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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 impress 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 commissioners 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 percentage of frozen wheat in the No. 1 hard standard not to exceed 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 Northwestern 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 gullability 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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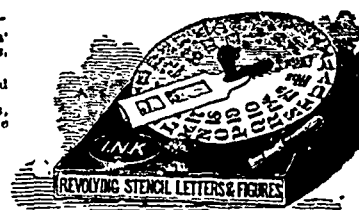
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the farmer with sound wheat likes or does not like apostolic teaching. It is to be feared that the burden will not be equalized by this grading arrangement. The buyer will buy all grain on the assumption of the frosted admixture, and when he secures 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 commissioners 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 Northwest boards of trade to send representatives to the meeting on the 27th inst. to see the manner in which the samples are selected.