

THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters pertaining to trade and progress in Western Canada, including that part of Ontario, west to the Erie harbor, the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia, and the Territories.

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The Commercial ceases to carry a 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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D. W. BUCHANAN,
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TERRITORIAL WOOL CLIP.

The wool clip of the ranching sections of the Northwest Territories is always a subject of interest to the commercial community, and it has been the practice of The Commercial to report each year from those who handle the wool an estimate of the total quantity. There has been at times a good deal of misrepresentation as to the amount of wool produced in the Territories, and some extravagant estimates have been made as to the totals. This year we have seen figures given for individual districts which were very wide of the mark and which, if they should find any credence in market circles, would have a depressing effect upon the price. Fortunately, this has not happened, as buyers were very closely informed before they bought much wool as to just what quantity there would be in each section.

A careful estimate of the wool clip this year in the different ranching sections places the quantities as follows:

	Pounds.
Swift Current, Assn.	40,000
Winnipeg, Assn.	90,000
Wahs, Assn.	125,000
Edifice Hat, Assn.	150,000
Lethbridge, Alberta.	42,000
Stirling, Alberta.	42,000
Miscellaneous	16,000

Total

Total	900,000
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Of course it will be understood that these divisions are rough ones, and have been made to cover in some cases large stretches of territory and perhaps several shipping stations. For instance the figure given opposite Stirling covers practically all of the Mormon colonies, although some of the wool would be shipped from other stations. We believe that the total given is very close to the mark, and may be taken as accurately representing the 1903 production of ranch wool.

We have no doubt, but that the friends of this industry will be disappointed at this showing. It would have been better had there not been a very heavy loss of sheep in the spring storms. Large numbers of full-crown sheep were lost in these, besides an exceptionally heavy percentage of lambs. It is said that these losses and the general opinion of the sheep-raising industry have discouraged the ranchers, and that a number of them are selling their flocks and going out of the business. It is to be hoped that this statement will bear modification. Certainly the industry has not been so prostrated as in any some seem to imagine.

The average weight per fleece of this territorial wool has been found to be from 4½ to 6 pounds, and not very

many lots would reach this latter figure. One fine lot was found to weigh out 5½ pounds per fleece. These figures are below the current estimate, but they are based on the actual shipping returns, and are correct.

The average price of the wool about 2c per pound above that of last year. This must have been a satisfactory increase to the ranchers, as it would help to recoup them for the loss of so many sheep in the spring. The price was a direct result of the improvement in the demand for woolen goods and especially of Canadian wools.

THE COTTON GOODS OUTLOOK.

The Canadian cotton mills make a good argument in defence of their recent action in advancing the price of cotton goods. In fact, their argument not only justifies the advance already in effect, but would give warrant for still further advances if they should decide to make any. It is shown that present prices for direct delivery cotton goods in Canada represent 6c per pound for the raw material, whereas the actual price of raw cotton to-day, laid down in Canada, is 13c per pound. The lowest price at which it can be bought for foreign delivery is equivalent to 11c delivered. Manufacturers say that at present prices, the consumer is getting the cotton goods at 4c per pound less than they should be sold for.

Mills have not very much raw cotton on hand, and the new crop is far from being in a safe condition yet, so that there is plenty of chance for further advances in the raw material. At present the American crop prospect is uncertain, but the yield will not be above the average, and an average crop will not be any more than sufficient to supply the current demand, in view of the increased consumption incidental to good times. This means that present prices for raw cotton may continue indefinitely, and in this belief many mills are reducing their output in order to husband the supply of raw stock now on hand. A number of mills have closed down entirely for this reason. These will not come into the market again until prices suit them.

These facts may help western traders to understand a situation which has been the subject of much misrepresentation. Those who are in the position of having to buy cotton goods should watch the market closely. The crop situation will bear special scrutiny, as upon the events of the next three or four weeks will depend very much the course of the market for another year.

A GOOD AD.

It was a happy thought which prompted Mr. Bell to make the comparison of Winnipeg's wheat shipments with those of Chicago and Duluth, which we give on another page. The comparison is a striking one, and shows most convincingly how rapid the advance has been in the production of this continent to more northerly latitudes. Chicago is no longer the leading city of this continent in respect to wheat trade, and not even Duluth is now superior to Winnipeg. The fact that this city has obtained what is tremendously increased again this year, and in a few years all United States lake ports combined will not be receiving so much wheat as the city of Winnipeg. The advantage is perhaps not so important as one as it appears, but it is suggestive nevertheless, and the advertisement which Mr. Bell's comparison gives is the best this city has ever had.

CROP REPORTS.

Edmonton—Advices from all parts of the district indicate that probably 25 per cent of the grain is now cut. Barley is the grain which has a considerable percentage of the wheat; but few fields of oats are cut yet. It does not appear that the unfavorable weather of the past few days has as yet had any serious results in preventing the maturing of grain. Should the district be favored with the usual September weather for a few weeks the gross produce of the grain will be at least reach the average.

Sidney—The fine weather last week enabled the farmers to make good progress. All the cutting is done and nearly all are busy stacking. Three threshing machines are at work. Wheat is turning out about 20 bushels per acre, and some has been delivered to the elevators. What is coming in is loaded direct on cars.

Sintaluta.—Many farmers finished cutting last week. By the end of this week but little, if any, will be standing. On Thursday and Friday nights of last week there were light frosts, but it is not so serious as to be of any value, whether or not any damage was done.

