

TEAS. SUGARS. WINES. LIQUORS and GENERAL GROCERIES CORNER PRINCESS AND BANNATYNE STREETS, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

OFTEN during last winter there was reason to complain that Manitoba hard and Northern grades of wheat 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 15c 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 premium is already showing signs of coming shrinkage. But the coming crop will not be all moved under monopoly regulations, so that the power c' the Eastern Canadian in manipulating our grain prices has about passed away. Duluth men will now have something to say in the matter.

THE fire insurance agents in Winnipeg do some incomprehensible things at times, although in all of what appears to the outside world to be blunders, they err on the safe, or to better express it, the paying side. Not the least noteworthy 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 greater safety from fire at the stables in the south end of the city. Two hydrants have been placed one in each building, and new sleeping arrangements made for employees, so that a force to combat fire could be had at any hour during the night. In several other points improvements have been made, which to any mind 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 insurance premium on

the stables lowered in return for these improvements, the Board of Underwriters at a recent meeting decided to raise the rate to almost double the former figure. To ordinary 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 estimate 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 as themselves, while those who have been fortunate think all are living in a "Land of Goshen." There can be no doubt, 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 field of wheat, would have neighbors around him, who have since gathered in heavy crops. Many of our farmers too have had crops phenoinenal in their weight of yield, sothat extremes of jubilation and disappointment 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 assumed. than the danger will warrant, in so far 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 proportion 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 extent. We will hear of many of the extraordinary heavy yields of last year repeated, scores of our

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## A Manitoba Testimonial.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, Dec. 8th, 1887.

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JAMES PTE, Esq., Minncapolis, Minn., U.S.A.:

Dear Str.,—In handing you our check for £1,801.24, in tuil for balance or 1, our contract for building and enlarging our mill, we without solicitation wish to state, that you have done your work in a manner highly salisfactory to this company. The capacity which you guaranteed at 275 barrels, we find considerably under the mark, as we are at present making over 300 barrels, and the quality of the flour is all that we could wish for. Some of our largest purchasers irankly tell us, it is equal to any flour made in either Minnesota or this province. The yield also we find very ratisfactory. We must also bear testimony to your pleasing and gentlemanty manner, and your willingness at all times to meet our wishes. This has made our business relations pleasant and we can honestly say, that we recommend you to say person, requireing anything in the n.ill building or mill furnishing line, Wishing you the success that straight dealing merits, we are

THE PORTAGE MILLING CO.

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Jas. MacLenaghan, Managing Director.

farmers having secured forty bushels to the acre or more, and at the same time we will have some cases of disappointment and misfortune. One fortunate circumstance is that while some of our wheat may be damaged, and some even destroyed, our crops of oats and barley are not only gathered in safe, but heavy beyond former

Two weeks ago the city council of Winnipeg received a letter 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 citizens was prepared to submit the question of said construction 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 view in the report of City Engineer Ruttan, lately published, which embodies the results of the survey of the Assiniboine with a view to obtaining water power, made under his supervision and by instruction 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 could 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 one in an indirect sense.

The petitioners state their intention of waiting four weeks for the reply of the coancil, and of retiring from the undertaking if the reply is an affirmative, or if a negative, of proceeding to organize 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