

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, SEPTEMBER 26, 1892.

MANITOBA'S PROGRESS.

Only six of the spring wheat states of the republic had more acres in wheat this year than Manitoba. Of the states Minnesota leads in wheat area, and the remaining five, in the order of greatest wheat area are, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska and Wisconsin. There are twelve other states which are classed as spring wheat states, but excepting Oregon, their wheat area is very small, all being under 150,000 acres, and all but two under 100,000 acres. The spring wheat country of the United States is therefore really confined to the region between lakes Superior and Michigan and the eastern slope of the Rocky mountains. Manitoba has also a larger area of spring wheat than Ontario or any other province of Canada, but it may be mentioned that Ontario grows more winter than spring wheat.

While Manitoba stands seventh in the list of provinces and states in the area of spring wheat, she stands fifth in the aggregate quantity of this class of grain produced this year. In point of yield per acre, Manitoba leads the continent at a considerable distance ahead, and it is satisfactory to know that our province of Ontario stands second only to Manitoba. The official estimate of yield per acre is 22.7 bushels in Manitoba, 17.4 bushels in Ontario, and about 12 bushels in the principal spring wheat states.

The position of Manitoba shows wonderful progress in comparison with what the province produced ten or twelve years ago. Twelve years ago, four or five million bushels would cover the total production of all kinds of grain in Manitoba. This year, according to official estimates, there will be about 37,000,000 bushels of grain crops, or an increase of 700 to 900 per cent. in the twelve years.

NEWFOUNDLAND AND CANADA.

A despatch from Ottawa last week said that the Newfoundland government had communicated with the Dominion government, with a view to the holding of a conference for the discussion of trade and fishery questions. Canada and Newfoundland are intimately associated together in many ways. They are in the first place both British-American countries, though entirely independent of each other. The fishery question, which is the all important matter in Newfoundland, is to a considerable extent a Canadian question also. In any regulations or legislation concerning the fisheries, especially as concerns the granting of privileges to foreign countries, the interests of Canada and Newfoundland cannot be separated, without doing injury to either one or the other. This being the case, it is necessary that many matters affecting Canada and Newfoundland should be taken together and considered as affecting the two countries, rather than only the one.

At various times there has been more or less discussion as to the entrance of Newfoundland into the Canadian Confederation. There are one or two questions which Newfoundland has

on hand, which it would be desirable to have settled before such an event took place. The French shore question is the most disturbing matter which troubles the island colony, and were Newfoundland to enter this confederation of provinces, this troublesome matter would then become a Canadian question. At present it is a dispute which we are well clear of, but possibly the greater influence which Canada could bring to bear upon the Imperial and French governments, would bring about a solution of the difficulty which Newfoundland is unable to attain. Union or no union, however, the two countries being both British, and having inter-colonial questions which can best be considered in common, it is necessary that there should be the greatest commercial freedom and friendliness between them. It is to be hoped that the proposed conference between representatives of the two governments will therefore take place and that it will result in the satisfactory arrangement of any differences as well as in the extension of commercial freedom between Canada and the island.

There is another view of the matter which is important. In these days we hear a great deal about an imperial federation of the British world. Many others who do not go so far as to advocate political federation, are in favor of a sort of commercial federation of the empire, on the basis of a preferential trade arrangement. If political federation ever comes, it will follow, and not lead to commercial federation. It is further evident that the British colonies will have to take the lead in furthering the extension of either trade or political federation ideas. The best way for the colonies to do this is to confederate themselves. Canada has set a good example in the union of the provinces which now compose the Dominion, and the success of their confederation is to-day the principal incentive to the imperial federation movement. The union of Newfoundland with Canada would greatly strengthen the movement toward closer commercial and political union of the British possessions.

The union of Newfoundland with Canada would be an important step in the direction of harmonizing inter-British interests. Newfoundland questions would become Canadian questions, and Canadian questions would become Newfoundland questions. Thus the number of varying issues and interests would be reduced. The dispute between the Dominion and the island colony a short time ago, was pointed to as a powerful example by those who do not favor the extension of closer relations between the different British countries. A union now would undo this example, and show that even where supposed antagonistic interests existed, it had been found possible to harmonize and unify them.

