

What is there about a farm which will pay better than poultry? Not counting the eggs, which are a profit in themselves, there should be a very large profit in raising the birds for the market. The poultry about a farm simply utilize what is going to waste, if they are handled properly and marketed at the proper time. About every farm there is more or less waste grain. This will fatten the poultry and bring in a handsome profit from what would otherwise be a total loss. It will cost but little to provide a warm place for winter and feed a few stock birds over that season. The balance of the time they will rustle for themselves and give a vast increase in the fall. Poultry brings double the money of beef at its very lowest price here, and costs less per pound to raise it. At present winter prices in the Winnipeg market, which are much lower than in the summer and fall, dressed poultry sells wholesale from 10 to 13 cents per pound, according to quality and variety.

Mr. Davis, a Winnipeg dealer, says that he had great difficulty in securing the 30,000 birds he handled last summer, and he was kept hunting for supplies all the time to meet his requirements, notwithstanding the high prices paid. For about five months of the year the trade is in live birds, and the balance of the time dressed stock is wanted. When the cold weather sets in, supplies of dressed stock are brought in from Ontario, and consequently prices are lower, though they are still high enough to leave a handsome profit for those who have good native birds to sell.

Besides the shortage in the home supply, the birds sent in from country points are usually carelessly handled. In the cold weather the dressed birds soon become frozen, and as they are carelessly piled together, they become frozen into all kinds of awkward shapes. The birds should be plucked without wetting, the entrails drawn and the giblets replaced, and then packed carefully so that the birds will present a plump appearance when frozen. Those who raise poultry should also keep only good kinds. It costs no more per head to raise a good variety of birds, which will weigh out heavily and sell readily, than it does to keep a flock of little scrub fowl, while the fine large varieties will bring double the money.

CANADIAN FISHERIES.

A good deal of complaint has come from the fishermen of Manitoba, on account of the government regulations and restrictions upon fishing. The fishermen along the border lakes and rivers have also been making many complaints of official restriction. The fishermen along the border lakes and rivers appear, however to have greater reason to complain than those of Manitoba. In this province the fishing grounds are all in Canadian territory, while in the case of the lakes and rivers along the boundary, the Canadian fisherman have been hampered by all sorts of restrictions, while United States fishermen in the same waters have been allowed full liberty to do about as they pleased on their side of the lakes and rivers. Thus while our fishermen have been hampered by numerous restrictions, and compelled at certain seasons to stop fishing entirely, the fishermen

on the other side have been raking in the fish. A Windsor, Ontario, paper, discussing the subject says:

On the Detroit river the fishing interest has been destroyed. The only season of the year when whitefish can be caught there has been declared a close season on the Canadian side, while the American fishermen, chuckling in their sleeves, go on catching fish that should have been caught on this side. The monumental ignorance and incapacity of the department at Ottawa are depressing.

As a result of the trip some months ago of the Canadian ministers to Washington, it was arranged that an international commission should be appointed, to consider means of taking joint action to protect the fisheries in the border waters. This is what should have been done long ago. It seems a senseless thing to have hampered Canadian fishermen the way they have been, for the benefit of the United States citizens engaged in the same industry. There is nothing to prevent the fish passing from one side of the lakes and rivers to the other. While it is no doubt well to have reasonable restrictions to protect the fish, the same regulations should be enforced on each side. It is certainly very exasperating to have our fishermen laboring under severe restrictions, while United States fishermen were free from all restraint.

BINDER TWINE.

As will be seen by our article elsewhere in this issue, the binder twine combine in the United States has already announced its prices for next season. These prices are from ½c. to 1 ½c. lower than last year, the greater proportionate reduction being made on manilla twines, which are the more expensive kinds. Sisal, which is used in binder twine to a considerable extent, is costing high, and consequently the reduction for sisal twines is not so great.

