

The Commercial

WINNIPEG, SEPTEMBER 7, 1891.

LADOGA WHEAT.

The frost scare has again caused considerable discussion as to the advisability of abandoning in whole or in part the growing of red fife wheat, in favor of some variety which will ripen earlier. Red fife wheat is a variety of such generally acknowledged excellence, that some will not consent for a moment to the idea of growing any other wheat instead of this variety. Moreover, it attains to such a state of perfection in Manitoba, that it seems a pity to think of abandoning it. But what is true of this wheat, is also true of other varieties, for it is an established fact, that other kinds of wheat reach nearer perfection here than elsewhere. This is particularly true of the variety known as "ladoga" wheat, which has attained to a wonderful state of perfection, by continuous growth here for a few years in succession. This wheat, it will be remembered, was procured by the government at a high latitude in Russia, and small samples were distributed to farmers, throughout the country, the object being to secure a good wheat which would ripen earlier than varieties now in use. The ladoga wheat has been a success, regarded from the standpoint of early ripening. Tests during the past four years, including this season, have demonstrated that it ripens from a week to ten days earlier than red fife, sown under similar conditions. The difference of one week even in the time of ripening, would be of inestimable value as in some seasons it would mean the difference between a crop saved in good condition, and a crop damaged from frost. Whatever else may be said in favor of red fife, it is well known that it is a slow wheat in maturing.

Early ripening is of course, not the only point necessary in recommending a wheat. There are two other important features to be taken into account, these being yield and milling value. As to the yield of the ladoga wheat we have not sufficient information at hand to make a comparison of it with red fife. We have been informed of certain instances, however, in which it has returned a very large crop, the sample being plump and hard, and weighing up to and even over sixty-five pounds to the bushel. One sample tested in THE COMMERCIAL office, actually weighed sixty-six and a half pounds to the bushel, and the grower vouched for a yield of thirty-five bushels per acre. This was some ladoga wheat grown near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan territory, last year. Further information as to the yield and adaptability of this wheat to the country, will soon be forthcoming, from the crop of this year.

The next, and really the most important point, is milling value. If ladoga wheat ripened a month earlier than any other variety, we could not advise its use for seed, unless it can be shown that it is a valuable milling wheat. On this point we have no information at hand, but we believe a test is to be made of the mill-

ing value of the wheat, by the Ogilvie Milling Company, and also by the Lake of the Woods Milling Company. These companies have all the facilities for testing the wheat to the fullest extent, and the result may be relied upon as authoritative evidence of the milling value of the wheat.

In the meantime, while these tests are being made, we would advise all parties who have ladoga wheat, to hold it until the result of the test is known. If this should prove favorable there will undoubtedly be a large demand for ladoga wheat for seed in the spring, while the total quantity of this variety of wheat in the country, will not go far towards supplying Manitoba farmers with each a small portion of their seed requirements. Should the wheat be found valuable for milling, it would be a pity to have any of it used for other purposes than seed for next year, over and above the actual quantity required for testing the milling value of the wheat. Should the milling test turn out satisfactory, the small quantity of ladoga wheat in the country, will render it too valuable for seed purposes, to permit of its sale for local milling purposes, or for shipment abroad. If thought desirable to more rapidly extend the growing of this wheat, than can be accomplished from the small quantity available for seed in the country, an effort might be made to obtain a quantity from the original source of supply in Russia.

THE CENSUS.

The recently published returns relating to the census of Canada for 1891, are not satisfactory from a national standpoint. The west has made rapid progress, but population in the east has been almost stationary in some, and with but moderate increases in other provinces. Manitoba is the only division which will gain in point of representation in Parliament, as a result of the census. It has long been known that Manitoba has a smaller representation in Parliament, in proportion to population, than any other division of the country. The census returns prove this. The revision which will follow the census, will give Manitoba seven members, instead of five as heretofore. British Columbia and the territories have advanced rapidly in point of population, but they will not gain in representation in parliament, for the reason that these divisions were originally given a much greater representation than their population entitled them to. Representation in parliament is regulated on a basis of sixty-five members for the province of Quebec. At confederation, Quebec was given sixty-five members, and it is always to retain this number. The representation of the other provinces and territories is to be increased or decreased in proportion to their variation in population from Quebec. Thus if all the provinces, including Quebec, increased at the same ratio, there would be no change in the number of parliamentary divisions in each province. As Manitoba has gained in population much faster than Quebec, this province is entitled to an increased representation in parliament. On the other hand, the maritime provinces have not increased in population as fast as Quebec, and accordingly they must lose in representation in parlia-

ment. Ontario has increased in population more rapidly than Quebec, but not to such an extent as to entitle her to a gain in representation. The representation of the different divisions in parliament, on the basis of the new census, will be as follows.—Ontario, 92, unchanged; Quebec, 65, unchanged; Nova Scotia, 20, a loss of one; New Brunswick, 14, a loss of two; Prince Edward Island, 5, a loss of one; Manitoba, 7, a gain of two; Northwest, 4, unchanged; British Columbia, 6, unchanged.

The full house will now consist of 213 members, as against 215 members formerly, there being a gain of two in the west, and a loss of four in the east. This shows a considerable gain for the balance of power in the west. Had the representation from British Columbia and the territories not been originally fixed in excess of the basis of population, the gain for the west would have been much more apparent. Another census will give the west a very decided increase of relative strength in parliament.

SUPPRESSING FROST REPORTS.

The Montreal *Trade Bulletin* intimates that efforts are being made to suppress the facts concerning the late frost throughout the west. We think this is largely imaginary on the part of the Montreal journal. So far as THE COMMERCIAL is concerned, this journal has endeavored to give as reliable a report as it is possible to obtain. The fact of the matter is, that it is impossible to estimate with any degree of accuracy, the effects of frost upon grain, until the grain has been threshed. It is a fact, that in 1885, and again in 1889, when there was frost, the damage done was largely underestimated. The reason for this is found in the statement made above. It was impossible to estimate the damage, until it was shown by the inspectors' figures. The farmers, as a rule, were not acquainted with the effects of frost, and many who had their crops injured, were not aware of it until long afterwards. Many who were quite positive that their crops were not hurt, were surprised to find when the grain was threshed, that it had been affected. The effect of frost on grain nearly matured, does not show for some days afterwards. In cool, moist weather, it will be quite a time before the injury can be readily detected. As the injury did not show at once, the conclusion many came to was, that the grain was not hurt. Thus the fact that the injury was underestimated, in past years, was due to ignorance, rather than to any systematic effort to deceive the public. This year there is as much likelihood of overestimating the damage as otherwise. The fact that the error has been made on the other side in the past, will have the tendency to cause people to make more allowance for damage this year, with the possibility that estimates may exceed the actual injury.

HOLDING WHEAT.

THE COMMERCIAL has always urged the early marketing of wheat. Occasionally there are years when it would have paid better to hold wheat until later in the season, but it is altogether impossible to tell when it would be ad-