

### Grain and Milling.

Amount of wheat in store at Fort William elevators on Sept. 17 was 74,000 bushels.

It is reported that the flour mill at Regina has been leased by Moosemih parties, and it will be set in motion again very shortly.

A sale was reported in Winnipeg on Monday of 20,000 bushels of No. 1 hard wheat at 66 1-2c afloat at Fort William, first half of October delivery.

Lord Brassey, who has a large farm near Indian Head, Assa., has offered to loan \$4,000 at 4 per cent. to aid in the establishing of a flour mill at that place.

A terrific dust explosion took place in a big grain elevator at Toledo, Ohio, on Tuesday, by which twenty men were killed on the spot or received probably fatal injuries.

L. A. Tilley, formerly a member of the Toronto grain firm of W. P. Howard & Co., has been in Winnipeg for some time, and it is understood he intends opening business in the grain trade here as export buyer, in connection with an eastern grain firm.

Joyner & Elkington are having their flour mill at Fort Qu'Appelle, Assa., sheeted and roofed with the celebrated Eastlake Steel Shingles. This will make the building thoroughly fire proof from the outside and add very much to the appearance thereof. The firm is also adding a roller chopping mill for coarse grain.

American Elevator and Grain Trade, of Chicago, in its issue of September 15th, gives an extensive description of the new steel elevator recently completed for the Canadian Pacific Railway at Fort William. The elevator was described in The Commercial of some months ago, and is certainly worthy of the attention which has been given it by this influential Chicago paper.

Prices paid to farmers for wheat at a number of points this week ranged far above the price of round lots. On Wednesday as high as 60 to 62c was being paid at several Manitoba country markets, which is equal to 74 to 77c delivered at Fort William, freight and expense of handling added. At the same time spot round lots at Fort William were selling at 70 to 71c, and for future delivery at 68 to 69c according to date.

Recent improvements in the flour mill of C. Hiebert at Holland, preparatory to the fall and winter run, include a new sixty horse power engine, a condensing heater of twenty-five barrels capacity, a new set of polishing brushes in the cleaning outfit and a new office fully furnished and fitted up. Besides this the mill has been completely overhauled and a number of changes made that will greatly increase its efficiency.

• The first two weeks' inspection of new wheat at Winnipeg show as follows: Out of 175 carloads inspected, for the two weeks ended Sept. 17, there were 61 cars of No. 1 hard, 40 cars of No. 2 hard, 51 cars of No. 1 northern, 5 cars of No. 2 northern, 2 cars No. 1 spring, 8 cars No. 1 rejected, 2 cars No. 2 rejected, 5 cars no grade. The rejected wheat is smutty grain, and the no grade represents damp wheat. This is not as good a record as last crop, but of course it is only a very small quantity to strike an average from. The damp wheat would be caused by threshing from the stook too soon after the recent rains.

The grain standards board will meet in Winnipeg on October 5. The corrected list of the members of the board is Samuel Splink, chairman, Winnipeg; Kenneth Campbell, Brandon; C. B. Watts, Toronto, Ont.; Finlay Young, M. P. P., Brossard; S. C. Elkington, Fort Qu'Appelle; Alex. McFee, Montreal; W. Postlethwaite, Brandon; Jas. Elder, Virdee; Jas. Riddle, Rosebank; C. Castle, Foxton; J. McQueen, Carleton Place; Kater Ferguson, Kenlis, Assa.; R. M. Philp, Moosemih, Assa.; Thos. A. Crane, Montreal; M. McLaughlin, Toronto; C. Johnston, Balduf; W. B. Underhill, Melita; and C. N. Bell, Winnipeg, secretary.

The report in Winnipeg papers that new wheat sold at 73 cents afloat at Fort William on Tuesday last, was an error. Business on Tuesday was done on a basis of 71 cents, Fort William, for spot or early delivery. One lot of 5,000 bushels, however, did sell at 72 cents. This price was paid for one lot of spot stuff to fill space, the quantity of wheat on spot having been very limited. The big premium which has been paid for spot wheat, as compared with grain for later delivery, is owing to the scarcity of spot stuff to supply the immediate demands of eastern millers. As soon as offerings become liberal it will be impossible to maintain this premium on cash wheat.

