

of the country, including Lake Superior elevators, is now placed at equal to 8,000,000 bushels. This certainly shows wonderful progress. The grain storage of the country is increasing rapidly every year, and a great deal of capital is now invested in elevators and flour mills throughout the country.

In the matter of wheat exports great progress can be shown, though it is in this direction that complaints are sometimes heard of slow progress. Ten years ago our exports of wheat were less than 200,000 bushels. Shipments from the crop of 1890 will amount to 75 or 100 times as much as was shipped out of the province in 1880. This is a wonderful increase if we will only stop to consider it a moment. Because the surplus wheat crop of Manitoba was very small ten years ago, the enormous rate of increase is not so apparent. The enormity of the increase can best be shown by stating what the wheat surplus would be were the same rate of increase kept up for the next ten years. At the end of the present decade, should the wheat crop show as great an increase as it does now compared with ten years ago, Manitoba would have the enormous surplus of one billion to one and a quarter billion bushels. This would be three times greater than the total wheat crop of the United States for 1890, or equal to one half the entire wheat crop of the world for last year. Of course it would be out of the question to expect anything like such an increase in the wheat crop for the next ten years. The figures are only given to show the astonishing increase in the crop during the last ten years. But if we make one-tenth of the percentage of increase in the next ten years, that we have in the past decade, the figures will still be enormous. At the latter rate of increase we would have 100,000,000 to 140,000,000 bushels surplus in the year 1900, or well up to the total spring wheat crop of the United States.

There are certainly great prospects ahead for this prairie country as a wheat exporting region, even at a moderate increase in the crop as compared with the past. The crop has now reached such proportions that a moderate increase each year will make it count up fast. The figures show that at a very reasonable rate of increase, Manitoba will become in a few years the principal wheat region of the continent. And this is not taking into account the quality of the wheat. Minnesota and Dakota wheat is already deteriorating in quality and the supply of hard wheat will soon have to be sought north of the forty ninth parallel. It may make some smile to speak of Manitoba and the tributary country to the west and northwest as the future wheat granary of the continent, but the figures given show that this remark is by no means far fetched. We have a sufficient extent of country here adapted to wheat growing, to supply the import requirements of the world.

During the year 1890, which was by no means a favorable season for wheat, our handful of farmers produced over one third of the total wheat crop of Canada. When our present very small population has accomplished such great things, we can certainly count upon producing a vast quantity of wheat when the country receives a few more thousands of farmers. At the rate of wheat production in

1890, we would only require to have less than 350,000 farmers to produce a surplus of wheat large enough to supply all the wheat importing countries of the world. Now 350,000 farmers would represent a total population of men, women and children, including men in other pursuits, of less than 3,000,000. Manitoba alone could support this population, to say nothing of the vast territory west and north-west of the province.

### Manitoba Lands.

Though Manitoba contains the bulk of the population of western Canada between Lake Superior and the Rocky mountains, yet in proportion to extent, the population of the province is very small. Large districts are yet practically unexplored. Seven-eighths of the total population is located in a small portion of the province, comprising the southern and south western sections. About two-thirds of the province is yet practically without any settlement to speak of. It must not be considered that this unsettled portion is unfit for settlement. It comprises a great deal of land as good as any in the province for agriculture, and a great deal more is of the very choicest pastoral country, while a considerable portion is timber land. There is more or less timber country all over northern Manitoba, while in some parts there are large areas of heavy, unbroken forest, principally spruce, suitable for sawing into lumber. These timber lands are mostly good soil, but will settle up more slowly, as prairie lands, which can at once be put under cultivation, are preferred. The advantages of northern Manitoba are: abundance of wood, water and hay. In these respects the northern districts are ahead of the south.

Even in the most thickly settled portions of the province there is yet a great deal of vacant land of the choicest quality. Individual holdings are very large, farms ranging in size from 320 to 1000 or more acres. There are some farms of 160 and 240 acres, but they are mostly half a section (320 acres) in extent. Even with these large holdings, there is a great deal of land in the comparatively closely settled portions, yet unoccupied. The Canadian Pacific railway company, the Manitoba Northwestern railway company, the Hudson's Bay company, and others, which have received land grants, hold large amounts of land, which they are willing to sell at reasonable rates. In the case of the railways these companies recognize that it is to their advantage to sell the lands at reasonable prices, and get the country settled up, as in this way their traffic will be increased, which will be worth more to them than holding the lands at high prices. There is also yet plenty of land in Manitoba held by the government which can be taken up on the regular government terms to settlers.

The area of Manitoba is 66,000 square miles. The population of Manitoba is estimated to be about 150,000. With the exception of British Columbia Manitoba has the smallest population of any of the organized provinces of Canada. If Manitoba were as closely settled as the province of Prince Edward Island she would have a population of about 3,365,000. The comparison is made with Prince Edward Island because the latter is almost purely an agri-

cultural country. Settled as closely as England and Wales, Manitoba would contain a population of over 32,000,000. The present population therefore seems trifling in comparison with what it might be. Though we may not expect to reach a density of population such as exists in the crowded manufacturing countries of the old world, yet we can expect a population of one to three million at least before we can consider the province anything like well settled. We have therefore abundance of room for many thousands of settlers yet, and can offer them free or very cheap lands, rich soil, healthy climate, and free institutions. Here they can make a home for themselves, and with ordinary intelligence and industry can become independent and prosperous in a very short time.

### A Paint Factory.

During a recent visit to the city of Montreal a COMMERCIAL representative made a hurried inspection of the paint factory of the Wm. Johnson Company located near the St. Gabriel Locks, and took a passing view of the workings of this leading Canadian industry.

This huge factory covers over one and a half acres of ground, and the buildings are of solid stone and brick, built in the most substantial fashion, as is necessary to carry on such a business. The main building with its five floors is well worthy of a more close study than our representative had time to make, but he saw enough to convince him of the great skill and ingenuity required in the manufacture of different paints and varnishes, as well as of the great value such an industry must be to a city and country.

In some of the factory floors, where grinding was going on, the visitor was reminded of flour milling by the roller process, and the spouts and shoots leading from one place to another had the effect of making him imagine he was actually within the realm where the historic "dusty" presided, but a little more travelling up and down through other floors by means of automatic elevators revealed several interesting processes not heard of in the flour mill. Some paint materials for instance require thorough soaking and sifting after grinding, and others after soaking and drying require grinding again before being mixed and prepared for the barrel or the can. Each class of paint evidently requires its own special treatment by milling as well as mixing to prepare it for the market. Mills, vats, kilns for drying and other arrangements are used before the colors are taken to the mixing rooms, and the intricacies of the latter the visitor did not attempt during his short stay to unravel. The ground floor, utilized for the grinding of pure white lead, with all the ponderous machinery at work therein, is a sight of itself, well worthy of a visit. Here the brands of goods known to the trade as "Charter Oak," "Buffalo," "Victoria," and "Chemically Pure" are manufactured, and here during 1890 over two million pounds of putty were made and sent out.

In a visit to the chemical laboratory of the works some insight into the original elements used in paint manufacture was given to the visitor. Most of the colors are secured from metallic oxides mined at different places, and