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sideration not only of the city council, but also
 of the rate payers of Winnipeg generally.

TINKERING at grain standards seems not to
 be confined to Canada, although the fuss that
 has been made during the past year over the
 changing of Manitoba wheat grades would im-
 press an outsider with the idea, that at Ottawa
 the Government considered its opinions and
 action as the *ipse dixit* of all that could be
 accomplished in the grading of grain. In
 Minnesota and Dakota the question of fixing of
 standards is difficultly managed, a set of com-
 missioners having the power each year to fix
 the standards for the grading of the coming
 crop, and a latitude is allowed by law to these
 commissioners, so that the quality of each year's
 crop affects the standard; and this year, owing
 to the large proportion of the crop in Minnesota
 and Dakota which has been damaged by frost,
 they have allowed a per centage of frozen
 wheat in the No. 1 hard standard not to ex-
 ceed ten per cent. As there is no grade in
 either that state or territory above No. 1 hard,
 there is therefore no hard wheat grade there,
 or in fact anywhere else in the United States,
 free from frosted grain.

The action of the commissioners in thus
 leaving the country without an unfrosted
 wheat standard, is loudly protested against by
 the grain trade in both Minneapolis and
 Duluth, and justly so every person interested
 in maintaining the reputation of Northwestern
 wheat must echo. One year of grading upon
 such principles will do more injury in foreign
 grain markets to the reputation of North-
 western hard grain, than can be undone by
 three succeeding years of good crops, sound
 grain and high grading.

There can be no doubt but in thus fixing the
 grain standards of the year the commissioners
 have pandered to the gullibility of a great mass
 of the farmers. The aim no doubt is to make
 the farmer believe that his wheat can be made
 the top notch price, whether the quality calls
 for such or not. Of course if the top notch is
 brought low enough the farmer will succeed,
 that is the farmer who has some frosted wheat.
 But then what is to become of the farmer
 whose grain is not frosted. At best he can
 only get the same grade as the man who has ten
 per cent. frozen. Perhaps the commissioners
 wish to read to the farmers the apostolic lesson
 of "Bear ye one another's burdens," whether



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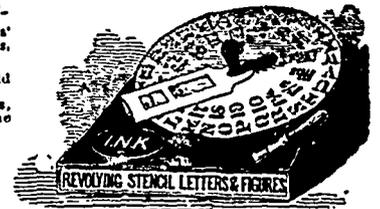
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the farmer with sound wheat likes or does not
 like apostolic teaching. It is to be feared that
 the burden will not be equalized by this grading
 arrangement. The buyer will buy all grain
 on the assumption of the frosted admixture,
 and when he secures some free from frost, he
 can easily add enough of the genuine frosted
 article in its purity, to reduce the sound grain
 to a minimum number one level. The com-
 missioners may rest assured, that in this
 manner the prescribed admixture of frosted
 grain will be pretty closely adhered to, and
 that few if any cars of thoroughly sound grain
 will come before the inspector or his deputies
 for grading. The arrangement will in fact
 force the maximum quality of Minnesota and
 Dakota hard wheat down to a level it has
 never before reached, and it is to be regretted
 that it should now reach.

There is a lesson to Manitoba shippers here,
 which they would be fools not to learn quickly.
 With competing railways to the south, they
 may have to make use of Duluth grading to a
 considerable extent. Frosted wheat may not
 be quite so plentiful here this year, as it is in
 northern Minnesota and Dakota, but no doubt
 they will find sufficient with which to water

down, so as not to waste any more sound grain
 than is necessary in securing a No. 1 hard
 grade.

Grain and Milling.

An elevator is to be constructed at Medicine
 Hat.

The stock of binder twine is exhausted at
 Edmonton.

N. Bawlf, Winnipeg, bought the first load of
 new oats on Wednesday last.

The Moosomin mill is being overhauled and
 repaired by the new proprietors, Messrs Smith
 & Brigham. A new boiler and engine is also
 being added.

The Keewatin Milling Co., are calling for
 tenders for the erection of six or seven elevators
 with a capacity of 25,000 bushels and two of
 40,000 bushels.

The grain committee of the Winnipeg board
 of trade are at work securing the samples for
 the grain standards of the crop of 1898. The
 committee will write Manitoba and the North-
 west boards of trade to send representatives to
 the meeting on the 27th inst. to see the manner
 in which the samples are selected.