

are expected from its business men. The organizing of a system of daily trade meetings of the Board will certainly be a great and wise step to take, as our grain, provision and other products are fast assuming vast proportions, and some central control of their handling is necessary for Manitoba, otherwise this control must go eastward out of the province. The fact that somewhere in the neighborhood of five million bushels of this year's crop of wheat is likely to be exported, and that a large additional local business in wheat, oats, barley, butter, cheese and pork will be done here indicates that the Board is by no means premature in entering into the daily business meeting arrangement. We have no doubt, but before the close of the coming year of 1886, the transactions and quotations of these daily meetings will be as eagerly watched and as freely telegraphed over the continent and even the Atlantic, as are those of Duluth, Minneapolis and other grain centres, and that those who are now assisting in establishing them will, ere a year passes, be astonished at the progress made.

But to make those daily business meetings a complete success, and to make them attain their proper value in a provincial sense, they must be widened in their scope, and the interests of others throughout Manitoba be allowed to blend with those of Winnipeg. The practical control of produce and other business of the province are handed to the Winnipeg Board by the new inspection arrangement, and in this branch of the Board's duties or privileges, it is both necessary and just that the voice and views of interested outside business men be heard and respected. We hope therefore in establishing daily meetings for business transactions, matters will be so arranged that such men will be able to take part in them, and use their voice and influence in their management and guidance. By so doing a power of cohesion will be given to the trade sentiments of the whole province, so that their full force can be made felt where eastern aggression requires to be stemmed.

We must close with best wishes for the success of the movement now commenced and hope that it will lay the foundation of an organization in which the full trading power of Manitoba can make itself felt.

HARD OR SOFT WHEAT.

The fact that in 1883 the wheat crop of Manitoba and the Northwest was seriously damaged by early fall frosts, when added to reports of similar damage to much less extent this year, has been made an excuse for the enemies of this country in the east and the United States to circulate the report that hard wheat growing is a failure in the Northwest, and that our farmers will have to resort to raising inferior qualities. Those who circulate these statements are well aware how damaging they are to this country, and how they will serve to divert immigration from it, and on the false principle that all games are fair in business as they are in war, they do not care much about inquiring into their truth, but take them as useful weapons against an opponent, and apply them in the way in which they will be the most effective.

If this crusade against the growing of hard wheat was indulged in by enemies of the Northwest only, there would be nothing extraordinary in the fact, and the means necessary to counteract their slanders could be easily discovered. But unfortunately we have those among ourselves, who have joined in the clamor, and who are loud in their cry for a return to soft wheat raising, asserting as reasons for so doing, that the extra yield of those varieties over that of Red Fife will more than make up for the difference in price. Also that there is almost a certainty of securing a crop of these soft varieties, while there is great uncertainty about so doing with a crop of Red Fife. We believe this fairly covers the objections taken by those in this country to Red Fife raising, and after allowing them their full weight we state, that they are altogether insufficient to warrant our farmers in making such a radical change in grain raising, besides being unsupported by facts.

The statement that farmers are almost certain of a crop of soft wheat in this country, is not born out by the samples of grain which have come to market either this year or in 1883. We can find among frozen grain plenty of soft as well as hard wheat, showing clearly the incorrectness of this statement; and we will go farther and state, that we know of instances this year of fields of Red Fife harvested safe and sound, and others of soft wheat close beside them badly touched with frost, and in searching for a

reason we find that early sowing was the sole cause of safety. The statement of soft wheat advocates is therefore about as convincing as that of the Yankee who believed strongly in lightning rods, because his house was once struck by lightning, but after erecting a rod it was never struck again.

The statement that the extra yield in soft wheat will more than compensate for its lower price may be true and it may not, for we hold that until now we have had no system of grain grading and inspection in this country from which we could draw reliable conclusions upon this question, and the statements of Tom, Dick and Harry about what they bought or sold at, are by far too conflicting to enable us to judge the question fairly, although as advocates of hard wheat growing we have no fear of such a test once it can be properly made.

But to look at this question of "Hard or Soft Wheat" from points outside of immediate profit, will convince anyone in favor of the former. Shall the Northwest "pull down its shingle" so to speak as a hard wheat growing country? and tell to the intending emigrants of the east and the Old World, that in return for the rigors of our climate and other disadvantages, we can only raise such wheat as can be produced in more southern parts of our own continent, in Australia, New Zealand and India? Our prospects for immigration will certainly not be very bright if we do so, and without immigration our future is a blank. The limit of hard wheat raising has steadily moved north during the past ten years, until its southern extremity is now in Minnesota and Dakota, and it is only this fact which makes this country attractive to agricultural settlers. It is well therefore to pause before we commence encouraging soft wheat raising to any material extent, and it would be suicidal to advocate it generally.

If we do have greater danger from early frost in raising hard wheat, experience has shown that we have greater immunity from smut, nine tenths of that drawback being in connection with soft varieties, scarcely one of which are free from it in this country. Besides, while we may at times suffer from frost, other parts of the continent suffer from other causes, and with all our damage this year our crop is far ahead of that of the rest of Canada. If soft wheat advocates expect to avoid all drawbacks in grain raising they are greatly mistaken.