On account of this being a short crop year, there will be very little wheat, even of the lowest quality, which will not be saleable, and consequently shippers will have less risk in handling poor stuff. On the contrary, had this been a year of abundant wheat crops for the world generally, it would have been a very risky matter for dealers to undertake to handle the poorer qualities of damaged grain. We know for a fact, that the heaviest losses in the Manitoba grain trade, in past years, were made through handling damaged wheat. Dealers who bought this stuff by the bushel in Manitoba, sold it by the ton for feed in the east, at a heavy loss. While it may be comparatively safe to purchase very poor grain this year, in ordinary years it is a risky matter to handle anything badly damaged. This being the case, it is necessary that dealers who undertake to ship this class of grain, should work on a considerably wider margin than if they were handling choice qualities.

The millers are the largest grain buyers in Manitoba, and they certainly do not want damaged wheat. A scarcity of choice wheat would place the millers at a great disadvantage. The success of the milling industry in Manitoba is absolutely dependent upon the obtaining of a supply of good wheat. Were the total crop injured, so that the millers would not be able to obtain their requirements of good wheat, they would be obliged to close their mills. Such an occurrence would be as great a calamity to the millers as it would be to the farmers. Our millers are obliged to compete in eastern and foreign markets with the products of other regions. Any advantage our millers have over their competitors, lies in the supply of choice wheats convenient to their mills. So far as the millers are concerned (and the millers are our largest wheat buyers), it is therefore ridiculous to talk about damaged wheat being an advantage to them. They want choice wheat, and if this quality is scarce, they will be obliged to pay considerably more for it than if there were an abundance of such quality The more poor quality of wheat there is in any year the less choice wheat there will probably be. As the local milling demand is for good qualities only, the best wheats will, of course, sell at a premium over poorer grain, even after allowing for a difference in quality.

Our remarks two weeks ago, regarding the milling value of frosted wheat, were not, of course, intended to apply to all wheat showing a trace of frost, but only to such as would grade as "frosted" wheat. There will be considerable wheat this year which will show more or less trace of frost, but which will still be first class milling wheat, and which will not be sufficiently injured as to grade "frosted."

One exchange which has vigorously attacked THE COMMERCIAL, brings up the old chestnut of mixing wheat, and endeavors to show that the farmers are cheated because the grain men improve the value of their purchases through what is known as manipulating wheat. Of course grain men grade up their purchases, sometimes adding a higher quality, to bring a car of wheat up to a certain grade, and sometimes reducing the quality, when it can stand some reduction, without altering the grade. It is nonsense, however, to say that this practice is an injustice to the farmer. On the other hand, the farmer is often the gainer thereby. Any advantage grain men gain from mixing, enables them to pay higher prices to the farmers. If they can increase the value of their purchases by judicious mixing, they can naturally afford to pay more for the wheat. It is a well-known fact, that wheat is often taken from farmers on the basis of a higher grade than it will come up to. But even if the farmers did not receive a portion of the profit gained from mixing, the custom could not be considered as an injustice to him.

BINDER TWINE.

Last week THE COMMERCIAL contained the substance of a letter from Mr. Clark, editor of an agricultural implement journal published at Minneapolis, Minnesota, which gave some information regarding the price of binder twine in that market. From this it was seen that the price of twine in jobbing lots, to dealers, has ranged in Minneapolis from 5½ to 12½ cents, as to quality. The Minneapolis journal referred to, in its last issue, contains several articles relating to twine. One article deals with what is called prison twine. This twine costs the farmer 9⅜ cents per pound, and is said to measure only 376 feet to the pound. This will be one of the low priced twines, but it is evidently an expensive twine to the consumer on account of its short length to the pound. The farmers have bought it freely because it was cheap by the pound, not taking into account its length in feet per pound. A twine costing three cents more, per pound, and measuring 600 feet per pound, would be worth more than the nine cent twine, providing the quality were suitable. This Minnesota prison twine is made in the state penitentiary, from native hemp. *Farm Implements*, the journal quoted, also speaks of a twine, made from slough grass, which has worked very successfully, and another twine made from straw. This has reference to the new invention for binders manufactured by the Walter A. Wood Company, for binding with straw or grass, reference to which was made in a recent issue of THE COMMERCIAL. The Minneapolis journal says :—

