

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, MAY 6, 1895.

EXPERIMENTAL FARM REPORTS.

A bulletin has recently been issued by the Dominion agricultural department, prepared by Prof. Saunders, giving results of experiments with early, medium and late sowing, for a series of years. The various experimental farms carried on under the direction of the department have been experimenting for years to decide as to the best time for sowing the various crops, and the bulletin gives the results of these tests. The bulletin has appeared too late to be of much value in Manitoba this year, as the bulk of the grain crops were sown before it was distributed here. However, it will be interesting to glance at the results as shown by the bulletin. In the provinces of Ontario and Quebec very much better results were obtained from early seeding, and each successive seeding, one week apart, showed decreasing yields. In the maritime provinces the results were not so largely in favor of early seeding. The first three sowings gave about the same results, but after that there was a steady falling off, as a rule, in each successive sowing. In Manitoba and the Territories, however, the experience gained has been quite different, the advantage being rather with later seeding up to certain date. In British Columbia the advantage was also in favor of the later sowings.

At the experimental farm at Brandon, Manitoba, six sowings were made each year, each sowing one week later than the preceding one. Beginning with oats, in the year 1892, the first sowing was made on April 23, and gave 30 bushels 30 pounds; sown on May 7 gave 33 bushels; sown on May 14 gave 33 bushels; sown on May 21 gave 50 bushels 30 pounds; sown on May 28 gave 55 bushels 30 lbs; sown on June 4 gave 53½ bushels. This was from the prize cluster variety. The banner oat, tested in the same way, gave from 60 to 70 bushels to the acre, the second and third sowing giving the best yields. In 1893 the best yield of oats was from that sown on May 9, namely, 69½ bushels per acre. In 1891 the best yield of oats was from the sowing made on May 8, being 76 bushels per acre. The best results with oats were obtained from sowings made between the 7th and 16th of May.

With the barley experiments at the Brandon farm the results were even more pronounced in favor of late sowing. In 1892 the largest yield of barley was obtained from the last sowing made, on June 4th, the yield being 61½ bushels. In 1893 the sowing made on May 16 gave the best return, and in 1894 the best return was from the sowing made on May 22. For the three years the aggregate result was as follows: First sowing, average yield 41 bushels, second sowing 43, third sow-

ing 45 bushels, fourth sowing 45 bushels, fifth sowing 47 bushels, sixth sowing 46 bushels.

With wheat the best yield in 1892 was obtained from the sowing on May 14, though the plots sown on May 7 were almost as good. In 1893 May 9 gave the best result. In 1891, May 1 gave 33½ bushels, May 8 gave 31 bushels, May 15 gave 33 bushels, May 22 gave 32 bushels, May 29 gave 29½ bushels and June 5 gave 22½ bushels per acre of red fife wheat. The average yield of wheat for the three years was as follows: First sowing 30 bushels, second sowing 31½ bushels, third sowing 29½ bushels, fourth sowing 28½ bushels, fifth sowing 21½ bushels, sixth sowing 21 bushels per acre. The result with wheat indicates that there is no advantage in point of yield in very early sowing, and sometimes a decided loss, but it shows that wheat should be sown by the middle of May, as after that date there is a decided falling off in the yield.

A PROSPEROUS COMPANY.

Canada has gained an enviable reputation in life insurance for the stability and good management of her life companies, and among these companies the Confederation Life Association takes a leading place. The Confederation Life has had a prosperous career indeed, and for careful management, stability, and the high security which it offers to its policy holders, it is not surpassed in the estimation in which it is held by any other company. The low rate of mortality experienced by the leading Canadian companies, as compared with British and foreign companies, enables the former to give their policy holders the most ample security at the lowest rates. By confining its business to the home field the Confederation Life is enabled to take the full benefit of this advantage which the purely Canadian companies enjoy in the low cost of insurance and thus the benefit is preserved to its policy holders. Of the twenty-five and a half million dollars of insurance in force by the company only about \$100,000 is outside of the Dominion. The Confederation Life has done a prosperous business during the past year, as will be seen by the twenty-third annual report published in another column, notwithstanding the general stringency which prevailed during the year.

In Manitoba and throughout the west generally the Confederation Life Association has long taken a leading position. The Association owns its own building in Winnipeg, and from this central office the business in the west is directed. D. Macdonald, manager here, has under his control the vast region from the Lake of the Woods to the coast. C. E. Kerr, cashier, is in direct charge of the Winnipeg office. These gentlemen have had charge of the Confederation Life business here for years. They are thoroughly acquainted with the requirements of the territory and have placed the Association in a very strong position in the west.

Confederation Life Association.

The annual meeting of the above association was held at the head office of the company, Young, Richmond and Victoria streets, Toronto, on the afternoon of Tuesday, the 9th inst. There was a large attendance of shareholders, policy-holders and members of the agency staff.

Hon. Sir W. P. Howland, C. B., K.C.M.G., President, was called to the chair, and Mr. J. K. Macdonald, Managing Director, acted as secretary.

The following report and financial statements were submitted:

REPORT

Your directors beg to submit to the policy-holders and shareholders the twenty third annual report of the association, covering the operations for the year 1894. In doing so it is scarcely necessary to state that the year was one of usual stringency and general depression in all branches of trade. This could scarcely fail to have a marked influence upon the business of life insurance, and in view of that fact, it will be a source of gratification to all persons interested in the association to observe the substantial progress made and the large volume of new business secured. It has not been deemed wise to depart from the policy which has guided your directors in the past, and therefore new business was sought for only at reasonable cost.

Your directors have had before them 2,321 applications for a total insurance of \$3,631,550. Of these 2,213 for \$3,469,550 were approved; 98 for \$152,000 were declined and 5 for various reasons were deferred. Adding the revived policies, which had been written off in previous years, and bonus additions, the new business for the year was 2,248 policies for \$3,523,204 of insurance.

The total insurance in force at the close of the year was \$25,455,312.00 under 16,625 policies on 14,667 lives.

The death claims for the year were light, being 93 deaths under 105 policies, calling for a total insurance of \$164,287.50. Under a re-assurance this amount was reduced by the sum of \$1,991.50, making the net claims \$162,293. This is a striking evidence of the care exercised in the selection and acceptance of new business, and is a high compliment to our field staff.

The financial statements submitted herewith fully exhibit the position of the association on the 31st December last.

The auditors have continued to give close attention to their duties, and have been thorough and prompt in their work. Their report will be found appended hereto.

Your directors are pleased to be able to state that the head office building is filling up very well, considering the effect of the prevailing depression upon all property of the kind. A considerable portion has been rented during the past year and more since the beginning of the present year.

All the directors retire but are eligible for re-election.

W. P. HOWLAND,
President.

J. K. MACDONALD,
Managing Director.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

RECEIPTS.	
To premiums	\$807,735 06
To interest	195,580 26
	\$1,003,315 32
EXPENDITURE.	
By total paid policy-holders...	\$435,251 88
By dividends to stockholders..	15,238 20
By expenses	200,405 46
By balance	352,419 78
	\$1,003,315 32