

regular Manitoba. We still have some of both grades of the Ladoga flour on hand, which we would be pleased to dispose of to any one who wished to test it further.

We are yours very truly,

MCLAUGHLIN & MOORE.

From the facts submitted it would appear that while it is possible to make good bread from Ladoga flour it is much easier to make bread of an inferior quality, and unless the proper methods for treating this flour to procure uniformly good results could be ascertained it is not likely that Ladoga will be acceptable either to millers or bakers, as long as the red life is obtainable. Hence wherever red life can be ripened, the efforts of those settlers engaged in wheat growing in the west should be directed to its production in the greatest perfection by early sowing and a proper preparation of the soil. It is to be regretted that the Ladoga wheat has not in quality more fully realized the hopes which were first based on it. Since bulletin No. 4 was published it has been found that the gluten in different varieties of wheat, although responding alike to chemical tests, varies in its physical properties of toughness and elasticity and that in these particulars, the gluten in red life is superior to that in most other wheats.

The presentation of this case of the Ladoga would not, however, be complete without quoting from some of the letters which have been received in favour of this grain. It is undoubtedly a week or ten days earlier in ripening than red life and there is no early variety among all the hard spring wheats which we have tested which has more good points than Ladoga. Some of the varieties imported from India are as early, but they are such poor yielders that no farmer would care to grow them, and no sufficient quantity has been grown here to admit of their being tested by the millers. Many cross-bred varieties have been produced at the central farm, between red life and these early sorts with the hope of originating new wheats equal in quality to red life and earlier. Until these new sorts are multiplied and their relative value ascertained, settlers in the Canadian northwest would do well to devote their attention to the growing of red life, and place it under such conditions as to give it every chance of maturing since no other wheat is yet to be had which will give the same satisfactory returns, both for home and foreign trade.

I am indebted to C. C. Chipman, Commissioner for the Hudson's Bay Company, for the privilege of sending to a number of the posts of that company in the far northern districts of the Dominion samples of grain of one pound each for test and report. These were sent in the autumn of 1891 to be grown in 1892. The officer in charge of Fort Vermillion, Athabasca district, about 520 miles northwest of Calgary, writes as follows: "The seed was sown on the 14th of May last and harvested on the 23rd of August. There was no rain whatever for three weeks after the seed was sown. The Red Fyfe did not head out at all; the yield of the Ladoga was 12 lbs., weighing 60 lbs. per bushel; Bonanza oats, 9 lbs.; Prize Cluster oats, 7 lbs.; Rennie's improved six-rowed barley, 10 lbs.; Spring rye, 18 lbs." Through the kind courtesy of Mr. Chipman I have received samples of these different sorts of grain.

Samples have also come in from the same source from Fort Simpson in the Mackenzie River district, about 750 miles northwest of Calgary. The officer in charge of that post writes as follows: "The kinds of grain sown were Ladoga wheat, Rennie's improved six-rowed barley and Bonanza oats. The two latter never ripened, but the wheat yielded 12 lbs. of good ripe grain. The date at which these varieties were planted here was the 7th of June and the wheat was harvested on September 22nd. The Ladoga in this instance weighed 62½ lbs. per bushel."

A very fine sample of Ladoga wheat was received last year grown at Dunvegan, in the Peace River district, about 340 miles northwest of Calgary, which weighed 64 lbs. per

bushel. A sample has also been received grown at Isle a la Crosse, about 170 miles north of Prince Albert, weighing 64 lbs. per bushel. No other wheat has ever given such results as these in those distant northern regions.

Many farmers in the west have had forwarded to them from Ontario during the past few years samples of eastern soft wheats for trial, and in this way White Russian, Colorado, Red Fern, Golden Drop and other varieties have been introduced and in some localities grown to a considerable extent. Although these varieties soon harden in that climate, and some of them are then difficult to distinguish from Red Fyfe, they do not contain the quality of gluten which is found in the Red Fyfe; and any considerable admixture of any inferior sort will sooner or later lower the character and probably reduce to some extent the price paid for hard wheats. It has been supposed by some people who have not inquired very closely into the matter and who are not conversant with the peculiarities of the different varieties that all the soft wheats grown in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories are Ladoga. The Ladoga is not and never has been in our experience a soft wheat, and there is no doubt that the quantities grown in the Northwest of the other varieties referred to far exceed the quantity of Ladoga which has been produced. While the idea of growing Ladoga wheat as a competitor with Red Fyfe for export or the general home trade should be abandoned, there is no doubt that the flour of the Ladoga makes excellent and nutritious bread for home use, and where wheat growing is carried on in the more northern districts in a limited way for home consumption, and where Red Fyfe seldom ripens, or on the Indian reserves where a yellow tint on the bread is not a matter of so much significance, the Ladoga wheat will still prove a most useful and desirable variety.

