

## THE COMMERCIAL IN MANITOBA.

### The Red River Valley from Winnipeg to the Boundary.

Between Winnipeg and the international boundary, a distance of about 65 miles, a large number of French people are settled on both sides of the Red river. On the west side the settlements are mostly close to the river but on the east side they extend much further back. There are also a number of English, Germans, etc., living in these parts, but with the exception of Emerson and Dominion City the French predominate. This part of Manitoba has been peopled for a long time, but on account of it being mostly scrub and bush land it is not fully settled yet, with the exception of the southern portion. Where farming is properly attended to good fields of grain have been raised, but in some localities a great deal of carelessness is evident and many of the fields are overrun with weeds. The general opinion seems to be that the wheat crop this year will average ten to twelve bushels per acre. At Emerson the threshers' returns have shown yields of from 5 or 6 bushels an acre to twenty-five and over. The result of the threshing so far has given larger returns per acre than was anticipated and the grain is found to be high grade. It has also been found that the measured bushel weighs considerably over 60 lbs. Mixed farming is the rule throughout this section and as a result there are several creameries and cheese factories which do a thriving business. The Manitoba Dairy Co., Ltd., has a factory at La Rochelle, where the Jubilee Brand of condensed milk is made. This factory has been in operation for some years and a very good quality of milk is being turned out.

The main line of the N. P. R. follows the river on the west side and the Emerson branch of the C. P. R. on the east. On the N. P. R. the first town from Winnipeg is St. Norbert. This is a small French village, near which is situated the Trappist monastery. There is also a very fine Roman Catholic church here.

About a mile east from Ste. Agathe station is the village of the same name, situated on the banks of the Red river. There are two general stores at this point and a creamery F. Lemoine is building a large store building on the site of his former store.

Morris, the next town, is an important business and railway centre. More particular mention will be made of it at a later date.

St. Jean is a pretty little town built in a bluff of trees. It has two general stores owned by N. Comeault and P. Parenteau, a lumber yard, bakery and a grist mill of 75 barrels daily capacity, also two elevators.

Letellier is, like St. Jean, a French village. It has three good general stores, owned by J. B. Graveline, A. Houle and N. Comeault, a lumber yard belonging to D. Fraser, a drug store, fruit store, and bakery. Three implement warehouses and three grain elevators show that surrounding it there is a good farming community. The large and neat two storey frame school house is a credit to the town.

Emerson is the last station on this line in Canada. This station was formerly known as West Lynne, as Emerson proper is on the east side of the Red river, but the town limits of Emerson have been extended to take in this portion also. Emerson was one of the first towns in this country and was an important place before Winnipeg was known. There are a goodly number of large stores here, there being five general and two hardware, drug and stationery store, butcher shops, fruit store, etc. It also possesses several large and handsome buildings, the most noticeable being the Alexandria block, a three storey brick building erected in 1882, and containing on the ground floor space for eleven stores. On the west side of the river Geo. Pocock has a 100 barrel flour mill, with storage room for 12,000 bushels of grain, and there is also a large sorting elevator at the N. P. R. track, while on the east side, at the C. P. R. track, there are three elevators and a flat warehouse. This is a good wheat section and the crops this year, it is estimated, will average about 12 bushels to the acre. Last

year nearly 300,000 bushels of grain were marketed at this point.

Returning towards Winnipeg on the east side of the river the first town reached is Dominion City, ten miles from Emerson. It is surrounded by trees and contains a number of attractive looking buildings, and the general appearance of the town is such as to impress a visitor very favorably. It is a good business point as there is a large farming community in the surrounding country, for which this is the market town. The settlers here are English, German, and Gallician. A large settlement of Gallicians at Stuartburn, east of Dominion City, are reported as doing very well. Threshing had just commenced here and it was not known yet what the yield would be, but an estimate places wheat at ten, barley twenty-five and oats thirty bushels to the acre. There are three general stores, Bell & McCaul, Morkill & Scott, and R. W. Dick; harness shop, Horne Bros.; furniture store and lumber yard, Morkill & Whitworth; hardware, D. Phillips, four implement warehouses, drug store and a weekly newspaper "The Echo." F. Fry has recently opened a jewellery shop.

A jump of 25 miles occurs before

### Northwestern Ontario Mines.

Mr. A. C. Armstrong and Mr. J. A. Taylor, well known mining engineers passed through Winnipeg yesterday, having arrived by the Pacific express from Rat Portage, and going south in the afternoon Mr Armstrong goes to Boston, while Mr. Taylor returns to Colorado where he is superintending the installing of a large mining plant, which is owned wholly by Massachusetts's capital. While both these gentlemen are Englishmen by birth, having graduated at Cambridge in the same year in the same profession, 15 years ago, they have only met twice since, once in Montana, 1880, and the second time in Rat Portage last week. Both have spent nearly all their professional lives in the United States in western mining camps.

