

patient, industrious, pastoral people. Instead of seeking the open prairie land, like the great majority of settlers, who possibly expect to get rich in a few years growing wheat, they are willing to take the rougher land for their homes. This scrub or bush land, though involving much more labor to bring it under cultivation, is quite as valuable when cleared as the best prairie sections.

The Icelanders in Dakota, like those in Manitoba, have no doubt devoted their attention largely to cattle and sheep, and it is but natural that they would decline to sacrifice their property in order to come to Manitoba. To come here would involve either the sacrifice of the live stock, or entail upon them great inconvenience and expense, in addition to the usual expense and worry in moving.

It has been said that people who desired to come here could sell their stock and buy here to better advantage than they could move them, even if there were no quarantine regulations. This is a mistake. Farmers south of the boundary who decided to come to Western Canada, would be obliged to dispose of their live stock at forced sale, and this would invariably mean a loss. A farmer can only have a portion of his stock ready for the market at one time. Some would be too young to market. Others would be breeding stock, and so on, and these could only be disposed of at a loss. Besides, the great majority of farmers would prefer to take at least a portion of their stock with them, even if they believed they could buy to good advantage in the district to which they were going.

It certainly seems that something might be done to remove these restrictions upon immigration to this country from the best field which is open to us for immigration work.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

IN North Dakota the law authorizes county commissioners, on petition of one-third of the voters in any county, to levy a tax of one-fourth of one mill on the dollar for immigration purposes. In several of the counties says the Northwest Magazine of St. Paul, a movement is on foot to get the necessary number of signatures and thus to provide a portion, at least, of a fund which can be used for printing and other expenses of the new movement to bring in more settlers. The Commercial merely mentions this as a hint to the newly formed Western Canada Immigration Association. If a small fund were raised by the municipalities, particularly for looking after immigrants when they arrive here and assisting them to locate land, it would no doubt be money well spent.

THE various societies and organizations among the farmers have been busy of late proposing grades for the future government of Manitoba wheat. None of these organizations have so far come near agreeing in their proposals. The proposal of the Patrons of Industry is, that a board, composed of at least one-half producers of wheat, should be appointed next fall to fix permanent standards. They want the following grades provided for. Extra hard, No. 1, No. 2 and No. 3 hard, No. 1 and No. 2 Northern, No. 1 and No. 2 regular and No. 1 and No. 2 re-

jected. No scoured wheat to be allowed in the first two grades. The grades of No. 1 and two regular would take in low grade stuff, under No. 3 hard in quality. The proposal to place low grade stuff in No. 1 and No. 2 grades under any name, The Commercial considers a mistake. These grades should be classed as No. 4 and 5.

It is reported from Ottawa that the government is considering the advisability of placing a sum in the estimates towards the construction of locks at St. Andrew's rapids, in the Red river, near Winnipeg. This is the work which the Winnipeg board of trade has so persistently pressed upon the government for years, without any practical results so far. The St. Andrew's rapids is the only obstruction to navigation between Winnipeg city and Lake Winnipeg and the expense of overcoming this obstruction would be insignificant in comparison with the great value which the work would be to the country. It would assist very materially in developing the lumber, fuel, mineral and fishery industries of Lake Winnipeg and vicinity.

A circular, or rather two or three circular letters enclosed together reached The Commercial this week, without any names attached, but purporting to come from "The Canadian Republican Committee." We have not heard anything about this alleged committee before, and feel rather inclined to treat the thing as a joke. We do not believe that there is any desire at the present time among the people of Canada to change their form of government or sever relationship with the empire. The people of this country are contented, prosperous and free. The people of no other country in the world enjoy greater freedom and better protection than do Canadians. Education is within the reach of all, and all citizens are equal, under the law and entitled to the same privileges and protection. The alleged committee have gone to a useless expense in distributing their circular, which will provoke only a smile of pity for the senders, from those who receive it.

