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PRINCIPAL CONTENTS OF THIS ISSUE.

CANADIAN WHEAT THROUGH CANADIAN PORTS.

A member of a prominent Bristol, England, firm engaged in the grain trade has given some interesting opinions to Mr. Arnaud, the Canadian Trade Commissioner at that enterprising port. The grain man says that, as regards wheat, the quality of the Manitoba spring grades is much appreciated by consumers drawing their supplies from the port of Bristol. In the first place the character of the Manitoba spring wheat is the most suitable quality for mixing with English wheat, which is grown in considerable quantities in the counties contiguous to Bristol. Already a large quantity of oats is imported from Canada, and the quantities could be very much increased. It is mainly a question of competition with supplies offered by other countries, chiefly Russia and the Argentine.

More important is the statement of the Bristol grain distributor that "consumers are satisfied with the Canadian Government's system of grading, which they consider reliable so long as the wheat is shipped through Canadian ports. They have not the same confidence in Manitoba wheat that is shipped through United States ports, and will not pay within 9d. per quarter for Manitoba wheat with any United States certificate."

This opinion is strongly endorsed by Mr. Arnaud, the Canadian Trade Commissioner, who says: "The Canadian exporters of grain would do well to bear in mind the importance, if they desire to retain the excellent reputation their product now possesses in this market, of causing, as far as possible, their shipments to be made through Canadian ports only, and thus avoid any risk of mixing in foreign elevators."

This is further emphasis on this phase of the question of reciprocity. By the terms of the agreement, Canada will send its wheat to the United States free of duty. Considering that fact fairly from all viewpoints, will it be the best thing ultimately for the Western grain grower? He has a reputation in the British market which the United States grower will never get. As Sir George Ross has pointed out, the longer the American tariff of 25 cents a bushel on Canadian wheat is maintained, the better for Canada. Canadian wheat has now a distinct place in the British market. If the market of the United States were freely opened, it would be impossible to maintain its identity in passing through American elevators—the point made by the Bristol grain man and Mr. Arnaud—and Canada would be the loser to