

THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters pertaining to trade and progress in Western Canada, including that part of the great west of Lake Superior, the province of Manitoba and the Territories.

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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.

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THE WAR ENDS.

The happy announcement was made on Sunday last that an agreement had been signed ending the war in

must be kept in mind that at no time was the energy of the empire greatly aroused. The effort could hardly be likened to the lifting of the left arm, compared with the force held in reserve, which could have been exerted, if required. Probably the main danger was the possibility of trouble with some other nation or combination of nations, while the struggle in Africa continued. This has happily been averted, though intense hatred has been shown to the British people throughout almost all continental Europe during the progress of the strife. Now that the trouble in Africa has been settled, the empire stands forth in an almost invulnerable position.

Another feature of the war worthy of note is the establishment of a new record in the movement of forces. The greatest military force ever moved by sea, has been equipped and speedily transported thousands of miles by the British Empire. While the Boer force was not great in point of numbers, they had the vast advantage of being at home and at their base of supplies, and they held a territory which was peculiarly adapted to defensive warfare. They also had a splendid equipment of artillery. Having therefore everything in their favor, it required a vastly superior attacking force to dislodge them, and afterwards garril-

which should include the two British colonies of Cape Colony and Natal. There were a great many people in these two colonies who in race, language and sympathy were with the Boers. The result, however, has been that the trouble has been wound up by the agreement of the Boers to become British subjects. It is to be hoped that they will speedily become good British subjects. As a people they possess many good points. The sturdy Dutch and French Huguenot stock from which they sprang gives them a blood record worthy of British citizenship, and of equality with the British race. The tenacity which they have shown in keeping up the struggle for a hopeless cause, has won them the respect of the British people. They will undoubtedly receive every consideration from the British residents of the country, and it is to be hoped they will speedily become reconciled to the situation.

Under British rule these South African countries will make more rapid progress than ever before. New population will flow in, and the great natural resources which languished under the Boer system of government, will be speedily developed. The climate of the country is well adapted to the development of the Anglo-Saxon type—in fact is the part of Africa best adapted to the settlement of the Brit-

ish to keep fire-arms. The military administration of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony will at the earliest possible date be succeeded by a civil government, and as soon as circumstances permit, representative institutions, leading up to self-government, will be introduced. The question of granting the franchise to natives will not be decided until after the introduction of self-government. No special tax will be imposed on landed property in the Transvaal or Orange River Colony to defray the expenses of the war. Liberal financial arrangements will be provided to assist the Boer farmers to re-establish themselves. This includes a grant of \$15,000,000 by the British government. No foreigners or rebels (a great many of whom were in the Boer ranks) will share in these financial benefits. Rebels (British subjects resident in Cape Colony or Natal) who joined with or assisted the Boers, are to be dealt with according to the laws of these colonies, but it is understood that the death penalty will not be enforced in any case.

Those terms, it cannot be said, are unreasonably liberal. The Boers, it is understood, demanded a general amnesty for their kinfolk in Natal and Cape Colony who joined or assisted them in the war, but this, it will be seen, has not been granted. No men-



Western Farm Homes—Buildings of G. and B. Spring-Rice, Pense, Assa.

with Africa. This news was received with rejoicing throughout the empire, and the event was celebrated in London perhaps almost as enthusiastically as in the mother country. This is the first war, we may say, in which the British Empire has been engaged. The mother country has had many wars, but the empire only one. While there was no obligation on the part of the colonies to take part in the strife, they voluntarily made it their own affair, and entered into the fight of the contest with as keen interest as if the future of each individual colony depended upon the result. This has placed the British Empire in a new light before the world. The fact has now been made apparent to the world that the different members of the empire stand united to repel an attack upon any one member of the family of nations composing the empire. A new and greater self-power than has been, has been added, or at least has been made apparent, as a result of the Boer war. It is perhaps the greatest feature resulting from the troubles in South Africa. The fact that Canada alone, without any apparent effort, sent over 100,000 men to the war, is an indication of the mighty force which the empire could exert if fully aroused. This struggle there was never any doubt as to the final outcome, and it

son and hold the vast area of country throughout which military operations were carried on.

The immediate outcome of the war is the addition of the two South African republics to the British Empire. The Orange Free State has an area of 48,236 square miles. It is considered a healthful country. The people were engaged mainly in stock raising and agriculture. The South African Republic, also known as the Transvaal, has an area of 113,642 square miles, or including Swaziland, over which the Boers claimed a protectorate, 119,792 square miles. Besides stock raising and agriculture, the country possesses great mineral wealth. The combined area of the two republics is therefore about 168,000 square miles, or somewhat greater than two and one-half times the area of the province of Manitoba. The important articles of export are gold, wool, cattle, grain, hides and skins, leather, fruits, tobacco, ivory, ostrich feathers, butter, brandy, silver, lead, copper. Good coal is produced. The climate is healthful.

It is undoubtedly true that when the two Boer republics combined to make war on Great Britain, they had every faith in their ability to overrun and hold the two British colonies in South Africa, with the ultimate object of forming a great African confederacy,

ish people. There is likely to be a large flow of immigration from Great Britain to the new possessions, with the prospect that the population of British origin will soon largely outnumber those of Dutch or Boer descent.

In the rapid development of the country, which is sure to follow the close of the war, there will undoubtedly be opportunities for developing trades of which Canada should secure a liberal share. We are sure and can export many commodities which will be required in British South Africa. During the war some large shipments of Canadian products have been made to South Africa, and in the trade of the future with that part of the empire Canada will, no doubt, make a good showing.

The terms of surrender allowed the Boers are fairly liberal. The burghers agree to surrender all the rifles, guns and munition of war in their possession, and acknowledge British sovereignty. All prisoners are to be brought back to South Africa. No action is to be taken against the prisoners, except where guilty of a breach of the rules of war. The Dutch language is to be allowed in the schools, if desired by the parents, and used in the courts, if necessary. Rifles are allowed the Boer farmers, when necessary for their protection, but they must take out a li-

tion is made of the rebels in the terms of peace, but the Boers were given to understand that the rebels would not be dealt with by the military authorities if they surrendered at once and returned to their homes. The understanding is that the Cape rebels will be disfranchised for life. In any case, they are to be dealt with by the authorities of the colonies to which they belong.

THE DOMINION BANK.

The statement presented at the thirty-first annual meeting of the bank shows a large increase in business for the year. Circulation has gone up from \$1,790,000 to \$2,228,000. The capital stock of \$2,500,000 is now all paid up, and the premium received upon the new stock since last annual meeting has been used to bring the rest up to the equal amount, \$2,500,000. Earnings were very satisfactory, allowing for \$205,365 to be carried forward after the payment of ten per cent. of the total assets, and the per cent. dividend. Deposits continue steadily to increase from \$577,000 a year ago to \$20,862,000 now. Readily available assets show nearly forty per cent. of the total assets, and are approximately twenty-nine millions of dollars. Altogether the statement is one which will be received with every satisfaction by the shareholders, the large percentage of earnings of the previous year having been maintained.