

## THE WHEAT QUESTION.

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experienced by exporters about their shipments being under sample or not up to quality, etc.

Now, while all sorts of scandalous and absurd charges are being made against the grain trade by a few Manitoba papers, particularly the Winnipeg Tribune, no effort has been made by these papers to find out the real cause of the low prices. The Tribune has contained almost daily columns of slanderous charges against the grain men, insinuating that they are robbing and grinding the farmers, and calling for interference to protect the farmers from the grain buyers, yet in all these pages of matter published, we have not seen the first argument to show that the grain buyers are not paying full export values. While columns of abuse have been heaped upon the grain interest, not the faintest attempt has been made to show that full values are not being paid. The fact is, prices in Manitoba opened at comparatively high prices, in comparison with export values. The Tribune no doubt knows this. This is not what the Tribune wants to know. What it delights in is to lead an agitation of some sort, and this is an agitation which will, it fancies, please the farmers.

There is one feature of the grain trade which has been the cause for a good deal of agitation, which The Commercial would like to see removed. We refer to the special privileges to country elevators. These served a good purpose in their day, in assisting to provide Manitoba with a superb elevator system, thereby reducing the cost of handling grain. As the situation exists to-day, these special shipping privileges to elevators are the cause of a great deal of agitation and ill feeling against the grain trade, without any corresponding advantage to the trade. We believe these elevator privileges ought now to be dispensed with, and we do not believe that any of the leading shippers would place any obstacle in the way of their removal.

## Canadian Fruit for England.

The steamship Mongolian, of the Allan line, which sailed for Liverpool from Montreal last week, took an experimental shipment of perishable Canadian fruit. The shipment is being made by the Horticultural association of Ontario and Quebec, and cold storage transportation is provided free by the federal authorities. There was a large loss of perishable fruit in the Niagara district last fall for the reason that the growers could not find a market for all that they had. If fruit can be landed fresh in England, losses of this kind will be avoided. The Ontario fruit in the shipment under consideration consists of a carload from St. Catharines, Grimsby and Winona, in the Niagara district. It is packed in small cases, each specimen wrapped in tissue and the grower's name and the section stamped on the box. It is made up of pears, peaches, plums, grapes, apples and tomatoes, and was brought to Montreal in one of the special refrigerator cars used for the transportation of butter. The Quebec shipment consists of fifty cases of these choice red cheeked apples, for which the island of Montreal is famous. The consignment will be looked after in Liverpool by J. R. P. Byrne, the agent of the

## Every Mackintosh

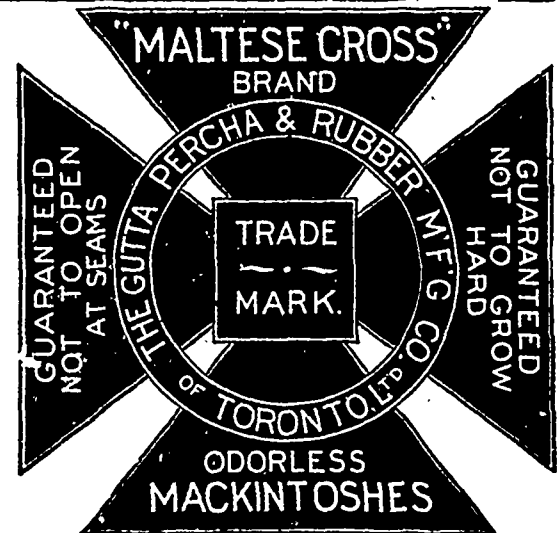
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These are not merely "dew proof" or "shower proof" goods they are THOROUGHLY WATER PROOF and will absolutely withstand all changes of climate.

For Sale by all the Leading Wholesale Houses.

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Ontario Government at that port, who will see that the lots are promptly forwarded to Covent Garden market.—Montreal Gazette.