### Dairy vs. Creamery.

In Ontario the creameries are suffering the same as in Manitoba, from the unreasonably high prices paid for dairy butter by many country merchants. The following is from the Toronto Monetary Times: The creameries of Canada are undergoing a somewhat severe trial at present. The work of creamery owners is, in a sense, that of pioneers, although in some districts the advantages of the butter factory have been established beyond the stage of experiment. The majority of farmers—and more especially farmers' wives—have yet to be convinced that at the end of the dairy year they will be better off for having taken the milk to the creamery instead of themselves making it into butter on the farm. At this point of hesitation the country merchants have taken a hand in the discussion of the pros and cons of the butter question. They are apt to hold that the more milk the farmer sells for cash at the creamery the more cash he will spend in the city. The natural means of preventing this, he may think, is increased prices given for butter by way of trade at the country store. Merchants in Ontario, here and there, have, as a result, been paying in trade, we are told, sixteen cents a pound for dairy butter, which, however, has been sold in a wholesale way in Toronto and Montreal at thirteen and a half cents per pound. There is thus a difference of nearly three cents per pound realized, without considering the expenses of handlings by the merchant and commission agent. Does this come out of the merchant's profit on the goods he sells to the farmer, or is it represented in an additional price which the farmer must pay for his goods? In either case the merchant's chances of ultimate loss are certain. It is of little avail, we fear, to draw any conclusions in connection with this matter. The course of trade will carry with it its own lessons. We had thought, however, that the mixing and handling of dairy butter by the retail merchant in Ontario—the nuisance of it; the unsatisfactoriness of it; the lock-up of capital and ultimate loss by it—had been long since

demonstrated. The most economical method of butter making will, in the end, succeed, although it may take time to make evident to all whether the dairy must make way for the creamery. Certainly, the old-time methods of the small storekeeper who buys butter to please his customers and sells it at a loss, are not likely to work the change in the quality of our dairy butter which everyone should desire.

### A New Produce Company.

A new company, the Canadian Produce Company, Limited, has been organized with a capital of a million to open larger markets for the Canadian producer in England. The company's purpose is to open a large number of wholesale and retail stores in London to deal exclusively in dairy products, fruit, meat, bacon, fish, etc. The head office of the company will be in Montreal, though almost all the capital has been subscribed by Englishmen. The board of directors includes Col. J. Harris, Dr. Farquharson, M. P.; Henry Heaven, and R. S. Gladsone, and the following will be the advisory board for Canada: W. Mann, D. M. Macpherson, O. M. Gould, Montreal; S. M. Brookfield, Halifax; J. M. Bigelow, president Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association; E. J. Wolverson, president Niagara Fruit Growers' Association. The general manager for Canada will be Major William Clark, of Halifax. Besides the Montreal office the company will have agencies in Halifax, Toronto and Winnipeg.

### Movements of Business Men.

A. T. Wood, head of the large hardware house of Wood, Venance & Co., of Hamilton, Ont., and father of Geo. D. Wood, wholesale hardware merchant of Winnipeg, arrived in the city this week on a visit to his son.

W. J. Camp, electrician of the Canadian Pacific railway telegraphs, arrived in Winnipeg Tuesday from Montreal to supervise the installation of the plant in the new offices here. Mr. Camp has also been in charge of the stringing of the new copper wire from Montreal to Vancouver, which was completed on Wednesday.

E. A. Mott, manager for the Cockshutt Plow Co., at Winnipeg, has returned from a trip to Ontario. He says that not for the last ten years has trade been so brisk in the manufacturing line in Ontario as it is at present. His own company are doubling the size of their factory to meet the increasing demand for the home and export trade.

### Butter and Cheese.

The Montreal Gazette of Tuesday says: The butter market was excited to-day and extreme prices were paid both on spot and in the country, though the local position despite the advance, is not yet on a parity with what late made creamery is costing in the country. The best figure yet realized here was 20 1-2c, but it is hardly quotable in a general way yet.

Cheese was firm and higher prices were realized than a week ago by fully 1-2c per pound. The demand is due in part to a desire to procure the September make, but in addition to this the cable furnishes more encouragement from abroad. The chief spot business to-day was contributed at the wharf where 5,000 boxes were offered and sold at a range of 8 1-4c to 8 3-8c, the inside being the ruling, which is an advance of 1-2c on a week ago.