THE COMMERCIAL.



A very absurd decision has recently been given by an Ottawa police magistrate, and one which shows that our laws require some remodeling. A merchant of that city, desiring to make his shop windows attractive, placed a mechanical toy in the window. It appears, however, that this proved too great an attrac tion to suit the police officials. Crowds gathered to look at the toy, and the merchant was summoned for causing the obstruction of the sidewalk. The magistrate managed to trot out some antiquated and moss-covered act, under which the merchant was duly convicted and fined. Such decisions as these, which are every once and a while coming out, would almost lead one to believe that it would be a great benefit to pass an act repealing every law on the statute books, and then commence over again and make entirely new laws, containing considerably more common sense and considerably less law. This might not suit the lawyers, but it would to a relief to a long-suffering people.

JUST before the conclusion of the convention of the Millers' National Association of the United States, held recently at Buffalo, N. Y., the following resolution was offered :- "Resolved, That it is the sense of this convention that the present duty on wheat should be rcmoved, and that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the chairman of the committee on tariff revision of the House of Representatives." The resolution was adopted after a brief debate. This action of the United States millers is important to Western Canada, and should their resolution meet with favor in official circles, the result will be viewed with favor in this part of Canada No doubt the resolution was prompted by the Minneapolis and other millers in the states to the south of Manitoba. These millers are anxious to get a share of Manitoba's hard wheat, and with this object in view have taken the first necessary step to that end in requesting the removal of the duty upon wheat entering their country. The immediate effect of the removal by the United States, of the duty upon wheat, would be to render the great wheat markets of Minneapolis and Duluth available to the wheat sellers of this country. With the railway competition to the south now being established, Manitoba wheat would move forward freely to the convenient and ever-ready markets named. It might also be expected that Minneapolis millers would advance their operations into Manitoba, by establishing elevators in the province. Western grain producers and dealers would not then be at the mercy of any possible combination of castern dealers. The competition which would be brought about in this way, might also be expected to exert a favorable influence in the direction of reducing freight rates. Under the present duty regulations, the Minneapolismarket cannot be made available for Manitoba wheat. As for Duluth, Manitoba wheat shipped to that market, would have to go forward in bond, and would not be available for sale or consumption in the United States. Of course, should the United States remove the duty from wheat, Canada would likely follow suit, and Eastern Canadian millers would thereby be enabled to go to Duluth and buy Minnesota and Dakota wheat, instead of coming to Manitoba for supplies. But the partial loss of the Eastern trade would be more than made up by free access to Minneapolis and Duluth, to say nothing of the reduction of freight rates which would certain y follow. The usefulness of free railway communication between Manitoba and the states to the south, which is now being established, will be greatly increased by the removal of the United States duty upon wheat. The advantages, however, will not be confined to Mantoba. Minnesota millers would be enabled to obtain supplies of Manitoba hard wheat, to their great advantage ; Duluth would derive benefit from the increased flow of grain in that direction; and the United States railways would find a very satisfactory increase in their traffic.

THE Quebec Attorney-General has decided to prosecute a journal in that province for publishing an advortisement of the great Louisiana humbug lottery. Under the Quebec Act, a fine of \$50 may be imposed upon papers publishing



JAMES PYR, Esq., Minncapolis, Minn, U.S.A. DRAR SIR, -In handing you our check for \$1,301.24, in full for balance on your contract for bullvling and enlark-ing our null, we without solicitation wi-h to state, that you have done your work in a manner highly satisfactory to this company. The capetity which you guaranteed at 275 barrels, we find considerably under the mark, as we are at present making over 300 barrels, and the qual-ity of the flour is all that we could wish for. Some of our largest purchasers trankly tell us, it is equal to any yield also wefind very satisfactory. We must also bear testimony to your pleasing and contennaly manner, and your willingness at all that so to meet our wishes. This has made our business relations pleasant and woran hon-estly say, that we recommend you to any person, require-ting any thing in the mill building or mill furnishing line. Wishing you the success that straight dealing merits, we are Yours very truly. THE PORTAGE MILLING CO

THE PORTAGE MILLING CO Jas. MacLenaghan, Manazing Director.

advertisements of bazaars or lotteries held outside the province. If the Quebec act would just go a little further, and apply the same regulations to lotteries and similar gambling schemes held within the province, it would rid the province of a moral blight which has rendered it conspicuous among the provinces of Canada. The Quebec law recognizes the iniquity of foreign lotteries but makes exception in favor of home gambling schemes, though the latter are really the more dangerous, as they come more directly in contact with the people. Manitoba papers were a short time ago giving space to some church lottery scheme which had its headquarters in Quebec province. It would be a good move for Manitolia to provide an act similar to the one in force in Quebec, but without the exceptions in favor of local gambling enterprises.

A SCHEME is on hand in Minnesota, called the Scandinavian Elevator Co., started for the alleged purpose of shipping hard wheat from Minnesota and Dakota to British markets. Two representatives of the proposed company are now in England, where they are endeavoring to induce British millers to take stock in their enterprise. The stock is placed at \$4,000,000, and British millers are asked to subscribe one half of this amount. Our advice to British millers is to scrutinize this scheme carefully, or they may find to their sorrow later on that they have invested in an unprofitable enterprise. British millers are anxious to obtain supplies of American hard wheat, and certainly there is a good deal of truth in the belief among them, that us matters now go, they are unable to get any large quantity of this wheat in its original purity. Still there seems to be a good deal of misconception among British millers as to the reason for this. British millers seem to imagino that Minncapolis millers, so to speak, carry the hard wheat belt of this continent in their breeches pockets, and that after drawing to themselves what wheat they require, they allow the refuse to go out for export. British millers also labor under the hallucination that these Minneapolis monopolisto can get this hard