

## EARLY CLOSING OF STORES.

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tailors, hardware dealers and jewellers will be obliged by law to close their stores at 7 o'clock in the evening. This by-law has been passed in accordance with an act of the Manitoba Legislature, which provides that municipalities may make the closing of stores compulsory, on the petition of three fourths of the dealers in any particular branch. The trades named have presented petitions duly signed. The by-law is as follows:—

1. From and after the 15th day of August, 1894, all jewellery shops within the city of Winnipeg in which jewelry is exposed for sale by retail, and each of them, shall be and remain closed on each and every day in the week, between 7 o'clock in the afternoon in each day and 5 o'clock in the morning of the next following day, except as follows: Namely, on Saturdays and on the day immediately preceding any civic holiday or holiday as defined by the Manitoba Interpretation act, and during the last three weeks in December and during days on which the exhibition of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition association is being held.

1. This by-law shall take effect on the 15th day of August, 1894.

3. Any person guilty of an infraction of any of the provisions of this by-law shall upon conviction before the mayor, police magistrate, or any justice or justices of the peace for the city of Winnipeg on the oath or affirmation of any credible witness forfeit and pay at the discretion of the said mayor, police magistrate, or justice or justices of the peace convicting, a penalty not exceeding the sum of fifty dollars and costs for each offence, and in default of payment thereof it shall be lawful for the mayor, police magistrate, or justice or justices convicting as aforesaid to issue a warrant under his hand and seal to levy the said penalty and costs only, by distress and sale of the offender's or offenders' goods and chattels, and should there be no sufficient distress to satisfy the said penalty and costs, or penalty or costs, only, it shall and may be lawful for the said mayor, police magistrate, or justice or justices so convicting to commit the offender or offenders to any lock-up house in the said city, or in the provincial jail in the city of Winnipeg for any period not exceeding twenty-one days unless the said penalty and costs, or penalty or costs, be sooner paid.

A similar by-law has been passed to cover each of the other four branches named. This will be an improvement on the old long-hours system; but the hours are still too long. Six o'clock would have been better.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

Two weeks ago The Commercial referred editorially to the action taken by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture in the matter of preventing the spread of noxious weeds. The prize essays then referred to have been published in pamphlet form and will be given a wide circulation. A copy of the pamphlet should be in the hands of every farmer in Manitoba, and any person who will make application to the department will be forwarded one. The style of farming followed in Manitoba seems favorable to the spread of weeds, and in some districts already weeds have spread badly. Many farmers give themselves unnecessary labor, and even then are not very successful in coping with the weeds, through a lack of knowledge of the best methods of destroying them. This pamphlet will give the information required, and it should therefore be secured by every farmer.

THE price of wheat during the month of June has been remarkably low. The record will have to be searched in vain for lower prices at any previous period in markets established during the last quarter of a century or so. At Chicago cash wheat sold within a fraction of 50 cents per bushel. The month opened with prices ranging between 57 and 60c for No. 2 spring at Chicago, and the tendency with slight interruptions was downward, until 50½ cents per bushel was touched on June 26. The following three days the price sold under 51 cents each day, but on the last day of the month there was some recovery, the lowest point reached being 51½ cents. Following shows the range of No. 2 spring wheat at Chicago during the month of June for the past six years:—

June, 1894, lowest,	50½ cts.	highest,	60½ cts.
" 1893, " 54½ "	" "	" 66½ "	" "
" 1892, " 76 "	" "	" 80½ "	" "
" 1891, " 85 "	" "	" 98 "	" "
" 1890, " 85 "	" "	" 94½ "	" "
" 1889, " 77½ "	" "	" 85 "	" "

THE dry weather which has prevailed this season has been very destructive to timber from fires. During the dry spell in June, fires did much damage in several timber districts, and again this week bush fires are reported. The smoky appearance of the sky at Winnipeg lately indicates that fires must be raging in the wood sections. In a prairie country like Manitoba, where the forest areas are limited, the destruction which is frequently wrought by bush fires is greatly to be regretted. Whole districts which were formerly dotted with bluffs of trees have been almost completely swept bare during some of the recent dry years. A fire which has been burning a long time in the Turtle Mountain district, Southern Manitoba, was subdued this week by an organized effort on the part of the settlers. This shows what can be accomplished by a determined and properly directed movement to stop the devastation. The authorities, municipal, provincial and Dominion, should take up this matter and endeavor to stop the destruction. If taken in hand promptly, many of these fires could be speedily reduced. Some organized plan of procedure is necessary to accomplish this. So long as the matter is left to individual interests, most of the fires will be neglected at the very time when they could be most easily controlled. There should be a municipal or other official in every district, who would have power to order out the residents to subdue these bush fires, and prairie fires also, when thought desirable.

A peculiar feature of the flour trade is the report that France is exporting flour to England. This of course is not the result of the free or natural movement of commerce. It has been brought about by a combination of tariff and bounty features. France has always been considered an importing country of breadstuffs, and it is a surprise to hear that her millers are exporting flour. In France protectionist ideas have been rampant of late years, so much so that that country may almost be considered as more strongly under the domination of high tariff principles than any other leading commercial nation. Along with high tariff

principles has also flourished the custom of allowing bounties on exports of certain commodities. The practice of carrying on industries at the expense of the state, by giving bounties on exports, has been carried on to a considerable extent in France. Among the commodities upon which the duty was increased at the time of the late revision of the French tariff, were wheat and flour. The object of this increase of duties was declared to be to make the country self-supporting in breadstuffs. This is considered desirable, partly, perhaps, from a military standpoint. Since the last increase in the duty, the French millers have begun to ship flour to England, where it is said they have been selling it at a shilling a sack cheaper than Canadian and United States flour. France is obliged to import considerable wheat for home consumption notwithstanding the duty, but a rebate is allowed on flour exported, which it is thought is really equal to a bounty. Under ordinary conditions France could not export flour, and it is therefore not likely that the trade will be long maintained, or grow to any large proportions.

FOR a period of about six weeks the Winnipeg market was practically bare of fruit, owing to the railway troubles in the United States. This unfortunately happened at a season when there is usually a large demand for fruit, and it has accordingly been quite a loss to the jobbers and others engaged in the trade. It was also unfortunate that the trouble occurred at a time when there is little Canadian fruit in the market. Only the small fruits or berries were ready for the market in both Eastern Canada and British Columbia, and very little effort has been made to ship these early soft fruits to the Winnipeg market. British Columbia should be in a position to supply the Manitoba markets with strawberries in season, as some very fine strawberries have come from Oregon, and as the berries can be shipped from Oregon, there should be even less difficulty in bringing the fruit from our own Pacific coast. It is to be hoped British Columbia will make a better showing this season than in past years in shipping fruit to the Winnipeg market but in order to build up this trade, the growers and shippers there will have to give closer attention to preparing the fruit for shipment. After quality, condition and style of packing is everything. We believe the quality of British Columbia fruit is all right, where attention is given to the cultivation of desirable varieties. The next thing is to ship in sound and good condition, in neat light, but strong packages, of desirable sizes. Manitoba dealers would give British Columbia fruit the preference over imported goods if it reaches them in the right shape.

It is reported that an effort will be made to revive the lapsed charter of the proposed railway to the Lake Dauphin country in Manitoba. This road was conditionally voted a large bonus by the Manitoba legislature. As it now stands, however, this bonus is not binding upon the province. The road would be purely a colonization line and would open up a good agricultural district, but as matters now stand it is very doubtful if the province

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