

for the spring market than to have sold them in an unfinished state. We can only suppose that the farmers who sold them were short of stabling accommodation, or for some other similar reason were compelled to part with the stock. In many cases we believe it would pay farmers who have plenty of stabling, to buy up this class of animals for feeding, rather than sell their rough grain at current values. A bushel of damaged wheat at 20 to 30 cents, should be worth more money turned into beef, pork, poultry or some other condensed product of this nature.

ONE would think to read the bloodthirsty utterances of several United States papers, that that country was aching to go to war with Great Britain. However, it is doubtful if these papers should be taken as representing popular opinion in the republic. The commercial interests of the two countries are so closely united that a war would be most disastrous to each one. The Northwestern Miller, after administering a sharp rebuke to the sensational newspapers who talk war, says: "People who talk seriously of a war with Great Britain are ignorant of the close commercial and financial relations existing between the two countries—relations which extend to almost every section of the United States, and which are constantly increasing in friendliness and cordiality. There is hardly any question which might arise grave enough to lead to an appeal to force between the two nations, now so closely united by ties of mutual interest and friendship. It would certainly be most difficult to induce the people of either country to believe that the necessity for war could exist, and the governments which precipitated such a calamity would cover themselves with disgrace."

THE COMMERCIAL has always regarded the Montreal Trade Bulletin as about the best trade paper received from eastern Canada in its own particular line. We have helped to advertise it by frequently quoting from its columns and always giving credit, and we have also recommended it to our patrons here, who wished to advertise in or subscribe for an eastern paper. We simply state this to show that we have no ill-will against our Montreal contemporary. At the same time, the editor of that paper has one fault, which by the way is a serious one for a newspaper man, who should be able to take as well as give a little thrust with a good grace. He is about the most touchy individual we know of. If any exception is taken to anything in his paper, he at once gets his dander up and proceeds to demolish everything within his reach. The Commercial has a couple of times taken a little mild exception to something which has appeared in the Bulletin, and the editor has at once fairly flown off the handle in the wild attack made upon The Commercial by way of reply. We took exception to the Bulletin's quotations of Manitoba wheat recently, and we got a most vigorous trouncing from that paper as a result. However, we will not get a bit annoyed about it nor say anything nasty in reply. We will simply smile, and put in a good word for the Bulletin at the first opportunity. In fact we would not have bothered noticing the matter at all,

were it not for the fact that the Bulletin says we misquoted it. Now we own right up that we did misquote it, and manfully apologize for the mistake. We said that the Bulletin quoted sales of Manitoba wheat at Fort William at 62½ to 63½c, in its issue of Oct. 11, and that these prices were far too high. Now, to retract, the Bulletin didn't do anything of the kind. It simply quoted wheat at 62½ to 63½c, and the word "sales" did not appear at all. For the tremendous error of inserting the word "sales," we humbly apologize and beg forgiveness. Shake!

WE have heard it hinted of late that some readers of The Commercial think we have been giving rather too much space to grain trade matters. The revenue derived from the grain trade by The Commercial is practically nil. The entire revenue we derive from the grain trade in a year would not pay 50 per cent. of the cost of publishing one single issue of this paper. It is, therefore, not a matter of direct revenue with The Commercial. At the same time, the importance of the grain trade is such that we cannot very well reduce the space devoted to it. A large number of our outside subscribers in Eastern Canada, Great Britain, and the United States, as well as those at home, are also interested in the Manitoba grain trade and look with interest for our weekly reports. The Commercial is quoted more extensively than any other paper published in Western Canada, by British, United States and Eastern Canada papers, and this is largely owing to our grain and other trade reports, which cannot be procured from any other paper. The Commercial has devoted more than the usual editorial space of late to grain trade matters besides our weekly commercial reports relating to the grain trade. This has been partly owing to an unusual number of questions of interest cropping up in the trade of late, but principally to the unreasonable and unjust charges which have been frequently made this season against the grain dealers. The Commercial considered that the agitation started this season would result in injury to the farmers themselves and the country at large, by creating an unreasonable prejudice which it would be hard to overcome. We believed it better to state the facts than to allow all sorts of absurd charges to go uncontradicted, even if the truth might not suit the popular idea in some cases. There is certainly nothing to be gained in stirring up one class or interest against another and certainly much to be deplored in such a course, especially when it is sought to be accomplished by unreasonable and untruthful accusations. The Commercial felt that a great injury was being perpetrated, as much perhaps through ignorance or misconception of grain trade matters, as to any desire to injure any one or to make capital at the expense of the grain interest. The Commercial through a long study of the grain trade was perhaps better able to answer the charges which have been made this season in connection with grain matters than most of our contemporaries, and we believed that many of our readers would look for an explanation from this paper on points which have formed subjects of controversy. This

is the reason why more than the usual space has been given in these columns of late to grain trade matters.

Grain Trade Gossip.

Some people have very peculiar ideas about grain trade matters. Some of the papers are agitating against the new cleaning elevator in Winnipeg on the ground that it will "injure the reputation of Manitoba wheat abroad by mixing and doctoring it up." If the cleaning of tons of dirt, seeds of weeds, smut, shrunken berries, etc., out of the wheat will injure its reputation, then the elevator should be suppressed. Common sense, however would indicate that the more dirt is taken out of wheat the more merchantable it will be and the more highly it will be esteemed abroad. The sooner smut can be taken out of wheat the better. Before smut balls are broken the damage from smut is not serious, but when shipped with the smut balls mixed with the wheat the balls become broken and the smut is dusted all over the grain. Wheat which would not appear very bad when first marketed here by the farmer would arrive in England in a bad state if the smut were left in it. By cleaning this wheat at home we greatly improve its condition and increase its value. The more thoroughly we can clean our wheat before shipping the better will its reputation be abroad.

The New York Journal of Commerce reported recently that Manitoba wheat was selling in that market at relatively 4 cents under Duluth. On investigation The Commercial learns that this refers to low grade stuff and not to the better grades of Manitoba wheat. However, had this report been made a year ago, it would at once have been attributed to mixing in scoured wheat, and the mere report would have raised a great howl from the wisecracks in the east and west who know all about the wheat trade. This year the mixing is prohibited, so that had the report been true it could not have been attributed to mixing. There was a lively agitation about this time last year because Duluth wheat sold a little higher in British markets than similar Manitoba grades, and of course all the difference was attributed to the mixing. The Commercial showed what was the real reason of this difference at the time, namely; a keen demand for Duluth wheat at home which caused it to sell at a premium, and secondly the fact that the Manitoba wheat was not as well known in British markets. The position taken by The Commercial has been abundantly proved since, as we have seen this same mixed wheat gradually gain in reputation in British markets as it became better known, until it has sold at a full par with Duluth. Some Eastern Canada parties, who are always watching for a chance to get a dig at the Manitoba grades, at once jumped at this New York report to proclaim that Manitoba grades were inferior to Duluth. There is a chronic feeling on the part of certain eastern interests to decry Manitoba grades, but we do not see why Manitoba papers should help them do so.

Mr. Thompson, manager of the Ogilvie company at Winnipeg, has made a close study of the smut question for some years. He attributes the great increase in smutty wheat this year to neglect on the part of the farmers to bluestone their seed. He says that he made a great many inquiries into individual cases of smut while on his trip through the country this year, and that in every case where smut was found in the wheat it was traced to neglect to bluestone the seed. Many of the farmers, he says, bluestoned their wheat during the two previous years,

Continued on Page 176.