

EDITORIAL NOTES.

(Continued from Page 6.)

remedy for smut. It is a most short-sighted policy to neglect this treatment of seed wheat, and even though the seed may show no trace of smut, the bluestone should not be neglected. It is difficult to express an adequate opinion of the man who neglects this precaution after all that has been done in Manitoba to educate the farmers in this matter. Really, a farmer should be ashamed, under the circumstances, to bring smutty wheat to market, as it is an open confession of careless and slovenly work.

THE members of the Ontario legislature elected on the Patron ticket, have recently held a meeting at Toronto to decide upon a common course to follow at the next session of the legislature. A Toronto telegram says that the only demand the Patrons will make upon the government next session will be for the election of registrars, sheriffs, and license inspectors by the people. If this is the only plank in the Patrons' policy, the usefulness of the order as a political factor is of doubtful value. Indeed, it is very doubtful if anything is to be gained by the election of sheriffs, etc., by popular vote. From results obtained from this system in the United States, we would prefer to retain our present plan of filling such offices.

WE have heard very little of the Hudson Bay railway of late, though the project bobs up once and a while. The latest reference to the proposed railroad is from Regina, where the territorial legislature, before adjourning, passed the following resolution: "Whereas, the freight rates which prevail upon all exports from the Territories to the sea coast in the east are excessively high; and whereas, there is only one railway outlet from the Territories for such rates being materially reduced; and whereas, a charter exists for the building of a railway to the Hudson Bay; therefore, this assembly humbly prays that the Dominion Government will be pleased to grant such aid to a Hudson Bay railway company as will at an early date result in that most important work being actively prosecuted and brought to a successful completion."

IN discussing the education question, which is lately attracting considerable attention, the Brandon Mail makes the following sensible remark: "It is just as defensible to say the state should give a mechanical education to the mechanic and a medical education to the medical student, as to say it should give a higher education to those of our youth who desire it." This seems a plausible argument. A good primary education places the rising generation in a position to learn any useful trade or calling, and the state seems not only justified, but compelled to go that far. When his primary education is completed, the young man is obliged to depend upon his own energies to obtain his mechanical training. It would not be any greater

hardship if those who wish to advance in education beyond the ordinary course, should also be obliged to depend upon their own effort.

WESTERN Canada has added another line to its list of export products. Last week The Commercial referred to the beginning of the exportation of sheep from this country. Two lots of 700 sheep each, from the western ranges, have gone forward for export to Great Britain. Considerable attention has been given of late years to sheep ranching in the west, for which some portions of our western territories are well adapted. There are many thrifty flocks of sheep also in Manitoba, though, owing to the difficulty of fencing for sheep and the annoyance from prairie wolves, Manitoba farmers have not as a rule gone in much for sheep. Large quantities of cheap eastern mutton were brought to Winnipeg last winter, and some of this mutton is still held in store here in a frozen state. The result has been that the local market has been greatly depressed this summer, and the local sheep raisers have not found prices as profitable as usual. It is not likely, however, that the experiment of filling this market up with a half-year's supply or more in advance of eastern frozen mutton, will be tried again, as the last effort in this direction has not proved very profitable. With the shipment out of the surplus stock now in the country, and the stoppage of shipments in of eastern mutton, the local sheep market will likely recover from the depression now felt.

IT is generally supposed that cooking meat will destroy any germs of tuberculosis which may exist therein. Too much reliance, however, cannot be placed upon this belief. Experiment has shown that these disease germs will stand a high degree of heat. Light cooking will not destroy them, and in beef as often placed upon the table in a lightly cooked form, the living germs may still remain. People who like their beef rare done may wince at this statement. It has been proved by experiment, that it requires thorough cooking to destroy the bacilli. Experiments were carried out by the local government board of Great Britain with the result that meat boiled from fifteen to forty minutes, and afterwards fed to guinea pigs, produced the disease in these animals, which showed that the microbes were not destroyed by the cooking. When the meat was cut into small pieces, about an inch square and boiled the same length of time, the disease germs were destroyed, and guinea pigs fed upon the meat prepared in this way, remained exempt from the disease. In the report of the experiments, Professor Brown says: "It appears that thorough cooking is effectual in destroying tubercle virus; but it is also evident that such cooking as was effectual in this case, could not be applied to large joints, nor to any kind of meat without entirely destroying its flavor." This is rather unpleasant reading, and indicates clearly the great danger of using tuberculous meats for food.

Cheap Wheat and its Lessons.

IT is an interesting and instructive lesson to follow grain quotations. For some years wheat has been gradually but steadily declining in price, though it is only within the past two years that it has fallen below the quoted price of corn. For many years wheat has been regarded as a food exclusively adapted to the use of man, and that for only a specially favored portion of the human race. When wheat was raised within but a limited area, the demand for wheat flour for the use of the more affluent sustained the price of the grain, and the fictitious value thus maintained so effectually prevented its use as a food for animals that it had come to be regarded as unfitted for that purpose. The experimental growth of wheat in India proved successful, and each year has added to the acreage and the yield; Russia, Austria, Germany and South America offered the product of their fertile fields, and the rapid extension of wheat cultivation in our own country has thrown such enormous quantities of wheat onto the market that the fictitious value has gradually disappeared, until wheat can now scarcely be raised at a profit except under unusually favorable conditions. With the rapid extension of the wheat area there has come no compensating increase in consumption. The inhabitants of India raise wheat and eat rice; the peasants of Russia sell their wheat and consume rye. In America alone has increasing demand kept pace with increasing supply, the inevitable result being the prevailing low price.

This state of affairs is not without its compensations. It has taught the farmer who had fallen into the wheat rut that his soil will produce other and more lucrative crops, and he is everywhere experimenting with the purpose to find something that will pay better than wheat.

It has demonstrated that wheat is as valuable for feeding stock, when used judiciously, as corn and other grain hitherto regarded as especially adapted for animal food. This is perhaps the most important result. If wheat, in the shape of beef and pork, will bring a better price than as a grain or flour, those portions of the United States especially suitable for wheat raising will combine stock raising therewith, thus enhancing the value of their farms while increasing their profits.

It has shown that the United States must take the lead in discovering new avenues of gain through which its farmers may escape from the competition of inferior peoples, for with all the improvements in machinery, the cost of raising a bushel of wheat in the United States exceeds the cost in any other wheat growing country.

There is no hope of permanent benefit from the increasing consumption of the cereal in various ways, except as an aid to its abandonment. The shortage in the corn crop this year has stiffened prices a little, but every year will not see a short corn crop. Stock feeding will consume a portion of the surplus, but no appreciable quantity until more stock is raised in the wheat regions, and less wheat grown; there is little hope of convincing the stolid Slavs or Teutons that wheat is better food than rye; the Indian coolie can never be brought to desert rice for wheat; and the few articles which can be profitably adulterated with wheat and its products at the present low price, do not require enough to change a figure in the estimates of the world's supply. The only way to benefit the price of wheat is to abandon the production in such quantities, and the northwestern farmer has begun to learn that fact, and profit thereby. If he has learned that his farm is fit for something beside a wheat field, the lesson is worth all it has cost.—Minneapolis Farm Implement Journal.