

# The Commercial

A Journal of Commerce, Industry and Finance, specially devoted to the interests of eastern Canada, including that portion of Ontario west of Lake Superior, the provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Territories.

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WINNIPEG, SEPTEMBER 19, 1898

## A Millinery Item.

The ladies of Brandon have always been noted for their extreme modesty, but a young lady from Souris who was in town recently put them all in the shade. She wanted to buy a Leghorn hat, but not wishing to use such a vulgar expression, she asked for a "Limhorn Hat." The clerks were all stuck, and thought that some new line of hats had been brought out and they had failed to get it. The boss was called, and being a very modest man himself, he at once caught on, produced the Leghorn, and made the sale. Not seeing any of the clerks when he got through, he instituted a search, and found them in the trimming room, whither they had retired and duly fainted.—*Brandon Sun.*

## Flax Fibre.

J. A. Donaldson, agent of Dominion lands, writes THE COMMERCIAL from Toronto as follows:—"I am more than surprised at learning that the Mennonites make no use of the fibre of flax, of which they grow so much. Only yesterday I met a friend just out from Belfast where linen is manufactured largely. He states the crop has been good there this year, and the flax when scouted bring fifteen shillings sterling per stone. In Ontario the fibre is worth more than the seed. This is a rare opportunity for some party to start scutching machines."

## Our Experimental Farm.

Professor Shaw, of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, who has given Manitoba an extended visit this season, writes as follows of his trip to the Manitoba experimental farm at Brandon and the territorial farm at Indian Head:

When I visited your province in the latter part of July it was my privilege to spend some hours on each of the experimental farms at Brandon and Indian Head. I was so favorably impressed with what came under my

notice there that I decided at the time to give my impressions to the press, but have hitherto been hindered through the many duties that continually crop up and which demand immediate attention.

To say that I was pleased with the condition of these farms would be putting it mildly, and this applies not only to the excellent taste manifested in the division of the various portions, but also to the number and variety of crops grown, and the very large number of various kinds of trees and shrubs that are being experimented with, but also to the excellent condition of both farms as regards cleanliness. The management of both is evidently of a very high order. If the farmers interested who have a chance to visit these farms fail to do so, they are certainly making a huge mistake.

The farm at Brandon, which contains 620 acres, was not put in charge of Mr. Bedford until the autumn of 1888. The change that has been brought about in that time is simply amazing. I understand that there it was nearly all unbroken prairie; now about 300 acres are under cultivation. At the time of my visit the following test plots of grain were growing with much luxuriance, viz;

Wheat .....	135	plots from 1-10 to 1 acre
Oats .....	77	" " "
Barley .....	37	" " "
Fodder Plants ...	30	" " "
Grasses .....	51	" " "
Peas .....	17	" " "
Field roots .....	80	fractions of an acre.
Potatoes.....	60	" " "

Total ..... 486 plots.

In addition to these 50,000 young trees are being grown, embracing some fifty-five varieties. Three miles of double avenue and six miles of single avenue have been successfully planted and the shrubs and trees in these are of various stages of growth, according to the different ages of each. Of large fruit trees, 1,000 have been planted, including 100 varieties, and about 100 varieties of small fruits have been tried, nearly all of which are growing at this date. The selections and conditions of the live stock at this station pleased me much. The care bestowed upon them is creditable to Mr. Craig, the feeder. The buildings were in excellent condition as to cleanliness, and everything about the place indicated management of the first order. I was specially pleased with the main road running through the farm. It is a model after which the farmers in all Manitoba might well copy.

At Indian Head, Mr. McKay, the capable superintendent, is also doing an excellent work. Owing to some difference in climatic and soil conditions, Mr. McKay is not able to introduce so many varieties as are grown on the farm at Brandon, but he has done nobly in this respect. The following list gives the various kinds of produce grown and the number of varieties of each kind:—

Wheat .....	47	Varieties.
Barley .....	25	"
Oats .....	42	"
Peas .....	12	"
Fodder mixtures.....	6	"
Potatoes.....	37	"
Field roots .....	40	"
Corn .....	10	"

Total ..... 219

It will be observed that the numbers here relate to varieties rather than to plots; of many of the varieties several plots were grown. The area under crop is 215 acres, and the farm emt races 640 acres.

Mr. McKay has shown admirable taste in laying out the grounds, and the condition in which they are kept is deserving of high praise. Long lines of shrubs of various kinds border the plots where small fruits and vegetables grow, and also intersect them variously to hinder the high winds from blowing away the light soil. There are also avenues of trees

along the roads as at Brandon. The luxuriance of the crops on this farm is very marked. The height of the grain was a feature which at once arrested the attention of the visitor from Ontario. The buildings here also were kept in first-class shape, and the live stock were creditable. A coulee running through the farm has been dammed just before it leaves the same, thus forming what may be termed a miniature lake within the farm itself, which adds much to its beauty and furnishes water in never-failing supply for the buildings. I take it for granted that this farm has not been longer in hand than that at Brandon, though I did not ask as to this. It should be of incalculable service to the farmers of the Northwest Territory. It is finding out for them the most suitable grains, grasses, trees, shrubs, roots and fruits to be grown there. It is showing them how these can be grown in best form, and with the least labor, and it is solving the problems for them in live stock and dairying which should prove highly valuable.

It has been my privilege during recent years to visit a number of the experiment station farms across the American border. I think I have seen the best of them, but I have not seen any on that side of the line which will lead either of these two farms in the various departments of field work. And this applies not only to the condition in which the farms are kept, but also to the utility of the work that is being done. I was also greatly pleased with the economy in the management of both, manifest in the small number of the work hands in comparison with the work done by them.

## Some Favorable Business Features.

While it would be unreasonable to expect any general revival in business until the finances of the country are put upon a basis which will command the confidence of men in business, yet there are signs of returning reason among the people at large. There is less hoarding of currency, and there are indications that some which has disappeared is coming back from its hiding places. Suspended banks that were in a solvent condition are resuming business again, and many manufactories that ceased operations on account of the monetary stringency, either have already resumed operations or are contemplating doing so in the early future. While the manufacture of goods has been greatly restricted consumption has been going on, perhaps not to the usual extent, but in excess of the output, and now the markets have become depleted of supplies to such an extent as to require replenishing with many articles. Among the resumptious are rolling mills, nail mills, cotton mills, shoe factories, coal mines, etc. A vast number of factories have never closed at all, and some only temporarily for repairs, so that the suspension of production has been only partial. That there is a large proportion of manufacturers in the United States who have capital sufficient to make them independent of banking facilities is apparent, but that all must have been more or less inconvenienced by the panic which has prevailed is undoubtedly true, and yet that such a large number have moved right along without giving outward signs of embarrassment shows a condition of trade that is highly encouraging. It is quite probable that one important effect of the times through which we are passing will be to bring business of all kinds more nearly to a cash basis. Extended credits can not be granted by many, and will not be in favor with others. And if there should eventually be legislation favorable to a renewal of confidence, as now seems probable, business will be on a better and safer basis than it has been for a long time. The most unfavorable feature is the large army of unemployed, and it is for this reason that the delay of Congress in doing the right thing promptly is especially to be deprecated, but there are reasonable prospects that it will be done.—*Cincinnati Price Current, Sept. 1.*

