

# 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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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 Canada, daily or weekly. The Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, JUNE 17, 1899.

## Manitoba Official Crop Bulletin.

The June crop bulletin of the provincial department of agriculture was issued Monday. As announced in the Free Press of Saturday the information it contains regarding the crops is of a quite satisfactory nature. The cultivated area has increased considerably compared with last year's figures and the growing grain is in a well advanced and healthy condition. The wheat area is estimated at 1,629,995 acres; barley, 575,136; oats 182,912, and this with other cereals and root crops brings the total area under cultivation up to 2,449,078, compared with 2,210,942 last year, and 1,958,025 in 1897. The wheat area last year was 1,483,232, making the increase this year 141,662 acres. This increase is attributed to the growth of the farming population by the influx of immigration and the opening up of new districts by railway extension. Regarding the crops, live stock, dairy and other branches of agriculture, the bulletin says:

### CROPS AND LIVE STOCK IN MANITOBA.

The information contained in this bulletin as to acreage and condition of the crops, live stock, etc., the rainfall and other climatic conditions, is accumulated from the returns received from about three hundred and fifty of the regular correspondents of the

department, made under date of June 1, although reports have been compiled up to June 10th. The province is divided into districts, as follows:

The Northwestern district comprises the municipalities of Shell River, Boulton, Russell, Silver Creek, Rossburn, Ellice, Birtle, Shoal Lake, Strathclair, Harrison, Clan William, Archie, Minlota, Hamlota, Blanchard, Saskatchewan, Odanah, Dauphin, Gilbert Plains.

The South Western—Wallace, Woodworth, Day, Elton, Cornwallis, Whitehead, Sifton, Pipestone, Glenwood, Oakland, Arthur, Winchester, Morton, Turtle Mountain, Cameron, White-water and Riverside.

The North Central—Rosedale, Lansdowne, Westbourne, North Cypress, North Norfolk, Langford, Portage la Prairie, St. Francois Xavier, Woodlands, St. Laurent, Posen, and Ochre River.

The South Central—South Cypress, South Norfolk, Dufferin, Rhineland, Stanley, Pembina, Lorne, Louise, and Argyle.

The Eastern—Gimli, Rockwood, St. Andrews, St. Clements, St. Pauls, Springfield, Kildonan, St. Boniface, Assiniboia, Tache, Richot, De Salkberry, Hanover, La Broquerie, Franklin, Rosser, Morris, Mountcalm, Macdonald.

### AREA UNDER CROP.

District.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
N. W. ....	137,700	86,920	18,590
S. W. ... ..	682,965	196,020	35,640
N. C. ... ..	306,560	90,160	33,840
S. C. ... ..	390,770	111,156	55,842
E. ... ..	112,000	90,880	39,000
Province ...	1,629,995	575,136	182,912

	Acres.
Total area under flax ... ..	21,780
Total area under rye ... ..	3,217
Total area under peas ... ..	1,366
Total area under corn ... ..	3,480
Total area under buckwheat ...	32
Total area under brome ... ..	1,930

District.	Potatoes.	Roots.
	Acres.	Acres.
N. W. ... ..	2,837	1,739
S. W. ... ..	4,685	2,362
N. C. ... ..	3,250	1,050
S. C. ... ..	3,148	2,672
E. ... ..	5,231	2,256
Province ... ..	19,151	10,079

Total area under all crops is 2,449,078 acres.

The subjoined statement, for convenience of reference, gives comparison with the acreage of 1897 and 1898:

Area under—	1897.	1898.	1899.
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Wheat ... ..	1,290,882	1,488,232	1,629,995
Oats ... ..	468,141	514,824	575,136
Barley ... ..	153,266	158,058	182,912
Flax ... ..	20,653	14,561	21,780
Potatoes ... ..	13,576	19,791	19,151
Roots ... ..	6,130	8,448	10,079
	1,958,025	2,210,942	2,449,078

This includes rye, peas, corn, etc.

There is an increased area under crop this year in all districts. Individual farmers may not have increased the acreage sown by each, but the influx of new settlers during the year 1898, as well as during the first four months of this year, has added at least 2,500 to the number of farmers now in the province as compared with the number settled in the province when the June bulletin of 1898 was issued.

The increase in the northwestern district is attributed to the new settlements in localities tributary to the Canadian Northern railway in the Dauphin, Gilbert Plains, and Swan

river districts, as well as to the continual filling up of vacant lands along the line of the Manitoba & Northwestern railway. The increase in the Southwestern district is partly a natural increase for farmers were not retarded in seeding to such an extent as in the eastern part of the province. At the same time it is well known that many new settlers located in the Virden, Reston and Melita districts, and that the branch of the Northern Pacific, from Belmont to Egin has encouraged farmers in that district to increased efforts in the way of adding to the amount of land under cultivation. In the north central and south central districts the increase is attributable to new settlers. In all parts of these districts, land has been changing ownership, and in most cases the purchasers are new settlers. In the eastern district although farmers were delayed in seeding on account of wet, many new settlers have been purchasing land freely in the Winnipeg district during the past year, and have put in crops this year. Then the extension of the C. P. R. to Foxton has encouraged farmers in that district to increase the acreage under crop. This applies also to the settlements along the line of the Southeastern railway and the district east of the Red River generally.

### CROP PROSPECTS.

In all parts of the province the time of seeding was later than usual. It was the end of April before any considerable quantity of wheat was sown, while in many districts no grain of any kind was sown until after the 10th of May, but as vegetation of all kinds was late, farmers continued sowing wheat up to the 1st of June and in some districts after that date. Oats and barley followed the sowing of wheat, so that the seeding time may be said to have been about three weeks later than usual.

There is no doubt but that some small areas of low lying lands are uncropped on account of being too wet to work properly. Reports indicate quick germination and in all cases a remarkable growth since seeding. General satisfaction is expressed regarding crop prospects. The quantity of moisture at present in the soil ensures continued growth, and many correspondents predict that by the 1st of July crops will be fully as far advanced as in years when seed was early sown but growth retarded by frosts and drought. The working of the soil in seeding at so late a date has been a great check to the growth of weeds, and now that crops have started so vigorously they are likely to keep ahead of the weeds for the remainder of the season.

### THE WEATHER.

The past winter was colder than usual, but without storms and noted for periods of two or three weeks at a time of low temperature without change. Spring was long in coming. March and April continued cold with occasional warm days, which were invariably followed by snow, rain and frost. May was warmer, but it rained about one day in three and often thunder storms, so that this month was generally reported as unfavorable for seeding on account of the excessive moisture in the land (too wet to work properly.) The latter part of May and the month of June up to the date of issue have been exceeding favorable to vegetation. The growth has been marvelous.