

it is a great injustice to our farmers that the present standards should be continued, and I would recommend to the Board that the matter be again taken up, and, if possible, the principle conceded of our own Boards establishing the grades of Manitoba wheat.

LOCAL INDUSTRIES.

In the matter of local industries I feel it my duty to emphasize the Report of your Council. The question of the utilization of the flax fibre in the manufacture of twine is one of great importance. Difficulties have been found in the way connected with the rank growth, but it is to be hoped that these will be overcome and that the large amount of money annually sent out of the country for this article, and which during the last year was, together with the freights on same, not less than two hundred thousand dollars, will yet be kept at home to enrich our own people.

The opening of pork-packing and beef-canning factories, and the building of elevators are matters of importance and should be profitably undertaken here.

The manufacture of soap on such an extensive scale as to prevent the import from other markets will yet no doubt be reached.

Hides, which now go out of the country to be returned to us in the shape of leather, boots and shoes, harness, etc., should be tanned and manufactured here with beneficial results to all concerned.

Building and wrapping papers will yet no doubt be profitably manufactured in our midst, and the commencement of these enterprises will probably be the day when we succeed in obtaining that healthy competition in railway carriage which is so essential to the success of every business, and which has such an assuring effect on capitalist and settler alike.

THE DISALLOWANCE QUESTION.

The questions I have spoken of, and many others which occupied the attention of your Board during the year just ending, have been of great importance, but the one great overshadowing question has undoubtedly been that of the disallowance of Manitoba railway charters by the Dominion Government, and early in the year I had the honor of acting for you in the capacity of delegate to the