

citizens generally, have refused to give that time and attention to municipal affairs, which the interests of the city require. Winnipeg is a commercial city, and as the metropolis of this country, it devolves upon the business men to see that our civic government is carried on in a straightforward, business way.

At the present time there is special need of decisive action in municipal matters. Our affairs during the past year have been administered in anything but a pleasant and satisfactory manner. There is much need of efficient and careful management of civic matters in the immediate future. Our debt is already very heavy, and vast expenditures are talked of for next year. In comparison with the future prospects of this city, our debt may not be considered extravagant, but with our present population it is certainly very large, and taxes have become burdensome. At any rate, it is a false policy to contract a large debt, in expectation of a rapid growth of the city, for as population increases, it will be found that expenditure will also increase. Heavy civic indebtedness will also have a tendency to restrict the growth of the city, by preventing the investment of capital and the establishment of industries in our midst. To the citizens of Winnipeg, our municipal matters should be of vastly more importance at the present time, than either Dominion or provincial politics. With the vital interests now at stake, and the important questions which will come up during the next year, the present is not a time to again place the city at the mercy of the incompetent and untrustworthy.

### FARMING FAR NORTH.

Away up in the almost unexplored territory of Athabasca, and pretty well toward the northern boundary of this territory, some farming experiments have been carried on of late years with success. H. W. Lawrence, who has been farming at Vermillion for the past four years; has seventy-five acres under cultivation and estimates this year's crop at 2,000 bushels of wheat and barley, and 2,500 bushels of potatoes and roots. E. J. Lawrence, who has a milling outfit at this point, had a surplus last year of 10,000 pounds of flour, and has also 100 head of cattle and thirty horses. He is also raising hogs and curing bacon. Vermillion is on Peace river, between latitudes 58° and 59° north. These products are no doubt disposed of to Indian and mission settlements, as there are no civilized settlements in the territory, and only mission and trading stations among the Indians. Those who talk about the impossibilities of settlement in the north, should consider these facts. Vermillion is about 400 miles north of Edmonton, Alberta, and 600 miles north of Calgary.

A short time ago THE COMMERCIAL gave reports of wheat growing in the far north. At Peace river, north of Edmonton some hundreds of miles, Rev. George Brick, a Church of England missionary, grew wheat and barley successfully last year. At another Church of England mission, known as Stanley mission, 200 miles north of Prince Albert, wheat has been grown successfully. Archdeacon Mackay, formerly at this mission, recently gave his exper-

ence in growing wheat as Stanley mission. He claims to have grown wheat at this northerly station for seven years in succession, without injury from frost. Later evidence has recently come to hand, concerning the successful cultivation of wheat in these northern latitudes. Some samples of wheat grown this year at Shaftsbury, a mission on the Peace river, were brought to Winnipeg a few days ago. These consisted of one sample each of ladoga and red fife wheats, and each were very fine samples. These wheats were sound and free from frost damage, and as fine samples as one would wish to look at. Indeed few if any finer specimens have been shown in Winnipeg this year. The samples of wheat referred to were left at the Ogilvie Milling Co's office in this city. The red fife yielded 254 bushels from something less than seven acres. Evidences are continually accumulating to show that the northern limit of successful agriculture on this continent is much farther north than has been generally supposed. Flourishing agricultural and pastoral communities will certainly be found in the future, in regions we now consider beyond the limit of possible settlement of this kind.

### The "Hold-Your-Wheat" Folly.

The idiosyncrasy of the "hold-your-wheat" counsel of the Farmers' Alliance bosses is probably now apparent enough even to strike the intelligence of these individuals. It has recently been estimated by European and American experts that so far as regards its purchase from the United States, nearly all Europe's wheat requirements until the crop of the closing half of 1892 comes to hand will be met by the middle of January. By that time Australia will begin to do its harvesting. India and Egypt commence in February and continue on through March, while Persia, Asia Minor and other exporting localities start in April. Thus there would, in any event, be a continuous stream of wheat into Europe from outside the United States, although, of course, in comparatively small volume, from January onward to July, when the reapers in the United States could resume work. From the present indications Europe could draw on those regions more heavily than usual in the early part of 1892 if there were any necessity. The prospects, on the whole, are for a fair yield in those quarters of the globe. And concerning operations here, such as the Alliance politicians advised, would increase prices sufficiently to call out a heavy exportation from this country's rivals in the coming year.

Moreover, the "hold-your-wheat" imbecility would have consequences for the United States more extended and lasting than this. It would not only shut us out from Europe to a considerable degree for the next ten months, but it would give an impetus to wheat production in other parts of the world which would embarrass and injure us for years to come. Apparently the Alliance magnates imagine that the United States has a virtual monopoly in wheat production, and it can hold the field readily and permanently against all comers. Seemingly they have not learned that this country's product is on the average, only a fourth of the world's yield. Then, too, they are evidently unaware of the capacity of European nations to get down to short rations and to employ cheaper substitutes when prices are high. Many of the Asi-

atic and South American countries, and some of the European, need only the stimulus which advanced rates would furnish, to enable them to develop wheat production and exportation to a degree which, in the future, would largely cut off the sales of the United States abroad. Next year a larger wheat acreage and a bigger crop all over the world are extremely probable, but the Alliance policy, if it had been adopted, would keep a large supply on the American farmers' hands until next season, when the demand would be curtailed and the prices lowered.—St Louis Globe Democrat.

### Outlook for Winter Apples.

Winter apples will be plenty and comparatively low prices are looked for by dealers this season. Growers have made strenuous efforts to make it appear that the apple crop is short, but the reports received from authoritative sources do not bear out the statements of the growers. To be sure the winter apple crop in New York State will probably be less than the average, but in most other sections there will be a full yield. A fortunate characteristic of the apple this year is its good size and freedom from specks. The shortage in New York State is mainly in red varieties, so that prices for western and northern red fruit are expected to show some improvement. The New Jersey and Pennsylvania apple crops are exceedingly large, and there is nearly an average yield in Ohio, Indiana and Michigan. The Canadian and northern states crop is also of good quantity and quality and indications point to apples being very cheap, supplemented as they are by enormous quantities of other fruits.—Chicago Times.

### Dakotans in Canada.

Capt. Homes, who has been engaged in special immigration work for the Dominion government, arrived in Winnipeg last week from Yorkton. Since he went out there on the 1st of October, one hundred and sixty homesteads have been located by ex-Dakota farmers, at Sheho Lake, and twenty other intending settlers are there now prospecting for land. Sheho Lake is about fifty miles northwest of Yorkton. All these settlers are housed and are well satisfied. The Manitoba Northwestern Railway Co., and Geo. H. Campbell, immigration agent, have had a couple of houses erected on the trail between Yorkton and Sheho for their accommodation. A house has also been put up at Sheho for the use of land hunters. On the return of Mr. Campbell from Ottawa, Capt. Homes will go to Aberdeen, South Dakota, to arrange for a larger exodus of Dakotans in the spring. There is every assurance that between two and three hundred more families will emigrate to this country. Besides those who have come through Winnipeg this fall by train, thirty or more families have driven across the country with their live stock, leaving their farm implements, etc., to be brought up by train next spring.

The Canadian Pacific Telegraph Co. is having a fourth wire strung on their poles between Montreal and Vancouver. This became necessary by reason of the great increase and pressure of business. One wire will be employed for the railway company's service, and the other three will be devoted to commercial messages.