would be all right if it could be done correctly. The plan followed, however, has been to credit the province, where the export entry was made with the merchandise exported. In this way the bulk of Manitoba's exports were credited to Ontario and Quebec, and in some cases even to Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, for exports made by eastern and maritime province ports. Under this plan, only exports made direct from Manitoba, were credited to the province, and instead of being credited with millions of bushels of wheat, etc., Manitoba would be set down in the statistical report for a few thousand bushels of wheat, or a few hundred barrels of flour, etc. To persons who did not understand the manner of making up these statistical compilations, the reports would be very misleading, and injurious to Manitoba and other interior districts. The mistake is, of course, in giving export statistics by provinces, when under the system of compilation they should be given only for the country as a whole. It is understood the department will remedy this grievance of the west. Statistics are of no value unless at least approximately correct. The plan of giving export statistics by provinces in such a peculiar manner is so absurd that it is a wonder how it was ever given in this form.

Experimental Farm Seed Grain Tests.

A bulletin has recently been issued by the Dominion department of agriculture showing the results obtained last year from trial plots of grain, fodder, field roots, etc., at the various experimental farms of the government throughout the Dominion. The information was furnished early enough so that farmers might have it as a guide in the selection of seed to be sown this year. The results obtained at the western farms should be of special interest to farmers in these parts. At the Brandon farm the tests of oats showed that the following six varieties gave the largest yields, the amount of the yield in each case being as given. Miller, 113 bushels, 15 pounds per acre; Banner, 110 bushels 10 pounds; Buckbee's, Illinois, 109 bushels 24 pounds; American Beauty, 108 bushels 23 pounds; Early Maine, 107 bushels 22 pounds; and Hazlett's Seizure, 106 bushels 13 pounds. At the Indian Head farm the following six varieties yielded best, Golden Beauty, 97 bushels 22 pounds per acre. Abundance, 97 bushels 2 pounds; Holstein Prolific, 97 bushels 2 pounds; Bavarian, 96 bushels 16 pounds; Banner, 95 bushels 30 pounds; New Zealand, 95 bushels 10 pounds. At the British Columbia farm the following six varieties gave best results: California Prolific Black, 91 bushels 6 pounds to the acre; Miller, 89 bushels 14 pounds; Salines, 83 bushels 13 pounds; New Zealand, 83 bushels 4 pounds; Black Tartarian, 78 bushels 23 pounds; and King, 78 bushels 14 pounds. Taking the results on all five of the government farms together the best showing by any variety of oats was made by American Beauty, which gave an average yield of over 35 bushels to the acre. Banner came next with very nearly the same yield, and Miller third.

The barley tests show equally interesting results. At Brandon the Logan variety yielded best among the two-rowed sorts with over 68 bushels, and the next five were Harvey, Dunham, Bolton, Fulton and Newton in the order named; the lowest yield being 61 bushels. At Indian Head Danish Chevallor gave best results with 66 bushels 32 pounds and French Chevallor, Sidney, Canadian, Thorp, Bolton and Durham following in the order named. The lowest yield of any of these was 57 bushels 4 pounds. At the British Columbia farm Newton yielded best with 39 bushels 8 pounds and Canadian, Thorp, Logan, Nepuan, Jarvis and Harvey in the order named. Of the six-rowed barleys at Brandon the Claude variety yielded best with 67 bushels 4 pounds and Summit, Trooper, Mansfield, Argyle and Royal in the order named, the latter going 61 bushels 42 pounds. At Indian Head Fennie's Improved yielded best with 60 bushels 28 pounds to the acre, and Trooper, Claude, Argyle, Mansfield and Blue Long head in the order named. At Agassiz, B. C., Baxter yielded best giving 40 bushels and 40 pounds to the acre, with Albert, Oderbruch, Nugent, Mansury and Argyle following.

In all fifty-two varieties of spring wheat were tested on the five farms. At Brandon the twelve best varieties proved to be as follows with their yield: Roumanian, 51 bushels 20 pounds; Goose, 50 bushels 20 pounds; Crown, 45 bushels 40 pounds; Laurel, 44 bushels; Dawn, 43 bushels; Huron, 42 bushels 20 pounds; Countess, 41 bushels 40 pounds; Byron, 41 bushels 20 pounds;

Advance, 40 bushels 30 pounds; Wellman's Fife, 40 bushels 10 pounds; White Russian, 39 bushels 40 pounds; Rio Grande, 39 bushels 40 pounds. At Indian Head, Red Fyfe yielded best with 39 bushels 40 pounds; and other varieties as follows: Alpha, 38 bushels 20 pounds; Red Fern, 38 bushels 20 lbs; Huron, 35 bushels, Dion's, 35 bushels; Hungarian, 34 bushels 40 pounds; Monarch, 34 bushels 20 pounds; Rio Grande, 34 bushels 20 pounds; Roumanian, 34 bushels 20 pounds; White Fyfe, 34 bushels 40 pounds; Blenheim, 33 bushels 40 pounds; and Preston, 33 bushels 20 pounds. At Agassiz, Monarch proved to be the best variety and yielded 34 bushels 20 pounds, while Huron, Red Fyfe, Red Fern, Preston, Hungarian, Goose, Clyde, Roumanian, Dion's, Weldon and Wellman's Fyfe followed in the order named.

These are the results of the principal grain crop tests and show that in some cases the varieties of grain most used by farmers for seed do not show the best results as regards yield when subjected to scientific tests.

Among the roots potatoes are the most important crop in this country. The Brandon farm found last year that the Delaware variety showed the largest yield with 403 bushels, Irish Daisy, and Troy Seedling following. At Indian Head American Wonder led, with 453 bushels and Burnaby Seedling, Bovee, Bill Nye, Early Sunrise and Brownell's Winner followed. At Agassiz Charles Downing led, with 462 bushels, and Irish Daisy, Sharpo's Seedling, Polaris, Thorburn, and Early Puritan followed.

Aluminum in 1899.

"The production of aluminum in 1899 continued to be in the hands of a single company in the United States, and the quantity turned out did not greatly exceed that of the preceding year, when the total was 5,200,000 pounds," says the Engineering and Mining Journal. "Arrangements are being made for an extension of works and a further increase of production, which will be manifest in 1900. It is to be regretted that the increase was not made in 1899, when the high price of copper and the great demand for electrical work presented an opportunity to extend the use of this metal, which may not occur again for a long time."

"As it is, there were several instances of the extended use of aluminum especially for conductors in the transmission of electric power, in which the low specific gravity of the metal gives it advantages over copper, notwithstanding its lower conductivity. In other directions there has been a gradual extension of the use of the metal for various purposes."

"The foreign production is increasing, and the establishment of new works in Great Britain has proceeded successfully. The French manufacturers have also enlarged their works."

"Prices of aluminum have remained without material change through the greater part of the year, a slight reduction in quotations having been made toward its close. The selling prices in the United States for No. 1 ingots (99 per cent. pure) range from 33 cents to 37 cents per pound, and No. 2 (90 per cent.) from 31 to 34 cents, while rolled sheets held at 42 cents and upward per pound, according to quantity purchased."

A. C. Sewell, until lately of the firm of Sewell & Burgess, Minnetonka, Minn., died last week.