

1111 Sept. 7/96

The Grain Grades.

The time has again come around for the annual fixing of the standards for grading the Manitoba and western grain crops. We were first reminded of this by a question in the House at Ottawa from Hon. J. F. Wood, who asked if it was the intention to make any changes this year in the rules regulating the selection of grain standards for Manitoba and the territories. To this question Sir Henry Joly replied that no changes would be made which would require an amendment of the act, but some changes were being considered. A few days later it was reported that a deputation from the Ontario Miller's Associations had visited Ottawa and had an interview with the government on the question of the flour duties and the Manitoba grades. We have no very definite information as to what the Ontario millers wanted regarding the grades, but it is presumed from the brief statement published, that they wanted the mixing of scoured wheat in the regular grades prohibited at interior points, except under certain restrictions, at Fort William.

The next matter reported in connection with the standards, was the receipt by the Winnipeg board of trade of a communication from the department of inland revenue at Ottawa, asking the board to submit to the department the names of parties whom the board considered should be entrusted with the work of selecting the standards. The letter was somewhat indefinite in its nature, and the members of the committee were at a loss to know whether the department wished the Winnipeg board to name the full list, or whether it was intended the board should name only such persons as were desired to represent the Winnipeg board of trade on the standards board.

The communication from the department was referred by the council of the board to the grain committee who reported as follows to the council:—

Winnipeg, 31st Aug. 1895.

The President and Council, Winnipeg Board of Trade.

Dear Sirs:—The general grain committee of the board, to whom was referred the letter from the department of inland revenue, dated 24th Aug., '96, beg to report as follows:

That the committee are of the opinion that the grain standards board, as at present constituted, is altogether too cumbersome, and we would recommend to the department of inland revenue that the grain inspectors west of Lake Superior, with the chairman of the permanent board of examiners and arbitrators appointed by order-in-council, dated 22nd Feb., 1890, be a permanent standing board to select such standard grain samples in accordance with the wording of the general inspection act, as the department of inland revenue may from time to time deem necessary.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

The General Grain Committee, by

CHAS. N. BELL,
Secretary.

After consideration the council endorsed this report, and directed the secretary to forward a copy to the department at Ottawa.

From the above it will be seen that the Winnipeg board of trade, instead of submitting the names of parties to form the standards board, as asked by the Ottawa department, has requested that the present system of selecting standard samples by a grain standards board be abolished entirely. This is simply following out the line of policy adopted by the Winnipeg grain exchange a year ago, and which was fully explained in and met with the approval of The Commercial at that time.

The standards board has got to be simply a farce, and it would be the best plan to abolish it at once. About the only purpose it has

served is to arouse a jangle every year over the selection of the standards. Different interests have clamored for representation on the board, with the result that a great useless and cumbersome system has grown up. Two or three men do the work of the standards board anyway, and no good purpose has been served in having a large board, except to give a number of persons a free trip to the city at the expense of the government. Now that we have a new broom in the department at Ottawa, it could be well employed in making a clean sweep of the cumbersome system of selecting the grain standards.

Grain and Milling.

The Minneapolis Market Record has been giving a report to show the condition of the wheat crop this year, as compared with 1895, in Minnesota and North and South Dakota. The yield from the same fields is compared with last year, and the result shows a decline in the yield this year varying from 10 to 15 per cent., according to district.

There was a frost more or less damaging reported in quite large portions of North Dakota this week, says the Minneapolis Market Record. Where those frosts were there is still from a small per cent. ranging up to 30 per cent. uncut with a large part of it subject to severe damage. In many instances perhaps, the bushels may not be very much lessened, while the quality will be badly hurt.

Parties in the trade, who have returned from a tour of inspection through Ontario, state that the crops of oats and peas are larger in yield and better in quality than for four years past. The winter wheat has been harvested in splendid condition, and we have seen letters from millers west of Toronto, which report that the new wheat is preferred to the old for grinding, owing to its being in a thoroughly dry state and of extra fine quality. The condition of new peas is also said to be exceptionally fine on the whole; and oats are said to show good average quality.—Montreal Trade Bulletin.

Dairy Trade Notes.