Mr. Taylor said he did not wish to give a detailed account of his impressions found from his inspection of the Lake of the Woods until reporting to his principals; he had visited several of the leading mines under operation and all that had gone to any depth showed every possibility of permanency, as the veins were getting larger and stronger, and the values becoming more uniform. Mr. Armstrong said he had mined extensively in Utah and Mexico and had never seen a proposition in either of those states to compare with the Mikado on the Lake of the Woods. The amount of work done in the few years and the amount of ore in sight would be justification in any

in, but while an Englishman, my experience has been obtained in America where the conditions are more in common. Although never having been in South Africa I am pretty well conversant with their mines and the

### Condition of the Country.

In this country the quartz lodes are in the primary rocks, had it not been for glacial action of ages ago they would be thousands of feet below the surface. This gives the impression that the veins in this country are either bedded veins or float rock and would have no permanency. Any engineer would be justified in giving that opinion who was not acquainted with the geological condition of this western American continent, but even now these men must admit that such mines as the Sultana and Mikado have gone into the bowels of the earth over 500 feet and find their veins larger and stronger than upon the surface. Remember that 500 feet in this country represents from 1,500 to 2,500 feet in South Africa, as they have not had the violent glacial erosion of prehistoric ages which has taken place in this northern country. I would have liked to have met Mr. Malcolm, secretary of the chamber of mines. Mr. Howard has shown me his comparison between South Africa and the Lake of the Woods gold fields and I fully agree with him.

### Mines Easy of Access.

I found most of the active propositions were in the hands of Americans and I believe this is the result of American engineers understanding the situation better, and another reason being that so many of our mines are so difficult of access that a man cannot enjoy the comforts of civilization. I am a family man, and in most of our mining camps a practical mining man cannot bring his family within a few hundred miles of him and is fortunate in seeing them once in three or six months, while in the Lake of the Woods the beautiful town of Rat Portage is within a few hours' sail by steam boat of most of the mines, and a man could at least spend Sunday with his family. Why at Rat Portage last Sunday I heard the clergyman of the Presbyterian church announce that he would dedicate a church at the Mikado mine on the following Sunday. I certainly think it would be a good stroke of business for the Ontario government, the Manitoba government and the councils of Winnipeg and Rat Portage to make an appropriation and bring representative mining engineers from all the countries of Europe to examine and report upon the district. The district is so large it cannot be overdone. I have heard of your No. 1 hard wheat in Manitoba, but the city of Winnipeg will consider it a secondary product when these gold fields are developed, and I believe money is all that is wanted. You will no doubt notice that America has become one of the great money lenders of the world, and several of the financial journals have been pointing out that we do not have to look to Europe for our investing capital, and I think your development work will largely be done by Americans."

### Cotton.

New York, Sept. 10.—The New York Cotton Exchange was the scene of unprecedented excitement this morning, and the volume of speculation far surpassed the business of any previous day on record when an entirely new and totally unexpected bull factor entered the arena—the West Indian tornado in Texas. Prices soared 43 to 61 points on the steady opening, September touching 10 cents before any semblance of a reaction set in. Fortunes were won and lost within ten minutes' time at the start and throughout the morning no effort was made to harness the market, though everything favored the bulls, some of whom gathered in 125 and 150 points profits on cotton purchased at the beginning of last week. "Shorts" were paralyzed and made feeble purchases to stop losses which meant almost ruin. While the professional operators and the public reaped a rich harvest. Europe was a tremendous loser, having been short of the market since August 1st, on the big crop theory. The gallery of the exchange was packed with speculators, attracted by the uproar which could be heard a block away.



Farm House near Dominion City, Man.

Otterburn is reached. This is in a French settlement and is a small town with two general stores, kept by N. F. Carey and A. La Salle. Six miles from this station is St. Pierre or Joly, another French town, but much older and of larger dimensions than Otterburn.

Niverville, seven miles further on, has one small store and an hotel.

St. Boniface is the largest and most important French town in the west. It is situated on the Red river just opposite Winnipeg and contains a Roman Catholic college, convent, hospital and the cathedral and archbishop's palace. It figured prominently in the early history of the west and it was here that Louis Riel, the leader of two Northwest Indian rebellions, was buried.

While the crop in these parts of the Red River Valley will be a light one, in common with other parts of Manitoba, the merchants are expecting to do a fairly good business and are not feeling anxious as to the final results of the year. Money will not be so scarce an article among the farmers here as in some other parts from the fact that the greater proportion do mixed farming and a considerable amount of money is received by them from the sale of eggs, butter, cattle, etc.

W. A. Hastings, of Montreal, vice-president of the Lake of the Woods Milling Co., and G. V. Hastings, superintendent of the company, left Winnipeg for the east early last week to inspect the Keewatin mill. Afterwards they went to Montreal.

mining camp in the United States for the erection of a hundred stamp mill. He was told that this property is returning to its shareholders about \$100,000 a year upon an investment of about \$50,000. Of course most of this product is going back into the mine in the way of development and new machinery, but any engineer could see that

### The Assets are There

In the way of ore in sight, machinery and buildings. He knew that such property could sell readily in the United States for a million dollars cash. He investigated quite a number of claims upon which a considerable amount of work has been done in the White Bay district, White Fish Bay, Shoal Lake, Eagle Lake and in the Manitoba Boundary districts. One of the best appearing prospects he had seen was in the province of Manitoba, and he believed belonged to a company, of which Premier Macdonald is vice-president. Mr. Taylor continued: "I believe you have reached a point when you can demonstrate to the world that you have a good field that will bear most rigid examination by any mining experts. Mr. Howard, to whom I had a letter of introduction from the Ramsay C. Bogy Investment company of Denver, Ohio, tells me you have been retarded very greatly in obtaining capital owing to reports made upon the country by mining experts, particularly Englishmen. I can quite understand that as the conditions here are so different from the gold fields that most Englishmen have had experience