

rise in prices there. The market here is very stiff and next week a considerable advance will no doubt be reported. Quotations are: Eastern creamery in 20 and 25 lb tubs, 29c; 28c in 50 and 75 lb tubs; Manitoba dairy, 22 to 23c; B.C. dairy, 20 to 22c. The last named, however, does not sell readily. Ontario cheese is 13c; Manitoba, 12½c; 10 lb creamery cheese, fancy, 16c.

**DRESSED MEATS, LIVE STOCK, ETC.**—Live steers, are quoted at 4c; cows, 3½c; dressed beef, 7½c; lambs \$4.50 apiece; dressed 5½c; sheep 5½c; mutton, 12c; hogs 8c; pork, 11c; calves, 7c; veal, 11c. So far no reduction has been made in the price of beef. A cut is expected daily.

**HONEY.**—Smith Bros. Chilliwack, quote as follows: 1 lb glasses, per dozen, \$2.75; 1 lb combs, per dozen, \$2.50; 3 lb jars, per dozen, \$7.75; eastern honey is 12c per pound; strained honey, 13c.

**SUGARS.**—Quotations are: Dry granulated 5½c; extra C 5½c; fancy yellow 5c; yellow 4½c; golden C 4½c; syrups per lb 4c; Redpath's syrups 2 lb tin 15c; do 8 lb tins 50c; do kegs 3½c per lb.

**FRUITS, NUTS, ETC.**—Foreign fruits are beginning to get scarce, with the exception of grapes, pears and apples. Apples are coming into the market freely from California, Oregon, British Columbia and Ontario. The first consignment of Ontario snow apples were received on Saturday and were in prime condition, selling readily at \$6 per barrel. Several more car loads have been ordered and are on the way. Quotations are: Sicily lemons \$8.50; California lemons, \$8; cocoanuts \$1 per doz; bananas \$3.75. Turkish figs, 14½c, almonds 18c; walnuts 15c; filberts 15c; pine 20c; peanuts 10c; evaporated apples 13 to 14c; apricots 16 to 18c; apples in boxes 13 to 14c; nectarines 13 to 16c; peaches unpeeled 15½ to 17c; pears peeled and sliced 12 to 14c; plums, pitted 12½ to 13½c; prunes in sacks 12 to 14c; prunes in boxes 13 to 15c; strained honey, 13c; raisins, \$2 to \$2.75; B.C. apples, 75c to \$1.25; Cal. (fancy table) \$1.50; Portland, \$1.25; eastern apples (fameuse), \$6 per bbl.; pears, \$1.80 to \$2; grapes \$1.60; cranberries scarce and in demand, 45c per gal.; oranges, (Mexican), \$5; quinces, \$1.75.

**LUMBER.**—Nominal. Quotations are as follows, but the market is in a very unsettled state, a good deal of cutting going on in all lines. For export: Rough merchantable, ordinary sizes, in lengths to 40 feet, inclusive, \$9 per M feet; deck plank, rough, average length 35 feet, per M, \$19; dressed T. and G. flooring \$17; picket, rough, \$9; lath, 4 feet, \$2 per M. Local quotations: Rough merchantable lumber per M \$12; double dressed and edged \$22.50; single do \$20; No. 1 tongued and grooved flooring, 1 x 4, \$22.40; rough deck plank \$14, laths per M \$2.25; shingles, common, per m, \$2.00. On the Island, however, the Victoria Lumber Exchange, which had kept up a standard, has abolished the May price list and a drop in prices may be expected. This has arisen owing to the refusal of the new Sayward Milling Company to adopt the exchange list. The export trade continues active, principally on account of the low freights, but prices are low.

#### One People, One Policy.

For years THE COMMERCIAL has advocated the policy of a united West. From Port Arthur to the Pacific Ocean there is a community of interest that does not obtain elsewhere in Canada. The "Height of Land," proverbial in provincial politics, is a dividing line that separates the East from the West in the British half of the continent. It is the Rubicon which was crossed when the Canadian Pacific railway was projected across the continent and made the chain linking the scattered line of provinces into a federal whole. While THE COMMERCIAL does not by this imply that Canada is divided in interest it means that there are in the great west industrial possibilities and natural resources that peculiarly ally its various parts and make it distinctively

a country the development of which depends on common, mutual effort. To a large extent the building up of the West has drawn from the vital resources of Eastern Canada, and still Canada as a whole has benefited by the latter's growth, benefitted greatly none will deny. The hopes of Canada for some years have been mainly directed to the West, the great extent and resources of which opened on her, in the language of Canada's, most gifted vice-regent, "illimitable possibilities." Considering, therefore, the west (meaning the whole prairie country) and British Columbia as apart from all the rest of the Dominion, their interests may rightly be regarded as one. This is a fact that the people of none of the western provinces have sufficiently recognized. It is really the keynote of success. By nature they are the true complement of each other. Manitoba and the Northwest with their limitless wheat fields and stock ranges supply an important element of the necessities of life, which British Columbia so far has found essential to import. The latter with its horticultural possibilities its timber and its fisheries should find east of the Rockies their best and most profitable outlet. Each is naturally anxious for "teeming populations," and there is evident that rivalry of claims as to climate, soil products, etc., laudable perhaps, the outcome of developing communities, side by side, with large absorbing capabilities, which marks most western districts, whether belonging to the same country or not.

