

tract from the current value of wheat one cent's worth, no matter how hard it might try to do so. It requires vastly more powerful factors than we can employ, to affect wheat prices even a fraction of a cent per bushel. The remarks of The Commercial of a short time ago, regarding the probable course of wheat prices, have developed just about as predicted; but this is not owing to any ability this journal has to influence prices. The Commercial, like other business institutions, looks for business through the general prosperity of the community. Wheat being our great source of revenue in this country, every material addition to the value of wheat adds to the general prosperity, in which this journal, like other business institutions, would share. A dollar per bushel for wheat would add a good many dollars to the revenue of this office. We are, however, obliged to report market conditions as they exist, and not as we would wish them to be, even though we should be charged, as has been the case several times in the past, with attempting to depress prices. One thing, however, we will take credit for, and that is, that for years past any forecasts made by The Commercial as to the course of the wheat markets, have invariably been borne out by results. Our weekly market reports on wheat are prepared with the greatest care, and they are reliable. They are moreover free from the many amusing errors which appear in some of the other reports published, as a result of lack of general knowledge of market conditions.

### SUGAR BEETS

The possibility of growing sugar beets and manufacturing sugar therefrom in Manitoba, has been seriously engaging the attention of the Winnipeg board of trade for some time. The production of the sugar beet is one of the most important interests in several countries in Europe, particularly in Germany, Austria, Belgium and France. In the United States considerable attention is also being given to the sugar beet, and in the central western states good progress has been made. If this industry could be added to our resources in Manitoba, it would be a great thing for the country. It requires a very large investment of capital, however, to establish a beet sugar refinery and it would be a very foolish thing to establish a factory before testing the capabilities of our soil and climate most thoroughly for the production of the beet. It is urged that the provincial government should import a quantity of the seed and distribute it to farmers, who would make a test of growing the

beet under proper conditions. The cultivation of the sugar beet requires skill and care, and it would be no use in distributing seed promiscuously. It would have to be done on a sufficiently large scale to make the test conclusive, and at the same time the experiments would require to be confined to intelligent farmers who would carry out the instructions as to the mode of cultivating the beet. The industry is such an important one, that it would certainly seem worth while making an effort to have a thorough test of sugar beet cultivation here.

### OATMEAL

The very poor crop of oats in Manitoba last year placed Manitoba oatmeal millers in a very unsatisfactory position. The crop was so small that there was not sufficient for feed purposes, a large quantity of corn having been imported from the States to supply the local deficiency in oats. Even if the Manitoba oatmeal millers could have obtained sufficient oats to have kept their mills running during the past year, prices were too high to enable them to manufacture the meal here to advantage. Owing to the scandalous provisions of the Canadian tariff in regard to oatmeal, which cause a discrimination against the home mills. On account of the duty being much higher on the raw material than it is on the finished product, Manitoba millers could not compete, at the prices ruling here for oats, with the meal imported from the United States. As a result, Western Canada during the past year has been supplied with oatmeal mainly from the United States, while our own mills were helpless to defend their own trade, owing to the absurd tariff situation, and were obliged to close down.

As the time came around for marketing a new crop, it was hoped that the better crop of oats this year, and consequently lower prices for the grain, would enable Manitoba millers to once more gain control of the home market. Some new Manitoba meal has been put on the market lately, but the continued wet weather has kept back the supply of oats, and so far our millers have not been able to offer much meal, and large sales of imported meal have recently been made. Sales of round lots of Manitoba meal have been made at \$1.60 delivered in Winnipeg for 80-lb. sacks, and several cars of imported meal have been placed recently at about the same price.

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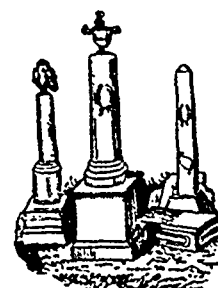
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