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ing \$1; cucumbers, 90c to \$1; cabbage from 7 to 8c; beans, \$3.50 a box; green peas, \$2.50 a basket.

The Manitoba Crops.

The past week has been one of encourage ment to farmers over nearly the whole province of Manitoba, and the struggling granger as a rule smiles even more broadly than he did two weeks ago. When the week opened up, the grain crops in the great majority of localities was in a very promising state, although in some it was evident that more rain must soon come if the healthy state of growth was to be kept up. The largest stretch of country in this condition extended along the line of the Manitoba and Northwestern railway from about Gladstone westward, but early in the week heavy local showers fell in the extreme western portion of this stretch, and as the week advanced the showers crept eastward until the Minnedosa, Neepawa, and Gladstone districts all received showers more or less heavy. A large portion of the Rockwood district showed similar indications though not so marked, but late in the week showers fell there also. The country known as the Morden valley, stretching north and south from the town of that name, has also shown signs of coming injury from drought, which injury at worst will only be a yield lighter than in other more favored districts. Rain this week will greatly improve matters there, and the indications are that showers may be had at any time. In all other districts of the province and in Eastern Assinibois the outlook has been grand right along, and now with the exception of the one district, everywhere there is a promise of a grain yield as heavy in proportion to the acreage as the crop of 1887, and every field is progressing with wonderful rapidity. The first half of August will decide all doubt, for if the first two weeks of that month are free from frost, a yield phenomenaly heavy may be confidently

looked for. Root crops are progressing favorably with the recent warm rains, but are still a little behind. It will require the whole of August clear of frost to save all, but if that is forthcoming a heavy yield and fine quality of potatoes in particular are assured. The hay has improved with the rains, but a thin stand of upland is all that can be expected under the most favorable circumstances. There will be abundance of hay in the province for all home demands, but in some of the thickly settled localities farmers will have to go quite a distance from home to cut their season's supply.

Improving Butter-

As far back as last March a combined effort of the merchants in the town of Virden and the farmers of Dennis county was made to try and improve the quality of butter manufactured in that country, and arrange for the grading of butter brought to market there. The joint committees composed of W. J. Wilcox, Jos. A. Merrick & Anderson, J. J. Danlop, B. Meek and J. S. Young, of Virden, and A. Cameron and Thos. McNicol, of Oak Lake, representing the merchants, and C. J. Thomson, William Stephens, John A. Fraser and John Joslin, representing the far ners, set to work and drew up the following rules and recommendations, which have adhered to ever since, and the result has been a decided improvement in the quality of batter generally, which comes to market in the towns above named.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

lst. That it is desirable that Elkhorn, Virden, Oak Lake and Griswold co-operate in this movement, and that this circular be submitted to the merchants of these towns before being printed and issued.

2nd. That a public inspector be appointed in each town, whose duty shall be to grade the butter, and who shall be paid for such service by the purchasers.

3rd. That the butter shall be graded in three classes, and the price to be paid for No. 2 quality shall be three cents lower than for No. 1, and that paid for No. 3 quality shall be four cents or over less than that paid for No. 2.

4th. That buttershall be packed in new tubs, which have been painted on the inside with boiled paraffine, or tin lined. No pails or old tubs to be used.

5th. That butter in rolls for immediate sale shall be subject to the same inspection and paid for according to quality.

6th. That the price of buttershall be regulated by Winnipeg market.

7th. That it is strongly recommended that only English Dairy fine salt be used in salting butter.

In making these recommendations the joint committee would also strongly urge upon farmers and others the extreme necessity of using every precaution for making a really first class article, and upon merchants and storekeepers the absolute necessity of providing suitable storeage.

If farmers and merchants will only combine and understand each other thoroughly on this butter question, instead of pulling against each other as they too often do, success cannot fail to attend their efforts, and the experience of Dennis county is a strong proof of this.

The coal agents in Montreal are still determined to resist the demand of strikers for increased pay, and they decline to employ any stevedore that concedes to the demands of the strikers on any coal steamers.

The C.P.R. commenced running a daily train from Chicago to Montreal last week. The train leaves Chicago at 3 p.m. This will place the Canadian Pacific on even terms with the Michigan Central and Grand Trunk roads.

McDonald & Whitehead have opened a general paint and paper hanging shop at Lethbridge.