

lower grade wheat, for instance, would be admitted into a cargo and a No. 1 hard certificate given for the whole lot. This has been done on the theory that the average quality of the wheat is above the actual requirements of the standard, and that in a No. 1 hard cargo, for instance, a certain quantity of a lower grade grain could be introduced without reducing the cargo to below the requirements of the standard. This is a kind of mixing which the Commercial thinks the Winnipeg grain men have wisely concluded should cease. The present custom means that a straight government certificate is given for a mixed cargo. The certificate may say that a cargo is No. 1 hard, though a quantity of No. 2 hard or No. 1 northern has been thrown in with it. Possibly the cargo might still grade No. 1 hard, if thoroughly mixed and re-inspected. Still, the principle of giving straight certificates for mixed cargoes, seems wrong. The cleaning and grading up of lower grade or off-grade grain so as to give it a higher commercial value, or possibly give grain a commercial value which otherwise would be scarcely marketable at all, is quite a different matter.

GRAIN HANDLING CHANGES.

According to the telegraphic report from Ottawa it would appear that the Manitoba delegation has succeeded in practically securing every change asked for in the official regulations governing the inspection and handling of Manitoba wheat. The changes asked for were, first that wheat should go into store at Lake Superior terminal elevators on Winnipeg inspection, instead of on Fort William inspection; second, that inspectors be paid by salary, instead of by fees; third, that straight certificates be not given for mixed cargoes of wheat, shipped from terminal elevators, and that certificates for such mixed cargoes state the quantity of the various grades composing the cargo. It is understood that an act will be introduced embodying these changes. Some opposition was shown from eastern grain men, particularly in regard to Winnipeg inspection, but not strong enough to defeat the object of the delegation.

THE OTTAWA DELEGATION.

Ottawa, April 18.—The delegations regarding the grain inspection were heard this forenoon in the railway committee room of the house of commons. Sir Henri Joli was present and along with him was Mr. Clifford St. John.

Sir Henri opened the meeting by reading the resolutions passed by the western grain standards board. These resolutions when summarized asked for an inspection of grain at Winnipeg, and that it be final. They also requested that there should be grading under the act and that mixing should be done away with. The inspectors of grain to be paid by salary, and not by fees, as at present.

Dr. Douglas, M. P., moved, and Dr. Rutherford, M. P., seconded, that the

western board representatives should be heard.

Mr. C. N. Bell, secretary of the board was heard. He spoke briefly and to the point. He pointed out that it was the desire of the board to have the grading governed by an act so that the standard will be as close as possible. Mixing ought to be done away with and wheat should be placed on the European market as received at the elevators. Their object was to get the wheat on the market in as perfect a condition as possible. There ought to be one and final inspection at Winnipeg. There were now four or five different points where wheat was inspected. They wanted to get for the producer every cent that the wheat was worth. The millers in Ontario ought to support them.

Mr. Castle next supported what Mr. Bell had said. He said that the Western Grain Standards board was composed principally of farmers. When the grain lost its identity it would become sample grain, and lose its certificate. What was wanted was to get the wheat on the British market in as pure a state as when it left the farmers in the west. To obtain this would put the standards board out of existence.

Mr. Parish supported what had been agreed upon by the western representatives so that the trade might be put on a sound basis.

Mr. McLaughlin, a Toronto miller, said that the meeting which had passed resolutions and presented by the western board was not representative because he and others were members and he was not invited to be present. There were here to attend this meeting to-day, or at any rate representatives were appointed to be present, from Toronto, Hamilton, London, Kingston, Montreal, Peterboro, Guelph and Thorold boards of trade and from the Dominion Millers' association. There were also present representatives from Port Arthur and Fort William, besides these there were just three members of the Western Grain Standards board. He would like, as well as they, to see a permanent standard, but it was impossible to get this. As a practical man who had to deal with wheat he wanted to say that a permanent standard was totally impossible. If they were dealing with 12 feet lumber a standard was all right but they were dealing with a cereal not two years alike. He suggested that the second resolution should be taken up by itself. The first merely said that the present system of inspection was unsatisfactory and injuring the reputation of the grain abroad, and was adopted without discussion. The second resolution of the western board was in favor of a permanent board and grading under the wording and meaning of the act. It was discussed by itself.

Mr. Oliver asked Mr. McLaughlin why the permanent standard was impossible. He merely said it was so, but did not say why.

Mr. McLaughlin did not think he could make it any clearer than by saying that no two seasons' crop were alike.

Mr. Bawlf was in accord with the western representatives. The opinion in the west was pretty general on the subject. It was said that the crop varied, but the standard should not vary. If there was no No. 1 hard then it could not be sold. When Minnesota had no No. 1 hard it sold as No. 1 northern. If Manitoba had no No. 1 any season then it would have

to sell as No. 2 hard. In this way those who bought would know what they got.

Mr. A. L. Splink, of Toronto, wanted the permanent standard defined.

Mr. King, of Port Arthur, representing the board of trade there, approved of the proposition of the western men.

Mr. G. R. Crowe, of Winnipeg, who was not present in a representative capacity, said that while not altogether agreeing with a permanence of the standard still he was in the main in accord with the view of the representative men.

Mr. Watt and Mr. McLaughlin, of Toronto, wanted to know what they were buying. They wanted samples, something that they could see.

Mr. Cram, an exporter of grain from Manitoba, said all agreed on the necessity of uniformity in grain standards. Last year the English buyer bought No. 1 Manitoba wheat, believing it was equal to Duluth No. 1, but though at first it was equal later on it was inferior. This was a hardship for the western grain standards board. He pointed out the variations in the quality of wheat produced from year to year and said the grain standards board had made the mistake of debasing the standard in such cases. He held there should be a fixed standard and contended that this standard should not be a mixture of all grades, but exclusively of high grade wheat, as a mixed standard would facilitate the mixing evil. Mr. Cram held that the present act should be remedied.

Mr. Sifton asked whether Mr. Crowe, as a large exporter, heard that the grain inspectors were less careful in grading wheat for export than for domestic sale, sometimes grading No. 2 for export as No. 1.

Mr. Crowe said that had not occurred to his knowledge and that if an inspector did such a thing his usefulness was at an end.

Sir Henri said that all seemed to agree on something permanent, although there seemed to be some difference in the mixing up of permanent standards and permanent grades. He did not see how they could have a permanent standard.

Mr. McLaughlin explained that what the millers wanted was a ready sample, something that they could see.

The resolution, "That the time has now arrived when it is absolutely necessary, in the interest of the producer and the grain interests generally, that all grain grown in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, passing Winnipeg to Fort William or south of east thereof, be inspected at Winnipeg, and warehoused at Fort William or other eastern elevators on a Winnipeg inspection," precipitated a heated and prolonged discussion between Mr. Joseph King, of Port Arthur, and Mr. Bell, of Winnipeg, as to the comparative advantages of inspection at Fort William and Winnipeg. The Fort William and Port Arthur representative contended that the resolution would wipe out these two towns as far as the grain trade was concerned.

Mr. McLaughlin, of Toronto, described the resolution as a most striking case of swelled head on the part of Winnipeg.

Dr. Rutherford explained that the object of the resolution was to prevent the mixture of grain after leaving Winnipeg.

The resolution was practically adopted. The Ontario millers' deputation opposed the inspection at Winnipeg, but it finally carried, except in the case of cars arriving at Fort Wil-