

entails a great loss; smut gets in the wheat while it is being threshed, and this with the dampness of the grain, renders it unsaleable and unless farmers wish to feed it to their stock, they are just out the cost of threshing and have the grain on their hands. By waiting for dry weather this drawback can be overcome. No buyer will purchase damp wheat with so much good grain in market."

Manitoba Druggists.

The half yearly meeting of the Manitoba Pharmaceutical association was held in Winnipeg on Tuesday. There were present: J. F. Howard, president, in the chair; W. R. Bartlett, Brandon; G. W. McLaren, Morden; E. D. Martin, C. Flexton, Dr. Hutton, and J. K. Strachan, registrar. The secretary was instructed to write to the secretary of the Ontario association to ascertain particulars regarding the standing of certain persons practicing in the province under Ontario diplomas, about whose qualifications there is some question. The secretary was also instructed to take action against all members who are in arrears for fees. It was further decided to prosecute forthwith several people who are illegally carrying on business as druggists in the province. An important question was brought forward by a country member, viz.: that it had been represented that physicians had been applying for a percentage on prescriptions. This evoked considerable discussion, the city members disclaiming that any such practice existed here, and stated that the physicians being all of high standing would consider it an insult to be offered a commission. Surprise was expressed that any man who had received a sufficient education to entitle him to a physicians diploma would be so undignified as to accept a percentage on druggists' prescriptions. It was thought that if the matter was brought to the notice of the College of Physicians and Surgeons the practice would be promptly and emphatically denounced as unprofessional.

In connection with the addition recently added to the Manitoba college, it may be of interest to the public to know that the Pharmaceutical association of Manitoba have also built to the college structure rooms for the accommodation of their own students. They have fully equipped these rooms with chemical and pharmacy appliances at considerable expense, and engaged a competent staff of lecturers. The lectures in the six months' course commence on Monday next, in the subjects of chemistry, pharmacy, materia medica, botany, and in the practical work of dispensing. The chemical room has been fitted up with the latest appliances for practical and analytical chemistry. The materia medica room is furnished with samples of all the known medical herbs, plants, etc., as well as charts.

Economies in Wheat Harvesting.

It is stated by the Jamestown, North Dakota, Alert that the wheat cut by headers has saved farmers money this year and the header seems to be coming into general favor, owing to the cheaper cost of harvesting and threshing over the binder. Threshers this year charged 6c a bushel for threshing headed grain from a stack, and 9c from the shock. In the former the wages of hand cutters are saved. The farmer not only saved the 3c a bushel threshing bill, but the price of twine, which is a big item. Header machines cost but a little more than twine binders. In this region, with proper stacking, there is little

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danger of loss by weather. Every dollar must be cut off of expenses in raising wheat at the present prices to make it profitable, and that is why headers are growing in favor with many who have tried them. A header will cut about twice as much ordinary grain as a binder, 40 acres a day being a day's work for a header, and 20 acres a good day's effort for binders.

The London Statist offers a prize of £1,000 for the best scheme for an imperial customs union. The Times in commenting on the offer adduces reasons compelling the conclusion that colonial and imperial interests would best be served by keeping the questions of political and commercial union entirely distinct. The Times says: "If a customs union were formed upon any other basis than free trade for revenue purposes it would have to include the United States. In case of the colonies objection to join any union which included the United States it would likely be insuperable."

The failure of the British American Starch company, of Brantford, Ontario, is a bad one. The general creditors will get nothing. At the meeting the statement presented showed liabilities of \$118,191.45, of which \$85,581.68 was secured. The mortgage and interest indebtedness is \$16,718.73. The assets are \$50,700.98, leaving a deficit of \$13,623.21. The estate is to be wound up, and negotiations are said to be in progress with a view to induce one of the existing starch companies to take over the plant and stock. The trouble with the concern from the first was that it never had sufficient capital to carry on the business.

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Alanson Harris, founder of the well-known agricultural implement firm of A. Harris, Son & Co., since amalgamated with the Massey Manufacturing company, is dead.

The Bedford house, Port Arthur, owned by C. A. Cordingley, was badly gutted by fire Friday night. There was no insurance. The loss is about \$1,000.