

DIRECT IMPORTERS

TEAS, SUGARS, WINES, LIQUORS and GENERAL GROCERIES CORNER PRINCESS AND BANNATYNE STREETS, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

THE British Columbia Government has sent out an engineer to report on the feasibility of carrying out a system of irrigation in the dry belt of the province. This dry belt includes a strip of country east of the Selkirk and Gold ranges of mountains, extending for a considerable distance along the C. P. R. and southward to the United States boundary. Quite a large extent of country is included in this dry belt. much of which is otherwise well adapted to agriculture. In some instances where it could be provided cheaply, irrigation has already been done by private parties, with excellent results, almost fabulous crops of wheat and other coreals having been produced. The region has an excellent climate, such as would be very favorable to the cultivation of apples and other varieties of fruits, as well as vegetables and cereals. Stock raising is now the principal industry of the district. If an extensive system of irrigation can be devised, the result will be to add a large extent of valuable land to the somewhat limited agricultural area of British Columbia. It is to be hoped the engineer will be able to report favorably.

THE Calgary council and board of trade have prepared a memorial and sent a couple of delegates to Ottawa in the interest of certain measures. The first thing asked for is a full measure of local responsible government for the Northwest Territories, similar to that enjoyed by the other provinces. It also asked that "in order to remove a serious cause of obstruction to the settlement and progress of the country, some equitable arrangement be made with the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for the surrender of the monopoly clauses of its contract," and that "for t'- encouragement of mining, all mining tools and appliances not made in Canada, should he placed on the free list of imports, which would help immensely in developing our mineral resources." Some of the reasons given for asking a provincial form of government for the Territories are such as would likely have an opposite influence with the Ottawa authorities. For instance, the first argument in favor of responsible government is, that it would enable the people of the Territories to charter their

own railways. Now, if there is anything that Ottawa does not wish to lose control of, it is the exclusive charge of railway legislation. The Calgary people could not have urged any feature which would operate to defeat their object more readily than this railway idea. However, it is not probable that the deputation will have much weight with the ministers toward securing provincial government for the Territories.

THE number of animals being brought into Manitoba this spring is surprising. Horses are arriving by the car-load almost daily, and they seem to meet with ready sale, farmers being the purchasers. But horses are not the only animals being brought to the country. Stock cattle are coming in freely, both for sale and by parties who intend placing them on their own property. Quite a number of sheep will also be brought in. This movement indicates that Manitoba farmers are going in more for mixed agriculture. The continued low prices for wheat, and the experience of the past winter with grain blockades, is no doubt having some influence in this direction. Especially in districts more distant from the railways, farmers are showing a tendency to give up grain growing to a great extent. The experience of the past winter will induce a great many to reduce their grain crops, in favor of mixed farming. Many who were obliged to haul grain this winter to distant markets, will greatly reduce their cereal crops and in many instances grow only sufficient for their own use, until such time as better railway facilities are provided.

AT a meeting of the grain men's section of the Toronto board of trade, on Tuesday last, the following resolution was passed: "Whereas information has been received that a considerable quantity of Manitoba barley, badly mixed with foreign grains and weeds, is being offered for sale throughout Ontario for seed, be it resolved that this section of the board of trade, in order to preserve the good quality of Ontario barley, places on record these facts, requesting the parties interested to see that any barley offered for seed, whether from Manitoba or elsewhere,

PYE. **JAMES**

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A Manitoba Testimonlal.

PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE, Dec. 8th, 1887. JAMES PYE, Esq., Minneapolis, Minn, U.S.A.

James Pre, Esq., Minneapolis, Minn, U.S.A.

Dear Sur, — In handing you our check for \$1,301.24, in full for balance on your contract for building and enlarging our mill, we without solicitation with to state, that you have done your work in a manner highly satisfactory to this company. The capacity which you guaranteed at 275 barrels, we find considerably under the mark, as we are at present making over 300 barrels, and the quality of the flour is all that we could wish for. Some of our largest purchasers frankly tell us, it is equal to any flour made in either Minnesota or this provinto. The yield also we find very satisfactory. We must also bear testimony to your pleasing and gentlemanly manner, and your willingness at all times to meet our wishes. This has made our business relations pleasant and we can honestly say, that we recommend you to any person, requireing anything in the mill building or mill furnishing line. Wishing you the success that straight dealing merits, we are

THE PORTAGE MILLING CO.
Jas. MacLenaghan, Managing Director.

is free from all foreign seeds or weeds of any kind, farmers in particular being requested to see that the good reputation Ontario enjoys for growing fine barley is not affected by the introduction of prairie and other weeds into their land which would take years to get rid of." A petition to the Dominion Parliament was also adopted embodying the proposed amendments to the Inspection Act of 1885, relating to Manitoba hard wheat, northern spring wheat, white Fyfe wheat and Manitoba barley. It was also decided to send a copy of the petition to the board of trade of Montreal for approval, and to endeavor, if possible, to have the act amended during the present session. As to the action of the Toronto board concerning Manitoba barley, there is perhaps some excuse. It has often been a complaint that Manitoba oats and barley are frequently very dirty - that is, mixed with other grains and foreign substances. The idea of introducing prairie weeds into Ontario, however, is somewhat ridiculous. The only weeds we have in this country are such as have been introduced here in seed grain, which has come mainly from Ontario. The principle objection to Manitoba barley is the mixture of wheat which it frequently contains, and which is an injury for malting. As to seeds of weeds, the average grain of the prairie is probably much cleaner than eastern grain. Oats are dirty simply because they are marketed as they come from the thresher, without being put through any cleaning process. The exact nature of the petition of the Toronto board regarding changes in the Manitoba wheat grades, is not yet fully known here, but it is inferred that the desired changes are similar to those recently petitioned for by the Winnipeg board of trade.

British Wheat Markets.

February Russian wheat for Easter shipment has been offered at 25s. to 31s. per qr. for the cheaper sorts; at 32s. to 34s. for the best. Polish wheat, which ranges high in quality this season, has been quoted 31s. for April shipment. Indian wheat, new crop, has been equally moderate in estimated value. Sellers of No. 2 club Culcutta are willing to ship in April, May, June,