LADOGA WHEAT TESTS.

A telegram from Ottawa, which has recently appeared extensively in Manitoba papers, stated that the milling and baking tests recently carried on at Toronto proved that Ladoga wheat "will make better flour than No. 2 Manitoba hard, but not as good as No. 1 Manitoba hard." THE COMMERCIAL decided at once that there was a mistake somewhere about this telegram, and therefore withheld publication. It now turns out that the word "hard" had been used in a mistake for "regular," and instead of making better flour than No. 2 Manitoba hard, it should have read "better flour than No. 2 Manitoba regular." No. 2 regular is a very low grade of wheat, being greatly inferior to No. 2 hard, and those who were misled by the telegraphic report, should make a note of this correction.

The Outlook for Higher Prices for Wheat.

The bulls on wheat have been floating on a raft in the mid ocean of excessive supplies for many days without getting sight of a vessel flying the flag of heavy weekly decreases of stocks, of extraordinarily large exports, or of heavy damage to wheat crops anywhere. In fact they appear to be out of the course of ships of that variety, and are now waiting anxiously for the government steamer "Wheat Supplies in Farmers' Hands," due about March 10. There seems to be a growing impression that this means of succor may reach them, as many statisticians and others by courtesy or otherwise called authorities have agreed that stocks of wheat in farmers' hands on March 1 will be officially "estimated" at an

unusually low aggregate as compared with like totals in preceding years.

As a Chicago newspaper, the *Herald*, puts it.

The government report March 10 is expected to disclose to the world authoritatively the reason for the present astonishing wheat accumulations in America; that the astonishingly large visible is really offset by an astonishingly small farm reserve, almost 100,000,000 less than last year's, and almost the smallest on record. This March government report is really the chief bull reliance. It may result in his complete discomfiture. But it is not likely that the agricultural bureau will go back and increase its crop yield figures. If it does not do that, then it is inevitable that it must announce an unusually small farm reserve.

While the Russian wheat crop will not be heavy, that in India is counted on as quite abundant, and Argentine Republic is a very free shipper. Stocks of wheat abroad, as frequently explained in these columns, are larger than customary at this season, and in the United States, so far as visible and available supplies are concerned, they exceed all precedent. The fact that *Bradstreet's* pointed out early last autumn that the domestic wheat crop would probably equal 550,000,000 bushels, and that several journalistic doubters of that statement have since orally announced that the official crop total, 612,000,000 bushels, is probably much too small, need not be recalled.

One has often been told of late of the big "bull clique" at Chicago; and if the northwestern millers have secured all the wheat they want from this crop they are likely to become very bullish in the near future. The factions would not be slow to co-operation, notwithstanding the hard names the millers have called the Chicago Board of Trade men, and the courteous and other retorts which were made apropos of the anti-options fight. All in interest are now speculating, first, as to the probable total quantity of wheat in farmers' hands which Mr. Statistician Dodge's reporters will estimate as on hand March 1 next; and, second, as to the effect which the publication of that report will have on the price of wheat. To constitute a pronounced bullish factor, that total should go below 100,000,000 bushels; how far below, of course, depends largely upon one's point of view.

If there is any other present or prospective bullish factor in the wheat trade aside from ravages of worms or effects of the weather, it is not easily perceived. Available supplies here and abroad, based on the rate of consumption, are apparently ample; growing crop conditions abroad are in the main not unfavorable, and the outlook does not favor heavily increased exports from the United States, so that, unless we find farmers' wheat bins very low indeed—much lower than ever before—there appears to be no price lever in sight.

But then, we are told, it is always darkest just before dawn.—*Bradstreet's*, Feb. 25.

Silver.

The silver market continues to display slight fluctuations, due to the varying commercial demand for bars, which at present is very moderate in volume. The resumption of purchases by the Treasury for the current month had its usual effect in strengthening prices, the New York quotations rising on Tuesday last to 81c per ounce. A slight recession followed, although the London market showed a firmer tone, due to a slight increase in the Indian demand. The only transactions in bullion certificates were 83½c. Silver prices, March 3: London bars, 38 5-16d.; New York bars, 83½c.

At Montreal an organization has been formed under the name of the Farmers Central Syndicate of Canada with Hon. J. J. Rose as president and Mayor Desjardins as treasurer which will furnish to its members agricultural implements, fertilizers and seeds at a discount of fifteen to twenty per cent on regular prices.