The confederation of the Australasian colonies, and of the South African colonies, would be great advances toward the idea of some measure of imperial union. A number of independent colonial governments existing together are always certain to have some differences at issue between them, as was shown recently in the case of Canada and Newfoundland. The confederation of groups of colonies would tend to strengthen and harmonize the British world, and perhaps at some time in

the future even lead to what may now appear remote and visionary—imperial federation.

Available supply of Breadstuffs.

The report of the stocks of breadstuffs in Europe at the close of August exhibit only a slight change in the aggregate—an increase of only 48,000 bushels. The quantities afloat increased 1,248,000 bushels, of which 200,000 bushels were to the United Kingdom, 448,000 bushels to the continent, and 600,000 bushels for "orders." The aggregate supplies in store in the principal countries show a decrease of 1,200,000 bushels. Stocks in the United Kingdom were enlarged 1,000,000 bushels, which is probably due to arrivals from the Atlantic ports—that section of Europe being the principal purchaser of breadstuffs at present. Supplies in France decreased 1,400,000 bushels, while those in Belgium, Holland and Germany were increased 800,000 bushels. Stocks in Russia decreased 1,600,000 bushels. The aggregate supplies in store and afloat are 4,900,000 bushels larger than reported on September 1st, 1891. At that time the aggregate quantity afloat was 13,450,000 bushels larger, while the supplies in store were 19,300,000 bushels smaller.

DOMESTIC SUPPLIES.

The supplies of flour and wheat in the United States and Canada—at the points reported to the *Daily Trade Bulletin*—increased about 22,721,300 bushels during the month of August. Any one who has been watching the receipts at the leading grain markets will not be surprised at this increase, as farmers have been free sellers, especially during the first twenty days of the month. The stock of flour increased 170,967 bbls. The movement of wheat from first hands during August was unusually heavy, especially in the winter wheat states. Farmers apparently were willing to sell and paid little attention to range of values. In some sections there was considerable old wheat disposed of. Stocks having materially enlarged in all the principal wheat raising states. The aggregate stocks of wheat in the United States and Canada increased 21,925,000 bushels during August. In Canada, stocks decreased 520,000 bushels, consequently the increase in the United States was equal about 22,445,000 bushels. The enlargement is almost exclusively in the winter wheat states—the Northwest, Louisiana, Texas, and Colorado and Utah only showing decreases, and these were small excepting in the Northwest.

THE STATISTICAL POSITION.

The general estimates of the supplies of wheat in all hands on July 1st, 1892, approximated 70,000,000 bushels. Estimating the present crop at 495,000,000 bushels the available supply for all purposes during the crop year may be estimated at 565,000,000 bushels. Allowing a domestic consumption of 26,000,000 bushels per month, and the aggregate would be 312,000,000 bushels, and the quantity required for seeding 53,000,000 bushels. Deducting these estimates from the aggregate and the quantity available for export and surplus would be 200,000,000 bushels. Allowing 50,000,000 bushels as surplus on July 1st, 1893, and the quantity available for export would be about 150,000,000 bushels. The exports during the past two months were about 31,000,000 bushels, consequently there remains on hand for ten months' export approximately 119,000,000 bushels—equal to about 11,900,000 bushels per month. The average monthly exports during 1891-92 were about 18,800,000 bushels per month.

The aggregate supplies in the United States and Canada, in Europe and on passage Sept. 1, were about 145,737,000 bushels, against 122,968,000 bushels one month ago—an increase of 22,769,000 bushels. The aggregate supplies on hand on September 1, 1891, were 112,773,000 bushels, against 110,274,000 bushels on August 1. The supplies on hand on September 1 were 32,964,000 bushels larger than one year ago.—*Chicago Daily Trade Bulletin*.