A recent test was made of this class of twine in a harvest field near Minneapolis, at which the writer was present and saw the new twine do just the same kind of satisfactory binding of grain that is now being done all over with manilla, sisal, hemp and jute twines. The trial took place on the farm of Isaac A. Christlieb, some 18 miles west of this city, and was witnessed by a number of farmers living in that vicinity. Arriving on the ground for the trial, the only change made in the harvesting machine was to take off the binder and replace it with one, the parts of the knotter of which are made just enough larger so as to handle the grass twine. There is no difference in the knotter from the one in common use, other than the size of the parts which handle the twine in tying the knot. These parts are necessarily larger, in order to use the larger twine. This change being made, and the drum holding the ball of twine changed for one somewhat larger, the grass twine put in place, and the machine was driven into the field and put to work. It went right to work binding good, tight bundles just the same as if the best manilla twine had been used. One naturally expects more or less stops to adjust this or that when using a new thing, but in this case there was no occasion for stops to adjust anything as far as the twine was concerned. It bound bundle after bundle without any trouble whatever. A "land" was cut off from one side of the field, and the machine kept at work for some time. The machine is an ordinary single apron wood harvesting machine. After the machine had been working awhile on grass twine the twine drum was changed and a ball of sisal twine put in it, the end tied to the piece of grass twine still in the machine, and the next bundle was tied with a band partly of grass twine and partly with sisal twine as shown by another illustration. The machine then went on binding with sisal twine just as successfully as the binder in common use with its knotter parts of the smaller and ordinary size. This is an important idea in connection with the introduction of the grass twine It being somewhat larger than other twines in commom use requires a knotter with larger parts, but the knotter made with the larger parts for grass twine proves to be just as good for using the smaller twines as the old knotter so that a farmer having had his machine fixed for using grass twine can still use any of the smaller twines, just as successfully as he could with his old knotter, thus enabling him to use any twine that is to be had at a time when he may not be able to procure grass twine just when he wants it. The actual size of grass twine as measured from a sample in our office is five thirty-seconds of an inch in thickness. It is made of one single strand twisted about the same as common binding twines and wound by a small cotton twine which is a little larger than a coarse thread ; the cotton thread passes around the grass twine in the opposite direction from the twist of the grass, and helps to hold it firmly together and keep it smooth, without permitting ends of grass to stick out, and it is then a very smooth twine. It weighs one pound to 250 to 275 feet and is put up in spool or roll shape as shown by another illustration. No spool is in the roll when sent out, but it is found that this shape is best for this larger twine instead of balls. The rolls require a drum 11 inches in diameter and 14 inches deep, where the drum holding balls of twine are 8½ inches in diameter, and 13½ inches deep. The rolls weigh 37½ pounds. The advantage to the farmer in the use of grass twine is its cheapness. To fully illustrate this we have prepared the following table, showing the cost per pound, and the number of feet to the pound :

Kind of Twine.	Feet to pound.	Retail price per lb.
Minnesota Prison	376	9¼cents
Pure Manilla	650	14 "
Pure Sisal	500	10 "
No. 1 Jute	500	9 "
Grass Twine	250	24 "

The directors of the Bank of Ottawa have called a special meeting of the shareholders for the 20th of September, to consider a by-law giving the board power to issue $500,000 additional stock. This will make the capital of the bank $1,500,000. In the event of the by-law being passed the board propose to allot the whole amount of the new stock among the shareholders at the time of the allotment ; but only to call for payment of the new shares as funds are needed for the bank's business. It is satisfactory to know that the action of the directors is prompted by the steady and general increase of the bank's business, and nowhere has the growth of the bank been more noticeable than at the Winnipeg and Keewatin branches.

Wheat harvesting was about finished all over the state of Minnesota, early last week. Frost has damaged garden truck seriously in some localities and corn has been injured badly in north and central counties. Slight damage by frost and cold in southern counties, where two weeks of warm weather is required to mature corn.