Broodview—Unfavorable weather causes harvesting to proceed slowly. The earliness of the crop in this district have practically finished wheat cutting and stacking, but some grain is in Landsdowne, to the south, our heaviest wheat growing section, wheat cutting, and some wheat and many fields are still green.

MacGregor.—The first wheat of the season was harvested on Saturday. It graded No. 1 hard. Threshing would have been in full swing but for the heavy rains of the night and Monday morning. Many of the farmers are fully half done stacking, others might have been far advanced, but are waiting for stook threshing. There has not been enough threshed out yet to form an idea of the yield, but it will be. All grain is cut and in good order.

Little—The crops, despite the changeable weather, have been pretty well cut close to town, and on the plains the crops are practically all cut, but in some quarters there is considerable still standing. Taking the district as a whole a little more than half of the grain has been cut, and the rest would have been if the weather had permitted. A frost occurred on Saturday morning of a few degrees, which played havoc with garden stuff, but, fortunately, not doing much damage to the grain remaining on the ground. It was severe enough and the grain being in an advanced condition. The elevators are being put in shape and are ready for the season's crop. There are three elevators at the railway track and the mill, which has a storage capacity of about 120,000 bushels.

Alvander.—Wheat cutting is finished and nearly all the rough grains are cut. Wheat was getting in good shape for threshing on Saturday evening, but some of the heavy rain occurred, which lasted for about ten hours, and will again delay threshing days or a week. The rains are giving up hopes of getting any one hard this season.

Emerson.—The average yield of wheat in this district is estimated to be most sanguine expectations and is now placed at 26 bushels per acre. Numbers of farmers report yields as high as 32 and 34 bushels of wheat per acre of summer fallow, and 30 bushels is quite common. The good prices for cereals this year has caused general satisfaction, and numbers of farmers are being induced to open their bank accounts to a considerable extent as a result.

Strathcona, J. W. T., Sept. 7.—Report shows that the rain Sunday evening last, and did some damage, but it was not excessive. A report of slight frost from the farm at Stony Plain, Rabbit Hill and Sandy Lake sections of the district was experienced here Wednesday night but not sufficient to injure the crops and the garden stuff is mostly too advanced to be injured.

Wolesey, Sept. 7.—Cartes Thompson, of Ellsboro, began threshing to-day. The average yield about the middle of the week. About seventy-five per cent of the grain is cut. There was a slight frost Friday night, but it did not do damage as far as known at present.

Marlopolis.—The late rains are retarding both stacking and threshing operations. Those intending to thresh out of the district are completely idle, they having no ground to work meanwhile. With a fair wind it is expected that stacking will commence at once. Rain is to be apprehended greatly as very little more would cause the wheat to grow in stocks.

Dominion City.—During the past week the rain has been coming on extensively throughout the district with another good week of fine weather thereafter. The grain is turning out well. The grain is turning out a good average and the quality is high. On Tuesday last H. Carson's outfit threshed 2,600 bushels in 9 hours 45 minutes, including two stops. There is still a quantity of barley and flax still to cut, but some of it has been slightly touched by the frost the past few nights. The heavy downpour of rain has for the present put a stop to all work. The Haderichs society have purchased a J. I. Case outfit, driven by a gasoline engine, which is the first of the kind in the district. A quantity of grain which will be drawn to this point will be considerably less than that of the other districts. The elevators at Ridgeville and the higher price paid there. A number of the farmers are well on with their fall plowing.

St. Andrews, Sept. 7.—Harvesting is progressing rapidly. Cutting is nearly all done, excepting a few fields. Stacking is now the order of the day. Threshing will start the end of the week.

Cypress River.—All the grain in this district has been threshed and stacking is the order of the day. The grain is turning out better than farmers expected, but is mostly grading 1c in the north. Wheat is mostly grading 18 to 20 bushels per acre. Oats 35 to 40 bushels per acre. All the machines were running on Friday and Saturday night the heavy rain of Sunday night will stop operations for a few days. An ideal drying weather they will not start before Friday.

Saskatoon. The slightest rain does damage from frost as yet. It is tender garden stuff. Wheat is probably in the best of condition. It will be a fine sample though much is cut rather green. Continual rains have retarded ripening and many fields of oats are still quite green. Some warm weather is now wanted to complete ripening.

MILLINERY OPENING.

The annual fall millinery opening of The D. McCall Co.'s Winnipeg branch was held on Saturday evening, Thursday. The attendance was larger than ever, and the opening a most satisfactory one. The display of hats was complete, embracing everything suitable for western trade. The prevailing styles were fully described in last week's issue of The Commercial. The hats are large, and the collection feature is the flaring front, which is shown in a variety of styles, in buckles or feathers. Black is the prevailing style still, with black and white, and white are given a small way. Other colors are shown, but are not prominent. The trimming is very costly, and is not almost everything known to the milliner's art. Birds are again becoming very common, and are not a pleasing feature. Feathers are also shown quite largely.

The hats are again very popular, and this season they are nearly all stiffened to shape rather than being left in the soft, floppy style of last winter. The trimming of all the hats is massive. The real to-wear and outing hats are nearly all of camel-hair felt, either shaped into the actual hat or into a shape which is put on over a buckram shape. The large, low, bell-shaped crown is the prevailing style in the hats. White, brown and gray are the popular colors. The decorative are cord, quills or very small birds.

The shipment of cattle from Boston to the west is being increased to 400 head and the ocean freight on the same was 40c per head. There has been a large quantity of cattle shipped to the above port this season from American ports, owing to the scarcity of stock in the middle of the season, so no duty on foreign cattle entering Antwerp now those who have been from the west did not do so, as prices have ruled high.