

The Commercial

A Journal of Commerce, Industry and Finance, specially devoted to the interests of 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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The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much larger circulation among the business community of the country between Lake Superior and the Pacific Coast, than any other paper in Canada, daily or weekly. By a thorough system of personal solicitation, carried out annually, this journal has been placed upon the desks of the great majority of business men in the vast district designated above, and including north-west Ontario, the provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia, and the territories of Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, JULY 31, 1893.

European Crop Conditions.

Very fine and hot weather has prevailed during the past week, bringing forward the wheat crop rapidly to maturity, and causing probably a premature ripening of the spring crops. The nearer we approach the harvest the more certain does it appear to many of our correspondents that the wheat yield will be short, although the quality and condition promise to be fine. The *Mark Lane Express* says that half the wheat and two-thirds of the barley area will be very deficient, while oats in many places will only give half a crop. A more specific estimate is that of the *Times*, which in its monthly report puts the condition of the various crops in Great Britain as follows, taking 100 to represent a full average: Wheat 82.10, barley 73.8, oats 80.4, potatoes 87.6, beans 64.7, peas 73.5, roots 73.8, grass 43.9. Many authorities consider that the hay crop in England, which we estimated last week at 4,000,000 tons, will not exceed 2,000,000 to 3,000,000 tons.

The cutting of wheat may be said to have already commenced in the early districts of the southwest; for instance we have received this morning some ears of wheat from a 44 acre field, which is now all in shock. The locality is in the neighborhood of Plymouth, and our correspondent points out that the soil is light, the wheat stock is two feet high on the hilly part, and three feet high in other parts. The yield per acre is not a large one, but is probably better than most fields will show this year. In France, wheat cutting is practically finished in the south and will next week commence in the neighborhood of Paris, while the important northern districts will see the sickle at work in the week following.

The reports as to the probable yield of wheat continue rather conflicting; but the majority are in favor, as we stated last week, of a crop of 35,000,000 qrs. of good quality, while the

annual requirements of France are 42,500,000 qrs. The French farmers' organ, the *Fermier*, looks for a crop of 36,000,000 to 38,000,000 qrs. but this is the highest estimate made. Rye is good in quality but short in quantity. Barley is a poor crop, and oats very deficient. Germany wants more rain for the spring crops, but the reports concerning wheat are fairly good on the whole. About rye the reports show less unanimity. In Hungary and Austria the harvest is about eight days late, but the very favorable weather had led to an improvement all round in the crops. Rapeseed, however, is described as very short. Latest advices from Roumania say that the wheat crop prospects had improved, but it will be a much shorter crop than that of last year, which gave a surplus for export of about 3,500,000 qrs. Barley and oats had suffered materially, but corn had greatly improved. An official Bulgarian crop report describes wheat and rye as good in eleven districts, but bad in nine others. Concerning the spring crops 80 per cent. of the reports were good. In European Turkey the heavy rains, followed by fine warm weather had greatly improved the winter crops, which promised after all to be only 15 to 20 per cent. short of an average. In the six chief states of India the wheat crop as officially estimated, now turns out to be 7,895,000 qrs. larger than last year.—*Beerbohm* July 7.

Grain Prices in England.

L. Norman & Co., London, writes THE COMMERCIAL as follows on July 10:—

"Since our report of 3rd July, the wheat trade has ruled extremely quiet, buyers awaiting further developments. Lack of confidence is still the predominating feature and the American reports earlier in the week gave no assistance in this respect to our market. Towards the close unfavorable advices respecting the spring wheat crop led to a slight advance in values. This gave a firmer tone, but buyers continued to be apathetic in spite of the further fact that the continent has taken a great quantity of wheat off coast and thereby relieved our market somewhat.

Canadian wheat has been neglected, buyers showing a preference for the cheap *La Plata*s now offering at 26s 6d to 26s 9d c.i.f. Millers find that these wheats in working are equal to the Canadian wheats for which more money is asked.

Hard Manitobas—No transactions reported. To days quotations, on passage, 29s 6d sellers, July, August 29s 9d sellers.

No. 1 and No. 2 White Winter Wheats—Without change. No sales reported. Prices unchanged.

