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on the government side, so far as we are in a position to judge. We refer more directly to the little clique in Winnipeg who have manipulated the opposition, and who, if the opposition were returned to power, would control and manipulate the new government which would be formed therefrom, to their own personal ends. The electors of the province at large have not the opportunity of knowing the reputation of these men that THE COMMERCIAL has, and therefore we repeat that it would be a calamity to the province to place these men in the positions now occupied by such men as Messrs. McMillan, Sifton, Smart, etc. men who for integrity of character are above reproach.

### THAT BINDER TWINE FACTORY.

The question of a binder twine factory at Winnipeg has apparently dropped out of existence for the present. It will be remembered that last winter, or early in the spring, it was announced that a local company was ready, or making ready to establish such an industry here. Later it was announced that the Consumers' Cordage Company would establish a factory here. Nothing further has been heard of late, as to what the intentions of the Consumers' Cordage Company may be. It has been stated that the apathy of the farmers in taking stock in the proposed local company, is the cause of its failure to do anything up to the present time, and there is no likelihood that anything will be done this season. A company to manufacture binder twine in Winnipeg, should not be dependent upon the farmers to take stock in the scheme. THE COMMERCIAL would advise the farmers of Manitoba to let the thing alone. We have not enquired into the management or arrangements of the proposed company, and therefore do not say this out of any antipathy to the enterprise. We would say the same thing regarding any enterprise placed on the market in this way. An enterprise of this kind should be on a different commercial basis, and the capital to establish it should be forthcoming in a different way. If the farmers all over the province have to put up their money in stock to float the scheme, we say it is not a sound commercial basis upon which to build an industry. If the projectors of the enterprise believe they have a good thing, let them put their own hard cash in it; or if they have not sufficient cash, let them arrange for it with capitalists. If they can show a good thing, they should have no trouble in securing the money. Our farmers have sufficient call upon their pockets of a necessary nature, in other directions, and if the advice of THE COMMERCIAL is worth anything, we would say, let stock schemes of this kind alone.

There is a vast and annually increasing amount of binder twine consumed in this country. The market for all a factory could turn out, is assured right at its door. Raw material, it is claimed, can be laid down here to good advantage. With the raw material and the market satisfactory, the cost of manufacturing here should not be so greatly in excess of the cost of manufacturing in the east, as to pre-

clude the successful operation of a factory here.

It is said that the proposed local company is ready to supply binder twine to Manitoba farmers this season "at a very low price." In the absence of a factory of their own, they can only supply the goods manufactured by the Consumers' Cordage company. Thus the proposed company will have to buy from its existing rival. Now, the proposed local binder twine company certainly cannot buy twine more cheaply from the Consumers' Cordage company than the regular dealers can buy from the same company. The wholesale hardware and other regular dealers in binder twine in Winnipeg are buying direct from the factory, in large quantities, and are selling on very small margins, and their prices will probably be found as low as can possibly be offered by any others here or in the east.

### Montreal Grocery Market.

There is a fair trade doing in sugar, but business is not by any means brisk. The refiners, however, look for a good demand in the course of a week or so, when the fruit preserving commences. Granulated is quoted at 48c, but sales of round lots are reported at 45-16c. Yellows are quoted at 3½c to 3¾c. Syrups are dull and there is only a jobbing trade doing in molasses, which is still selling at about 29c.

There is a fair demand for teas, about 800 packages of Japans changing hands during the week. Holders are refusing offers ½c higher than those ruling two weeks ago, and the market is on the whole in very good shape. About 200 packages of new teas have been sold at 2½c to 2¾c. The last figure was secured for teas which are now being delivered, and the inside for teas to arrive. The English markets are reported steady to strong for blacks, but no business is being done here.

Rice is in good demand and orders are coming in freely both from Quebec and Ontario, especially for the fancy grades. We quote:—Standard, \$4 to \$4.10; Japan, \$4.50 to \$5.00; Patna, \$5.00 to \$5.50; and Carolina, \$7.00 to \$8.00.

Spices rule dull, recent speculative purchases having stocked up most traders pretty fully.

Dried fruits have ruled rather quiet this week, but values are firm in the face of tight supplies, while prices of foreign fruit rule firm in New York in the absence of offerings of California. There has been a jobbing trade in Valencia raisins here at 3½c to 4c, while currants have moved out in a steady way at 4½c to 4¾c. *Gazette*, June 18.