Now that each is adopting or would strive to adopt what is known as a "vigorous immigration policy" and as the Dominion Government has recently declared its intention of relegating to the different provinces the duty, may we call it, of advertising its own resources, it may be well to consider if a more harmonious line of policy should not be adopted between this and the prairie provinces. Both provinces have gravely overlooked the fact that upon the peopling of the respective fields depends much of their own success. This applies more particularly to British Columbia. Generally speaking it is not a dominating theory here, though perhaps passively agreed to, that upon the filling up of the Northwest more than anything else hangs our industrial future. At present there is a considerable trade in lumber and fish and if we could supply it, there is a large demand for our fruit. But suppose the present say 200,000 people in the Northwest were increased, not to be unduly optimistic, to one million or what is easily possible to five or ten millions, what then? It means more for British Columbia than it is possible to conjecture. Our need of foreign markets is then completely absorbed and swallowed up in the more pressing demands of a people a few hundred miles away. One even hesitates to say whether our resources would be equal to what the prospect opens up in such an event.

On the other hand every additional inhabitant in British Columbia means another consumer of North-west flour, beef and butter.

Another important fact has been overlooked, that a considerable percentage of the population of British Columbia has percolated through Manitoba and the Territories and this will always continue by a natural selection of climate, locality and occupation.

Therefore it is perfectly obvious that every immigrant obtained for Manitoba and the other Northwest provinces is a positive gain to British Columbia, as much so almost as if he settled west of the Rockies. He is a consumer and a possible settler.

The moral is plain. The governments of the western provinces should unite and "pool" their efforts. In other words, they should economise energy and immigration expenditure by working through common agencies. The class of immigrants in the line of farming, required by each, is entirely distinct, and claims cannot clash. We have therefore, spread out to the world a variety of choice to the settler and why waste opposing efforts in the way of inducements. The Northwest will naturally absorb more rapidly which will react

on this province by the expansion of industry to keep pace with the market for fruit, fish, lumber and certain other products caused thereby.

If a conference were held representing the governments and the leading boards of trade the lines of co-operation could be easily marked out. They are, in fact, defined by nature.

Belief in the common destiny of the two great western sections of Canada has always actuated THE COMMERCIAL, and to desire as it should be of every inhabitant of both, is to see a policy having its speedy accomplishment in view, adopted.

#### Two Commissions.

For the unravelling of knotty problems royal commissions are the popular modern means. There are two now in session at Victoria. One is an international affair, for the purpose of enquiring into the particulars of the seizure of the Coquitlan in Alaskan waters. The evidence elicited so far proves that the steamer discharged no cargo in port, whither she went for water and where she was pounced upon by the American cutter Corwin. Nor was any cargo discharged or taken on within the three-mile limit. The steamer simply towed the sealers into what has always been regarded by the law of nations, the open sea, beyond the three-mile limit and there gave them supplies and took off seal skins, the purpose for which she was legitimately chartered. It seems, however, a new point will be raised on behalf of the right of the Americans to seize, viz., that there is a twelve-mile limit, all inside of which is American water and over which Americans have jurisdiction. Whether, even if this novel and extremely interesting contention be established, the Coquitlan would be liable is not clear as there seems to be some confusion of evidence as to just how far from land or where these transfers of skins and supplies took place; but in any event it would be construed the world over as inflicting an unparalleled hardship to confiscate a steamer and valuable cargo for overstepping a marine limit the existence of which had never heretofore been recognized. The captain of the Coquitlan in every respect seems to have acted quite regularly and if the punishment goes into effect it will obviously be on a technicality so slender that any nation or court would surrender its dignity to act upon it.

The other is a Royal Commission ferreting out the true inwardness of the small pox epidemic in this Province. The commissioners are making a tour of the four cities of the coast. So far nothing has been brought out to cause THE COMMERCIAL to alter the opinion expressed in a recent issue regarding the utility of the commission in question, nothing at all events which was already pretty well known, but the report of the commission, which might almost be anticipated from the outset from existing knowledge of circumstances in connection with the small pox outbreak of last summer, will be the groundwork and justification for certain legislation regarding the public health to be introduced next session of the legislature. Without in any way aiming to forestall conclusions, evidence goes to indicate what may be fairly deducible: 1st, that small pox was introduced by the Canadian Pacific line of steamers, pointing to the necessity of a rigid quarantine being enforced at Albert Head, and an efficient and thorough inspection of ships coming into port; 2nd, that the efforts by some of the municipalities to stamp out the disease were neither effectual nor energetic, and that governmental intervention was necessary and justifiable; 3rd, that a comprehensive revision of health laws and uniform methods of enforcement are desirable. Another matter that will probably have attention will be the rights and limits of local quarantine. As a matter affecting trade and commerce, this latter consideration is most important.

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