

western range horses, we do not mean broncos but range bred horses.

THE custom of bonusing industries is not entirely dead, though happily it is fast disappearing. Bonusing is now almost generally looked upon as an evil, and only under exceptional circumstances is it now possible to work up public opinion in favor of a proposal of this nature. Still the evil lingers to some extent. The Commercial notices in the city papers an advertisement asking for offers to build a flour mill in a municipality adjoining the city, in aid of which a bonus is offered.

ONE of the greatest forces so far as road making is concerned is the antiquated system of statute labor, in force in the rural municipalities of Manitoba. It is practically a waste of time and money. Very little headway will be made in establishing good roads while this system prevails. It is therefore pleasing to note that the farmers are having their attention drawn to this matter. The farmers institute, of Nelson, Man., has taken the matter up and passed a series of resolutions, one of which declares in favor of abolishing the system of statute labor entirely.

THE Remedial bill has passed its second reading at Ottawa, and this will likely be the last of that measure. It is almost certain that it will not receive a third reading before the life of parliament expires, and as a general election is the next thing in order, the situation may be materially changed before parliament is called again. In the meantime interest now centres in the invitation extended by the Dominion government to the Manitoba government, to have a conference on the question, with a view to arriving at an adjustment of the matter. In view of the invitation to hold a conference, the Manitoba legislature, which was to have been prorogued on Thursday last, was adjourned instead until April 16, so that the legislature would have an opportunity of discussing any proposed plan of settling the school question.

REFERENCE has frequently been made to the success of the Mennonite settlers in Manitoba. This is not to be wondered at when their case is considered. The Mennonites have not allowed their energies to be directed too much in one direction. They have not, like many other Manitoba farmers, given their attention almost solely to wheat. While they grow lots of wheat, they have also followed many other profitable lines of agriculture. The Mennonites were the first to go into flax growing, and up to the present time they have produced the bulk of the flax annually grown in Manitoba. Wheat, oats and barley were the staple crops of the other settler, while the Mennonites had four staple crops, wheat, oats, barley and flax. They also directed their efforts in other directions, besides depending on the crops alone. They went into sheep to a considerable extent, and much of the mutton and lamb consumed in Winnipeg has been furnished by the Mennonites. Again, they have always had considerable poultry and eggs to sell. The bulk of the supply of fresh eggs

received in Winnipeg lately has been furnished by the Mennonites. A city produce dealer informed The Commercial recently that he received ten cases of eggs from the towns in the Mennonite districts to one case from all other parts of the province. This shows the secret of their success. They produce, per capita, more poultry, more eggs, more wool, more mutton and lamb, and more flax seed than the other agricultural residents of the province.

THE Winnipeg Free Press says. "The Commercial, in an argument against the policy of granting public lands in aid of railways says 'Now that an Immigration Association has been formed here, it should be one of the duties of this association to take up this question.' That is precisely what the association ought not to do. It was formed to promote immigration and not to interfere in political matters and attempt to regulate the affairs of the nation. It would go to smash in no time if it should step aside from the one straight path of its duty." This argument of the Free Press is about as far fetched as anything we have noticed put forth for some time. If the association would be treading on dangerous ground to take up this question, then almost every matter discussed at the recent convention was a menace to the association. If the alienation of the public domain is the great drawback to the settlement of the country which many believe it is, then the association would be perfectly justified in considering the question and expressing an opinion thereon, not in a hostile form, but in an advisory way.

If the recent immigration convention had stirred up sufficient local enthusiasm to lead to the formation of a company to secure the settlement of the vacant lands around Winnipeg, some immediate good might have been accomplished, aside from the wider aims of the newly formed Western Immigration Association. If a strong company could be formed to take hold of this matter, with the object of placing a selected class of settlers upon the vacant lands surrounding the city, the good work could no doubt be successfully accomplished in a profitable way—profitable alike to the company and the country. A large area of good land could be secured now at a very low price. In all probability land will never again be as cheap in this district as it is at the present time. The first effort of a company should be to quietly secure possession of a large quantity of this vacant land, and then set about locating settlers upon the properties, giving them a long time to pay for the lands in small instalments, at a moderate rate of interest. If handled in the right way, there would appear to be no good reason why some plan such as this could not be profitably carried out.

A RESOLUTION was passed in the Manitoba legislature the other day which referred to the elevator system of Manitoba as a monopoly. This is a very erroneous use of the word, and one which is calculated to do harm to the country. No elevator monopoly exists in Manitoba, and it is a most damaging misrepresentation to publish to the world that

such a thing does exist here. It is the fashion with certain agitators to shout monopoly when they wish to stir up a movement against any existing situation. This word monopoly has done great service in the cause of various agitators, and if by any straining of facts the term can be introduced, the agitation is sure to be a lively one. The mere mention of the word itself is to many people like flouting a red rag before a bull, and all reason immediately takes its departure. This is about the situation in regard to the elevator system in Manitoba. Some one has raised the cry of monopoly, and it is therefore the popular thing to denounce the elevator regulations with all the vehemence which can be made to apply under the unreasonable excitement caused by the illegitimate use of this word. The Commercial is not going to discuss the question at present, any more than to say that we firmly believe the elevator regulations have been of inestimable value to the farmers of Manitoba. We would refer our readers to an article in another column of this number of The Commercial, under the heading "Our Elevator System."

Grain and Milling Notes.

The total receipts of wheat at the four principal United States winter wheat points, Toledo, St. Louis, Detroit and Kansas City from July 1st to date are 24,634,856 bushels, against 30,062,646 bushels in 1895 and 39,916,251 bushels in 1894. The total receipts at the four principal spring wheat points since Aug 1st, the beginning of the crop year foot up—Minneapolis, 62,265,240 bushels; Duluth 49,848,388 bushels; Chicago 19,328,254 bushels; and Milwaukee 7,245,389 bushels making a total of 132,687,271, against 93,361,329 bushels during the same time last year and 87,161,990 bushels in 1894.

In the Manitoba legislature on Tuesday, Mr. Graham moved, seconded by Mr. Morton. That in the opinion of this house, the elevator monopoly existing throughout the province should be removed, as it is detrimental to the interests of the people generally. The motion was adopted without further discussion, beyond the remarks of the mover. As this motion might create a wrong impression to those not acquainted with the situation, The Commercial would say that there is no elevator monopoly in Manitoba, and the word monopoly is not correctly used. The resolution is directed against the custom of the railways to refuse to allow the loading of wheat directly upon cars, at points where elevators have been established. Wheat can be handled much more rapidly and economically through the elevators than by loading directly into the cars from farmers' wagons, hence the rule.

Silver.

The silver market has been dull and steady, the London quotation for bars being stationary after an advance from 31 5-16d. per ounce to 31 7-16d. The February rise in silver prices is now explained as the result of a recent speculation at London in India rupee paper, necessitating large shipments thereof from India to London, and creating a corresponding demand for silver in the former country. The demand, it is explained, was met by an influx of silver from the United States. On Friday the markets were strong at a little further advance. Silver prices on March 18, were. London, 31 9-16d. New York, 69c.

Two unimportant failures occurred in Vancouver this week.