

# THE COMMERCIAL

The recognized authority on all matters pertaining to trade and progress in Manitoba, Ontario, the Northwest Territories, Ontario west of Lake Superior and the provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia and the Territories.

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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 Canada, daily or weekly. The Commercial also publishes the leading wholesale commission, manufacturing and financial houses of Eastern Canada.

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## FARM INSTRUCTORS.

It is reported from Ottawa that the Dominion government will appoint instructors to work in the new manse British colony, which is about to be established in the Territories. This is a move in the right direction. The Commercial recently pointed out the need there would be to secure competent farm instructors for this large settlement of British people, many of whom will be entirely inexperienced in farm work, and practically all of whom will be inexperienced, so far as the knowledge of farming in Western Canada is concerned. It was suggested that the managers of the colony should obtain experienced teachers, who could visit among the new settlers and give such instructions as would be most needed. The fact that the government has undertaken to furnish some instructors, will give satisfaction. All good citizens will not regret the small expenditure in this connection. The success of this British colony is greatly to be desired, and Canadians will certainly do all they can to help these new settlers to succeed. There will undoubtedly be many very inexperienced persons in this colony. Probably many who have had little experience in hard work of the kind which will be required to get up with, and many handicaps to get up with, before they can become comfortably settled in their new home. Anything we can do to help them we should cheerfully and gladly do.

## THE BONUS NUISANCE.

The stupid policy of granting bonuses to industries is still flourishing in Ontario. Bonuses are constantly being granted to all sorts of concerns. Every now and again some old established industry pulls up stakes and moves to some other place, in order to secure a bonus. It may be taken for granted that any established industry which will move in this way, is either not prospering, or there are good reasons for moving. The policy of offering bonuses enables industrial corporations to "hold up" the towns where they are located, by threatening to move to some other town where a bonus is offered. This is a kind of rivalry which should be put a stop to at once. It is remarkable that in a professionally intelligent and civilized community, this custom should be continued. If the people

did not the good sense, to stop it, the legislature should step in and effectually prevent the granting of bonuses. At the recent annual meeting of the Ontario Furniture Manufacturers, it was stated that the custom of granting municipal bonuses had made competition much keener. Established manufacturers of good repute should bring influence to bear upon the legislature to make bonusing illegal. This is a matter which the Manufacturers' Association might take up, with a view to having the custom suppressed by law.

## WATER POWER FOR WINNIPEG.

One of the evidences of the prosperity of Manitoba is the flotation of various new companies in different lines of business—financial, industrial and commercial. Among these new companies are corporations formed for the purpose of developing water powers in the Winnipeg district. Three different proposals have recently been made to the Winnipeg city council, from companies which are anxious to supply the city with power. We have first the Great Falls Power and Light Company, which proposes to develop

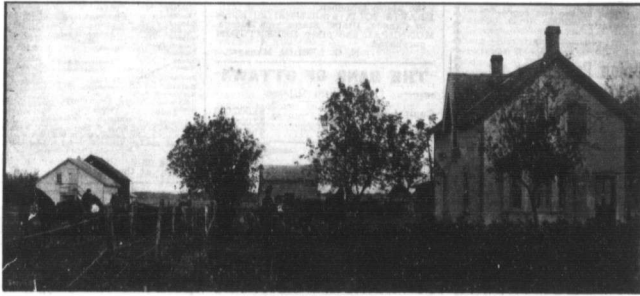
matter. It is estimated that the price offered by the Great Falls Company would reduce the cost of electric lighting in the city by about one-third. It is presumed that power would be supplied to private citizens at a proportionate reduction on the present cost.

The cost of steam power in Winnipeg varies greatly. It has been variously estimated to range from about \$60 or \$70 up to \$350 per horse-power per year. Steam power in Winnipeg is certainly costly at the present high price of fuel. The development of one or more of the several great water powers on the Winnipeg river and the transmission of that power to the city should be well within the range of feasible enterprises. The great cheapening of power which would follow would materially assist in building up industries here. One of the great obstacles in the way of the establishment of industries here at present is the high cost of power. The city government, however, should approach this question very carefully. Full time for consideration should be given before any agreement is made with any one of the companies. As for the giving of a monopoly to any company, we feel

to drop. Now that the matter of water power has come up again it will be interesting to recall some of the statements made in connection with the proposed Assiniboine river water power.

