

itoba, Protestants and Catholics each having control of their respective schools. In 1890 the provincial legislature passed an act providing for one national school system. A department of education was provided for, and a board of seven members was also established, to have the direction of educational matters. The public schools act, passed by the legislature at that time, provided that all Protestant and Catholic schools should be subject to the provisions of the act, and that all schools should be free. The advisory board was entrusted with providing religious exercises which may be conducted in the schools, but it was not made compulsory that these religious exercises be carried out in any school. The introduction of the religious exercises provided by the advisory board in any school, is left at the option of the local trustees. It was further provided that the schools should be entirely non-sectarian.

The opponents of the act at once proceeded to attack the legality of the measure, claiming that it exceeded the powers of the legislature, as defined in the acts establishing Manitoba as a province of the Dominion. The Manitoba courts declared the act legal, but their decisions were reversed by the Supreme Court of Canada. The case was then carried to the Privy Council in England, with the result that the Manitoba school act has been declared legal.

This decision has naturally been received with great satisfaction by the Manitoba government, and is also glad news to those in favor of a free public school independent of denominational dictation from any source. On the contrary, our Roman Catholic citizens, who hold to denominational schools for their own people, as a matter of religious belief, are greatly discomfited, and the matter is causing great friction among the opposing elements throughout the country. In fact the war is being waged through the presses of Eastern Canada far more bitterly than in this province, which is alone directly concerned in the matter. Some even go so far as to demand that the Dominion Parliament should pass coercive legislation restraining Manitoba from interfering with the denominational school system. That anything of this nature will be attempted, we do not for a moment believe. At the same time, no matter how firmly a portion of the people may believe in a non-sectarian, national system of free schools, all good citizens will regret that the question has created so much discord in the country. In a school system where all are placed on an equal footing, where no religious denomination has any advantage over another, and where the schools are made free to all, it is difficult to see wherein any have cause for complaint. At the same time, those who believe that education is a matter for religious rather than state control, are entitled to some respect for their conscientious scruples.

The government will no doubt go on with the more thorough enforcement of the new school act, now that all doubts as to the legality of the measure have been swept away. This should be done with as little show of ostentation as possible, and every regard should be given to avoid unnecessary cause for further ill feeling. If those opposed to non-sectarian

schools can by any means be reconciled to the measure, without sacrificing the principles of the act, it will be a happy consummation. It is worth while making an effort to accomplish such a desirable result, in the interest of the harmony of our people.

THE CANAL TOLLS.

The report came from Ottawa a few days ago that the cabinet had decided upon abolishing the rebate of eighteen cents a ton on grain shipped to Montreal. This would mean that all grain going through to Montreal would pay the full duty of twenty cents per ton. This would do away with the discrimination complained of by the United States, but it would increase the tax upon all grain passing through the canals. The announcement therefore created consternation among the grain shipping and carrying interests. It was claimed that the imposition of the full toll would drive the grain trade from the Montreal route to the Erie canal, or by rail to New York.

Later came the announcement that the previous report was untrue. It was further stated that the government had decided to make a proposition to the United States government assuring it that Canada was desirous of having the most friendly relations, and that in order to avoid all difficulties the rebate on grain passing through the St. Lawrence should be withdrawn at the end of the present season of navigation. An effort will then be made to have a conference between the two governments, so that all differences may be arranged. The government is anxious to appease the United States government, and at the same time act fairly with the grain men who have made large contracts for the present season on the basis of the rebates.

The final decision not to interfere with the rebate this year, has been received with satisfaction by the shipping interest, as the imposition of the full canal tax in the middle of the season, would be a serious matter for those who have made contracts ahead. Regardless of this, the imposition of the old rate of toll, cannot be regarded with favor in the west, as it means an increased cost in transporting grain eastward, equal to $\frac{1}{2}$ cent per bushel on wheat. If a change is to be made in the canal rates, a decision to make the canals entirely free, would be received with favor in the west.

