

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, DECEMBER 4, 1883.

A COMMERCIAL EMPLOYMENT AGENCY.

Great inconvenience is often experienced by men in mercantile circles throughout this country in securing the services of competent clerks, salesmen, bookkeepers and such like employes, while men in search of such positions and well able to fill them are by no means scarce, and often unable to find suitable employment. The want of a proper source of supply for such employes when wanted has been greatly felt of late, as the employment agencies of this city have been found of very little value to the mercantile classes while they have proven useful to contractors, and employers of mechanical labor. Several of these institutions have of late developed some rather crooked transactions, and while others of them are doubtless useful and honorably conducted institutions, shrewd business men have lost faith in them to a great extent, and will not likely make use of them.

At request of numerous patrons THE COMMERCIAL now steps forward to supply this much felt want, and thus endeavor to become a lubricator of the mercantile labor market. Employers who wish the services of such hands as we have above mentioned will have their wants supplied by applying at the office of this journal. A close scrutiny of the antecedents of every applicant will be made before such will be recommended, and a careful judgment will be exercised thereafter so as to cause as little trouble and annoyance as possible. A register of the names of parties in search of such employment with particulars noted will be kept at this office, and persons looking for employment in mercantile lines are requested to call and have their names placed thereon. No charge of any description will be made either to employers or applicants for situations, the agency not being intended as a source of profit, but merely to facilitate business. Nor is it intended that it will be permanent, but will be discontinued as soon as institutions better suited for the purpose, shall be established and operated in this city.

Employers all over the Northwest are requested to send in their demands and they will be attended to with promptitude.

THE PUBLISHER.

MANUFACTURE FROM HOME PRODUCTS.

It must be admitted that the high price of fuel and the scarcity of skilled labor are still strong arguments against general manufactures being profitable in the Northwest, although the difficulties of this nature are in many instances magnified. Yet there are fields open for the manufacture of home products, which will not only prove profitable, but of great advantage to the agricultural classes by creating a wider home market for their home products, and having them less at the mercy of eastern markets for raw material, and the heavy freight tariff necessary to place the raw material in such markets.

Over a year ago THE COMMERCIAL called attention to the necessity for oatmeal mills in this country, and pointed out the special advantages under which such institutions could be carried on. The heavy local demand for oats and high prices which had been paid for this grain for several years, caused many to doubt the possibility of securing them at figures that would make the manufacture of oatmeal at saleable prices possible. Rapid as has been the growth of local demands it has by no means kept up with the productive power of the country and this winter there are probably over 1,000,000 bushels of oats in the Northwest, which must find a distant market, or be manufactured into oatmeal to supply the local demand in that line. Already one mill of this kind is in operation at Portage la Prairie and its products have realized all that our article claimed in the way of turning out a very superior meal, which is fast driving imported competition out of the Northwestern market. Its proprietor finds this winter that the superior oats of this country, can be had much cheaper than an inferior grain in eastern provinces. This one mill is but an experiment as yet, but there is scarcely a doubt, but institutions of its class will in a year or two more be in a position to place their manufactures in eastern markets, and make the undertaking a profitable one.

What is now being accomplished in oatmeal manufacture can be achieved in connection with other of our products. There is nothing to prevent parties of enterprise from utilizing the thousands of tons of straw that are yearly burned in the manufacture of paper, and water power for such

manufactures are numerous in the Northwest. Other fields for industrial enterprise might be cited, but we shall draw special attention to one, which above all others is most wanted, and most likely to prove profitable. We refer to the manufacture of starch. Potatoes are the raw material from which this is mostly manufactured and the quantity of these in the Northwest that will be allowed to freeze and rot before the fall of 1884 would go a long way in keeping a starch factory running. It is a notorious fact that hundreds of thousands of bushels over and above the local demand have been produced this year, and the low price now being paid is sufficient evidence, that dealers are fully aware of the surplus, and taking advantage of it. With our cold winters there must be great difficulties and heavy losses from freezing in shipping potatoes to an eastern market, and unless some sort of local industry is started which will utilize the surplus, prices next year must reach a level, at which it will not pay farmers to raise them. Practical starch manufacturers inform us, that frozen potatoes can be made use of in their business, and if that be the case, the supply of such is likely to be heavy for years to come, and until our farmers have more surplus wealth that they have at present, with which to make proper provision for preserving root crops through our long and severe winter.

It must now be kept in mind that this is an exporting country, and in every instance where our products can be exported in a manufactured instead of a raw state, we are lessening the drain upon our financial resources. Eastern Canadians or at least a very large share of them look upon the Northwest as a wide field in which to raise grain and sell their manufactures. A very large share of manufactured goods must undoubtedly come from such a source for many years to come, but it will be an evidence of unmitigated shiftlessness if we submit long to the importation of goods which are manufactured from our own products and of which a large share is annually allowed to go to waste.

The days of mud hole speculation are over in the Northwest, and the days of depression are drawing to a close. With the coming spring there will no doubt be plenty of money from a distance seeking safe investment here, and it would be well that a goodly share of it should be