

THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters pertaining to trade and progress in Western Canada, including that portion of Ontario west of Lake Superior, the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Territories.

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or which profess to express the opinions of this
journal, will not be inserted.

Office: 181 McDermot Street.

D. W. BUCHANAN,
Publisher.

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 Can-
ada, daily or weekly. The Commercial also
reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manu-
facturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, NOVEMBER 28, 1898.

HOLDING WHEAT.

The erratic course of the wheat market during the past crop year is largely responsible for the tendency now shown among farmers to hold their grain for higher prices. The situation during the past year was such as to warrant higher prices than had ruled during recent previous years, owing to the light world's crop and diminishing supplies. There was nothing, however, in the situation to warrant the tremendous advance in prices during the Leiter speculations. The market was a manipulated one, and it may be many years again before we shall witness such a high state of manipulation as was then made apparent. The farmers who got a taste of the high prices which were brought about in this way, are loth to sell at the much lower values now ruling. They remember the tempting prices that were paid such a short time ago and they naturally hope that there may be an early recurrence of somewhat similar conditions. The many war rumors which have disturbed the world of late add further to the hope of the holders of grain that there may be another big advance in prices, such as was experienced during the last crop year. As wheat in Manitoba is now ruling on a basis of winter freight rates, it would seem that farmers who have

good granary accommodation cannot run a very great risk of lower prices by holding for a while. At the same time it must be noted that, aside from possible war troubles or speculative manipulation, the outlook is not as favorable for holding wheat as it was a year ago. A year ago two exporting countries—Australia and India—were importing wheat, and crops were light in Europe. This year we have liberal crop returns from nearly all wheat countries. The cost of holding should also be taken into consideration.

SEED GRAIN.

The Commercial made reference recently to the possibility of damage to the germinating power of a part of the wheat crop, through the long continued wet weather. It is well known that dampness is destructive to the life germ of seeds, and it occurred to The Commercial that possibly the portion of the wheat crop long exposed to the wet weather, might be rendered unfit for seed purposes. We have learned of several cases of farmers who contemplated selling their dry grain and holding their damp wheat for seed. Fortunately the quantity of damp grain is not as great as was at one time expected. Nevertheless it would be unfortunate if even a few persons should meet with disaster through the sowing of bad seed.

In another column of this issue we publish a communication from Dr. Saunders, director of the experimental farms, in which he again reminds farmers that the department will test, free of charge, any samples of seed forwarded for this purpose. Dr. Saunders emphasizes the fear expressed by The Commercial that some of the grain has been rendered unfit for seed. Those who are doubtful as to the value of their grain for seed purposes, should take advantage of this means of having it tested.

WINNIPEG WATERWORKS SOLD.

The Winnipeg Waterworks company has accepted the amended offer of the city council to purchase the plant and works of the company for the sum of \$237,500. The Commercial congratulates the city upon the settlement of this vexed question. While many consider that the price paid is too high, we believe, taking all matters into consideration, that the city has made a good bargain. No doubt the actual net value of the plant to the city is considerably less than the price paid, but we believe it is worth more than the excess over net value to have the waterworks company out of the way. A dual waterworks system would have been a great disadvantage to the city. Besides this, the city is now

in a position to go ahead at once with the new system. The city will also stand in a better position in financial circles, which will result to our advantage in future financial operations. The Commercial always favored a settlement with the Waterworks company on the most favorable terms possible, and we certainly believe that there will never be occasion to regret the purchase. On the other hand, if the city had gone ahead with the new system, there would have been a lasting feeling of soreness, besides the inevitable difficulties which would have come up between the company and the city. The matter is well settled, and Winnipeggers can now breathe more freely than they have done for years.

BRITISH COLUMBIA FRUIT REGULATIONS.

Very stringent regulations have been put into effect in British Columbia, providing for the inspection of fruit brought into the province, with the object of preventing the introduction of insect pests. Under this law large quantities of fruit imported from California and other Pacific coast states, have been seized and cremated at British Columbia ports. This created a great outcry on the part of the shippers of this fruit, who claimed that the British Columbia people were trying to destroy the import business in fruit, in the interest of the home growers. In other words, it was not the introduction of insect pests they were afraid of, so much as the competition of imported fruit with the home grown varieties.

Until recently the seizure of fruit has been confined to imported lots. This week a telegram from Vancouver reports the seizure and cremation of a quantity of apples from Ontario, which were infected with the larva of the codlin moth. It will be interesting to note how the Ontario shippers will take the matter. Certainly a good many wormy apples are received in Manitoba from Ontario, but we are not alarmed here lest our orchards should become contaminated by the introduction of the insect.

The saw mill at Rapid City, Man., is offered for sale by the sheriff.

ACTIVE SOLICITORS WANTED EVERYWHERE for "The Story of the Philippines," by Murat Halstead, commissioned by the Government as Official Historian to the War Department. The book was written in army camps at San Francisco, on the Pacific with General Merritt, in the hospitals at Honolulu, in Hong Kong, in the American trenches at Manila, in the insurgent camps with Aguinaldo, on the deck of the Olympia with Dewey, and in the roar of battle at the fall of Manila. Bonanza for agents. Brimful of original pictures taken by government photographers on the spot. Large book. Low prices. Big profits. Freight paid. Credit given. Drop all trashy unofficial war books. Outfit free. Address F. T. Barber, Sec., Star Insurance Bldg., Chicago.