

## LATEST ABOUT THE GRAIN GRADES.

Reference is made in other articles in this issue to the changes in the grain grades. The latest report from Ottawa is to the effect that the changes made in the Manitoba wheat grades by the inland revenue department, which has control of this interest, may not go into effect after all. Mr. Bell, secretary of the Winnipeg board of trade, went to Ottawa to confer with the department regarding the changes in the grades and after he had had a conference with the minister and Commissioner Miall, it was announced that the question would be left for the decision of the standards board. The standards board will meet in Winnipeg about October 15th, when the question will be brought up. If the board advises in favor of the changes as announced by the department, they will go into effect. On the other hand, if the board decides against the changes, the department will withdraw the order. The telegram from Ottawa says:

"The standards board will be instructed to choose two standards for No. 1 hard, one under the old classification of two-thirds red fife, with a minimum weight of 60 pounds; the other under the new order. Whichever standard the farmer representatives on the board consider should be adopted, so the government will be guided, and if it transpires that the comptroller, in making a change to 75 per cent. red fife and 61 pounds weight has been misinformed, he will at once proceed to rectify the mistake."

The standards board is composed of eighteen persons, one half of whom are farmers. It would appear from the telegram from Ottawa, that only the farmers on the board will be permitted to vote on the question as to the advisability of making the changes. This is perhaps a mistake in wording the telegram. The grain grades are mostly a commercial matter, for convenience in handling the crop. The farmer sells his wheat by the load, principally on sample, and he is not nearly as much interested in the grades as are the dealers. Only those who are intimately familiar with the trade, understand the full use of the grades, and are qualified to pronounce thereon. It would therefore seem strange if the grain trade is not to be allowed to have any voice in the matter. Still, the department has acted very peculiarly in this matter all the way through, and to refuse to allow the grain men to have a voice in deciding the question, would not be any more unreasonable than has been the action of the department all along, in connection with the grain grades, since the matter came up this season.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

THE prospect for the farmers of the West looks decidedly better than it did a short time ago, due principally to the sharp advance in prices. The better prices now obtained for wheat and oats is very encouraging. Though the yield will be less than last year, the net profit on the season's operations will not be much less in many cases, as prices are higher and there has not been nearly as much paid out in wages this year. The cost of threshing has also been less in some districts, the price of threshing having been reduced to three cents per bushel, and in some cases even two and a half cents was accepted for threshing.

It is rumored that a department of public lands will soon be created by the provincial government of Manitoba. This would indicate that some satisfactory arrangement has been made, or is likely to be made, between the federal and provincial governments for the handing over to the province of the public lands within its boundaries. All the old provinces in Canada control their public lands, but in the new provinces and territories of the West, the federal government has held control of the public domain. If the province should gain control of the lands, we may expect to see a more active immigration policy adopted by the local government.

It is said that Manitoba farmers are consuming more pork and less beef than they did some years ago. This is borne out by the statements of hide dealers, that there are not nearly as many beef hides marketed now as there were seven or ten years ago. The population of the country is much greater now than it was then, and undoubtedly there is more meat consumed now than then, but the kind of meat largely consumed in the rural districts has changed. Manitoba farmers did not go in much for hogs some years ago, and it is well known that of late years raising hogs has been far more general than formerly. The price of hogs being low this year, do doubt many of the farmers think it more profitable to sell their beef animals and consume their pork at home.

It is a matter for regret that many of the creameries and cheese factories in Manitoba are obliged to close operations so early in the season, owing to the shortage in the supply of milk. The best part of the season for operating the factories, so far as the weather is concerned, is in the fall, but many of the factories are obliged to close up quite early in the fall on account of the supply of milk becoming too small to make it pay to keep operating. Farmers who patronize the factories should grow some feed for their cows so that when the grass begins to get dry and frosted, the flow of milk could be kept up. If a little extra feed is not provided for the fall season, there is sure to be a great falling off in the supply of milk. Farmers who intend to follow up the dairy business, should also endeavor to improve their stock, with this special object in view. There is no use keeping a poor cow for dairy purposes, when it will not cost any more to keep a good one.

THE question of grinding-in-bond was brought up at the meeting of the Manitoba and Northwest Millers' Association, held at Brandon, early in September. This is a question which is perhaps of as much direct interest to Manitoba farmers as to western millers. It was pointed out at the meeting of the millers' association that the present arrangement is unfavorable to the western wheat grower and also to the western millers. Instead of buying Manitoba hard wheat, eastern millers are allowed to import hard or other wheat from the United States and grind the same, getting a rebate of the duty when they export a like quantity of flour. The effect of this is to rob the western farmer and miller largely of the benefit which they

should derive from the duty on wheat and flour. The eastern miller can import hard wheat from the States and sell the product at home, getting a rebate on flour exported which is made from eastern wheat, thus supplying the eastern markets with hard wheat flour made from the imported wheat, which otherwise would have to come from Manitoba and the Territories. The farmers have been interesting themselves actively in the wheat grades of late, though the grading of wheat is a matter which does not as directly concern them as the question of grinding in bond. They might more profitably turn their attention to this latter question.

LAST week The Commercial urged briefly the question of fixing grades of No. 1 and No. 2 frosted wheat, whenever we happen to have a portion of the crop damaged by frost. It is to be hoped that the new standards' board, which will soon meet in Winnipeg, will declare against this custom. The fixing of these grades makes it appear that this class of wheat is one of the staple productions of the country. It is not pleasing to read in British commercial journals about the arrival and sale of parcels of Manitoba frosted wheats. They have frosted wheats at Duluth and Minneapolis, but they do not unnecessarily advertise the fact by giving them special grades. It is not necessary to classify frosted wheat as No. 1 and No. 2 under any name. The proper place for this low grade stuff would be to grade it No. 4 and No. 5. It would then come in the order in which it belongs. Some of the dealers think it sounds too low to make grades of No. 4 and No. 5, and that it would be harder to sell a No. 4 grade than a No. 1 frosted, but it is not likely that buyers are deceived by the grade number. Classifying frosted wheat as No. 1 frosted, of course, nominally gives it a high grade, (which it is not entitled to), but it will not deceive the buyer, who always learns what constitutes the different grades before purchasing. The only result therefore is to unnecessarily advertise all over the world the idea that frosted wheat is a staple here. So far as giving these wheats low grades is concerned, grades under No. 3 are quoted daily in Chicago and other markets, and they no doubt sell just as well as if they were called by some other name with a higher grade number attached.

THE item in the Dominion estimates in aid of dairying in the Territories, evidently means that the government has adopted Prof. Robertson's plan of assisting to establish a large dairy interest in the Territories. Prof. Robertson proposed that when a company of farmers had raised a given sum of money and had amongst them a certain number of cows, the government should advance a sum sufficient to establish a properly equipped factory. The government would take charge of the factory, putting a competent man in control, and would charge the cost of manufacturing and would retain also the further sum of one cent per pound to repay the loan. By the time the loan was repaid it is expected the directors would have acquired sufficient experience to allow the government to withdraw, leaving the factory entirely in the hands of

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