

THE COMMERCIAL

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Advertisements purporting to be news matter, or which profess to express the opinions of this Journal, will not be inserted.

Office: 181 McDermot Street.

D. W. BUCHANAN,
Publisher.

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. The Commercial also reaches the leading wholesale, commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, MAY 21, 1898.

Virden District, Manitoba.

In The Commercial of May 7 we gave some information about the town and district of Virden, from a pamphlet published by the Virden board of trade. Virden is located in the fine agricultural and stock country included in the county of Dennis, Western Manitoba. Following is some further information taken from the pamphlet mentioned:

The Canadian Pacific railway (main line) runs from east to west through the county. The Pipestone branch of the Canadian Pacific railway starts from Kennay terminating at present in Reston. When completed this branch will traverse the whole southern part of the county and tap the large forest reserves of the Moose Mountain district and also bring it within a few miles of the Souris coal fields. The northeast portion has facilities through the Northwest Central railway, a line running from Chater in a northwesterly direction. It will thus be seen that the settlers of to-day have considerable advantages in this respect over those who came in the early days, but as a matter of fact the present settler has scarcely any of the difficulties or hardships encountered by the pioneers. Of course there are always the difficulties and inconveniences incident to starting afresh amid new surroundings. One thing is certain that in a few years free grant land or farms at low prices and easy terms will be a thing of the past, in any part of the western country, particularly if the present advantageous offer of the Dominion government to grant free homesteads of 160 acres to each person over the age of 18 is long continued, and it will soon be an open question as to whether it

is not better for those who can afford it to buy a quarter or half section nearer town and thus naturally in a better location.

The land in the county is mostly rolling prairie. There is nearly always some wild hay that can be cut on each farm and there are stretches of marsh upon which settlers can get permits from the government to cut hay. In some parts there are surface stones on the land, and these are most useful, as the number of stone dwell-

every name are in evidence at all points.

The Dennis Agricultural Society No. 1 has for a number of years past taken 1st prize for the best interprovincial exhibit of grains, grasses, roots, etc., at the Winnipeg Industrial exhibition, and on the occasion of the first Northwest Territories exhibition, held at Regina, Dennis again took first prize, there being several competitors. It must not be inferred from this that Dennis is in any way super-



MANITOBA FARM HOMES—COOK'S FARM, NEAR VIRDEN.

ling houses, barns and other buildings plainly show.

A few years ago much of the land was a long way from markets. Now, this is not the case. Every section is within convenient distance of a market, for while there are points where there is not much more than the post office, store and blacksmith's shop there is nevertheless an elevator. The diversified character of the farming is very marked though almost all farmers now follow more or less what is called mixed farming, and Dennis

for to Manitoba in general, but simply shows that when good careful thrifty farmers take hold of the land they can here as elsewhere produce the best of grain, grasses and roots.

There is a thorough system of good roads throughout the county, grading having been done wherever necessary. The Assiniboine River and Pipestone and other creeks are bridged at convenient distances. It can be safely stated that no county in Manitoba has better roads and bridges than Dennis.



MANITOBA FARM HOMES—J. ELDER'S PLACE, NEAR VIRDEN.

county is able to furnish land for such a system of agriculture. There are a number of homesteads open for settlement in the county and railway and Canada N. W. Co. lands can be bought for \$3.00 per acre. Improved farms can be secured from \$5.00 per acre and upwards.

The country is well supplied with markets, upwards of 30 elevators being found throughout the county, agricultural societies, farmers' institutes, fraternal societies of almost

When prairie fires are kept down large numbers of poplar bluffs spring up and when once the fires are wholly controlled the country will be covered with bluffs. Trees (young ones) can be got from our nurseries so cheap that (after a man has the land properly prepared, there is no reason why each farm should not have a nice shelter at least round its buildings.

A branch of the Bank of Ottawa will be opened at Dauphin, Man.