

THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters pertaining to trade and progress in Manitoba, including that part of Ontario west of Lake Superior, the province of Manitoba and the Territories.

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The Commercial certainly enjoys a very much larger circulation among the business community of the west region lying between Lake Superior and the Pacific coast than any other paper in Canada, daily or weekly. The Commercial is published by the Commercial Printing, Manufacturing and Financial House of Eastern Canada.

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CANADIAN MANUFACTURES.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association has decided to undertake an organized effort to overcome the prejudice which exists in this country against home manufactures. Just why this prejudice should exist, is one of the things which it is difficult to account for, but that it does exist is an undeniable fact. Many Canadians will turn up their nose at an article of home manufacture and call for an imported line, though often, perhaps, they do not get as good value in the imported article as they could secure in the home goods. This unreasonable prejudice exists to such an extent that some lines of home manufacture are put on the market without a distinguishing brand and are freely sold as imported wares. Canadian manufactures are good enough to sell in foreign countries in competition with the world, and it is a well known fact that many of our export lines have a high standing in foreign markets. But when it comes to the home market this senseless and distasteful prejudice is met with everywhere.

Whatever may be our views regarding the tariff, all people who earnestly desire to assist in the prosperity of our country, will wish that the manufacturers would be successful in overcoming this unreasonable prejudice. On this ground protectionists and free traders can make common cause in assisting forward such a laudable movement. The press of the country, we believe, irrespective of party affiliation, would willingly assist in the good work.

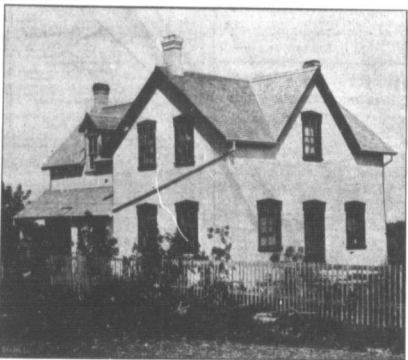
The plan we understand the manufacturers propose, is to arrange for a permanent exhibit of home manufactures in Toronto. This may be all right in itself, but also it is something about the desired result. An exhibit of the large exhibitions throughout the country would undoubtedly be seen by a great many more people than would visit a permanent exhibit in any city. In this connection we would like to draw the attention of the members of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to the Winnipeg Industrial. The Winnipeg Industrial is the great annual event of the West. Each year it draws a crowd of people from every part of the West. The annual

exhibition of this Winnipeg association brings together yearly more people than congregate at any other time at one place, anywhere in the West. Last summer, notwithstanding the very unfavorable harvest of the preceding season, about 90,000 visited the exhibition. The population of the West is now increasing very fast. Here the home manufacturer has the greatest field for increasing his trade. The market is extending far more rapidly here than it is in the older provinces of the East. In fact the West must be the main hope for the Canadian manufacturer who is desirous of increasing his trade. We can conceive of no better plan for undertaking the work of eradicating the prejudice against home manufactures, than to begin at the Winnipeg Industrial. This, we believe, would be better than a permanent exhibit in any city. There are other important exhibitions held annually in the west, at which an exhibit could be shown, if it were desired to follow up the matter in this way. If the Manufacturers' Association or any of its members should decide to undertake an exhibit for the Winnipeg Industrial, no doubt very

to Western Canada, its development and trade possibilities. The report from St. Paul, just referred to, said that the manufacturers were considering the advisability of placing an exhibit of their wares in Winnipeg; the object of developing trade here. Our friends in the east will see from this that others are alive to the importance of cultivating this field for trade, and that it will not do to allow the territory to go by default.

THE BRITISH BUDGET.

The British budget speech, which has been anxiously awaited on account of expected tariff changes, growing out of a necessity for increased revenue to meet war expenses, was delivered in the Commons on April 14. Chancellor Sir Michael Hicks-Beach said there had been a heavy slump in receipts from tobacco, spirits and beer, but a great increase in the consumption of tea and coffee. The income tax produced the enormous sum of £34,800,000. Sugar tax, £5,500,000. Export duty on coal, £1,314,000. He estimated the total deficit for the present year at £20,824,000.



