

### Smutty Wheat Treated.

The question of smutty wheat which is being discussed at the present time in all parts of the country will be given an additional interest by the subjoined letter, which has been sent for publication by Angus McKay, superintendent, of the experimental farm at Indian Head.

Smut is a fungus which acts in mysterious ways and so far as is yet known is difficult to account for. The same seed sown on fallow land and on spring plowing will give very smutty wheat on the fallow and almost entirely free from smut on the spring plowing; one half of a head will be smut balls, the other half No. 1 hard wheat; one two or more heads in a stool of wheat will be smut, the balance good grain. One farmer has no smut, his neighbor alongside has not one bushel of wheat free from it, though neither have treated their seed. While smut acts in above strange ways when seed has not been treated its dangerous habits can be effectually overcome by little expense and very little trouble.

You give remedy advised by the Winnipeg board of trade as one suitable for the evil, which I have no doubt is, but for large quantities of seed it is rather troublesome. For very smutty seed one pound of blue stone to five bushels of wheat is almost a certain cure, while for seed that is not badly affected one pound to eight or ten bushels is ample. This will do away with soaking seed in salt brine and is much more easily applied than the two doses of medicine.

Let a farmer take his wagon box (if tight), put in ten bushels of seed, throw over this one pail of water in which two pounds of blue stone has been dissolved, turn three or four times so as to thoroughly mix. After turning until all the grain is damp, taking about fifteen minutes time, shovel it out in a heap; if no other place is available, hard ground will do. After the grain has been shoveled out of box by turning at intervals of thirty minutes or so it will be fit to bag up or sow in two or three hours if the day is at all favorable; One or two men in this way can get over a great many bushels in a few hours and put in their pockets a few months afterwards many dollars for their trouble.

The following result was obtained last season from sowing smutty seed treated and untreated. Three plots of 1-10 acre each were sown and when ripe six feet square of the grain in each plot was cut and every head counted. The remaining portion of wheat plot was afterwards cut, threshed and weighed.

Red fife untreated, sown 17 April, good, 1,011 heads; smut, 1,010 heads; yield, 24.10 bushels.

Red fife, treated, 1 to 5 bushels, 17 April, good, 2,033 heads; smut, 17 heads; yield, 32.00 bushels.

Red fife, treated, 1 to 10 bushels, 17 April, good, 1,789 heads; smut, 207 heads; yield 29.30 bushels.

The grain from the untreated seed is unsaleable at any price.

Yours very truly,  
ANGUS MACKAY,  
Superintendent.

### The Peace River District.

"The Peace River District" was the subject of a lecture delivered in Portage la Prairie a few evenings ago, by Rev. A. Garrioch, who spent seventeen years in that northern region as a Church of England missionary. In reporting the lecture the *Review* says:—

"This much talked of country is 1,390 miles from here, 500 miles further north than Portage and 700 miles farther west. To get there the traveller goes 1,040 miles by train, then 350 by wagon and boat. It is supposed that the Peace River country derived its name from a treaty of peace made many years ago between the Beaver Indians and the Crees. The scene,

of the country is magnificent. As the speaker dilated on its beauty and pictured its mountain grandeur, its great sweeps of prairie intersected by winding rivers, bordered with a wreath of cedar and other forest treasures, his eye lit up with an artist's love of the beautiful, and more than one in the audience wished they might one day also have the privilege of visiting this land of promise. It abounds in timber, and, putting the estimate at the lowest, Mr. Garrioch felt certain that the annual output of the country before long would be eight billion feet of lumber, and then leave plenty for the use of 800,000 homesteaders whom he hoped to see soon settled there. There are some fifty farmers including the Hudson Bay Company. In all there are about 300 cattle and 1,000 horses. There is nothing to hinder any energetic man from making a fortune out there ranching as the grasses are so nutritious and sweet that the cattle are rolling fat with no special care from their owners. For about seven and a half months there is no snow at all and in the winter the chinook winds are sure to follow every cold spell, thereby lessening the length and severity of the winter very much. Two weeks of spring-like weather are sure to follow the cold snaps. Navigation is open for over seven months of the year and the climate taken as a whole, the speaker considered fully as pleasant as that of Manitoba. That the soil is good there is no doubt; the products prove that, and the country is rich in wood and water. A profusion of flowers adorn the landscape, and a sunflower, which Mr. Garrioch measured, was fourteen inches in diameter. It is an ordinary thing to have pumpkins grown in the gardens which weigh twenty-five pounds.

### Lumber Cuttings.

An order-in council recently passed has an important bearing on the lumber business regulations heretofore governing the granting of yearly licenses to cut timber on Dominion land provided that licenses should have in operation within one year from a date to be fixed in the license and kept in operation for at least six months of each year of his holding a saw mill in connection with his berth capable of cutting daily at least 1,000 feet board measure of lumber for every two and a half square miles of area licensed. The Government being now of opinion that the time has now arrived when licensees should not be called upon to construct a mill unless the establishment thereof would supply a local need, an order-in-council has been passed amending the regulation so that licensees shall only be required to construct a mill and commence the manufacture of lumber within one year from the date on which he is notified by the Government that such step is necessary and expedient in the public interest.

