

large exporting companies probably catch more fish in a single day, than were caught by all the small local fishermen combined in an entire season. This will show how absurd are these new regulations. If there is danger of depleting the Manitoba lakes, let the fishery experts decide what quantity of fish may be caught each season in the different lakes, without endangering the supply, and then limit the export in proportion. If found necessary for the protection of the fish, the limitation of export would settle the whole matter, without interfering in any way with the local fishermen. Whitefish could be protected in this way, while no limitation need be placed upon jackfish, etc. If it is undesirable to limit the exports by direct enactment, the operations of the exporting companies could be limited if it is really found necessary to protect the fish.

In regard to the smaller varieties of fish, seine nets of a smaller mesh than the gill nets are allowed, but it is not found practical to use the seine nets to advantage in the lake. It is true that fishing in the southern end of the lake, where other varieties than whitefish are principally caught, has been carried on mostly in the winter, but considerable fishing has also been done in the summer and fall, which is now prohibited.

There are 3,000 Icelanders settled at the southwestern extremity of Lake Winnipeg. These people were induced to go there through the representation of government agents concerning the great wealth of the lake fisheries, which they would be able to engage in for domestic and commercial purposes. They accordingly settled along the lake, though they could have easily secured much more desirable locations for agricultural purposes elsewhere. Now they are prohibited from fishing for sale, as none of them have the capital to fish under the new regulations. There is no objection to reasonable protection of the fisheries, but there is serious objection to these regulations, which interfere with the small local fishermen. There is no need to prohibit fishing in any part of Lake Winnipeg, or in any other of the Manitoba Lakes, for local commercial purposes. All the fish caught for local commercial purposes is but a drop in the bucket. If it is necessary to further restrict fishing, we say again, let the restriction be placed entirely upon fishing for export. The fact, however, that fish are apparently more plentiful than ever this year in Lake Winnipeg, would seem to indicate that the alleged depletion of the lake is a trumped-up affair.

In conclusion we would say, as in a former article, that Mr. Wilmot utterly failed to grasp the situation concerning the Manitoba fisheries, as is evidenced by his recommendations. He may be posted in fish culture, but he is either grossly incompetent as an inspector, or he allowed himself to be influenced for some other reason, to report as he did. *THE COMMERCIAL*, its readers well know, has no political motive to serve in again taking up this question. Neither is it influenced by personal animosity against Mr. Wilmot nor the local officials who planned his report for him. It is simply the desire of this journal to see justice and reason prevail in this fishery question.

THE BOOM IN WHEAT.

In an article in *THE COMMERCIAL* of July 27, it was pointed out, in reply to some of the "boom" stories in circulation about wheat prices, that wheat for September delivery in Manitoba, was then worth about 70 cents per bushel for No. 1 hard. Forthwith an exchange stated to the effect that the Winnipeg grain men had "fixed" the price of wheat for this season at 70 cents. This "fixing" the price of wheat, frequently referred to by Manitoba papers, is something calculated to make a grain man smile, seeing that the value of wheat varies from day to day, in keeping with fluctuations in outside markets. The statement when the article referred to was written, that wheat was worth 70 cents, September delivery, in Manitoba, was based on the export value of wheat. Chicago, Minneapolis, Duluth and other great wheat markets usually vary but a trifle in their relative quotations of wheat, though occasionally local speculative influences may cause very temporarily an abnormal condition of quotations at one point. Taking the value of wheat at these leading markets, as a basis of export values, and it is an easy matter to calculate to a fraction what wheat is worth relatively in Manitoba. Occasionally prices have ruled in Manitoba higher than export values, and then in a sense the local grain men may be said to have "fixed" prices, as local causes have operated to increase prices beyond export values.

Since the article appearing in our July issue was written, wheat has taken a big advance. September delivery at Duluth was at that time quoted at 85 to 86c per bushel for No. 1 northern. On Saturday, Aug. 15, at the same market, September wheat was quoted at \$1.02 for No. 1 northern, and \$1.05 for No. 1 hard. Here was a clear gain of 16 to 17 cents per bushel in three weeks. Prices are lower this week at the time of writing, but our market reports will show any changes to the end of the week. The greatest excitement was on Saturday, August 15, when Duluth advanced over 6 cents on this day alone, while the same day Chicago was about 7½c higher at the close for September option. It has been a long time since so much excitement has centered about wheat in the large United States markets. Friday, Aug. 14, was a wild day in wheat at Chicago. What started the excitement, it is just difficult to explain. Speculators seemed to get suddenly alarmed all at once, and those who were "shot" were frantic to cover. This speculative craze was increased by strong cables from abroad. Wheat advanced 4 cents at Chicago on August 14. The excitement was continued on Saturday, Aug. 15 at Chicago, at fever heat. What may be noted about this wheat "boom" is, that there was no particular cause for it, as on each of these days of the great excitement, there was nothing startling in the way of news, to change the situation. It appears to have been a "short" scare, with no doubt considerable manipulation of the markets by speculative influences not readily discernible.

Editorial Notes.

THE irrepressible A. W. Ross has been telling a Minneapolis reporter that the most

conservative estimate of Manitoba's wheat crop is 30,000,000 bushels, in consequence of which, of course he predicts a real estate boom. This is about as near the truth as A. W. can come. It is such blatherskite statements as this, from irresponsible characters of the A. W. Ross stripe, which disgust sensible people with Manitoba, and cause so many persons in the east and the United States to sneer when this province is mentioned.

Our new Premier, Hon. Senator Abbott, has so far created a very favorable impression with the people generally. His call to form a government was looked upon at the outset as merely a makeshift, and it was generally believed that his government would be but a temporary one to tide over the crisis in our public affairs. Mr. Abbott, though standing high in the estimation of those intimately acquainted with him, was unknown to the people of Canada in a wide or general sense, up to the time he undertook to form a government. His task as successor to Sir John was a most difficult one. It was looked upon as an experiment the success of which was very problematical. Though the present administration is still considered but a temporary one, it is safe to say that Mr. Abbott as a leader, stands in a different position in the public estimation to what he did on first assuming the responsibility of office. His manner of dealing with the departmental scandals at Ottawa, and his apparent earnestness to have a thorough investigation of the charges, indicate that he has grasped the reins of government with surprising vigor and firmness. Other features indicate that his administration is not to be a week and incipient one. Mr. Abbott's speech upon the Hudson Bay railway will be particularly well received in the west.

AS NOTED in the report of the Winnipeg board of trade meeting published last week, it will be seen that the board has undertaken to impress upon the proper authorities the necessity of more stringent measures against the spread of noxious weeds. This action has not been taken any too soon. There has been shocking neglect in this matter, and it is little to the credit of the government authorities that the board has been obliged to urge this question upon their attention. The Winnipeg district has suffered the worst from the spreading of weeds, and a short drive anywhere in the country surrounding the city, will be ample to surprise those who are not aware of the actual state of affairs. Far from farm is a mass of weeds. Those who try to keep down the weeds, are disheartened from the crops of thistles, mustard, etc., which are allowed to go to seed near them, and which renders their efforts futile to keep their own land clean. The pathmaster system is of no use, as local men will not enforce the law. We are aware of instances where pathmasters have absolutely refused to interfere to compel parties to cut weeds, saying they were not going to quarrel with their neighbors. The most stringent act is necessary, and competent officials should be appointed as inspectors, who would be directly responsible for the enforcement of the law, if the country, and Winnipeg district in particular is to be saved. It is said that patches of weeds are flourishing on the road allowances and on vacant lands, about the outskirts of the city, while the river banks are producing crops of weeds year after year, from which the seed is scattered over the adjoining country.