

Ortes during last winter there was reason to complain that Manitoba hard and Northern grades of whent sold in Montreal at, and sometimes below the price of ordinary spring wheat. Matters have changed considerably of late, for even our No. 1 Northern grade has during the past two weeks been held at from 10 to 15 c above the best winter varieties. But then Manitoba wheat was plentiful, and it is very scarce now. As long as railway monopoly lasted the eastern dealer could rule the price of wheat here as he desired. While it was coming in plentifully and going into store the price was no better than for common spring. But once the crop was all or nearly all shipped out of the Northwest, the eastern holder changed his mind as to the relative value of hard and soft wheats, and hoisted the price of the former. It is now nearing the time for arrival of new wheat, and the hard wheat premiun is already showing signs of coming shrinkage. But the coming crop will not bo all moved under monopoly regulations, so that the power $r^{\circ}$ the Eastern Canadian in manipulating our grain prices has about passed aray. Duluth men will now have something to say in the matter.

The fire insurance agents in Wiunipeg do some incomprehensibie things at times, although in all of what appears to the outside world to be blunders, they err on the safc, or to better express it, the paying side. Not the least note. worthy of their antics is the decision of the Board of Underwriters in connection with the rate of premium on the Street Car Company's stables. The Company's manager has of late gone to great trouble and expense for the Company in securing gieater safety from fire at the stables in the soath end of the city. Two hydrants have been placed one in each building, and new slecping arrangements male for cm ployees, so that a force to combat fire could be lad at any hour during the night. In several other points improvements have been made, which to any mixd not swayed by the idiosyncracies peculiar to fire insurance men, seem valuable additions to protection against fire doing any serious damage if it did get started. Instead of getting the insuranco premium on
the stables lowered in return for these improvements, the Board of Underwriters at a recent mecting decided to raise the rato to almost double the former figure. Toordinary business minds the action is incomprehensible, but no doubt fire insurance men can give explanations perfectly lucid to themselves, but by no means enlightening to other people.

The result of the harvest in this country now gathered in is variously estimated at the present time, and the cestimate is as a rule colored in proportion to how the personal interests of the party.giving it have been affected. Those who have suffered imagine all others as badly off us themselves, while those who have been fortunate think all are living in a "Land of Goshen." There can be no duabt, but the results of this harvest furnish foundations for rumors of the most contradictory character. The chill, (for it could hardly be called a frost), which spread over nearly one half of the province on the 8th of August, caught some wheat in the blossom, and where it did, the crop was practically a total loss. On the other hand adjacent fields a few days later or earlier were left uninjured. Thus a farmer who lost $a$ whole fielt of wheat, would have neighbors around him, who have since gathered in heavy crops. Many of our farmere too have had crops phenoinenal in their weight of yield, sothat extremes of jubilation and dis. appointment can now be found in the same township, and "in some instances on the same section, and asmight be expected the cry is loud where the loss has been total or nearly so, louder it may safelybe ussumed, than the danger will warrant, in so inr as its effect upon the aggregate yield of the whole country is concerned. Within the last two weeks some localities have again been visited by frost, but a very large propertion of our wheat area has escaped entirely. The damage from these later frosts will be slight compared with that of the 8th of August, but it has been scattered in such an irregular manner over patches here and there, that it is impossible to estimate at present its actual oxtent. Wo will hear of many of the extraordinary heavy yields of last year repeated, scores of our

## JAMES PYE, FLOURMILLBULLEER <br> . CONSULTING ENGINEER, SVC.

## 218 Third Avente Nonth,

 MIININIDAPOIIS, - MIININ.
## A Manitoba Testimonial.

portaos la Praikik, Iheo. 8th; 1887.
JAMm, PYs, Esq., Mloncapolis, Mion., U.8.A.:
Dxar Sta, - In handing jou our check ior $81,801.24$, in full for balance o 1 our contract for fullding and cularging our mill, we without soliciltat:on wlah to state, that you havo done your work in a manncr highly saidsfactory to thls company. The capacte which you guarantece at 275 barrels, wo ind considerably inder the mark, as we are at present making over 300 barrets, and the qual. Ity of the four is all that wo could wish tor. Some of our largest purchasers lrankly tell us, it is equal to aty flourmade in either Mmpenota or this propinco. The yicld also we find very eatisfactory. Wo must alse bear teatimony to your pleasing and gentiemanly hanncr, and four willngucss at alt times to meet our wishcs. This estly asp, that we recommend you to any person, requirc. bug unythinx in tho nill bullding or mill lurnishita litic.
 are

Yours very truly.
TIIE PORTAOE MILLING $C 0$. Jas. MacLenaghan, Jianaging Director.
farmers having secured forty bushels to the acre or more, and at the same time we will havo some cases of disappointment and misfortunc. One fortunate circumstance is that while some of our wheat may be damaged, and some oven destroyed; our crops of outs and barley are not only gathered in safe, but heavy beyond former record.

Two weeks ago the city council of Winnipeg received a lettor signed by a number of the prominent business men of the city, in which was set forth the intention of the subscribers to take steps at as early a date as possible, for the construction of a dam and water power on the Assiniboine river within the city limits, unless the council on behalf of the citiznas was prepared to submit the question of said con: struction being undertaken as a civic work to a public vote, and take other necessary steps for the prompt carrying forward of the work. The petitioners base their intentions upon the facts brought to public riew in the report of City Engineer Ruttan, lately published, which embodics the results of the survey of the Assiniboine with a view to obtaining water power, made under his supervision and by in. struction of the city council last winter. This report shows that a rower at low water of over 5,000 horse could be obtained at a cost of about $\$ 300,000$, and with this the foundation of a manufacturing centre could be laid.
This matter is well worth the serious consideration of the city council, for while a private corporation could develop this valuable undertaking quite as well as a city, there are certain interests of the city which conld be best served by its being carried out as a civic undertaking, which would be a profitable one in a direct sense, and a still more profitable ous in as indirect sense.
The potitioners state their intention of waiting four weeks for the reply of the council, and of retiring from the undertaking if the reply is an affirmative, or if a negative, o! proceeding to organizo and procure parliamentary powers at the next session of the Dominion Parliament, to enable them to go on with the work. The question is one which receives the serious con

