

seeds of noxious weeds. According to a provincial act, a severe penalty is attached to the sale of elevator or mill cleanings unless "the germinating qualities of the seeds contained in the same have first been destroyed by grinding or otherwise." As the act particularly specifies grinding, it might be interesting to learn by experiment if ordinary grinding will fully destroy the life of the seeds. The Commercial has heard it asserted on excellent authority that grinding does not destroy the life of all the seeds. In fact, it is asserted that a fine crop of weeds can be grown from ground feed or mill feed in which cleanings have been mixed before grinding. If this is the case it should be generally known by our farmers, as the fancied safety in using ground feed might put farmers off their guard and lead to very serious results in introducing noxious weeds among them.

THE bicycle industry has grown with great rapidity in the United States and already it appears a state of over-production has been reached. This week it is reported that some of the factories are closing down, in order to curtail production. There has been a tendency to cut prices of late, and the movement to close the factories, it is said, is with the object of forcing up prices as well as reducing stocks. The bicycle has come into use so rapidly that great attention has been drawn to the business and this has been one of the causes which has led to overproduction. If the bicycle had come into use more slowly and with less exciting circumstances, there would have been less likelihood of over production than under existing conditions. At the present time bicycle riding has become a fad, just as roller skating was the rage some years ago. Of course the bicycle is a useful machine, and it is doubtful if the limit of its usefulness has been reached. At the same time, it would not be surprising if there should be a temporary diminution of the use of bicycles when the present craze for riding the wheel passes over.

THE case against John S. Douglas a Winnipeg retail merchant formerly in the fur trade here, is attracting much attention from business people. Douglas was first charged with obtaining goods by false pretenses, but the case was thrown out at the preliminary hearing. He was next charged with fraud, in disposing of his goods with the object of defrauding his creditors. On this charge he has been committed for trial. The Commercial is not in possession of very full particulars as to the evidence in the case, and even if we were aware of the circumstances we would not at this juncture be permitted to comment on the case. It is to be hoped, however, that justice will gain its ends, whether it be to convict or to prove the innocence of the man charged with so serious an offence. In the past, many to say the least suspicious cases have been passed over, owing to the great difficulty in obtaining a conviction in cases of this nature. Cases of this class are among the most difficult to handle which the law has to deal with. The difficulty seems to be to frame the law so as to secure the conviction of the

guilty and at the same time fully protect the innocent. Instances have occurred in which wholesale merchants were positively certain that they had been willfully robbed by the crookedness of some customer, but knowing the great difficulty in the way of proving a case in law, they have usually decided to suffer in silence. A few convictions would no doubt have a salutary effect upon evilly disposed traders.

It is perhaps a matter for regret that in no less than two electoral divisions in the West (one in Manitoba and the other in Saskatchewan territory), eastern men are before the people as candidates for parliament. To do these men justice, it is necessary to state that they did not offer themselves here, but were first publicly invited to become candidates by residents of the divisions mentioned. In fact each of these men is standing for an eastern constituency, and in each case will certainly represent an eastern constituency in parliament, if elected there. These men are therefore in no wise to be condemned for the position they occupy. The blame entirely attaches to our own people here. In the end, therefore, should either or both of these men be elected in the western constituencies, it is quite possible that another opportunity will be given in these constituencies to return a western man, as there is a probability, apparently, that each of the candidates will be elected in the eastern electoral division in which they are also seeking the suffrage of the electors. While this is the most hopeful view we can take of the matter from a western point of view, it does not fully justify the situation. We have plenty of good men in the West who are quite capable of creditably representing each and every electoral division. On account of this western country being new, of vast extent, sparsely populated, and in special need of the assistance of the government in developing its resources, while at the same time but little understood by eastern people, it is specially desirable that every western division should be represented in parliament by a man who is fully informed as to the requirements of the country. We believe that these two divisions will in the end be represented by western men, even should one or both of the eastern candidates be returned at the election, but it seems to be going at the matter in a very round-about fashion.

### Grain and Milling Notes.

The partnership existing between Wilson, Moore & Co., flour millers of Arden, Man., has been dissolved. Wilson & Co., will continue the business.

At Montreal on June 5, says the Gazette, a leading milling firm made a sale of 67,000 bushels No. 1 hard Manitoba wheat on Australian account for shipment via Vancouver.

The feature of the flour market at Montreal on June 5, says the Gazette, was the demand from abroad for Manitoba strong bakers' and a sale of 2,000 sacks was made on London account. A fair local trade in these grades was also reported, but sales are principally in small lots to fill actual wants.

At Toronto on June 5 there was more business done in Manitoba wheat due to the higher prices in Chicago for wheat, 10,000 bushels No. 1 hard sold afloat Fort William

at 60c, June shipment, but more was asked at the close; 10,000 bushels of No. 2 hard sold at 58c and 20,000 bushels of No. 3 hard at 56c.

A correspondent at Hartney, Man., says: Some wheat has remained in the stacks all winter and is reported to be in good condition. The continuous wet weather last month does not seem to have done any harm where the stacks were well built. A large number of oat stacks also still remain unthreshed. It is estimated that there is still to market here over 150,000 bushels of wheat, mostly of good quality.

A correspondent at Souris, Man., says: Hundreds of oat stacks still stand unthreshed. Many farmers say they will keep over better in the stacks than in the granaries, and the price is so low they are practically unsalable. It is estimated that there is still to market here over 200,000 bushels of wheat, this is principally of the best grades. Now that the farmers have waited so long for a high price and see no prospects of it they are beginning to draw their wheat to market, regretting they had not sold it last February when it was 50c. A leading farmer was heard to say that it would cost him five cents per bushel extra to haul his wheat now, besides the loss of time from other work.

N. Bawlf, grain exporter, Winnipeg, has returned from a trip to New York and other eastern points. Mr. Bawlf visited the new elevator at Prescott, Ont., while east, and reports it to be a fine structure.

### Winnipeg City Assessment.

Assessment Commissioner Harris reported at the last meeting of the Winnipeg city council on the completion of the assessment rolls of the city for the year 1896 as follows:

"The total assessment of the city for the current year is \$22,535,810, being an increase over the assessment of 1895 of \$366,920. This increase, taken in connection with the very marked reductions which have been made in valuations of lands in the outlying portion of the city, shows a continued and healthy growth; new buildings and improvements to others alone reached a valuation of nearly half a million dollars. The exemptions for the current year amount to \$1,695,780, being an increase of \$177,000 over that of 1895, and caused principally by the erection of school and other educational buildings.

The total business tax assessment for this year is \$3,059,700.

The population of the city after adding a percentage for the transient or floating portion thereof is shown to be about thirty-eight thousand (38,977).

### Wool in the United States.

The state of the wool market shows no improvement, trade ruling dull, with values easy and nominal in the absence of demand. Some buying is noted from week to week, but with a good deal of woolen machinery idle, it does not take much to meet manufacturers' needs. The latter see nothing in the future to induce stocking up. The amount of old wool carried over is larger than for many years, and with values for new wools held quite firm in the country seaboard operators see but little inducement to buy the new clip. Some local operators in the country have bought fairly of the new wools at prices too high to be sold at a profit in the east in hopes of a turn for the better, but they are having that market largely to themselves. If good orders for light-weight wools are taken it will increase the demand for wool and probably start business, but the present outlook is not very bright.—Bradstreet.