

THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters pertaining to trade and progress in Western Canada, including that portion of Ontario west of Lake Superior, the Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Territories.

Seventeenth Year of Publication
ISSUED EVERY SATURDAY

SUBSCRIPTIONS, CANADA AND UNITED STATES
\$2.00 PER ANNUM IN ADVANCE OR \$2.25 WHEN
NOT SO PAID; OTTAWA COUNTRIES, \$2.50 PER
ANNUM IN ADVANCE.

Changes for advertisements should be in not later
than Thursday Morning.

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

Office: 15 McDerming 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 Can-
ada, daily or weekly. The Commercial also
reaches the leading wholesale, commission, man-
ufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

WINNIPEG, NOVEMBER 5, 1898.

PRESERVE THE TIMBER.

It is pleasing to note that the Dominion government is at last beginning to take a more active interest in the preservation of our timber areas. Mr. Stephenson, crown timber agent for the west, is authority for the statement that our timber resources have been diminished one-half during the past fifteen years. This wanton destruction is sad to think of, especially when we consider that this western country is largely a prairie region, and timber areas are therefore specially valuable. We say wanton destruction, because much at least of the loss could have been avoided if some system of preserving and subjugating forest fires had been inaugurated. We have lost half of our timber resources in fifteen years, whereas, the natural increase should have been more than equal to the reasonable consumption of timber for our present limited population.

The action of the government is tardy enough, but it will be none the less welcome. The plan now proposed by the department of the interior to establish timber reserves in the wooded districts, will be welcomed by those who have given any thought to the matter. It is proposed to exchange land elsewhere with the C. P. R. and other corporations holding land in the Turtle Mountain, Riding Moun-

tain and other timber districts, so that the latter districts can be maintained as timber reserves. There is no reason why Canada should not maintain for all time, large forest areas, even in the great prairie regions of the west.

PEOPLING OUR PRAIRIES.

One of the pleasing features of the present situation is the improved outlook for securing good settlers for our rich agricultural lands. Settlement has been gradually on the increase during the past two years, as has been shown by the steady increase in the demand for farms throughout the country. During the month of October it is estimated that 1,000 new settlers arrived in the west, which is a large number for a fall month. Free grant lands, which were passed over by the first rush of settlers some years ago, are now being homesteaded by the later arrivals, while others are passing on to new districts being opened up by railway extensions, etc. While foreigners from European countries are coming in in large parties and settling in colonies, new settlers from the United States are coming individually or in small parties, and locating here and there all over the country. These latter are mostly used to prairie farming and they should make desirable settlers. Great hopes for the near future may be based on this growing tide of immigration from the United States. It is one of the most pleasing developments of the last few years. It is estimated that 6,000 settlers have come in from the United States so far this year, compared with only a few hundred at most in previous years. The work which the government has undertaken in the western states is therefore already bearing good fruit. Immigration from Great Britain has also largely increased this year.

From Europe we have received a number of Galicians. As to the desirability of encouraging this class of immigration, there has been considerable discussion, for which there has no doubt been good reason. Judging from the appearance of these people The Commercial would not regard them as desirable settlers. Appearances however, are sometimes deceptive, and they may turn out all right. Care should be taken not to settle too many together in one district. The more they can be scattered the more quickly will they become assimilated.

A large immigration of an entirely new class of settlers is now about to begin. These are the Doukhobors, or Quakers of southern Russia, who are leaving that country on account of their objection to military service. They are agriculturists, and may prove valuable settlers. The first party will arrive here this fall and

about 7,000 are expected within the coming year.

WASTE OF LABOR

The greatest waste of labor on the North American continent that we know of has been going on in Winnipeg for years in connection with the carting of garbage over at times an almost impassable road, to a nuisance ground on the western outskirts of the city. Any one who has witnessed the attempts to haul loads of garbage out of the city when the roads are bad will agree with this statement. If the city had a decent water supply, much of this garbage carting would not be necessary. A further large quantity of garbage which is carted away, could be burned in private furnaces and stoves, adding to the health and cleanliness of the city, besides saving cost of labor. It is surprising that an intelligent community has allowed itself to be taxed so long for this tremendous waste. It is now proposed to have a vote of the ratepayers upon the question of erecting a public crematory at some reasonably accessible point.

Vehicles Advancing.

Minneapolis Farm Implements says. There is a growing tendency on the part of vehicle and implement manufacturers to obtain better prices for their product. This has been made plain to the jobbers this fall when placing their orders for next year's supplies. Everywhere they have been met with the statement that an advance in prices is absolutely essential. The reasons given are perfectly logical, and should be acceptable not only to the trade, but to the consumers. Raw material of all kinds has enhanced in value; wages have advanced and operating expenses are therefore materially increased. This should be a source of satisfaction to the farmer especially, as with increased wages and the assurance of steady employment, the mechanic feels warranted in spending more money for his living. He is in a position to buy more, thus contributing toward an advance in the prices of farm products; his wants are greater and he is disposed to gratify them. The manufacturer cannot be expected to bear the entire burden of the increased cost of his manufactured goods, and the advance in prices is a natural consequence. Whether acceptable or not, the advance has come and must be reckoned with.

ACTIVE SOLICITORS WANTED EVERYWHERE for "The Story of the Philippines," by Murat Halstead, commissioned by the Government as Official Historian to the War Department. The book was written in army camps at San Francisco, on the Pacific with General Merritt, in the hospitals at Honolulu, in Hong Kong, in the American trenches at Manila, in the insurgent camps with Aguinaldo, on the deck of the Olympia with Dewey, and in the roar of battle at the fall of Manila. Bonanza for agents. Brimful of original pictures taken by government photographers on the spot. Large book. Low prices. Big profits. Freight paid. Credit given. Drop all trashy unofficial war books. Outfit free. Address F. T. Barber, Sec., Star Insurance Bldg., Chicago.