## The Iron Boom.

The following statement shows the course of the iron and steel products that have undergone the most marked change in the United States markets since the beginning of the present year. These prices are weekly quotations in the Pittsburgh market for pig iron and billets by the gross ton and for common iron bars by the 100 pounds:

Date.	De-semer pig iron.	Ressemer billets.	Gray forge pig iron.	3 1/2" x 1/2" bar iron.
January 3 ...	\$9.80	\$14.80	\$9.25	\$0.90
January 10 ...	9.85	14.80	9.15	.90
January 17 ...	9.90	14.90	9.15	.90
January 24 ...	9.85	14.90	9.15	.90
January 31 ...	10.15	15.00	9.15	.90
February 7 ...	10.10	15.00	9.15	.90
February 14 ...	10.00	15.00	9.10	.90
February 21 ...	10.00	15.00	8.95	.90
February 28 ...	9.90	14.80	8.95	.95
March 7 ...	10.15	14.75	9.00	.95
March 14 ...	10.15	14.75	9.00	.95
March 21 ...	10.15	14.90	9.00	.95
March 28 ...	10.35	15.00	9.00	.90
April 4 ...	10.65	15.50	9.25	.95
April 11 ...	10.75	15.20	9.25	.95
April 18 ...	10.65	15.50	9.25	.95
April 25 ...	10.65	15.40	9.35	1.00
May 2 ...	10.75	15.40	9.40	1.00
May 9 ...	10.90	15.50	9.40	1.00
May 16 ...	11.40	16.50	10.15	1.00
May 23 ...	11.50	16.75	10.10	1.00
May 30 ...	11.65	17.50	10.35	1.00
June 6 ...	12.00	18.00	10.15	1.05
June 13 ...	12.40	18.50	10.85	1.10
June 20 ...	12.65	20.00	10.65	1.15
June 27 ...	12.90	20.00	10.65	1.15
July 4 ...	13.50	20.00	11.00	1.20
July 11 ...	14.40	21.00	11.25	1.20
July 18 ...	14.35	21.00	11.50	1.20
July 25 ...	14.35	22.00	11.50	1.20
August 1 ...	14.35	21.50	11.40	1.20
August 8 ...	14.00	21.00	12.00	1.30
August 15 ...	14.00	21.75	12.00	1.30
August 22 ...	14.65	22.00	12.00	1.30
August 29 ...	16.00	23.00	12.50	1.30

Taking into consideration the large advance in values and the great increase in the volume of business, the present revival of the iron trade is probably of greater proportions than any similar movement in the history of the American iron and steel industry. During the boom of 1879-80 the advance in prices far exceeded the upward movement of the past six months, but the production of pig iron during the entire year 1880 was less than the output in the first half of this year.—Bradstreet's.

## Wheat Stocks.

There were 53,531,000 bushels of wheat reported available in the United States and Canada, both coasts, on September 1, 1895, a smaller quantity than at the like date in 1894 or 1893, but more than was held at a corresponding time in preceding years. The falling away of the quantity in sight as contrasted with one year ago is about 84,827,000 bushels or 40 per cent, while as compared with the total two years ago the decrease is 16,916,000 bushels, or 24 per cent. But on September 1, 1892, the total of domestic and Canadian available stocks of wheat was only 46,464,000 bushels, or 15 per cent. less than at the present time, while on the like date in 1891 the aggregate was nearly 9 per cent. less; in 1890 and in 1889 each it was fully 9 per cent. smaller.

When stocks of wheat afloat for and in Europe on September 1 are included the grand total of supplies available for Europe, with those held there, and in the United States and Canada amounts to 119,499,000 bushels or 21 per cent. less than was so held one year ago, 21 per cent. less than two years ago, but 7 per cent. more than was available on September 1, 1892, 38 per cent. more than on September 1, 1891, and relatively greater increases as contrasted with corresponding totals in 1890 and 1889.

European stocks of wheat, in which are included totals afloat for Europe from all exporting countries, which amounted to 65,969,000 bushels on the 1st inst., show an increase of about 728,000 bushels during August this year, and an increase of 2,741,000 bushels as compared with September 1891.

The August movement of the world's wheat stocks shows a gain much below the normal average. In that month wheat stocks in and afloat for Europe, plus those in the United States and Canada, increased only 642,000 bushels, and in 1891 the increase was 9,268,000 bushels; there was a decrease in 1893 of 1,663,000 bushels, but 1892 the increase was 12,483,000 bushels, and in 1891 it was 937,000 bushels, and in 1890 it was 361,000 bushels, and in 1889 4,738,000.—Bradstreet's.

## United States Crop Report.

The September report of the United States department of agriculture shows a decline in the condition of corn to 93.4 from 102.5 in the month of August. The crops have suffered from drought during August. The general condition of wheat, both winter and spring varieties, when harvested, was 75.4, against 83.7 last year, and 74 in 1893. The condition of oats when harvested was 85, rye 83.5, barley 87.6, potatoes 90.8.