The Eau Claire Lumber Company of Calgary, will put in two waterwheels of 100 horse power each, to be used for their saw mill and electric light purposes. The wheels will be shipped from Springfield, Ohio, on Feb. 17th.

### Freight Rates and Traffic.

The Chicago *Trade Bulletin* of Feb. 8 says: The railroad situation has grown worse instead of better the past week. The leading roads are evidently short of motive power and are unable to handle the grain business, not only here but at the leading western points. A number of western roads have refused to accept grain consigned to eastern roads except in foreign cars. Rail rates remain steady at 25c for flour and grain and 30c for provisions to New York. Through business was restricted, owing to the inability of the roads to handle traffic. Through rates to Liverpool were weaker and lower, due to the decline in ocean rates. Flour ranged at 37½ to 39½c, grain at 36 to 37½c, and provisions at 48 to 52½c. Lake freights received more attention and were weaker and lower. Charters to Buffalo were made at 3½ to 4c for corn, the inside at the close. Wheat rates were 3½c at the close.

### Winnipeg Wheat Inspection.

The number of cars of wheat inspected at Winnipeg for the three weeks ended Jan. 23, Jan. 30 and Feb 6, are shown below with the grading of the same.

Grade.	Jan 23	Jan 30	Feb 6.
Extra Manitoba hard ....	1	0	0
No. 1 hard .....	16	12	15
No. 2 hard .....	48	72	77
No. 3 hard .....	57	103	63
No. 1 Northern .....	4	0	0
No. 2 Northern .....	9	31	20
No. 3 Northern .....	1	1	0
No. 1 White tyfo .....	2	1	1
No. 1 Regular .....	66	100	67
No. 2 Regular .....	86	100	91
No. 3 Regular .....	21	28	6
No. 1 Rejected .....	11	8	15
No Grade .....	14	12	32
Rejected .....	20	44	51
Feed Wheat .....	10	9	0
Total .....	405	542	424

Total inspected for the three weeks, 1,371 cars. Inspected for the previous three weeks, 1,538 cars.

### The Outlook for Flax.

It is not likely that a great area of flax will be planted this year, particularly in Kansas. Last year's crop was not a great success, averaging 7.2 bu. against 10 bu in Iowa and 9.6 bu in Minnesota. The failure of many winter wheat fields may lead to some flax seeding which would not otherwise have been done, but the acreage is not likely to equal last year's. Nor is the flax area in the Northwest likely to be as large as last year. The wheat crop of 1891 paid so much better than the flax crop than any extension of cultivated area is likely to be put to wheat. Last fall when flax dropped under 90c in Chicago, it broke the record of low prices. It is 93c now.—Kansas City *Trade Review*.

### British Grain Trade.

The Mark Lane Express of Feb. 8th, in its weekly review of the British Grain Trade, says: The prices of English wheats are still declining. When offered at 6d reduction, the trade is slow, but when 1s is conceded ready buyers are found. Foreign wheats are irregularly lower. At Liverpool there has been 3d per cental decline on Californian and 2d per cental decline on other sorts of American wheats. Flour has dropped 6d per sack. Corn has fallen 1s without encouraging an advance. Barley is almost unsaleable at 1s decline. Oats have lost 1s and linseed 6d. At Monday's market English wheats were firm; without quotable advance; American was readily bought at the rise. Flour was in better demand and prices were up 6d.

C. H. Waterous, sr., founder in 1840 of the Waterous Engine Works Co., Bantford, Ont., with branches at St. Paul and Winnipeg, is dead.

The trade of Montreal, says the *Bulletin*, has been surprised the past few days by the magnificent size of frozen salmon arriving from British Columbia. Brown Bros., of St. Catherine street, are now exhibiting some monsters, such as have rarely, if ever, been seen here before.

Stocks of wheat in store in Minnesota and Dakota country elevators amounted to 11,834,900 bushels, showing a decrease of 432,300 bushels for the week. The stock of wheat in Minneapolis public elevator is 8,421,403 bushels, showing an increase of 149,151 bushels. The stock in Duluth is 7,954,931 bushels, an increase of 159,169 bushels. The Minneapolis private stocks, as computed by the Northwest-ern *Miller*, are 1,653,000 bushels, showing an increase of 179,000 bushels for the week. The total supply in Minnesota and Dakota elevators amounts to 29,864,234 bushels showing an increase of 51,020 bushels. The total a year ago was 22,397,887 bushels, an increase of 145,763 bushels for that week.—Minneapolis *Market Review*, Feb. 8th.