

mixed with home or American wheat before it is ground.

If England is to import a large share of her wheat from India, instead of the United States, the principal effect will be to reduce the price by increasing the supply. At the same time the consumption becomes greater because the cost is lessened. It by no means follows therefore that less wheat will be exported from the United States.

Some think that the railway will be affected by reason of a reduction in the volume of exports. It must be remembered that the demand in the east for western wheat becomes larger every year, and so does the consumption in our large cities. The railways will have just as much grain traffic under any circumstances.

It would be well if our population should increase to such an extent that all our grain would be consumed at home, for then our people would raise their own supplies and export manufactured products instead of wheat. The time must come when we can manufacture more cheaply than they can in Europe, and it stands to reason that there is more profit in selling manufactured articles than in disposing of the raw materials and the supply of food to foreign manufacturers, only to buy it back in another shape.—*Railway Register*.

The State of Montreal Trade.

The general wholesale trade is still very quiet, more particularly so perhaps in dry goods, the past week's business in that line having proved quite disappointing, both as regards the amount of orders received from travellers and the nature of remittances. The snow blockaded interior of course affects adversely most branches of trade, as farmers cannot market their produce as freely as they would do were the roads in good condition, and consequently country merchants find their remitting power weakening by slow collections. One or two notable exceptions, however, must be taken to the general, mercantile lull, a large turnover having been experienced in sugars, the enquiry for refined yellows having proved quite active at firm prices which have a tendency to advance. Granulated has also met with improved demand at steady rates. Some business has also resulted in raw sugar, as we hear of the sale of a cargo on private terms. Quite a stir has been developed in the tea market, and considerable transactions have taken place, both in a speculative and legitimate sense. Speculatively within the past two weeks, several large lines of Japans and greens have changed hands at a profit of 2c. per lb. Montreal, however, has not fully responded to the sharp advance established in New York. The wool market has shown more activity during the week than for a long time, the easier terms offered by holders of both foreign and Canadian wools having had the desired effect of leading to more business, sales being reported of fully 250,000 lbs. greasy Cape and Sandwich Islands, besides several parcels of Canada pulled. The anthracite coal trade has been characterized by an unusually brisk demand, and a big hiatus has been made in the stocks of this city, the late extraordinarily prolonged spell

of intense cold having necessitated a lavish consumption of the black diamond. In raw furs the chief item of interest is the result of the London sales held yesterday, a cable despatch received to-day advising a considerable advance in beaver and a decline in squirrel, with muskrat the same as at last sale, but fuller particulars will be received later on. Although remittances in some departments have been disappointing, in others they have been as good as could be expected under the drawbacks which exist in many country districts.—*Gazette*.

Scotch Fife Wheat.

General Agent Hubbard, of the Minneapolis Millers Association, writes to the *Northwestern Miller* regarding Fife Wheat. He says:—"In all the talk about wheat and wheat grades, the fact should not be lost sight of that it has never been so clearly and forcibly illustrated as in the case of the present crop that the farmers sustain a direct loss and encounter additional dangers by not sowing hard wheat, instead of the soft varieties now most in use. Owing to the great increase in the amount of soft wheat raised in the northwest, hard wheat now commands a premium of 7 @ 10c. per bushel. In addition to this difference in value, there is the greater loss occasioned by the diseases to which soft wheat is susceptible and from which hard wheat is exempt. Scotch fife is now the only recognized standard hard wheat, and this variety has never been known to smut, is just as prolific as other varieties when properly handled, is better adapted to our climate, and is the wheat to which we are indebted for the world wide reputation attained by Minnesota flours. Would it not be wiser to sow such wheat as is in demand rather than that which buyers and millers do not want? It is a fact well established that smut will reproduce itself, and the farmer who sows smutty wheat next spring will have no one but himself to blame if his crop is graded down on that account. The farmer ought to understand this, if he does not already."

"Now the millers are interested in the production of the best wheat. They are interested in it, if for no other reason in behalf of the success which brings prosperity and peace and harmony between the purchaser and buyer. A great deal of the trouble with the wheat dates back to poor seed. The association has purchased and will continue to purchase the best Scotch fife wheat that is to be obtained—the pure unadulterated, and unmistakable stuff. It is the best wheat in the world. We propose to offer it to the farmers for seed for just what it costs. If the farmers do not obtain it, it will not be our fault. Every facility will be offered them to produce it, and it will be sold for actual cost, for sowing purposes."

THE total number of failures in the Great Britain and Ireland in 1883 was 10,509. In 1882 there were 11,019 failures; in 1881, 12,055; in 1880, 13,147; and, in 1879, 16,637.

THE *Chicago Railway Age* says: It is already safe to predict that railway building will be active next season. Indeed, this cannot properly be called a prediction so much as a statement based upon the fact of the very large number of

new enterprises already under way and projected, and the fact that most of the rail mills already have orders which will occupy a good part of the coming year. It is stated that from 800,000 to 1,000,000 tons of steel rails have already been contracted for delivery during the year. Supposing these to be intended for new roads only, they will represent from 10,000 to 12,000 miles of track; but, of course, a considerable portion of the amount will be used in renewals. Rail manufacturers feel encouraged at the outlook and hope to make something even at the present low price of rails, which averages about \$25 per ton.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE.

The furniture of the Stickney House, has been seized.

J. Watson has been engaged as engineer of the Fire Brigade at \$80 per month.

A movement is on foot to start a Farmers Mutual Insurance Company for the purpose of insuring farmers and others horses against loss by death.

There is a considerable quantity of grain still coming into the market. Prices are Red Fife wheat 75c per bus. Other varieties wheat, 30c to 60c; barley 30c; oats 17c.

BRANDON.

No business changes this week.

Ogilvie & Co., are talking of buying oats here. Business has improved greatly during the week.

Mr. McBean, grain dealer of Montreal, has been in the city. He expects to do a large business, in his line, with this Province in the future.

A public meeting has been called by the Mayor, at the request of a number of prominent citizens, for Tuesday evening, to discuss the Hudson Bay scheme. It appears to be in the interest of the Province that the Railway to Hudson Bay be built west of the lake. This is to be one of the chief points of discussion.

MINNEDOSA.

On the M. & N. W. Railway only three trains per week, each way, will be run until spring.

Business is quiet, and large quantities of grain are being held by farmers in the hope of an advance in prices.

James McDowell's harness making establishment is in the hands of a bailiff, under chattel mortgage and for rent.

The plans for several fine buildings, to be erected here during the coming summer are now being prepared by the architects.

The Town Council will be interviewed at next meeting relative to granting aid to a twenty thousand dollar oatmeal mill to be started here.

A new harness shop, under the management of Mr. Hannah, late of Portage la Prairie, has been opened on Mill street, near the Grand Central Hotel.

J. D. Gillies has moved into his new store, on the corner of Main and Tilson streets. The store is very commodious (25 by 100), and will enable the enterprising proprietor to show his fine stock to advantage.