

## NUMBER ONE HARD IS VANISHING.

### Standard Varies Considerably—Canada Should Revert to First Principles—Views of British Grain Merchants.

Monetary Times Office,  
London, Eng., 9th December.

The leading grain experts here record a diminishing quantity of Number 1 Hard on the one hand or a re-grading standard on the other. The Imperial Board of Trade informed The Monetary Times that only a limited quantity of import could be reported upon by them, and that the qualities do not enter into their statistics; consequently no figures are available from government headquarters. The Corn Exchange is deeply interested in the subject, and discussed most freely the conditions as they exist. Mr. Sydney Young, the secretary, stated that the grading was certainly not as carefully done as in former days; that the No. 1 of to-day was not the No. 1 of years ago, and that No. 1 Northern was in a degree taking the place of the old standard.

Another gentleman, although not officially connected with the Corn Exchange, discussed fully, present conditions from personal knowledge of both sides of the Atlantic. He said there are several reasons for the shrinkage of the good old Fyfe wheat. In the first place, they do not sow it; in the second place, the experimental farms of both United States and Canada have done incalculable harm to the grade of Western wheat; they are faddists, and in their anxiety to cross-breed have got away from the old standards which are undoubtedly best suited to the virgin soil of the West, and while their experiments are reasonable in the case of old farms artificially fertilized and where the old Fyfe could not be raised under any conditions, they are altogether wrong in the virgin soil of the West. Now is the time for Canada to produce its Hard which other countries need and will continue to need, and this will apply more to the Continent than to Britain itself. The British loaf requires but a small quantity to give it a backbone since the British taste is for close grain bread, suitable for thin cut afternoon teas, while the Continent requires the backbone of the Canadian Hard to give strength and substance to the well-developed less close loaf such as one meets in every Continental restaurant. "The result," said he, "of this scientific cross-breeding will be, if Canada is not careful, a degeneracy of quality which will place the North-West on a par with Washington, a grain that will make macaroni but not the old-fashioned loaf."

#### Canada Should Get Back to First Principles.

In conclusion, he said, "Tell Canada to revert to first principles. Let the farmer turn his back upon the experimenter, and grow that wheat which stands the highest both as to quality and to price." Mr. W. Priestly, President of the Millers' Association, said that the samples this year were disappointing. While he would not discuss the subject of grading, he said that there was one satisfaction in dealing with Canadian grain, that it was delivered according to sample, and that was more than could be said of other grain-producing countries.

Mr. Hawker, secretary of the Millers' Association feared that the chief difficulty was with the elevators, where grains were manipulated. He cited an instance of one Canadian farmer who showed them a sample of the wheat which he had raised and sold in the West, the eyes of the committee glowed, he said, when they saw the sample, but no such grade was forthcoming in due course.

Mr. E. G. Saltmarsh, ex-president of the London Trade Association, said he had no fault to find with the Canadian grain as it was coming. Shipments were up to samples, which was a most important point, but that No. 1 was an uncertain quantity, and being a high price grain and only used to a limited extent, its absence was not as generally recognized as one might suppose. Regarding the present crop, he expressed great disappointment at the quality of the samples they were receiving.

#### No. 1 Hard a Varying Standard.

Mr. McGuirk, secretary of the Liverpool Corn Exchange, said that it would be impossible to ascertain the exact quantity of No. 1 Hard being received into this country, and if such figures were obtainable, their real value might be questioned since No. 1, although a standard, is a varying standard. The old standard of years ago has long since disappeared and has been replaced from time to time by standards gradually grading downwards. The inference is that as time goes on Canadian soil will be found incapable of producing the high-grade Fyfe. Mr. McGuirk said that he was disappointed since he had hoped that the rich deep loam of the Canadian West would continue for a long time to produce the high grade, but the conclusion must be

reached that the land is incapable of continuing the product and that the varying grade and the No. 1 of to-day is the best of the No. 1 raised and while inferior to its predecessors, it is thought wisest to take the best obtainable of the No. 1 instead of grading it, as it might vary from the original standard as No. 2 or 3. When asked about the new fields to the North and the Peace River District, Mr. McGuirk expressed doubt as to the possibility of raising the grade in the Northern latitudes where season is short and perhaps the greater moisture might be found to affect the quality of the kernel. Subsequently a number of millers, dealers and bakers were seen, and in every instance emphasized the opinion.

#### No. 1 Hard a Vanishing Article.

These investigations justify the stand taken by The Monetary Times that the No. 1 is a vanishing article, both as to quantity and quality. A further evidence is shown by glancing at the government report for week ending November 4th. At terminals No. 1 Hard represented 24,945 bushels out of a total of 5,137,909, while under the heading Eastern Transfers totalling 3,234,060, not one bushel was of the quality named. While looking at the government report of Winnipeg Inspection, for the month of October, we find of 19,225 cars, only one was No. 1 Hard and for the months of September and October out of 30,741 cars, only 8 were of this standard, while in the same period of 1909, 228 cars out of 34,128 cars were of No. 1 Hard.—T. R. Sea.

## MALCOLM'S WESTERN CANNERIES

### Is Now Canned Goods Itself—Meeting of Shareholders Decides to Liquidate a Famous Concern Which Has Met the Vigorous Opposition of The Monetary Times.

As briefly noted in The Monetary Times last week, the Central Canada Meat Packing Company, formerly the Western Canners have decided to go into liquidation. Only twenty shareholders were present at the meeting held in Winnipeg. Proxies aggregating 16,324 were presented at the meeting. Mr. C. A. Flower, the managing director, stated that Mr. F. H. Malcolm, not being a shareholder of the company, had no right to be present at the meeting. But as the shareholders were under the impression that Mr. Malcolm had a definite proposal to make regarding the future operations of the company's plant, he would be willing to allow Mr. Malcolm to address the meeting. Mr. Malcolm stated that he did not agree that he was not a shareholder, and went into the past history of the company. He thought he could get a trust company in Vancouver to underwrite bonds, and that he could sell a large amount of canned goods to the garrison at Gibraltar, etc.

Mr. Malcolm stated distinctly that he did not wish to have the managership of the company, but that he wished to procure the capital still necessary, which he thought would be about \$200,000. He would re-instate all the shareholders who had been cancelled out. He personally had been cancelled out, and a re-organization of the company carried on without him being notified. He produced cans which were made on the old drawing can machinery, which he himself owned in Norwood. That was the machinery he would advise the company to adopt.

Mr. Malcolm said that the reason why the shareholders had ceased to pay their calls was because he had severed his connection with the company. He might get \$8,000 from some shareholders who were cancelled out if he re-instated them. In reply to a question, Mr. Malcolm said he had no definite proposal to submit affecting the future operating of the plant or for acquiring necessary capital.

#### Mr. Flower and His Contract.

Mr. Flower then dealt with the question of proxies and said:—"I am in a peculiar position with this company, being under contract at a salary for a term of five years. It would therefore be monetarily to my advantage, if the proposition for liquidation were to fall through at the meeting to-day, but I feel that there is so little hope of ever conducting this company to a successful issue, that I am willing and anxious for liquidation to go into effect, and the moment that this is done my contract with this company becomes ineffective and the shareholders will be relieved of a direct liability as far as my contract is concerned. But it is necessary for me to place this fact on record that, should liquidation not be decided upon to-day, I have promised the directors resident in Winnipeg, who intend to resign to-day that I will stay on the board of the company as managing director under my contract. I have no doubt whatever that the directors who are non-resident in Winnipeg will also resign from your Board.