The Montreal Gazette of Aug. 28 says: "The cheese market continues dull and the gulf between buyers and sellers is still unbridged. Based on country cost, finest Ontario makes could not be sold at 8½c on spot. It is needless to say that no such a price could be realized on spot. The very best limits to-day permitted are 8½c to 8¼c. As a result of this business was confined chiefly to Eastern makes, which were available within that range. Even in these business was dull. In a word the market exhibits a heavy tendency. The butter market was rather unsettled in tone to-day. Holders still stoutly protest that 19c is there very best price, but there are few buyers at the figure, the more general idea being 18½c to 18¼c, and buyers state that it has to be something fancy to fetch the outside figure."

At Kingston, Ontario on August 27 at the cheese board 9,000 boxes were offered. Sales, 880 boxes at 8 5-16c, and 150 at 8½c.

At Brockville, Ontario on August 27 buyers and sellers were far apart at the meeting of the cheese board, on which only 1,866 boxes colored and 403 boxes white were registered. For both kinds 8½c was bid and refused. A few sales are reported after the board at 8½c.

At Woodstock, Ontario, on August 26 the transactions in cheese were light. With cooler weather and splendid pasture the makers are turning out a prime article. In most cases salesmen were holding for 8½c and some are looking for 8½c, but the top bid was 8½c.

In reply to Mr. Davin, who wanted \$20,000 in the estimates to aid in establishing creameries in the Territories, Hon. S. A. Fisher, minister of agriculture said that it was the intention of the government to take up the matter of the dairy interests in the Territories. He advised Mr. Davin to leave the matter in the hands of the government. Mr. Oliver objected to the idea of the government erecting cheese factories and creameries which would come into competition with those already in operation.

A carload of fresh butter from Shoal Lake, Man., was shipped to Vancouver on Thursday, to take one of the fast steamers for Japan. Smaller shipments previously have proved the feasibility of the scheme. This branch of trade promises to develop into something of importance to the province.

A Good Move.

The municipality of St. Clements has taken the initiative in an effort to settle its vacant lands. It offers 80 acres practically free to each bona fide settler, with the privilege of purchasing the adjoining 80 acres at \$1 per acre. This is a good move and the municipality deserves success in gaining good settlers. If all the lands acquired by municipalities at tax sales were dealt with in the same way it would be a distinct financial gain to them, as the lands would at once become tax producing. It would further result in a gain in population to the province. If such a measure had been adopted a few years ago in all municipalities, the population in Manitoba, as recently reported, would have been well over rather than under two hundred thousand.—Winnipeg Free Press.

Grocery Trade Notes.

The Montreal Trade Bulletin says: "There has been considerable activity in canned goods recently, several large sales amounting to 25,000 to 30,000 cases of new tomatoes, corn and peas having been contracted, one lot of 10,000 cases of corn, peas, and tomatoes being reported at 60c all round. This is a low price, but it is said that packers are now asking 65c to 70c for a like quantity. Also we learn of several car loads of British Columbia salmon being placed with a Lower Province firm at \$4.25 f. o. b. Coast."

The great dry goods firm of Hilton, Hughes & Co. of New York, successors to A. T. Stewart & Co., the best known retail house in the United States, have assigned. Among the banks, and in Wall street the failure of Hilton, Hughes & Co. is regarded as dry rot. The firm's credit for the last five years has been badly impaired and it is understood very little if any of the firm's single name paper is out. The firm has been taking stock for several weeks past and is recently understood to have received about \$750,000, which has been used in reducing the liabilities of the firm. It is reported Siegel, Cooper & Co. will take over the stock of Hilton, Hughes & Co.

The following statement of Canadian Pacific Railway earnings for July, with a comparison of July, 1895, and for the seven months periods of 1895-6, has just been published: July, 1896, gross earnings, \$1,503,575; working expenses, \$1,104,310; net profits were \$699,235. In July, 1895, the net profits were \$558,027, and for the seven months ending July 31st, 1895, the figures are as follows: Gross earnings, \$10,955,227; working expenses, \$7,147,055; net profits, \$3,808,171. For the seven months ending July 31st, 1895, there was a net profit of \$3,096,851. The gain in net profits over the same period last year is therefore for July, \$141,208, and for seven months, from January 1 to July 31, \$711,820.