

# The Commercial

WINNIPEG, NOVEMBER 21, 1887.

## THE PRICE OF MANITOBA WHEAT.

Great efforts have been put forth from different sources to encourage the growth in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories of pure red fye wheat only, and among those using such effort may be included THE COMMERCIAL. The arguments used during the past few years to persuade our farmers to stick to this wheat have in some instances been very alluring, and judging from the large proportion of that wheat now produced in this country, these arguments have also been very convincing. It did not require any one to tell our farmers that in raising red fye wheat, they were raising the best milling wheat grown, since the roller process of milling became general. They were well aware of that fact, and could look to the huge milling centre at Minneapolis, which was fast crushing out competitors in every market, where a free entry could be had for its products. But they were also told that for red fye wheat millers were prepared to pay a higher figure than for any other variety. It was a common practice to state, that ten cents a bushel more would be paid for it than for any other variety of spring wheat. This last statement was made when wheat was worth a dollar a bushel and over, and of course at present prices it would be folly to expect so large a margin. But a premium of five to six cents a bushel would still cling to it even at present prices, and this our farmers are entitled to expect.

There can be no doubt, but our local millers and dealers still maintain a considerable difference of price between hard fye and soft wheat, but the tendency of eastern markets point to the belief, that they will not long be able to hold to that difference. A study of the market quotations of Montreal during the past month or so reveals the fact, that No. 1 Manitoba hard wheat has not been holding the rank promised to it four or five years ago when its production was only beginning. During the last month it has not held on a level with either red or white winter wheat, although any person acquainted with the relative milling value of all three varieties must allow the first place to the Manitoba hard wheat. But

a comparison with spring varieties shows that our No. 1 hard has barely held its own with good Canada spring and on more than one occasion has been quoted at one cent a bushel less. Therefore this season our best grade of Manitoba hard wheat has with difficulty held level in price in the Montreal market with secondary grades of eastern grown soft wheats. We must bear in mind that Montreal is the market that rules the price of our wheat more than all others on this continent. The United States tariff prevents markets there from influencing our prices, and we will require to get our wheat sent direct to the British market, by a route in which it will be subjected to less mixing and adulteration than it undergoes now on its way, before its real value will become generally known there.

It is a fact as matters now stand, that our Canadian Inspection Laws call for, in No. 1 hard Manitoba, a wheat which at present values is worth from three to four cents a bushel more than what the Inspection Laws of the State of Minnesota call for in the same grade, and there the law calls for a higher quality of spring wheat than in any other part of the United States. There must then be something seriously wrong when our No. 1 hard in Montreal and other eastern Canadian grain centres sells at the same figures as second class wheat products of the east. The promises of high prices for our hard wheat have not been kept, and it will soon dawn upon our farmers, that they are foolish in raising a grain, which is later in ripening, and consequently more liable to get touched with frost, and which yields less per acre, than the soft varieties, which in the east sell equally as high. Our farmers can produce this Canada spring wheat of a finer quality than any produced in eastern Canada, and they can produce it with much greater safety, and with a heavier yield than red fye.

If this state of prices for Manitoba hard wheat is to continue our farmers must cease to raise it, and commence to the inferior soft varieties, and instead of struggling to reach the grades fixed in Canada, shippers as soon as they can secure an outlet to the south, will ship via Duluth, sell on the inspection there, and leave Canadian Inspection a purely ornamental arrangement. We wonder how the advocates of Canadian trade by Canadian carriers will like that change,

and we assure them that the manipulation of our Manitoba hard wheat prices in the east will soon bring it about.

There arises every now and again a cry in this country against the prices paid for wheat by our local buyers, which if we judge by Montreal quotations is seldom well founded. There cannot be the slightest doubt however, that in the east there is a system of bearing our wheat which will, if persisted in, soon take away every incentive our farmers have to raise the fine quality of hard wheat, for which this country is becoming justly celebrated. THE COMMERCIAL is still an advocate of hard wheat raising here, and with many other friends of the province believes it would be little short of a calamity to allow a return to softer varieties. Still we believe that farmers will do what is most profitable, and make no sacrifice for pure excellence without attendant gain. As matters now stand in the Montreal and other eastern markets, they are expending their extra efforts, and taking extra risks in raising red fye wheat purely for glory, and glory is a valueless commodity in a new country with all the hardship and self sacrifice which a pioneer life entails.

## AN INSOLVENCY LAW IN INSTALMENTS.

In criticising favorably the late Inter-Provincial Conference THE COMMERCIAL endeavored to show how by lifting the discussions of such a conference out of the pit of purely party politics, much good could be accomplished even in the field of trade and commerce. We instanced the appeal of the Montreal board of trade to the conference asking for an assimilation in all the provinces of the law as for the distribution of insolvent estates. That the conference took a practical view of this important question and was prepared—so far as lay in its power to aid the Montreal board in securing its desires, is evident from the following resolutions which it, the conference passed:

14. That by the British North America Act the jurisdiction with respect to bankruptcy and insolvency is assigned to the Federal Parliament; that there is no federal law on that subject now in force; that, in the absence of a law for the whole Dominion, it is in the public interest that each province should be at liberty to deal with the matters subject to any federal law which may thereafter be passed; that it is doubtful how far under the present provisions of the act the provincial legislatures can deal with the subject; and it is desirable that the Act be amended by expressly giving to the provinces the necessary jurisdiction, in the absence of and subject to any federal law.

20. That it is desirable that the laws of the several provinces for the enforcement of debts