

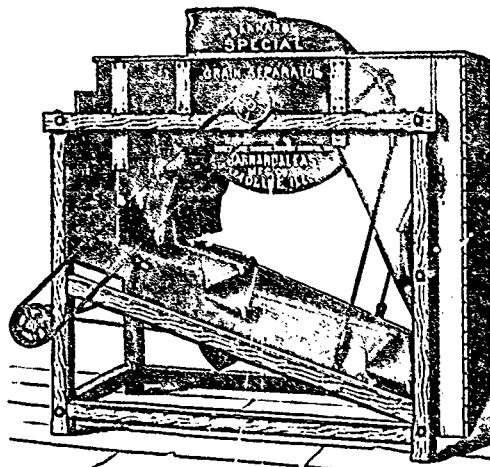
in the quality of the goods. We have heard quite a number of complaints of late to the effect that lot of both butter and cheese received here or in the east from Manitoba have been held too long.

MANITOBA will have considerable flax to sell this year, and the price is therefore a matter of interest to many. The price of cash flaxseed per bushel on the Chicago market on Aug. 1, 1895, was \$1.19; Aug. 1, 1891, \$1.25 per bushel; Aug. 1, 1893, \$1.00; Aug. 1, 1892, \$1.01½; Aug. 1, 1891, \$1.03; Aug. 1, 1890, \$1.83½. The price will likely rule lower this year than last, as the crop area was largely increased in the North-western states this year.

It is estimated by the United States agricultural department that the annual loss from smut in wheat in that country is \$18,000,000. It is said that smut is prevalent this year to a greater extent than usual in the spring wheat crop, and if this is the case it will detract much from the value of the crop. In Manitoba we are not aware that smut is more prevalent than usual, though it will be hard to determine this before the movement of new wheat has set in. There is, however, every year a considerable loss on account of smut, and this is the more regrettable as it could be almost entirely prevented by care in selecting and treating seed by the farmers. The extra cost of cleaning smutty wheat takes several cents per bushel off its value, and even after it is cleaned it is not worth as much as choice pure wheat, as it is practically impossible to rid the grain of the disagreeable smutty odor. Some wheat gets so badly smutted that it can never be made fit for milling.

WHILE the winter wheat crop in the United States may be fully equal in bulk to the 225,000,000 estimate based on the official crop report, it will not nearly reach this amount in milling value, on account of the low quality of the grain. Very little of the new winter wheat is grading No. 2, and the No. 3 and No. 4 grades are very inferior quality. In fact, in actual milling value, the crop is probably no better than a 200,000,000 crop of ordinary quality, and this feature should be taken into consideration in compiling crop returns. A private letter to THE COMMERCIAL from a Chicago grain firm makes the statement that "our winter wheat crop here is as nearly a failure as it is possible for a crop to be, only one ear in ten to twelve grading No. 2 red, and the No. 3 and No. 4 are of very inferior quality. A large proportion of the arrivals of spring wheat thus far also are going into the lower grades on account of smut."

CONSIDERABLE opposition has been raised in some quarters to the proposal to establish a Salvation Army agricultural colony in Canada. It is not certain that the Army will establish a colony here, but if they do decide upon this, we do not think there is any very serious objection to be made against



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the enterprise. We understand that any persons who will be sent out, in the event of a colony being established here, will be only such persons as have been given a thorough training at the Salvation Army farm in England, and who have proved themselves industrious and steadfast in their attachment to the occupation. The arrangements announced for the government of the proposed colony are very thorough and complete. In fact we have more hope of the success of the proposed colony than we have of any undertaking of this kind previously attempted in this country.

THE Montreal Trade Bulletin complains of too much rain. Some of the districts in the East which suffered so severely from drought this season are now having too much rain. One of the immediate effects of the rain is to reduce the price of hay, and a good second crop of clover is now likely to be secured. When the winter demand sets in, hay will no doubt advance again, as it is hardly likely the aftermath will be sufficient to make up for the deficiency in the first cutting. We do not expect, however, that prices will reach a figure that will allow of the profitable shipment of Manitoba hay to the East. The Canadian Pacific Railway a short time ago announced a water rate of \$1 per ton on hay from Fort William to Ontario points west of Toronto. To this would have to be added the rate of 18 cents per 100 pounds from Manitoba points to Fort William, making the freight alone from Manitoba to Ontario amount to \$7.60 per ton. Adding \$1 for the price of the hay at country points here (a very low price) and \$1 for other costs of shipping, the cost delivered in Ontario would be \$12.60 per ton, which figure is above the cost of No. 1 timothy in Toronto at present. Our wild prairie hay would have to be offered very much below even No. 2 timothy to command any sale in the East.

JUST a line more on the question of weeds. Some contend against any compulsory law to destroy weeds, saying that the only effort should be to educate the farmers as to the great damage resulting from weeds. Education is good, but it will be found that there will be a few persons in the most progressive

communities who will not use ordinary care to keep down weeds. Such persons should be compelled by a stringent law, actively enforced, to destroy weeds, as a means of protection for their neighbors. This compulsion will never be accomplished through the pathmaster or local inspection system.

A TELEGRAM from Ottawa, published in a Winnipeg paper recently, reads as follows: "The deputy minister of agriculture has just returned from Manitoba and the Territories, and will report on the great prospect of profit to settlers in flax crops. It can be sowed at the first ploughing of the prairie and is worth a dollar to a dollar and a quarter a bushel. The average this year is twenty-two bushels per acre." If the deputy minister has been correctly reported, he has been badly misinformed. The official average of flax this year in Manitoba is placed at fifteen bushels per acre, and the usual average yield is less than has been estimated for this year. The price stated is also much too high, the usual range being about 75c per bushel, though last year prices touched as high as \$1.25. No doubt flax could be grown to advantage on a large scale in Manitoba, but its susceptibility to damage from late spring frosts, renders it necessary that flax growing should be adopted with caution, and while every farmer might grow some flax, no one should make it a leading or principal crop.

The first carload shipment of fruit this season, from British Columbia, was shipped from New Westminster to Manitoba and the Territories on Aug. 16, by the Chilliwack Valley Fruit Growers' association. The car contained 1,050 boxes, aggregating in weight 24,000 lbs. consisting of plums, apples, and crab-apples, and was sent forward in a car specially arranged as regards ventilation. The fruit was consigned to dealers in Calgary, Regina, Brandon and Winnipeg, and the car being attached to a special tea train, was expected to make passenger train time to its destination. It is to be hoped British Columbia growers will be able to follow up this shipment with many more this season, and that in a few years they will be able to give the prairie region east of the mountains a regular supply of fruit. Car loads of fruit are coming into Winnipeg daily from California and other parts of the United States. A large portion of this should come from British Columbia. It is in supplying us with fruit that British Columbia has its greatest opening for trade with the great prairie region east of the mountains.