

adjourned till after the bill came before the House again. Mines at Wellington and Nanaimo are working to-day. No trouble is anticipated for the present at least.

Manitoba Wheat Grades.

The grain section of the Toronto board of trade has taken up the question of the Manitoba wheat grades, and asks that the grades be made as follows:—

Extra hard spring wheat shall be sound and well cleaned, weighing not less than sixty-two pounds to the bushel, and shall be composed of 95 per cent. of hard red fife wheat, grown in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories of Canada.

No. 1 hard spring wheat shall be sound and well cleaned, weighing not less than sixty pounds to the bushel, and shall be composed mostly of hard red wheat, grown in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories of Canada.

No. 2 hard spring wheat shall be sound and reasonable clean, weighing not less than fifty-eight pounds to the bushel, and shall be composed mostly of hard red wheat, grown in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories of Canada.

The three grades of No. 1, No. 2, and No. 3 northern or only altered by the word "fife" being left out. The following new grades are asked for:—

No. 1 white fife wheat shall be sound and well cleaned, weighing not less than sixty pounds to the bushel, and shall be composed of not less than ninety five per cent. of hard white fife wheat;

No. 2 white fife wheat shall be sound and reasonably clean, weighing not less than fifty-eight pounds to the bushel, and shall be composed of at least seventy-five per cent. of white fife wheat.

The Toronto grain men also ask that barley grown in Manitoba and the Territories shall be distinctly classified by inspectors as Manitoba barley.

It will be noticed that the Toronto men want the word "Manitoba" left out of the grades of hard spring wheat. The word "fife" is also asked to be left out in all the grades of hard and northern wheats, and simply "hard red wheat" stated. This latter is the only change asked for in the three northern grades. As regards the grades of No. 1 and No. 2 hard, the Toronto board asks for a lower grade than was asked for by the Winnipeg board. As at present constituted these grades call for 85 per cent. of red fife wheat. The Winnipeg board recently petitioned that they be reduced to 66 per cent. red fife; but according to the suggestion of the Toronto board, anything over 50 per cent. "hard red wheat," would answer. The grade "Extra Manitoba hard," the Winnipeg board asked to have reduced to 85 per cent. hard red fife, whilst the Toronto board wants the standard reduced to only 95 per cent. The grade as now constituted calls for an absolutely pure hard red fife wheat. It is merely a nominal grade, as no wheat comes up to the standard, and the reduction to 95 per cent. would still make it a purely ornamental grade. If the grades of No. 1 and No. 2 hard are to be reduced to the standard proposed by the Toronto board, the grade of Extra hard should be

correspondingly reduced, otherwise it will be useless. By placing the "Extra" grade at an impossible point, there will be no encouragement to grow hard fife wheat, and besides, it leaves too wide a range between the grades of No. 1 hard and Extra hard. The Winnipeg board asked for the establishment of one new grade, as follows:—

No. 1 hard white fife wheat shall be sound and well cleaned, weighing not less than sixty pounds to the bushel, and shall be composed of not less than three-fourths of hard white fife wheat grown in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories of Canada.

It will be seen the Toronto board asks for two new grades of white fife wheat. The main difference between the suggestions of the two boards is regarding the grades of Extra hard and No. 1 and No. 2 hard. The Toronto suggestions, if carried out, would put the two latter grades on a par with the Duluth grades of No. 1 and No. 2 hard. As Duluth hard wheats are the main competitors with Manitoba wheat, there would perhaps be wisdom in making the grades similar. This action of the Toronto board makes it certain that before the commencement of another crop year, the Manitoba wheat grades will undergo a remodeling.

For some time past, D. T. Reid, of the late firm of Reid & Clark, of Selkirk, has been making arrangements and prospecting as to the advisability of starting a fishing industry at Rat Portage. An ice house will be erected at once, and preparations made to carry on a fishing industry on the Lake of the Woods.

By way of a sort of parting kick at the Manitoba anti-monopoly agitation, the Montreal *Gazette* declares that the question of the wheat blockade has had no influence with the Dominion Government, in its movement to do away with monopoly. Now we venture the remark that the statement of the *Gazette* is utterly absurd. The wheat blockade has undoubtedly been one of the great factors in hastening the matter to a crisis. The *Gazette* then proceeds to lecture the Manitoba farmers and people generally on the necessity of providing grain storage. The *Gazette* need not fear on this point. With monopoly removed, capital for investment in elevators will be far more readily obtained, whilst the prospect of another season like the past winter with its grain blockade, would prove an effectual stopper upon the investment of capital in elevators. As one leading grain dealer stated lately, the more elevators one had this season the worse he was off. The elevators were filled up with wheat at the very commencement of the season, and there the grain has remained ever since. To ship it out has been impossible. This simply meant the locking up of capital, and the expense of carrying large quantities of grain which should have been going forward to market. The *Gazette* says:—"If the warehouse capacity of this winter had been ample to contain the large crop harvested, we should have heard nothing of the lack of transportation facilities, for then the producers would have had a market at hand and been able to sell their wheat for cash at their own sweet will, and no number of independent railway lines into the Northwest will solve the problem of grain blockades unless

barn and warehouse accommodation is provided." All of which is perfect bosh. What on earth is the use of a cash market if the grain cannot be got to the market? There has been no trouble about a cash market for Manitoba wheat during the past winter. The fact has been that Manitoba grain shippers have been obliged to refuse cash offers, owing to their inability to deliver the wheat within reasonable time.

— Burrows, who was connected with the Manitou cheese factory last season, will have charge of the factory to be established in the Pickel neighborhood, near Manitou.

Valencia raisins are developing a decidedly stronger tone as the demand increases, and present supplies are given closer consideration. Inquiries are now more numerous, and freer sales are making, and with the coming of such, holders are inclined to stiffen their ideas somewhat, while in some instances a fraction advance is demanded.

Assistant-Veterinary Surgeon Burnett, of the N.W.M.P. at Calgary, in his annual report to the government says: "If not out of place I would like to say a word or two re the Hutchings saddle, made in Winnipeg. I consider this a good serviceable saddle for the force, having practically tested it, and for work in those districts requiring double cincha saddles it is particularly well adapted. The manufacturer seems to have taken every pains to equal at least the San Francisco saddle of Main and Winchester, with two of the best trees in use in the United States, the Goodell and Viscilia. I consider for the police service that durability and lightness have been combined in the Hutchings saddle, and would recommend that they be adopted throughout the force and thus place us in a more independent position as to our equipage, than being as heretofore solely dependent on the American manufacture which might be closed to us with fatal results."

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