

STANDARD MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE CO.

Head Office, - MARKHAM, Ont.

Authorized Capital, - 500,000
Subscribed Capital, - 125,000

WM. ARMSTRONG, H. B. REESOR
President Man. Director
K. REESOR, FRANK EDMAND,
Inspector City Agent
Confederation Life Bldg.

The Metropolitan Fire Insurance Company

CASH-MUTUAL and STOCK
HEAD OFFICE, - TORONTO
Authorized Capital, \$500,000

D. HIBNER, Berlin, Pres. W. G. WRIGHT, Inspector.
W. H. SHAPLEY, Toronto, F. CLEMENT BROWN,
Vice President. Manager.

THE COMMERCIAL

Reaches direct 90 per cent. of the retail, wholesale and manufacturing trades of Northwestern Ontario, Manitoba, the Territories and British Columbia in advance of, and publishes more interesting commercial and financial news than any other similar newspaper in Canada.

Do you want to sell or increase the sale of your goods in these, THE BEST BUYING PROVINCES IN CANADA?

Estimated that 200,000 new settlers will arrive this year. Will the retail merchant offer them your goods? Our advertisers our best references. We beg the favor of an enquiry.

THE HUGH C. MACLEAN CO., LIMITED,
Publishers, Winnipeg.

Eastern firms should subscribe for THE COMMERCIAL and keep posted on Western trade

thing else in store for Canadian fruit grown in the West. Upon the plains of Western Canada there is to-day a large population who have learned to eat and enjoy fruit. Their numbers will be rapidly increasing, as will be also, as years go by, their supply of cash for buying the choice edible products of their sister province to the West. There will be no better fruit market on the continent in years to come than the wheat-growing plains of the Canadian West, and no country is in better, nor, in fact, as good, a position to supply that demand as is British Columbia. If there are those at present who are attempting to grow fruit and market it at a profit without success, it is because they either have not the proper varieties, are not giving their orchards or vineyards the proper attention, or are not presenting their fruit in the best possible condition to the consuming public. The time is not very far distant when British Columbia fruit will move east by the trainload, instead of the carload, and when that time arrives a market will be easier obtained, and the profits will be correspondingly greater. The City of Winnipeg, this year alone, received and distributed over 1,000 carloads of fruit, and with a population rapidly increasing in numbers and in wealth, the demand for all classes of fruit will be greatly increased.

FUTURE OF STEEL AND IRON PRICES.

The report of the secretary of the American Iron and Steel Association shows that notwithstanding the reaction which set in during last year in the iron and steel industry, the production of pig iron, the basic material, was greater than during

any previous year. There was a falling off in the latter half, and the decline continued in the first half of this year. It continued in fact through the third quarter of the present year, but lately there has been a revival of activity with promise of a resumption of production on the scale of 1902-3, with possibly a new advance. All reports nowadays indicate new activity and increased production at the iron furnaces and steel mills, stimulated by a growing demand for the finished products, and the expectation seems to be that another year will see a decided revival of prosperity for the iron and steel industries. During the depression there has been a considerable reduction in the price of pig iron, where competition is least restrained, and the prices of certain forms of steel have had to give way in spite of "pools." The high prices for finished products had checked the demand and the works were forced to curtail production. In their need of a market for what they did produce, competition and cutting of prices could not be prevented, and some of the pools were constrained to yield in order to save themselves, explains the Journal of Commerce, but the closest and strongest of them has kept steel rails at the top prices of 1902. Now that there are signs of an increased demand for the products, and of increased activity in supplying them, the price of pig iron has considerably advanced, and there are plans for "pegging them up" again throughout the range of production from billets and blooms to the finished articles of steel.

—It is stated in the "Broad Arrow" that to test the effect of alcohol upon marksmanship, a whole Swiss battalion has been practised: (1) After total abstinence, (2) after drinking the previous evening, (3) after drinking the same day—in moderation, and (4) after a heavy bout of drinking on the day of practice. The result has been held to prove stimulants good for short distances, and harmful for long ranges.

—"The carnage was fearful," read Mr. Spyem, from the paper. "All about us the dead were piled in ghastly heaps, and the air was filled with the groans and shrieks of the wounded. The slaughter was —" "Oh, I wish you wouldn't read those dreadful war stories!" interrupted Mrs. Spyem. "This isn't a war story," said Mr. Spyem, testily. "What is it, then?" "Why, it's only an Englishman's account of a journey on an American railroad."—"Cleveland Leader."

—Several of the mills in the Eastern States are beginning to feel the results of the improving state of trade throughout the country. At Lowell, Mass., the Brott cotton mills, which have been closed for the past three months, resumed operations on the 31st ult. The mills will be operated full time all winter. From Providence, R.I., comes word that the mills of the Hope Co. in the villages of Hope and

30,000 Policyholders
who carry \$40,000,000
Insurance in
Head Office, WATERLOO, ONT.

The Mutual Life
OF CANADA
think it an
Ideal Company

BECAUSE OF ITS

- (a) Reasonable Premium Rates.
- (b) Guaranteed Cash and Paid-up Values.
- (c) Liberal Policy Conditions.
- (d) And Expanding Dividends.

Agencies in all principal Towns and Cities in Canada.

Phoenix are now on a full time basis again. They have about 500 employees, who for four months have been working only four days each week because of a dull cotton goods market. The Oriental cotton mills of Providence, which were closed down about a year ago owing to the high price of cotton and the low price of goods, are resuming, about 250 hands being employed. The Edwards manufacturing company's cotton mills, at Augusta, Me., were started last week after a shut-down of four months, due largely to the dullness in trade. A ten per cent. reduction in wages went into effect, but about 75 per cent. of the 1,300 operatives went into the mills. Others are expected to report later, says a recent report, as a large number of the workers went to Canada after the shut-down.

The American Axe and Tool Company, of Glassport, Penn., are about to establish a large plant in Canada, probably either in Toronto or Hamilton.

Debentures for Sale.

TOWN OF RED DEER, N. W. T.

The town of Red Deer, N.W.T., has fifteen thousand dollars' (\$15,000.00) worth of debentures for sale, covering twenty years, and bearing interest at 5 per cent. These debentures are issued for the installation of a water-works system.

Sealed tenders, endorsed "Tenders for Debentures," will be received at the office of the undersigned up to DECEMBER 30TH, 1904. The debentures will be sold in whole or in blocks to suit purchasers.

L. C. FULMER,
Secretary-Treasurer.

Red Deer, N.W.T.