Goose Wheat—Buyers still hold to 26s, while sellers have reduced limits six pence, asking today 26s 6d c.i.f. London.

Barley—Steady. In Canadian no transactions reported. A small parcel of No. 3x Ontario has been offered to London at 21s per 48 pounds c.i.f., but failed to tempt buyers.

Oats—Quiet but steady. A parcel of 1,000 quarters mixed Canadians changed hands at 18s 6d c.i.f. London and 1,000 quarters white at 19s 1½d.

Alberta Cattle.

Mr. Ironside, cattle exporter, of Manitou, Man., who recently returned from Alberta, says: "While west I bought four thousand of the fattest cattle you ever saw. I have been out since I last left Winnipeg on the ranches around Calgary, Lethbridge, Maple Creek, Pincher Creek and Macleod. The cattle out on the ranges are rolling fat. There has been plenty of rain this season and the grass is grand. I never was out there before, and I tell you it is a great country for stock. They had 2,500 cattle on the Cochrane ranch, and we got about 1,500 head from them; the rest were picked up in smaller lots. There are lots of cattle now on the ranches that are in just as

good condition as the best stall-fed cattle turned out of the stables in Manitoba this spring. Most of the cattle are of the shorthorn type, good animals for the trade in every way. There are still a good many of the old kind, all legs and horns, but the ranchers are getting out of them as fast as they can, for no shipper will touch them.

"They have lots of horses out there and they don't know what to do with them. They are good animals in a way, but they are not roadsters or saddle horses or heavy draughts. I believe a man could buy horses for \$25 a head, but the raisers will have to work up to a higher standard before there will be any profit in it. They have been too careless in selecting breeding animals."

Mr. Ironside added that the four thousand already purchased cost about \$160,000, and that the firm intended to purchase another thousand to ship out before the close of the month of October, making a total of about five thousand for the season.

Mr. Ironside left later in the week for a trip along the Manitoba & Northwestern railway to purchase some of the thousand cattle still required. The first lot of about three hundred will be shipped on August 9th from Winnipeg.

Underfeeding and Overeating.

It may seem hard for the man who in youth has known the pinch of poverty, who remembers how the cut of mutton, with a supply of potatoes and greens, scarcely sufficed for a vigorous appetite, should find that in the prosperity of later life an eight-course dinner of delicacies fails to tempt him, and that, nevertheless, his physician warns him that the attack of gout from which he is suffering means that he is eating too much, and that his diet must be lowered. Is life, then, never to give satisfaction? Must youth know hunger and old age satiety? Must the poor muscle-worker never have enough food to give energy to his frame, and must the rich idler have so much to eat that disease is the consequence.

To find the happy mean, to live according to sweet reasonableness and knowledge, is the aim of the teachings of science, and if to these are added the principles of Christian communism, the wealth of later life will not lead to self-indulgence, but to the mitigation of the sufferings of those who want the means of life. One of many splendid examples is that of a gentleman, now in possession of a very large income, who in his youth, lived on a salary of 10s a week. He early made up his mind that to eat little and drink less would be his rule in life. To this resolution he has adhered, though fortune has come to him. Nearly an octogenarian, he is still a man of untiring vigor of body and mind. Simple in life, he dispenses his great fortune as a custodian for his Master, while living amid the refinement and cultured surroundings of an English gentleman.

Sir George Humphrey has investigated the life-histories of centenarians in England with the view of ascertaining the causes and circumstances of longevity. As one reads of the habits and life of these men and women who attained to the age of 100 years and more, one is struck by the fact that they were almost invariably lean people, of spare habit, and of great moderation in eating and drinking. Of thirty-seven, three took no animal food, four took very little, twenty a little, ten a moderate amount, and only one acknowledged taking much meat. With regard to alcohol, the returns are much the same, and abstemiousness is found to be the rule of life of these centenarians.—*The London Hospital*.

According to late cables great activity is reported in the rice market in Burmah, prices advancing 15 to 20 per cent, owing to the drought in India and the fixing of the value of the rupee. It is further suggested that in the event of difficulties between France and India a considerable reduction in shipments may take place on account of blocked ports.