

Wheat for Europe.

Alex. McDougall at Chicago is quoted as saying: "The claim that consumptive markets must look to America for all supplies, now that Russia is not in the field, will bear investigation. January and June (inclusive) countries in Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia and South America furnish annually 100,000,000 bushels or over, for export, and it is quite likely that any urgent demand would make these sources more available than usual. An English authority says we shall almost certainly see Russia importing wheat in the spring. If such should be the case will American wheat be required? Would not Russia supply her wants from Persia, Turkey, Egypt, Syria, Cyprus, Asia Minor, Algeria or India? Geography and reciprocal interests certainly cut a figure.

Grain and Milling.

A. J. Hughes, of Souris and Montioth, is erecting a 30,000 bushel elevator at the latter place.

The Fort William board of trade is considering the advisability of asking the council to offer inducements for the establishment of a flour mill at that place.

The flour mill of Ira Gould & Son, at Montreal, recently purchased by W. W. Ogilvie, has a capacity of 1,100 bbls per day with elevator storage capacity of 200,000 bushels. The property has a frontage of 230 feet on the port of Montreal and a frontage of 260 feet on the main basin of the Lachine canal, and the Grand Trunk railway running through it. Thus affording unequalled receiving and shipping facilities.

The *Mercury*, of Manitou, Man., says:—"Chalmers Bros. & Bethune are branching out pretty extensively in the grain business this season. In addition to their elevator at Pilot Mound, they have recently purchased the McBean elevator at Manitou, the consideration being somewhere between \$5,000 and \$6,000. The elevator has a capacity of about 35,000 bushels. It was thoroughly overhauled and considerably improved by McBean Bros. just before the season commenced."

At a meeting of the Dominion Millers' Association held in Toronto last week, H. L. Rice, of St. Mary's, opened a discussion concerning the inspection of Manitoba wheat. The trouble, in his opinion, seems to be that the inspector at Port Arthur did not attend to his duty. Mr. Rice stated a case in which he said that McLoughlin & Moore, of Toronto, had been put to considerable loss by what they considered a neglect of duty by the Port Arthur inspector. He also complained that the law allowed too low a grading, and even now No. 2 hard wheat was generally not up to the requirements of law. A long discussion followed, after which a resolution was passed to memorialize the Government asking that chapter 99, section 44 of the General Inspection act be amended so as to make the grade No. 2 hard, Manitoba wheat not to weigh less than 60 pounds to the bushel; that the association have three representatives upon the board for selecting the standards, and that a section be added to the General Inspection act whereby it shall be illegal for any inspector to inspect into the authorized grades any smutty or damaged grain which has been scoured so as to make it pass

inspection into a grade to which it does not properly belong. The complaint made by McLoughlin & Moore was referred to the executive committee, with instructions to prosecute the inspector at Port Arthur, provided the case seems to them to be sufficiently clear to warrant such a proceeding. It was moved by J. Brown, seconded by H. L. Rice, and carried, "That whereas the Canadian Pacific railway have deemed it expedient to reduce the period of time which has hitherto been allowed on grain waiting orders at North Bay from three days to 24 hours, be it resolved that this association ask the C. P. R. and G. T. R. companies that Manitoba wheat stored in Toronto be carried to the mills at the same rate as if billed through on orders at North Bay." Brown, Watts and Noble were appointed a committee to wait on the railways.

Wheat Crop Conditions Abroad.