### Montreal Markets.

Flour—The market remains very quiet, the lower prices at which stocks are offered inducing very little new business. Car lots of straight rollers are now freely offered on track here at \$4, and a few sales have been made for Newfoundland shipment at a shade under that figure. At the same time choice straight rollers are being sold to the city retail trade in small jobbing quantities at \$4.25 to \$4.50. Strong bakers flour is also lower, choice city brands having been placed at \$4.50. The market is said to be depressed by the large offerings of winter grindings by western millers, and hence the drop in the price of straight rollers. Extra in bags have sold as low as \$1.65 up to \$1.80 as to quantity, and sales of straight rollers in bags are reported at \$2. Of course holders of old ground flour are anxious to work it off as quickly as possible rather than run the risk of having it sour on their hands, although the product of the roller process is much less liable to heat than that of the old stone ground.

Oatmeal—There is not much change to note in values, which are quoted as follows for jobbing lots: Rolled and granulated at \$4 to \$4.10; standard at \$3.90 to \$3.95. In bags, granulated \$2 to \$2.05, and standard \$1.90 to \$1.95.

Mill Feed - Sales of car lots of Ontario bran have been made at \$13 on track, and we quote \$13 to \$13.50. Shorts, \$14.50 to \$16, and middlings, \$17.

Wheat—The late sudden drop of 9 to 10c per bushel has rendered nugatory most attempts to induce new business. It is therefore very difficult to quote values which are more or less nominal. No. 2 hard is quoted at 90 to 92c, No. 3, do, at 80 to 81c. No. 1 regular was offered here to arrive at 67c. There has been some damaged Manitoba wheat shipped to this market that will not begin to pay freight charges, one of these lots selling at 20c per bushel, which the buyer afterwards refused to take delivery of, as he said it was completely rotted. Another car load of feed wheat was sold at 40c.

Oats—Sales of No. 2 white oats have been made at 35c, although some dealers say they cannot buy them in the west to sell here for less than 35½c in store. We quote prices easier at 35c per 34 pounds, for No. 2 in store, and 33½ to 34c for No. 3. The receipts of oats have been very heavy during the past two weeks, most of which were for export.

Barley—Last sales reported on export account were at 40 to 45c for feed, and at 46 to 48c for No. 3. Malting qualities are reported dull at 50 to 58c. A lot of 3 cars was sold at 55c, said to be good malting. The recent shipments of feed barley to England were due to the high price of corn.

Butter—A few sales of creamery in 30 to 50 tub lots has been made at 18 to 18½c, but some holders are asking the latter figure at the factory for June make. For small jobbing lots 18½ to 19c is being realized with an extra choice tub bringing 20c, but 19c is considered an outside figure for the run of choice goods. In Eastern Townships there have been sales at 16 to 17c, Morrisburg and Brockville bringing about the same figures. In Western there is very little doing for the reason that holders in the west are asking 14c f.o.b., while dealers claim they can only get that figure here in round lots, and we quote 14 to 15c.

Cheese—The market is in a somewhat uncertain condition, with prices leaning towards the interests of buyers, 8c having been accepted for finest colored, and 8½c for finest white. There are shipments going out by mid-week steamers, however, costing 9c, while Saturday's steamers for Bristol and Liverpool, it is said, will take out finest goods costing 8½c to 8¾c.

During the week prices have ranged from 8¾c to 8½c in the west, and the Liverpool public cable is down to 48s 6d for white and 46s 6d for colored, which figures are all right in comparison with prices now ruling here; but the chances are the foreign market may recede still further.

Eggs.—Fine fresh stock at 9½ to 10c. Culls 7c.

Maple products—Syrup is slow sale at 4½c to 5½c in bulk, and 50 to 60c in cans. The stocks of sugar are light, owing to former shipments to the United States, and last sales were reported at 5½ to 7c per lb.

Hides—In lambskins some extraordinary prices are being paid, which will net handsome losses to the dealers who are content to pay as high as 42½c, which has been given. Calfskins are reduced in value. We quote:—No. 1, 5c; No. 2, 4c; No. 3, 3c; tanners are paying ½c more; lambskins 25 to 30c; clips, 25c; sheepskins, \$1 to \$1.20; calfskins, 5c. *Trade Bulletin*, June 17.

The Dutch Government sale of Java coffee went at 2½ cents above brokers' valuation, and the market is quoted at 54½c for good ordinary.