

# The Commercial

WINNIPEG, MARCH 2, 1896.

## THE GRAIN STANDARDS.

A press telegram from Ottawa received early last week reads as follows:

"When Senator Perley, on behalf of the Manitoba and Northwest representatives began preparing the argument in favor of the proposed changes in the grain standards, an act considered to be necessary in the interests of the farmers, he was confronted by the following telegram, the nature of which decided the members to defer action this session so that they might personally confer with the farmers and obtain their opinions previous to next session:

Portage la Prairie, Man., Feb. 18—To E. Miall, commissioner of inland revenue, Ottawa:

Press reports of proposed grain standards received. Will be a positive injury to producers. Please defer action till you receive our memorial. Chas. Braithwaite, president Patrons of Industry."

From the above it would appear that the politicians at Ottawa have only had in view the pleasing of the farmers, in their movement to change the system of grading Manitoba wheat. To satisfy the farmers in respect to the grain grades, will be found to be quite an impossibility, for the very apparent reason that the farmers themselves do not know what they want. Leading farmers have given expression of opinions quite opposed to each other, and resolutions passed at meetings of the farmers, have varied widely in their desires. If the politicians therefore have decided to wait until they are sure of just what the farmers want, it will likely be some time before any change is made in the system.

In the meantime, the grain men seem to be rather unconcerned about the matter. The amount of abuse the grain men have received in Manitoba of late years, has made them indifferent about expressing the requirements of the trade in the matter of grades, etc. They appear to be willing to let the farmers and the politicians fix such grades as they may think proper, and see how much better it will suit the farmers in the end. The grain men know well that no grades that can be made can alter the quality of the crop, neither can they affect the actual value of the grain. The grain trade may be hampered or annoyed by the fixing of unsuitable grades, or unsuitable grading regulations, but any disadvantage of this nature will also tell against the producer. It may be a good idea to let the farmer fix the grades for a year or two, just to show them the fallacy of the belief that the grades fix the value of the crop.

The grain grading regulations, as The Commercial has several times contended, are purely a commercial matter. The system of grading has been established to facilitate the handling of the crop. The grades are a matter of very little importance to the farmers who sell their wheat to local buyers. It is the quality of the wheat, and not the grades which fixes the prices. The farmers, however, have been led by agitators to believe that in some mysterious way the

price of their wheat is regulated by the grades, and some of them even go so far as to believe that the low prices of the past two years is due in some way to the grades. The farmers have more votes than the grain men, and of course the politicians are ready to pander to this agitation about the grading of grain. Perhaps the best plan will be to give them a clear field, and eventually they will see the fallacy of this belief, that they can add anything to the value of their grain by manipulating the grades.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE FRIENDS of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition Association have recently had cause for congratulations. In the past it has been very difficult to secure any reasonable recognition of the claims of the association for financial assistance from the provincial government, owing to the sectional feeling in the Manitoba legislature. A proposal to aid anything originated in Winnipeg, was sure to meet with extreme opposition from a section of the country members, regardless of its merits. The Winnipeg Industrial of course fell under the ban of these unreasonable and narrow-minded persons, and it has always been a hard pull to secure a trifling annual grant from the government in aid of the association. Now, however, it promises to be different. No less than three associations, representing leading agricultural interests, have recently declared that the exhibition is worthy of liberal aid from the government. The Manitoba Dairymen's Association, the Pure Bred Cattle Breeders's Association, and the Sheep and Swine Breeder's Association have all pressed upon the government the necessity of liberally aiding the Winnipeg Industrial, pointing out the great help that the exhibition has been to their interests, and to the province at large. Perhaps now those members who have opposed the exhibition on the ground that it was a "Winnipeg affair," will be able to see some virtue in the association.

THE enthusiastic meetings recently held in Winnipeg, representative of leading agricultural interests, is a hopeful sign for the future of our country. The meetings of the Manitoba dairymen and live stock breeders, reported in The Commercial last week, were more largely attended than ever before. Great interest was manifested in the work, and there was a feeling of hopefulness which augurs well for the success of these interests in Manitoba. Any one who attended the meetings of the live stock breeders, for instance, and saw the intelligence there displayed, could not help but conclude that the live-stock interests of Manitoba are in a good hands. The two live stock associations are certainly made up of intelligent and enterprising men, and with these men leading the van in the live stock industry, Manitoba is bound to come to the front as a producer of a high class of live stock. In fact it is now an established fact, as shown at the Winnipeg Industrial exhibition, that our breeders can exhibit a class of stock which would compete favorably anywhere, in their class. The dairymen too, in spite of the depressing influence of low prices which have prevailed

in their line for over a year, had a splendid meeting, and it was shown that they were trying their best to bring this important interest up to a high standing in this country. That Manitoba will soon be noted for the production of a fine class of dairy goods, we feel quite assured. We have the natural facilities for accomplishing this, and we evidently have many intelligent and enterprising men leading the situation in this industry.

PRESS REPORTS the other day told about the indictment of several boys at Utica, New York state, for wrecking a New York Central railway fast mail train. This desperate adventure, like many others of its class, is a result of the pernicious literature with which the young minds are poisoned. Hundreds and thousands of boys are being converted into thieves, robbers, murderers and all around villains as a result of perusing the detestable rubbish published as reading for boys. The whole country is flooded with this damnable stuff. Most boys, though not naturally vicious, are excitable and adventuresome, and many of them are completely overcome and carried away by this villainous class of literature. Then a few of them put their heads together, and undertake some desperate enterprise; or if they do not do this, they grow up crooks. Some attempt has been made in this country to suppress what is called indecent or profane literature, but there is room for good work in the suppression of much of the literature published for boys. The publication, importation and sale of much of this abominable stuff should be absolutely prohibited. If a strict censorship were established over the literature supplied to young people in this country and in the neighboring republic, it would in time greatly decrease the number of vicious and dangerous criminals.

AT the recent meeting of the live stock breeders in Winnipeg, a strong plea was made for a low special freight rate upon thorough-bred live stock, shipped to farmers for breeding purposes. The feeling among the stockbreeders may be inferred from the fact that several parties referred to this matter in papers prepared by them before they came to Winnipeg, thus showing that a number of those who read papers at the meetings were, unknown to each other, impressed with the importance of this subject. The line of argument taken is to the effect that the matter should not be considered by the railways as an ordinary traffic question. The stockmen point out that the distribution of high bred stock throughout the country is greatly to be desired, in the interest of the general advancement of the important live stock interest. They point out that the railway companies have agreed to carry seed grain at half price, in order to encourage farmers to sow good seed, and they claim that it is equally important that farmers should use good stock to breed from. Several of the breeders mentioned incidents which came in their own experience, where expected sales had fallen through when the cost of the freight was learned. So far as the railways are concerned, the expense of carrying a single animal is no doubt often greater than the sum