It will be remembered that last year there was a good deal of haggling about the price of twine, and prices were not given until late in the season. Perhaps the democratic victory, and prospect of free twine has had something to do with the reversal of policy now. The reduction in the price of twine will be a welcome feature to the consumers of this article. In Canada binder twine will no doubt also be cheaper next season, partly in sympathy with conditions in the States.

"MANITOBA" WHEAT GRADES.

The Regina Leader does not like the names given to the grades of wheat grown in Western Canada. For instance the grades of No. 1 Manitoba hard, and No. 2 and No. 3 Manitoba hard apply to all wheat grown in Canada west of Lake Superior, of a quality equal to those grades. Thus wheat grown in the territories, if it is of the right quality, comes under the grades of Manitoba hard. It is the word "Manitoba" which the Leader takes exception to. The Leader says, why not grade wheat grown in the Regina district as No. 1 Regina hard? There is a very good objection to such a course, namely; that it would increase the number of grades, and make it more difficult to handle the grain for export. Grain men are already perplexed with the large number of grades which have to be kept separate. At present only five grades can be exported, on

account of the refusal of the railways to handle a greater variety of grades, as the different grades have to be kept separate at storage points, which is a matter of no small labor and expense. It would not do to increase the number of grades merely for the sake of applying the name of a certain district, and besides, if this were done with the wheat from one district, other districts would have equal claim for the same distinction. THE COMMERCIAL is not bound, however, to the word "Manitoba," as applied to our hard wheat grades, and if any change is made, it should be in the direction of widening the significance of the grade, rather than contracting it. Thus the words "Canada" or "Western Canada" might be substituted for "Manitoba," as applied to the grades of hard wheat, if there be any wide objection to the continuance of the latter. Our readers may not be aware that the nomenclature of the regular grades is fixed by act of Parliament, but such is the case, and the act would require amendment to introduce a change.

The Travellers Meet.

The general meeting of the Northwest Commercial Travellers' association, for the nomination of officers and board of directors for 1893 and other business, was held Saturday evening, Dec. 3, in the board of trade room, Winnipeg. The president, L. C. McIntyre, occupied the chair. There were also present: Vice-President Strang, Treasurer M. W. Rublee, Secretary J. O'Loughlin, and Directors M. R. O'Loughlin, A. L. Johnston, D. W. Bole, J. M. Lamb and over thirty active members of the association.

The minutes of last meeting were read and approved.

A communication was read from H. P. Hanson, Morden, asking for a grant for the Masonic hospital at that town. On motion, the communication was referred to the annual meeting to be held Dec. 24.

On motion of M. W. Rublee, the following was carried unanimously:

Resolved, that the members of this association desire to place on record their sorrow and deep regret that C. F. Church has been removed from amongst them by death; well known and loved by all, his probity of character, kindly acts, and ever cheerful disposition had so endeared him to his associates that the shock caused by his untimely death is felt to an extreme degree by every member of the association. That we further desire to express our sincere sympathy with Mrs. Church and her children, under their great affliction.

The chairman then called for nominations for officers and board of directors. The following were received:

President—M. W. Rublee—acclamation.
Vice-Presidents—H. Bruce Gordon, A. L. Johnston.

Treasurer—J. Y. Griffin, acclamation.

Directors—J. C. Gillespie, J. Lindsey, L. C. McIntyre, A. S. Birns, M. McGowan, W. J. Taske, C. J. Redmond, J. Mundie, M. R. O'Loughlin, W. Hargraves, F. Chilcott, J. H. Holman, W. H. Walker. Seven of the above will comprise the board. Auditors—S. S. Cumming, J. Lindsey, acclamation.

It was moved by W. Hargraves, and seconded by J. M. Lamb, and carried unanimously, that this being the tenth year, or "tin wedding" of the association, that the celebration be as recommended by the board, viz., a reception, conversation and ball, to be held at the Manitoba, subject to details as will be recommended by the committee to be appointed herewith. The annual celebration committee will consist of the present officers' board, and the newly nominated members for officers and board. After some general discussion of matters pertaining to the association, the meeting adjourned.