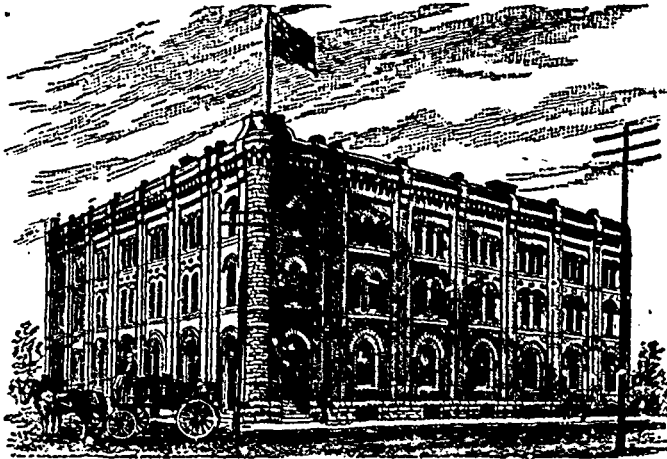


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A "WAT many absurd things have been said in Manitoba papers of late as to the price of wheat, and what the opening price will be. Some of these journals profess to be able to tell farmers just what wheat will bring this season, or at least what the opening price will be. The figure stated by the different "authorities" varies widely, some placing it at 80 cents per bushel, while nothing under \$1.25 will suit others. This business of undertaking to predict what wheat prices will be, is one which a number of Manitoba newspaper writers and others are very prone to engage in, but to a great extent it is a very foolish practice. It is impossible to predict with any degree of certainty what wheat prices may be a week or a month hence. The outlook may be strong or weak as the case may be, but when it comes to naming figures, it is going altogether beyond reasonable bounds. Those who are conversant with wheat markets and who make a study of the wheat situation, must have many a joke at the expense of the writers of such statements as are constantly appearing in Manitoba papers at this season of the year. It will be some weeks yet before wheat is marketing here to any extent, and by that time there may be quite a change in the situation. At the time of writing a large portion of the Manitoba crop is yet unsecured, and this fact will have a good deal to do with determining final values. Should the Manitoba crop be seriously damaged or largely destroyed by bad weather, the situation would be materially altered. The market quotations given from week to week in this journal show to a fraction of a cent what wheat is worth in Manitoba at the time, but THE COMMERCIAL does not profess to be able to tell what wheat may be worth a week or a day ahead. On a basis of Duluth quotations, the day of writing this paragraph, Manitoba No. 1 hard wheat is worth from 94 to 95 cents per bushel on track at Winnipeg. But this is a fact, not a prediction as to the future. We will leave the question of what wheat will be worth in Manitoba later on to our contemporaries, who are perhaps better informed in the matter.

CANADA'S comic paper *Grip*, published at Toronto, has a good hit in its last issue on the commercial situation on this continent. We

would commend this cartoon to politicians and the people in Canada and the United States as well. The cartoon is entitled "In Darkest America," and it is inspired by a picture in Stanley's "In Darkest Africa." The original picture represents the dangers which traders are subject to in conveying merchandise from place to place through sections of the dark continent. *Grip's* adaptation of the engraving, shows a number of travellers loaded up with Canadian produce, being set upon by a horde of savages a number of whom bear a striking likeness to leading politicians in the United States, and who are endeavoring to prevent the travellers from coming into their country. In the background parties travelling in the opposite direction and bearing bundles of United States produce, are being similarly attacked by savages, and among the latter disguised in savage garb may be noticed several Canadian politicians. This is really an excellent hit, and to be appreciated it must be seen. While Canada is engaged endeavoring to drive back the flow of commerce from the south, the United States is similarly endeavoring to stifle trade with her northern neighbor. Surely the savages of Africa could not engage in anything more suited to the nature of the barbarian than this picture which is presented by Canada and the United States.

THE *Northern Lancel* has an article in its last issue on the sanitary condition of Winnipeg, which we would recommend to the consideration of our city daddies. Coming from a journal regarded as an authority among medical gentlemen, this article will carry weight with it. If there is an ornamental department in connection with our civic mill, it is that of the health office. There is undoubtedly plenty of work for such a department, but judging from results, practically nothing is accomplished. The picture presented by the *Lancel* is not overdrawn. Last summer the condition of the city was beyond description. Something original in the nature of an olfactory refreshment greeted one at every turn. In the matter of smells, the city is not so bad this year, but this is not the fault of the health department. Kind nature has deluged the city at intervals this season with

heavy rains, which have washed away much of the foulness which would otherwise have been left to perfume the air. Though the smells are not so loud as last summer, the yards and lanes are as filthy as ever. It is indeed high time that a more efficient administration of the health department should be secured.

Since the decision of the court at Victoria, B. C., that the imposition of a tax of \$10 on commercial travellers was illegal, it is reported that the city council has decided to levy a license fee of \$50, giving permission to commercial travellers to sell goods during a period of six months from the issuance of the license. This is being done, it is said, under a provision of the Municipal Act permitting a tax to be levied on wholesale traders not exceeding \$50 in amount. It is reported that some travellers are leaving the city without opening their samples, rather than submit to the tax, and that others have offered to pay the expenses of their customers to cross over to Vancouver to examine their samples. In Vancouver the trade license question remains in an unsettled state, but the measure is so unpopular that it is likely it will be finally abandoned.

OUR Manitoba provincial exchanges report a great many instances this year of what they call volunteer crops, that is, seed which has fallen on the ground from the crop of the previous and grown up the following year without cultivation. Some of these volunteer crops are reported to be returning heavy yields. In view of these facts, might it not be well to thoroughly test by practical experiment what results could be attained from sowing grain in the fall. If a volunteer crop on uncultivated ground, would do so well, seed put in properly on cultivated soil should do much better. It is said that spring wheat sown in the fall will ripen considerably earlier than spring-sown grain. If this is the case, and a good crop is reasonably safe from fall-sown grain, the quicker our farmers and it out the better. A farmer near Calgary who has been experimenting with fall-sown grain, claims to have had a better yield and a much earlier harvest than with grain of the same varieties sown this spring. This item is not given with any practical knowledge of the case from an agricultural standpoint, but simply to call attention to a matter which appears to be worth while enquiring into.