

ers through the restrictions upon trade with our neighbors to the south. The country, we were told, is not prospering, immigration is being kept out, those who are here are being driven to the States, or are being impoverished at home, and all because of trade restrictions along our southern boundary line. Political union with the republic was predicted for the near future, as an escape from all the ills which now afflict us. This may sound very well to ardent advocates of the unrestricted-reciprocity-commercial union fad, but how does it sound alongside the following remarks made by Governor Flower, of the great state of New York, in a speech at Syracuse lately. Governor Flower said:

"In recent years the conditions of agricultural competition have radically changed, and this enormous body of citizens engaged in tilling the soil are suffering the evils of serious depression in markets and prices. Our farmers are poor and discontented. Their boys and girls are leaving the farms for the towns and cities. Distress is everywhere too prevalent. Even the lowest taxes of a generation, such as our state has enjoyed during the last two years, bear heavily on the farmer, and, with the interest charges on his mortgaged lands, eat up the small profit there may be in his crops."

What a bright picture this is of the condition of the farmers in the United States. Farmers in Manitoba indeed labor under some disadvantages, artificial and otherwise, but they are far from being in the hopeless condition of the agricultural population of the United States, as pictured by the governor of New York. Yet the commercial unionists are going to give our farmers relief by placing Canada under the same conditions as the United States. To get rid of our obnoxious protective tariff at home, we are told that we must have commercial union with the States, which means that we must accept the still more obnoxious tariff of the republic. What a splendid argument this is. Papers from the States are filled with accounts of the mortgaged, impoverished and generally distressed condition of the farmers in that country, and yet some of our people will tell us that Canadian farmers will at once be made prosperous, happy and wealthy if we can only be induced to place ourselves under the same conditions as rule in the republic, by throwing ourselves commercially into the arms of the Washington government. What rot this is. The condition of the agricultural population in Canada we firmly believe is infinitely superior to that of the farmers of the republic.

Certainly we want a more liberal trade policy with the United States. THE COMMERCIAL has always advocated the greatest freedom of trade between the two countries, which can be secured on a fair and reasonable basis. Canada, and especially Manitoba, would be benefitted by a wholesale removal of the restrictions which now hamper trade with our neighbors to the south. But what is the use of whining about something we cannot get. The people of the United States, or at least those in power at Washington, are not yet prepared for greater trade freedom with this country. They have clearly shown this on every occasion.

The farmers of the United States are suffering under many serious disadvantages, as a result of the trade policy of that country.

They have the remedy in their own hands, but if they are foolish enough not to use it, then there is no help for it. The ridiculous thing is, that some in Canada will preach the doctrine, that our farmers are to be made rich by placing themselves in the same boat with the "depressed, poor, disoriented and distressed" (we quote the New York Governor) farmers of the republic.

SMUT IN WHEAT.

Those who had anything to do with the wheat crop of last year in Manitoba, will have had considerable experience with smut. Anything like the proportion of smutty wheat was never experienced before here. It was impossible to handle any quantity of wheat without getting more or less smutty stuff. Last year's crop was a defective one all around, and the prevalence of smut was one of its worst characteristics.

Profiting by the experience of last year, most farmers were wise enough to take the precaution to treat their seed wheat with bluestone as a preventative of smut. Quite a number, however, seem to have been foolish enough to omit this operation, and as a result, there is more or less smutty wheat this year in some sections. There will of course be nothing like the same proportion of smutty wheat that there was last, but there is sufficient to show that there has been considerable carelessness in spite of the warnings of last year, in neglecting to take the simple and inexpensive precautions necessary to prevent smut.

Sufficient proof has been given to satisfy the most dogged person that smut is preventable. Its presence now can be set down solely as a result of neglect to take the usual precaution to prevent it. Here, however is an additional proof that smut can be effectually prevented.

A. Moore, of the Royal Dominion Mills, Toronto, who recently made a trip of inspection through Manitoba, said on his return. "I drove over some fine fields of wheat, among them 2,300 acres on Sandison's farm, Brandon, which is one half or more in the stock, not a heavy crop, but a very nice one. All was ripe and standing, clear of weeds or smut, excepting 100 acres, which is very smutty. All his seed was soaked in bluestone except that used in the 100 acres of smutty wheat."

This is another item added to the already thoroughly convincing proofs that smut is easily preventable. In the face of these facts, it is to be regretted that some farmers will be so foolhardy as to neglect so simple and inexpensive a remedy.

THE LADOGA WHEAT.

Not much has been heard of Ladoga wheat of late. The latest item going the rounds of the papers is to the effect that R. H. Skrine, of Grenfell, who grew a quantity of Ladoga wheat last year, and went to England to sell it, has obtained several shillings more per quart for it than the best wheats were then selling at. The wheat was a very fine sample in appearance, and this may have enabled Mr. Skrine to obtain a price so far in advance of other wheats. This incident in connection with this wheat, does not necessarily prove anything in regard to the milling quality of Ladoga wheat in general. The wheat may have been bought on sample, as a wheat of extra fine appearance, without any knowledge as to its milling quali-

ties. Little or nothing can be adduced from the sale of Mr. Skrine's wheat, as to the general milling value of the Ladoga variety, though the price realized undoubtedly proves that the wheat appeared to be a very fine sample.

We would like to see the question as to the milling value of Ladoga more thoroughly settled. Tests so far have been against the wheat. Prof. Saunders, of the Dominion Experimental farms, undertook last spring to have a test made, and a car lot of Ladoga wheat was procured and sent to Toronto for milling. No account of this test has yet been made, though we learn from private sources that the grain did not show very well as a milling wheat.

There is no question as to the early ripening of Ladoga. On the Manitoba experimental farm this year it ripened, and was harvested and out of the way before the other wheats were ready to cut. This is a great point in its favor, as it enables farmers to get on early with their harvest work, and they can handle it and have it saved before their later crops are ready. If the milling quality of the wheat is not entirely bad it would almost pay farmers who have soil suitable to this variety, to grow a limited quantity of Ladoga, on account of its early ripening habit.

JUST A WORD OF CAUTION.

From statements made in letters received from Eastern Canada, and from items appearing in eastern papers, it appears that people east have altogether to exalted an idea of Manitoba's crop this year. People east appear to think that the outlook is wonderfully bright, and they are preparing to push business in this direction on the strength of these opinions. Altogether the opinion east seems to decidedly over-rate our crop prospects and the business outlook here. THE COMMERCIAL therefore believes that a word of caution is necessary. The Manitoba crop is not an enormous one. It is a good many bushels per acre short as compared with the very large crop last year, and threshing returns show that the yield of wheat is not up to the official estimate of 22.7, as shown by the August crop bulletin, which estimate, however, is only given as a preliminary one. In some sections the crop is light, but the average for the province is fairly good. Manitoba has not therefore produced a remarkably large wheat crop this year, but simply what may be called a good crop on the average. In Assiniboia territory, west of Manitoba, the crop is lighter than the average for Manitoba.

The quality of the wheat crop is all around very good, and infinitely superior to that of last year. Altogether, the quantity and quality of the crop is such, that with fair prices ruling, this would prove a very profitable year for Manitoba farmers. The difficulty, however, comes in in the matter of prices. At present wheat values, there is not much in it for many of our farmers. It will take a big yield of wheat to leave much margin at present prices, and unless a change comes in wheat values, our farmers will not have much profit from their year's work.

This is the way the matter should be viewed by business men. There is no reason to be alarmed over the outlook. Business men will

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