

# THE COMMERCIAL

A Journal of Commerce, Industry and Finance, especially devoted to the interests of Western Canada, including that portion of Ontario west of Lake Superior, the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Territories.

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The Commercial certainly enjoys 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. By a thorough system of personal solicitation, carried out annually, this journal has been placed upon the desks of the majority of business men in the district designated above, including Northwest Ontario, the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia, and the Territories of Assiniboia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, AUGUST 30, 1897.

## NOXIOUS WEEDS.

In some parts of Manitoba evidently there is still great carelessness shown in carrying out the law regarding the destruction of noxious weeds. We notice by the last official crop report that more attention is being given to the destruction of weeds. This may be the case in some districts, but it is evidently not the case in all districts. It is not necessary to spend more than an hour or two driving out of Winnipeg to discover the most flagrant violations of the law regarding the destruction of weeds. In St. Charles district, the other day, the writer noticed whole fields of thistles and other weeds, now matured or rapidly maturing. There is nothing to be gained by cutting the weeds at this late date, as the seeds are about ripe. In fact some varieties, such as French or stink weed, were ripe some time ago, and thistles are now beginning to blow about with the wind.

## FLAX SEED "BOOMING."

So much has been said about the wheat "boom" that the upward movement in prices of other commodities has been lost sight of. There are other commodities, however, which compare quite favorably with wheat in respect to the advance in prices during the present season. Flax seed is one of these. A year ago flax seed was selling in the neighborhood of 65

cents per bushel at Chicago, while last week flax seed was quoted in The Commercial at \$1.20 per bushel at Chicago. The exact quotation a year ago was 64 1-2 cents at Chicago. This shows a very remarkable advance. Linseed oil will, of course, be forced up rapidly in price on account of the vastly increased cost of flax seed. The price of oil at Winnipeg was advanced 3 cents early in the week, and the commodity is held very strong, with further advances liable to be made any time.

## MANITOBA CROPS.

The provincial government crop report was issued on Saturday afternoon, August 21. We had only space last week to mention the government extended summary of the government report is given this week. The wheat yield, which is placed at 16.49 bushels per acre, is probably not far astray. Some estimates made by very competent authorities place the yield at fifteen bushels per acre, but other estimates range a few bushels higher even than the government report, so that the official figure may be considered as close as it is possible to estimate crops before they are harvested. Threshing returns may change the figures slightly. The yield is not large, but with the prospect of very remunerative prices the crop will be a profitable one. Oats and barley also show high yields. The Red River valley districts give decidedly the largest yields all through the lists, according to the official report. This agrees with what The Commercial had previously stated. The hay crop is light.

Compared with the final estimate of the crop of 1896, the yield of wheat is nearly two bushels per acre larger this year. This combined with the increased area in wheat this year, makes the total crop figure up to 21,284,000 bushels, according to the government report, as compared with 14,371,000 bushels last year.

The total crop of oats is practically the same as last year, being placed at 12,500,000 bushels in even figures, each year. This will not leave any surplus for export worth mentioning, as there are no reserve stocks to carry over to the new crop, and there was only a limited quantity available for export from last year's crop, though a considerable quantity of old oats were carried over from the crop of the previous year. The average yield of oats is a little less than last year, but the area is larger, making the total crop about the same.

The flax crop is a little larger than last year. The latter crop is not receiving the attention from Manitoba farmers that it was formerly expected it would receive.

A couple of years ago the flax area increased remarkably, but the last two seasons the crop has been reduced to a very limited area. As the price of flax seed is comparatively high this season, it would have been a profitable crop this year.

The crop estimates given in the report, of say 20,000,000 bushels, in column of this issue, it must be remembered apply only to the province of Manitoba. In some districts in the territories, particularly in eastern Assiniboia, there will also be a considerable surplus of grain for shipment, which will go in with the Manitoba crop for shipping or export purposes. The wheat crop, of the territories, added to that of Manitoba, should easily bring the total up to 25,000,000 bushels, and from this there should be a surplus, available for export, of say 20,000,000 bushels, in round figures. On the present basis of prices this will bring in a sufficient return to place our farmers in a very comfortable position, even allowing that all other crops will be required for home consumption. Of course a portion of the other crops will be exported in the form of live stock, meats, dairy products, etc., which will add considerably in the aggregate to the incomes of our farmers.

## NEW CANADIAN TARIFF.

A copy of the new Canadian tariff, in handy pamphlet form, can be secured free by sending in a subscription to The Commercial. This is not a summary of the tariff. The complete tariff act is given, word for word, as contained in the official copy. Send \$2 for one year's subscription to The Commercial, and receive a copy.

## The Lumber Trade.

The Rat Portage Lumber Co. has been obliged to build a considerable addition to their saw and door factory, owing to the largely increased demand for their manufactures. Several new machines of the most improved type have also been added to the factory.

The Minneapolis Lumberman says of trade on United States Pacific coast: There is an increased demand for fir lumber on the coast. The rail trade is good but the coastwise and foreign trade is better. Vessels are loading all the time at Sound points, for shipment along the coast and across the Pacific. But the best thing about the coast trade is the demand for red cedar shingles. Every mill on the coast is running to its capacity, and they cannot keep up with their orders. In three months the price at the mill has gone up from 95 cents to \$1.20 and is still tending upward. Many of the manufacturers are still filling low priced orders that were taken some time ago, though there is a great temptation to accept orders at a higher figure. The demand for red cedar shingles is largely from the states west of the Mississippi river, but it is so large as to more than test the capacity of the present facilities for manufacturing them on the coast.