In reviewing the general situation concerning wheat, Beerbohm's London list of November 27, says: "The weather has been rather more favorable for sowing operations during the past week, but this work is still in arrears, and it is quite possible that the usual area will not be seeded. With regard to the offers of now wheat they have somewhat increased, but the total is still below that of previous years; and in the opinion of many leading farmers, the north-east winds of March will have to be awaited before many of the wheat stacks will be dry enough to be threshed. If it were not for the fact that much of the wheat can not be threshed in its present state, there is little doubt that the comparatively good prices obtainable during the past few weeks, viz., 42 to 44s for good wheats would have brought it to market. In France, sowing in the northern section is not expected to be finished before the middle of December, which is unusually late; in other parts of the country, however, farmers seem to be satisfied with the outlook. In Germany, too, the prospects are favorable on the whole; but in Hungary, Roumania, and South Russia there is little or no improvement, and it may be taken for granted that the area sown with winter wheat and rye in those countries is decidedly below the average. In South Australia, according to a cable received at the end of last week, the average yield is not likely to exceed 5 bushels per acre, a fair average being between 8 and 9 bushels per acre. From Victoria and New Zealand the reports are more promising in character. Little is known for certain regarding the Argentine crop, which according to some reports promises excellent results, but according to others is barely an average."

British Columbia.

Henry Short, guns, etc., Victoria, contemplates admitting his sons into partnership.

Marshall & Son, wholesale stationery, Vancouver, has admitted Andrew J. McCrea into partnership; firm style now Marshall & McCrea.

The promoters of the Phoenix Brewing Company, Ltd., of Victoria, with a capital of \$150,000 have applied for articles of incorporation, all the preliminary arrangements for the establishment of a lager beer brewery having been made.

In the voting in Victoria on Wednesday on the by-law to grant \$50,000 for the establish-

ment of a provincial university, there were 250 votes for it and 203 against it. For the by-law to grant \$25,000 to the British Columbia Agricultural Society, 371 votes were recorded in its favor and 163 against it.

The negotiations which have been pending between the finance committee of the Victoria council and the London brokers, through Mr. Robt. Ward, were terminated, with the result that the bonds, amounting to \$300,000, have been forwarded to London. They are listed at 91½ on 'change, which is considered very good considering the tightness of the money market and the fact that Victoria has never before been represented on the London market.

The *News-Advertiser* says: A deposit of anthracite coal suitable for blacksmiths and ordinary consumers' use, near the coast of British Columbia is what prospectors have sought long and diligently, but not with marked success. The greater part of that now used by blacksmiths in British Columbia comes around the Horn and when it reaches here costs a fabulous price. Neither Banff nor Canmore coal has proved a success in the forge, however good they may be as a steam coal. W. G. Alcock, who has spent the summer prospecting in the Okanagan district seems to have been fortunate enough to find the desideratum. He came from Vernon a few days ago and yesterday took to the board of trade rooms a sample of hard coal which he found there which so far has proved satisfactory in every test made of it. It has during the past summer been used in quite a number of blacksmith shops and mining camps and shown all the qualities of a good forge coal.

Grain Crops in Russia.

The production of grain this year in Russia, including Poland, as reported by cable to the *Chicago Trade Bulletin* by the *Liverpool Corn Trade News*, compares with the reported crop of 1890 as follows, in bushels:

	1891.	1890.
Wheat	223,000,000	225,621,000
Rye	522,000,000	718,873,000
Barley	140,000,000	175,437,000
Oats	445,000,000	576,874,000
Maize	23,000,000	24,233,000

These figures imply 357,000,000 bushels decrease, or nearly 21 per cent. compared with last year.

LAKE HURON this year is twenty inches lower than it was in 1872. This gives about an inch of decrease in depth each year. Captain Dick believes that the level of the great lakes increases for a period of seven years and then decreases for another seven. He believes, too, that the deepening of the channel at Detroit and the opening of a canal at Chicago have had a good deal to do with the present low level. The present low level is being severely felt by vessel men. Large vessels in loading coal for Toronto have been unable to take a full cargo owing to the low water at the entrance; some, in fact, that took chances had to discharge part of their cargo at the Queen's wharf. During the latter part of the season, large vessels came in with cargoes from 100 to 150 tons short.

The *Canadian Shoe and Leather Journal* is out with a very handsome special journal, containing the spring trade announcements of the wholesale houses and manufacturers. There are a large number of fine engravings in the issue, and many of the advertising pages are works of art.