It is to be hoped the United States will receive this friendly overture from Canada with favor. Canada is giving a great deal more than she receives in this matter of canals. At present we have the use of one mile of artificial navigation owned by the United States in the Sault canal, and we also have the privilege of using the St. Clair ditch. In return for this we give the United States the use of over seventy miles of canal, costing an enormous sum of money. We are building a canal of our own at the Sault, and when this is completed we will be practically independent of the United States along the entire distance of the great inland water stretches, from the head of Lake Superior to the sea. If the United States is to have the use of our canals on the same terms as our own people, they should be prepared to grant this country some equivalent privileges.

Latest Wheat Crop Totals.

The bull speculators in wheat were probably a little disappointed in the government wheat crop report made public late on the 10th inst. This is purely a matter of inference, however, owing to the report not being as unfavorable as many had claimed it would be. The returns are for spring wheat, concerning which so much rumor of danger has been heard of late, showing a declining average during July from 90.9 per cent. on the first of that month to 87.3 per cent. on August 1. In Wisconsin the reduction was from 93 to 86, in Minnesota from 92 to 87, and in North Dakota from 90 to 85. In Iowa there was no change, and in South Dakota and Nebraska the condition of the crop actually improved some. The condition is said to have been high in what are known as the mountain states. In Washington the drop was from 90 to 87, the result of "a blighting heat," and in Oregon from 91 to 76. Spring rye is said to have deteriorated in condition during July from 92.7 to 89.8, oats from 87.2 to 86.2, and barley from 92 to 91.1.

If the foregoing data respecting spring wheat, together with those made public a month ago respecting winter sown wheat, may be translated into the probable yield, based on like records in previous years, they would seem to point to the probability of a winter wheat crop of 345,000,000 bushels and a crop of spring wheat amounting to 170,000,000 bushels, or a total of 515,000,000 bushels—say 97,000,000 bushels fewer than in 1891. But as we carried over fully 35,000,000 bushels of wheat on July 1, 1892, more than on July 1, 1891, it follows that the total net decrease of available wheat raised and on hand in 1892 as compared with 1891 is only about 62,000,000 bushels. But this points to no shortage, for 515,000,000 bushels of wheat, the indicated yield of the United States in 1892, plus 35,000,000 bushels surplus reserves on July 1st last (as contrasted with July 1, 1891,) indicate a total available supply this year of 550,000,000 bushels, from which 360,000,000 bushels may be deducted for food and seed, leaving 190,000,000 bushels nominally available for export. Last year we exported 224,000,000 bushels, the largest quantity in any year in our history, the next largest being twelve years ago, with a total of 186,000,000 bushels. It certainly looks as if we would be able to send abroad a very large quantity of wheat within the next twelve months if anyone should want it.

The Beerbohm estimate of the production of wheat in eight leading countries for 1892 is as follows, compared with the reported yields in 1891 and the harvest of 1887:

	1892.	1891.	1887.
United States.....	520,000,000	612,000,000	456,000,000
Russia.....	208,000,000	188,000,000	273,000,000
France.....	238,000,000	224,000,000	324,000,000
India.....	208,000,000	256,000,000	232,000,000
Hungary.....	132,000,000	124,000,000	143,000,000
Italy.....	116,000,000	124,000,000	116,000,000
United Kingdom..	64,000,000	72,000,000	78,000,000
Germany.....	104,000,000	100,000,000	104,000,000
Totals.....	1,610,000,000	1,700,000,000	1,728,000,000

Should the 1892 estimates given in the foregoing prove to be practically accurate, and should the interpretation of the government report just given prove to be within bounds, it becomes plain that 35,000,000 bushels may be added to the total available from the United States, the surplus above minimum reserve requirements "carried over" on July 1 last, which would just about bring the total yield of the eight countries in question up to their estimated total production in 1891.—*Bradstreet's*.

It does not seem to be generally known by the trade, but tweeds are good barometers. This is especially so of Scotch woollens. On a damp day the wearer, if he watches, will observe that his suit fits him much closer, and he may have to let out a reef in his braces. With dry, marm weather they expand again.