

Grinding Wheat in Bond.

Mr. McLung in, of McLaughlin & Moore, millers, Toronto, writes the editor of this journal as follows:

I was pleased to read your article on the "Flour Duties," and to know that your conclusion is that the millers have "made out a good case." The case of the millers is one of unequalled hardship, through our own tariff of customs actually giving their competitors—the American millers—a protection of at least 25 per cent per barrel against the Canadian millers, in competition for Canadian trade, at all times when American wheat or flour comes in. I send you a copy of "The Millers Appeal," which has acquainted many members of Parliament, at Ottawa, who had not before given any thought to the wheat and flour duties, with the iniquitous state of the customs tariff on the raw material, and the manufactured article of the millers.

In your article on "Grinding Wheat in Bond," you make an important mistake. The Canadian millers are bound to export the product of imported wheat, or pay the duty. Manitoba and the Northwest are vitally interested in getting the error of duty set right, and I hope you will continue to aid in having it done, by drawing the attention of your members and the farmers to the effect of the tariff as it is.

Yours truly,
M. McLAUGHLIN.

Toronto, March 6.

A Suggestion to Loan Companies.

P. F. Golling, merchant, of the Ebenezer Colony—a German settlement north of the York Colony, Assiniboia—writes THE COMMERCIAL as follows:—

EDITOR THE COMMERCIAL: Dear Sir,—I wish to draw the attention of the different Loan Companies to the great Northwest, where much could be done by those companies to the improvements of the country in giving to really good settlers a loan of about \$200 to \$300, taking a mortgage on their homesteads, the stock and implements. In parts of the country where an industrious farmer is sure to prosper, there could be no risk at all, and it would lay a solid foundation financially, to many who would be good farmers. I think if in this country a farmer has once a good footing, no drawbacks—if such should once or twice happen—will entirely prevent his ultimate success. Whereas, people coming in here without any means, and not finding a helping hand to help them along, will have for the first two years, a hard struggle to farm right and become independent: those who would receive a little capital to start with, could by that time have their mortgage mostly cleared off, and have their farms well equipped with all the necessary machinery. This would also help to improve the country generally, as more products would be produced, consequently more could be exported.

When the three first settlers came into the Ebenezer Colony, the Manitoba & Northwestern Railway Company granted them each a loan of \$200, to buy them a yoke of oxen, wagon, plow and other implements and tools which were absolutely necessary for them to have to make

a start with. It is marvellous how they have since progressed in their farming. They have now their own teams, wagons, plows, etc.; from five to six head of cattle—besides their oxen—pigs and poultry, and 30 to 50 acres of land under good cultivation, so that they are able to raise something more than their own living from their lands.

When it is taken into consideration, that these people had nothing of their own to start with, and that part of the money they borrowed was used to pay passage for their families from Germany, and that they are only a little over a year here, every one must admit that they have striven well to get ahead, and that their efforts have been crowned with success.

Since then, quite a number of families have come into this colony; but as they are mostly without enough means to start farming, they ought to receive some help. There is no danger of a man's not getting ahead, as the country here is well adapted for farming, and gives many advantages to settlers. Whoever is willing to take hold and work, must get ahead, and the Germans do this and are not afraid of hard work. Even the women know how to handle the plow and till the soil, hence, in cases of sickness, or, where the man is not able to work, the work goes on. We are sure to have a fine settlement here, and if some loan company would open a business here, it would do much to assist the colony, and the company would have their investments well secured. The Germans do not as a general thing shift about, but will stay where they once make their abode.

Besides cultivating their homesteads, the men will go out to work for the older settlers with their teams, and therewith earn quite a little money to buy furniture for their houses and make improvements. I know one settler who earned with his team plowing, besides doing his own work, last season, \$150. This is quite a sum, and, at this rate, a man will not be very long in paying off a mortgage on his team.

Yours, etc.,
P. F. GOLLING.

A Few Facts About Tea.

By means of a diagram which they have recently published, Messrs. Gow, Wilson & Stanton, illustrate the various degrees in the consumption of tea in different countries, and from these carefully prepared statistics deduce the opinion that, in spite of the increase in its use, the production of tea has run ahead of consumption, and is likely to still further increase. It thus becomes clear that nothing can check the downward course of prices save the speedy opening up of new markets.

To form some idea of what the increase in the consumption has been in the United Kingdom, it is stated that more tea is used here than in any other country in the world, having rapidly increased in favor with the reduction in price. In 1836, for instance, when the average price of all tea was about 1s. 6d. the consumption was only 107,000,000 lbs.; but in 1888, with an average price of about 10d. the total consumption had augmented to over 185,000,000 lbs. Next in importance comes the United States, which consumes tea at the rate of 90,000,000 lbs. per annum, followed by Russia, with 75,000,000 lbs. and the Australian colonies

and Canada with 21,000,000 lbs. and 18,000,000 lbs. respectively. France, Germany and Holland can scarcely be called consumers of tea—merely tasters, so to speak—as only a few million pounds find their way into those places, and in other parts of the globe the article is practically unknown, being hardly ever used.

In Great Britain 2 per cent. more Indian tea was used than in 1837, and 4 per cent. more Ceylon, the consumption of China tea falling off 6 per cent. The relative proportion of tea consumed during the twelve months were: Indian 47 per cent., Ceylon 10 per cent., and China 43 per cent. As the demand has become stronger so the importations from India and Ceylon have been constantly expanding, till prices have been forced down to an unprecedentedly low level, and tea is now so cheap as to be an article of daily use in almost every household in the kingdom.

The Sugar Situation.

The New York *Shipping List*, referring to the sugar market, says:—The phenomenally strong statistical position of the world's available supply has further stimulated the demand, and refiners in this and neighboring cities have been anxiously seeking to replenish their stocks, but, although a pretty active business has been in progress, part of which has been made public and part has not yet transpired, purchases have evidently been restricted by the meagre offerings and high pretensions of sellers. Under these circumstances it would seem as though the tardy recognition by refiners of the exceptional position of the world's available supply at present in sight has placed them in rather an embarrassed situation, and they are now anxiously seeking to make up for the short-sighted policy heretofore pursued, but with eleventh hour results, and it is not now so much a matter of price as of securing adequate supplies. The strong features of the position have already been frequently enumerated of late in these columns, and more recent advices only go to confirm the views hitherto expressed. According to the latest mail dates received from Europe the visible supply of the world on the 23rd of February was 1,130,047 tons, against 1,306,064 tons at the same date last year, while the stocks in London and all the continental markets show a very falling off in comparison with last year. Then again at this date last year there was afloat for Europe 104,319 tons cane sugar, while this year there is only 58,603 tons, with the Brazil crop virtually exhausted, Cuba reporting a large shortage in the yield and the other West Indies having very little available at present. In view of the fact that refiners in this country are not very well provided for their future requirements, this condition of affairs is calculated at least to cause anxiety and stimulate the demand. The sales reported since our last issue show that a further advance has occurred, and buyers were freely bidding on the basis of these prices for everything that was offering, more or less business being consummated, the particulars of which have not transpired.

Miss LEISHMAN has arrived at Calgary, from Toronto, and will open out a millinery and fancy goods establishment.