

Grain and Milling News.

The tender of Albert Dykoman for the building of the farmers elevator at Portage la Prairie, has been accepted.

Mr. W. D. Gray, well known to the milling world as the inventor of Grays famous roller process milling system, was in Winnipeg last week.

It is reported from Keewatin that E. P. Allis & Co., of Milwaukee, have the contract for the machinery of the proposed flour mill and elevator to be erected there. The mill is to be completed in January next. R. G. Reid has the contract for building the mill-race.

The Portland, Oregon, *News* is authority for the statement that the Canadian Pacific Company will run a steamer from Portland to Port Moody to connect with Hong Kong steamers and carry Oregon flour. In case the arrangement is carried out it is thought the alleged discrimination of the Northern Pacific against Portland will be cured. The *News* says. "It is said that the rates will be such as to enable Oregon millers to compete with those of San Francisco, and as they can deliver flour at Victoria one dollar per barrel cheaper than can the Manitoba producers, the latter will be virtually out of the field. The Canadian Company seems determined to cut into the flour export trade to China, and will offer every inducement to Oregon millers to compete.

The *Montreal Trade Bulletin* has the following under the heading of "Manitoba Flour": A feature in the flour trade referred to in our last issue, is the growing preference given to Manitoba brands in this market over both American and Ontario flour, Minnesota and St. Louis brands having been driven almost entirely out of the field. The reason for this is said to be owing to the relatively cheaper value of the Northwest product. Manitoba strong flour is selling at \$4.25, equal qualities of Ontario flour being held at \$4.40 to \$4.50, which fact must tend to bring down the price of Ontario brands in this market, or Manitoba grades will be used by city bakers as well as by country dealers in place of Ontario patents. One of our large city bakers recently stated that as long as he could get Manitoba strong flour at \$4.25, he would not pay \$4.30 for Ontario patents which did not show as good quality.

Hints to Butter Makers.

It should be every manufacturer's aim to make a superior article. The main object in view should be to obtain a high, quick flavor. Flavor will go more toward selling butter at a high figure sometimes than color. Butter makers are to a very considerable extent to blame in allowing the standard of their goods to fall in quality below what they have been. Of course, there are times every year when a first-class article can hardly be made, at the same time makers have been largely at fault.

Against a fine article of butter nothing can be said, it will recommend itself, but a poor article, (and there is a great deal made that is poor,) there is much to fear, and such makes will have considerable to contend with.

The requisites for making first-class but-

are good cream and acquired skill. With one and not the other it will be impossible to accomplish the desired effect. Cleanliness is another very important factor. This is perhaps the cheapest requisite in fine butter making, but must be strictly adhered to, for with pure cream and skilled labor, and unclean, sour and dirty utensils for making butter in, or holding cream, the other good effects must suffer materially in the final results. How easily these foreign flavors are detected by expert butter buyers, none know better than sellers of dairy products who have to contend with the many complaints and rebuffs buyers offer.

Many thousands of dollars could have been saved to the dairy men and creamery men had more cleanliness and care been exercised; one, or two, yes three, four and five cents, off on a pound of butter on a line, as have been the case, amounts to a great many dollars, and in the aggregate amounts to thousands, a great part of which could be saved; in fact, would have been clear gain had some of these apparently minor effects been watched closely and avoided. Every seller of milk should have proper facilities for cooling milk and keeping it cool while the cream is raising, and this is a feature which every buyer of cream should see that parties from whom they buy their cream is supplied with.

The make and style of package to be used is also very essential. Dealers urge the use of tubs, that are both air tight and pickle tight. Ash tubs are preferred, because they are in more general favor, and tubs in uniform size and to hold about 50 pounds and upwards are recommended as they meet the requirements of shippers, and at the same time answer the purpose for local buyers. In packing fill the tub within half an inch of the top, then cover with a clean, new piece of bleached cotton cloth well soaked and washed in brine. On top of this cloth put a paste made of pulverized salt and water, which hardens and forms a crust, making it partially air-tight, and thus prevents the top from becoming affected by air and heat. Another thing recommended is the use of three tin strips to fasten the cover instead of hoops or nails.

Country shippers of produce are advised to send their butter to this market just as they receive it. In most cases the result will be more satisfactory to both shipper and buyer. Those who are not thoroughly versed in this business and do not give it their sole attention, generally make a failure by endeavoring to work a fair lot of solid butter for the purpose of improving the quality, by the aid of machinery and coloring. A good quality of solid butter, no matter if not straight and uniform in color, can if sweet, be sold to retail dealers, but after going through the packing process and coloring up they refuse to buy it. Shippers and dealers refuse to buy except at prices paid for low grades, as is not worked to their satisfaction. This has special reference to western butter. *Trade Bulletin.*

A Ghastly Market Report.

To the trading public, who are supposed to take special interest in perusing market reports the following from *British Medical Journal* will present something out of the usual line: Skeletons have ruled firm and active throughout the year, with prices unchanged. We have

been able to supply the demand for the common varieties promptly, but the finer grades were scarce, and orders for deformities could not always be filled at once. In this regard the market is still unchanged, although our broker in Paris has orders to buy everything offered at the usual rates.

Montreal Dry Goods Trade.

Wholesale dealers continue to say that stocks are far too heavy and are anxious to lighten their shelves. Still there is no marked disposition to mark down values in order to effect a clearance. The cause of the comparative glut of stocks is the difficulty of communicating with the country during the early spring months on which account many orders failed of delivery. Moreover, both manufacturers and importers were rather over-liberal in their provisions for the wants of their customers which have by no means come up to their anticipations. The mills are busy and are reported to have considerable orders ahead. One large wholesale firm, which needed a little assistance from the bank on the 4th inst., is all right again, and no further trouble is expected. Buyers are now busy selecting their fall goods in England and on the Continent.

PLATINUM has been discovered at Granite Creek, B.C.

W. A. CLARK has sold out his saloon business at Fort Qu'Appelle to E. Belanger.

F. F. TINS, merchant, Swift Current, will start a horse ranch in that district.

THE HUDSON'S BAY Co have called for tenders for the erection of a store at Boissevain.

R. D. McNAUGHTON, general merchant, Moosomin, is erecting new buildings for branches of his business.

W. F. DOLL, wholesale jeweller, Winnipeg, has returned from an extended purchasing trip to eastern jewelry manufacturing centres.

THOS. A. McINTOSH, news and cigar dealer, has sold out to D. McIntosh, with a view to moving to Vancouver to commence business.

OWING to the setting aside of the flour mill bonus for a mill at High Bluff, Man., on account of some informality, another by-law will probably be prepared.

The sale on the 18th inst. at Maple Creek, of the cattle belonging to Sam Spencer, of Marraiss River, Montana, which were seized for infraction of the customs law, was brought to an abrupt termination by the owner buying them back at an upset price of \$20 per head. Early last year Spencer obtained from the Canadian Government a lease of grazing lands in the Sweet Grass Hills. At that time Americans owning leases in Canada were allowed to bring cattle in free of duty. This privilege, however, was stopped on the 1st of September, of last year, and Spencer, who drove his cattle in after that date, had them seized. He claimed ignorance of the law, and was permitted the option, either of paying the duty or driving the cattle back. He chose the latter, but he appears immediately to have driven them back over the border and erected shacks for the men to winter in on Canadian soil. The cattle were again seized and this time confiscated, leading to the sale mentioned above. —*Calgary Tribune.*