Manitoba Farm Homes—Residence of Duncan Campbell, Foxton.

favorable freight rates could be made with the railways. The exhibition this year will be held from July 21 to 25 inclusive. The manager of the association would undoubtedly be glad to furnish any information desired by manufacturers. The Canadian Manufacturers' Association is now represented on the board of management of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition Association. Mr. E. L. Drewry, one of our most esteemed citizens, and also one of our largest manufacturers, was elected a director of the exhibition association, especially as a representative of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. This is sufficient to show that manufacturers who contemplate exhibiting will receive every consideration from the Exhibition Association.

A report recently came from St. Paul, Minnesota, to the effect that the manufacturers of that city were looking to Western Canada as a good field for pushing their business. The large influx of population to Western Canada and the rapid expansion of our cereal production, has attracted the attention of the business people in the cities to the south of us to a marked extent of late. Their papers are almost daily producing articles relating

To provide for the deficits growing out of the war, the chancellor announced an increase of the income tax of one penny in the pound sterling. After July 1 there will be 1 to 2½ stamp duty on slight bills, 5d per 100 pounds on all grain and 5d per 100 on flour, and meal would be imposed. This additional taxation is expected to produce £5,150,000, but it will leave a large deficit probable. The revenue on the late basis of taxation was £147,785,000, which would produce an estimated deficit of £45,000,000. This will be reduced by the additional taxation and the suspension of the sinking fund, and a loan of £32,000,000 is proposed.

It will be observed that the only increase in the customs tax is on breadstuffs—grain, flour and meal—the food of the masses, instead of on luxuries or non-essential articles. This is a policy which will no doubt provoke strong opposition from a large section of the people.

The Territorial Assembly has passed a resolution practically unanimously, declaring opposition to any extension westward of the boundary of Manitoba. The Assembly is not, however, opposed to a northerly extension of the Manitoba boundary.

Mr. Thompson's Departure.

Many expressions of regret are heard at the departure of Mr. F. W. Thompson, who has been so long before the public of the west as manager of the Ogilvie Milling Co. The recent changes in the ownership of this great milling business are already reported, has necessitated Mr. Thompson's removal to Montreal, where he will hereafter have his headquarters. The company's great western interests, however, remain, and this will make it necessary for Mr. Thompson to frequently visit Winnipeg and other western points. Indeed, we have Mr. Thompson's statement that it is intended to largely increase the operations of the company in the west, by the erection of many additional elevators during the present year, besides other important extensions. Since the very beginning of the grain business of the West, the Ogilvie interests have always taken a foremost part in all matters concerning the grain and milling industry of the West. This important part, we believe, will be fully maintained by these interests in the future. While, therefore, there is regret at the removal from our midst of Mr. Thompson, there is no sense of loss so far as business interests are concerned. The loss is a personal one. Mr. Thompson has long been an active member of the community here. Though the duties devolving upon him in the management of the vast business entrusted to his care must have been at times very onerous, yet he did not selfishly shut himself up with his business affairs. He found time to take an active interest in matters which concerned the general welfare of the community. The General Hospital, the Industrial Exhibition Association, the board of trade, etc., had good reason to acknowledge Mr. Thompson's important services and assistance.

Mr. Black, who now becomes manager of the business here, is well connected with the Winnipeg office for nearly twenty years and is thoroughly familiar with the situation. During this long period he has faithfully discharged his duties in the interest of the great community, and has well earned the important position which has now fallen to his lot.

The Winnipeg Tribune gets in a stab at The Commercial below the belt, by copying a savage attack on this journal which appeared in an obscure newspaper in the east. The article does not attempt to deal in argument at all. It simply contains nasty insinuations and slanders. The Commercial is quite prepared to stand by anything it has accepted of good faith, but the attacks of this nature by persons who have political or personal ambitions to serve. This vicious attack was probably called forth by the statement in The Commercial that we would be unable to pass nasty legislation relating to the grain trade, on the strength of the exceptional conditions which have existed during the past winter. The country is greatly in need of large grain elevators and accommodation, to prevent a recurrence of grain blockades in the future. Such legislation has been advocated by some of the extremists, would effectually stop further elevator building. We believe the general welfare of the business community is fully in sympathy with the Commercial in this matter. The Commercial has no party politics to serve, no personal ambitions to "boost" or to "under the influence of party, creed, corporation or clique." The general welfare of the community has been our consideration with this journal. Attacks of political editors and partisan publishers will not attempt to disturb the policy of this journal.