

Grain and Milling News

James McGowan, of Holland, Man., is about to restart the flour mill at Emerson, Man., in which place he has decided to locate.

The machinery of Alexander Kelly & Co.'s new flour mill at Brandon is now being placed in position by Nordy, Lee & Garmon, of Indianapolis, who have the contract for the work.

Members of the Montreal corn exchange have abandoned the idea of holding a meeting to discuss the mixing of No. 1 hard Manitoba and scoured wheat at Port Arthur until after the report of the investigation by a government official has been made.

A. G. Thomson, a Montreal grain man, has returned from New York and speaking of the position of Manitoba wheat there said: "A great deal of that wheat is held in New York for December, January, and February shipment; a fact, I think which proves conclusively that New York is the outlet for it. Supposing the same amount had been held in Montreal, it would have to have been shipped long ago. Lying in New York it awaits the shipper's convenience, though in all probability it will be sent out during the months I have mentioned. Furthermore, the majority of holders manage to get free storage. Considerable Manitoba wheat is also held in Boston."

A telegram from Ottawa to the Winnipeg Free Press says: Mr. Gerald, assistant commissioner of inland revenue, returned last night from Duluth and other western points, where he had been investigating the subject of mixing wheat. Controller Wood said this morning that Gerald's information was confidential, and for his guidance, and would not be made public. It is learned, however, that Gerald reported that mixing was done at Duluth. It is also learned that it is the intention of the department to investigate as to whether the process of scouring depreciates the flour-making qualities of the wheat. The department certainly leans to the views held by the Manitoba grain men, and will not comply with the requests of eastern boards of trade or the Dominion Millers' association. An official who is high in the department said to-day that all the kicking from Montreal was due to the fact that the grain which used to find an outlet by Montreal does not now go that way, not more than ten per cent. of it. Most of it is sent from Port Arthur to Europe via Buffalo and New York. This again shows that Winnipeg has got the ear of the department and not Montreal.

Lumber Trade News.

There has recently organized in New York city in a quiet way, an association which will have, it is stated, a large influence upon the wholesale lumber trade throughout the country. It is the National Wholesale Lumber Dealers association. The organization is the outgrowth of a voluntary association which has been in existence for some months, but has never been legally incorporated. As now incorporated and instituted, the association is probably the largest and strongest trade organization in the country. The capital represented is upwards of \$30,000,000 and the business done exceeds \$75,000,000 a year.

The Canadian Pacific railway tie contracts for this winter have been awarded, the successful tenderers and the places where they will take out ties being as follows: J. W. Buchanan, Ostersund; Neil Keith, Telford and Ingolf; G. H. Strevel, Shelly; Capt. Robinson, delivered at West Sellirk; D. C. Cameron, Rat Portage; Carpenter & Co., Wabigoon; A. C. Stevenson; Savanne; Capt. G. W. Corbett, Murrillo; Martin & Parson, Murrillo; J. J. Egan has a quantity of

ties now on the line, which were cut last year, and they will now be taken over by the company. The total quantity to be cut this winter will aggregate 250,000.

Wire Nails.

The increasing use of wire nails to the exclusion of cut nails cannot be explained, says the Architect, Builder and Decorator, by the rules that commonly govern the substitution of one line of goods for another which has had the field for so long as did the cut nails. It is no uncommon thing these days of advertising to see an old favorite driven from the market by a new and perhaps inferior article, through the judicious use of ink; while a really good article, well established in the esteem of the public, must be liberally advertised in order to hold its own. In this use of nails, however, no advertising seems to have been done, whilst what little investigation of the relative merits of the two kinds has been made, all seems to have given testimony in favor of the old style of nails. In spite of the fact that repeated tests have shown the cut nails to hold more than the wire nails of the same length and weight, and in spite of the weight of tradition on their side, which is usually of itself sufficient to hold the market for useful articles against any ordinary effect, the wire nails have pretty much driven the others out. Some dealers do not keep any considerable assortment of the cut nails, and others declare that they do not sell a fifth as many as of wire nails. It will not do to say that the favor shown by builders is all a mistake, and accept the testimony of a testing machine as altogether conclusive. There must be something upon which to found the very general belief prevalent among the people who use nails, that the wire nails are the better. Possibly the evidence of the retailer as to the relative condition of packing boxes put up with the two sorts of nails on their arrival at the end of their journey, may have weighed. The difficulty the carpenter finds in pulling down his staging when built with wire nails may be evidence to him of their staying powers. Whatever the cause, he thinks the wire nails will hold more than the others. When the wire nails were first generally introduced, they had only cut nails of the very poorest material to compete with, but this is not the case now, for there is no difficulty in getting cut nails that will clinch almost as well as the old "wrought" variety. In the larger size nails, the number to the pound of a given length is about the same, but in the sizes more commonly used there is a considerable difference in favor of the wire nails—enough to make them the cheaper at anything like the same rate per pound. The present popularity of the wire nails is such that the cut nails must be specified if one has any hopes of securing their use on buildings. That the cut nails of a given length are better for the general purposes of a building, there would seem to be no reasonable ground for doubting, being as they are, so much stronger when driven home. Nails are not expected to hold in a building after they are half pulled out. The "coated" or "cemented" wire nails would probably be of advantage in some building work, as although a more slender wire than the ordinary nails of the same length, their hold when driven home is allowed by all who have tested or used them to be phenomenal. So far as we have observed, they are, however, hardly known among builders. For such places as the lathing of an ordinary ceiling they would add greatly to the security.

Billadeau & Gignere, fish dealers, Norman, have dissolved partnership, Billadeau retiring.

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