J. T. Fanning, C. E., in his report to the city council, estimated the cost of constructing dam, canal, etc., necessary to utilize the Assiniboine river power at \$239,000. This cost would be for a capacity of 10,000 gross horse-power. The rental of only 2,500 horse-power at \$10 per horse-power per annum, would return an interest of 5 per cent on the cost of this proposed work. It is indeed surprising, in view of Engineer Fanning's report, that the Assiniboine water power has been lost sight of. If, as he estimated, the rental of only 2,500 horse-power per annum would pay 5 per cent interest on the cost of the work, it is almost remarkable that this matter has been lost sight of all this time. With power costing in Winnipeg on an average probably fully \$100 per horse-power per annum on existing steam plants, this valuable water power has been left to rust to waste all these years.

Now that the water power question



MANITOBA FARM HOMES—RESIDENCE OF S. SCOTT, STONEWALL.

a water power on the Winnipeg river; then there is the Lac Du Bonnet Mining and Development Company, and thirdly the company which controls the water power at Keewatin.

The first named company offers to supply the city corporation with 2,000 horse power of electrical energy at a rate of \$50 per horse power per annum, the company to receive in return a franchise for a period of 50 years, to erect poles, wires, etc., on or over public streets, etc. The company agrees to develop 50,000 horse power and bring it into the city as soon as it is required here.

The Lac Du Bonnet Company offers to furnish the city corporation 2,000 horse-power at \$40 per horse-power per year, providing the company is given the franchise to supply private parties in the city with power and light for a period of thirty years, giving the company a monopoly of the right to erect poles, wires, etc., upon or over public streets, etc.

The offer of the Keewatin Power Company has not yet been made public, but it is said that it is a liberal one.

Cheap power is, of course, a very important matter to any city, and particularly to Winnipeg, where the present cost of power, on account of the high price of fuel, is a serious

satisfied that the council will not consider any such proposal for a moment.

The question has been asked: Why should not the city own its own plant? Why should not the city secure and develop a power for civic purposes, supplying any residue of power developed to private citizens? This is a matter which might receive serious consideration. The corporation of Toronto has had an enterprise of this kind under consideration for some time, and has even endeavored to secure legislation from the provincial legislature to enable the city to undertake such an enterprise.

The present situation regarding the development of water powers on the Winnipeg river recalls the proposals under consideration ten or twelve years ago for the development of a water power on the Assiniboine river right at Winnipeg. At that time a great deal of interest was taken in the Assiniboine water power proposals, and it was proved quite conclusively on paper that quite an extensive power could be developed on the Assiniboine river at Winnipeg, at a cost which would permit of supplying the power at comparatively low prices. Competent engineers were secured, a survey of the proposed work was made, and estimates made thereon were published. The work, however, was allowed

has come up again, it might be well to re-consider the Assiniboine river power, especially in view of the proposal that the city should develop a water power. It is stated that it will cost \$2,500,000 to develop 10,000 horse-power at the property of the Great Falls Company, on Winnipeg river. There will be a loan, it is said, of 20 per cent, in conveying this power to the city. The Assiniboine water power, right at Winnipeg, according to the reports of City Engineer Rutman and Engineer Fanning, should be a better proposition than the Winnipeg river power.

## THE RAILWAY COMMISSION.

The much-talked-of railway commission bill has been introduced in parliament at Ottawa. It is proposed by this bill to abolish the custom of bringing matters pertaining to the railways before the railway committee of the privy council, and substitute therefore a railway commission. The commission will exercise control over the question of rates, equipment, crossings, etc. The commission is apparently to be given large powers, and will practically constitute a court of record. The bill does not name the number of members. That has been left blank for the present, but it will be either three or five. The term of

(Continued on page 685.)