California Fruit.

Mail advices from San Francisco to February 29 were as follows: "There is only a moderate quantity of dried fruits left in the State. Strictly choice or fancy fruit is hard to find. The bulk of the peaches on hand will grade only good to choice, with a few up to fancy. The cold weather East is creating a good demand for dried fruits. Peaches are cleaning up at the low prices. Eastern evaporated apples, all grades, are reported from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ lower, with trade dull and pressure being used to make sales. Export business in apples is very light. Apricots are moving at 8c to 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ c for good Royals. Finer grades not wanted at present. Reports reach us from Santa Clara Valley that the Moorpark crop will be short this season. Prune trees are in bloom."

Concerning the position of prunes in California the Fruit Grower, in its issue of February 29th, says: "The last stray lot of northern grown prunes was purchased, early in the week, by a large dealer, and is now in strong hands. To further the export trade the Southern Pacific Company has made a through rate of \$1.00 per hundred pounds to London, and \$1.10 to Liverpool and Continent of Europe. This rate will hold good via

Sunset Route until March 31st. The old rate was \$1.25. The holdings on the Coast were comparatively light, and are bound to go out clean before new crop, even under the present moderate demand. Our Eastern advices indicate an improved demand, but at prices somewhat below the present lay-down cost of goods. We learn, from Chicago, that there is an effort being made on this Coast to corner the prune market. We doubt if a corner in prunes is contemplated at this time. There may be some concert of action on the part of the few large holders regarding f.o.b. sales, but that is about as far as it goes. A little firmness at this end of the line will have a very beneficial effect upon the consigned goods held in the East. There are five months in which to market and consume the stock of prunes on hand. The weather throughout the East and West is very cold and deep snow covers the ground in all directions. This is ideal dried fruit weather, and we look for a good consumptive demand."

A Suggestion.

A correspondent wrote some time ago to a Montreal paper as follows: A practical way for the Canadian Pacific Railway to help the Northwest farmers and encourage settlers would be by the establishment of potato starch works at central points; these works could also produce other starches and farinaceous foods that could bear higher freights than wheat, etc. Potato spirit is made in large quantities in Belgium and Germany. It was imported into England for manufacturing purposes. It is an alcohol of good quality, and is suitable for all purposes that alcohol is used for, in fact, its chemical constituents are identical. The price was about 24 cents per gallon, so that it can be produced very cheaply. After experimenting on the quantity of superfluous moisture that a potato contains, I find that sliced and dried the loss in weight is 78 per cent., therefore 100 pounds potatoes are reduced to 27 pounds net. I enclose you a sample slice—these chips would, I think be suitable for hotel use for fried chips, can give you further sample if you like, it may be part of the future food supply. One hundred pounds of sliced carrots are reduced by drying to 17 pounds net, sample enclosed. If this can be utilized it will be an immense advantage to remote points. If we are to be a manufacturing country we need a plentiful food supply, at remunerative prices to the growers. Potatoes and carrots could also be machine grated and dried; I presume the loss by evaporation would be about the same, but have not tried.

Silver.

The silver market has been strong to steady all week. The London quotation for bars advanced from 81 8-16d. per ounce to 81 9-16d. and receded to 81 5-16d. The New York market rose correspondingly from 68 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. to 68 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. Silver prices on March 6 were: London 81 5-16d. New York 68 $\frac{3}{4}$ c.

The cheese market on spot is quiet, says the Montreal Gazette, of March 5, but it is understood that a lot of new business has been transacted over the cable. In all, one or two leading holders have closed out about 15,000 boxes. The terms for this business were private, but it is understood to be close to ruling quotations, the goods comprising both summer and fall makes. This reduces the stock on spot to very moderate dimensions. In this connection, another dealer claims to have offers of a line of 4,000 from the country, but nothing is known for certain. In a nominal way we quote spot prices 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 8c for summer and 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ to 9c for fall makes.