

THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters pertaining to the Dominion of Western Canada, including that part of the west of the Manitoba Superior, the Province of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Territories.

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The Commercial certainly enjoys the 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.

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IMMIGRATION.

Judging from reports received from across the ocean, there is likely to be a very large immigration to Canada from Great Britain this year. We want British immigrants—all the good ones we can get. We have plenty of room in this country for millions of thrifty English, Scotch, Irish and Welsh settlers. We would prefer British subjects to any other because we are British ourselves. At the same time it is evident that care will have to be taken that we do not get too many of the undesirable class. From past experience we know that we can get some very undesirable people from the British Isles. The remittance man, for instance, who is almost exclusively a British product, is about the very worst stamp of a person we can have come to us. There are some very unthrifty persons, who claim British citizenship, besides the remittance man.

In connection with the British immigration movement we hear much about a vast colonization enterprise. It is proposed to establish a British "colony" in the West. A large area of land is to be set aside for a party which is expected to arrive here in April. It is said that the enterprise is very popular in Britain and that applicants are pouring in from all quarters. Here, too, there will be great danger of including many undesirable persons in the party. It is to be hoped that those who have the movement in hand will discriminate closely in making up the party. There is perhaps more danger of securing undesirable people in a movement of this kind than there would be in individual immigration. A Rev. Mr. Barr is at the head of this movement, and clergymen often are not the most practical or discerning of persons, but it may be different in this case. It is to be hoped our government officials will exert themselves to prevent undesirable immigration as much as possible, and will look to quality rather than quantity in their efforts at securing settlers. It will be better that intending immigrants be given to understand that they will have many hardships to encounter, and that hard work, energy and perseverance will be necessary to achieve success in the new land. Agents who are desirous of securing settlers, no doubt some-

times err by presenting too flowery a picture. Canada is now in a large way to attract settlers on a fair scale without resorting to unfair representations.

TRADE IN ONTARIO APPLES.

Now that the selling season for last year's crop of Ontario apples is well advanced and the public have had full opportunity of judging as to the quality and the packing, the opinion is being freely expressed that Ontario has seldom shipped to this market a poorer lot of apples than was the case in the past season. Time and again competent persons in the trade here have been heard to say that the Ontario apples of last year were little better than rubbish. The quality was so uniformly poor that the inspector here had to adopt the course of pronouncing upon the quality in a relative sort of a way, picking out the best for the mark XXX. If strict interpretation of the act had been the rule it is almost safe to say that not a single barrel of XXX apples would have been seen in the market from

to have the bad fruit dished up to him, as the British consumer will not look at it at any price. The freedom with which the grower and speculator has been able to pass the bad fruit off upon the defenceless consumer of the west in the past has created the impression in the minds of these that this market exists for the special purpose of providing them with a dumping ground, and it was hardly fair to expect that in one short season the Dominion Fruit Marks Act would succeed in correcting all the abuses arising out of such an impression. It is satisfactory to know that a good start has been made, and that the ground is now clear for a more aggressive campaign against fraud and deception next season.

The inspector here has endeavored to temper his decisions on the crop of last year with a saving amount of charity and common sense, in view of the fact that it was the first season in which the inspection had been actually applied. It is not to be expected, however, that this will be the case again, and if he has the real good of the Ontario apple growing industry at

nized, that it is not necessary to enter into any lengthy argument in the matter. We have in Manitoba some laws intended to restrict bonusing, but they do not appear to be stringent enough. Bounties are granted and legalized by special acts, which override the law. This is wrong, and the legislature should set itself firmly against this plan of defeating a good law.

The effect of bonusing is to levy a tax upon the property of citizens for the purpose of bestowing it on other persons. This principle is entirely wrong and indefensible. It is a form of robbery, legalized by law. Taxation properly is a levy upon the property of citizens for the purposes of the state. Levying a rate upon the property of citizens for the purpose of bestowing it upon favored individuals, is not a legitimate form of taxation. The money given as a bonus is not used for such public purposes as taxes should only be used for.

Municipal bonuses are usually granted on the theory that the town or district will receive benefit from the establishment of the industry. But



Manitoba Farm Homes—Buildings of Jas. Craig, High Bluff.

last year's Ontario crop. This may seem a little strong, and it is quite true that there were exceptions to the rule, but it is not a word too much to say that the regular apples of commerce were almost invariably of poor quality, and very far from being of the XXX grade. The inspector at Winnipeg had anything but an easy task to check over the shipments and inspect the grade, and as a matter of fact he did not nearly succeed in covering the whole ground. It was impossible for him to see the contents of every barrel, and because of this there have been complaints from some quarters against the inspection. In one case a consumer has been heard to say that apples bought by him under the XXX mark, instead of being 90 per cent sound and of one variety, were not more than 10 per cent sound and of one variety, the 90 per cent, being mongrel and bad. This, of course, was probably an exceptional case, and involves no reflection upon the inspector, who did his duty faithfully as far as he could.

We are all aware, of course, that Ontario had not the most favorable conditions for growing apples last year. The weather was not what the growers would have liked, and the apples were attacked more severely than usual by worms and scab. These drawbacks resulted in a larger proportion than usual of poor apples, and we suppose that when this is the case the Canadian consumer must expect

heart he will see that it is not. Ample warning has been given packers and shippers that the evil practices of past seasons must be discontinued, and the penalty should be inflicted in all its severity upon transgressors. Fraudulent packing should be especially watched for, and offences punished in the severest manner. In no other way can the apple trade of this country be saved to the Canadian grower. We are no longer obliged to buy apples from Ontario. There are plenty of the finest varieties to be had now from the States and the Pacific coast, and unless the Ontario producer is prepared to deal squarely with the trader in the west he need not be surprised if the purchases are made elsewhere.

BONUSING.

It would seem to be an opportune time to again say a word against the bonusing of industries. Reports of prosperous times and rapid development of the country have gone abroad and will no doubt attract many adventurers to the West. In fact some of them are already here, including among their numbers the inevitable bonus-hunter. We hear lately of competition among western towns to secure industries which some of these bonus-hunters have presented to the people.

The evils of the bonus system are so apparent and so generally recog-

the same claim can be made for every line of business. Why should not all these be assisted by forced contributions from the people? The man who establishes a store and supplies the people with the necessities of life, often invests more in his business than is invested in the bonus-bonused industry, and the business often proves a more valuable one to the community than the bonused industry.

GREAT WEST LIFE.

Western people are always interested in the annual statement of the Great West Life Assurance Co. from the fact that this is our one and only home company. The statement presented this week is the tenth annual report of the company, and it shows that splendid progress has been made during the first decade of the existence of this company. Among the features presented at the annual meeting was a statement showing the position at the end of the first ten years of eight of the best known companies in Canada to-day. This showed that the Great West has done much better than any of these companies, during the first ten years of its existence. The Canada Life, for instance, secured only \$3,030,000 of insurance during the first ten years of its existence, compared with \$15,288,500 for the Great West. Even the Manufacturers' Life, (Continued on page 537.)