

The Sower Went Forth to Sow.

The following is the circular issued by the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, to the farmers of Manitoba, on the question of seed wheat.

The immenso damage caused by smut to the crop of 1891, and the consequent trouble and difficulty experienced in handling smutted wheat, has assumed such proportions, that the Winnipeg Grain and Produce Exchange considers it of the utmost importance that the subject of smut should be brought to the attention of every grain grower in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, in order that, so far as it is possible, there should not be a repetition of this year's experience. Our market is no longer confined to Ontario and Quebec. We now have to seek British and Continental markets, and the foreign buyer already looks with distrust on our grain, owing to the deplorably smutty condition of the 1891 crop. With the remedy in his hands no farmer should prove untrue to his own interests, or the interests of the country, by allowing this trouble to continue. The principal cause of the evil is the sowing of frosted and other poor seed, and the failure to treat even apparently good seed for smut before sowing. Take the following illustration of the loss entailed by using poor seed.

Say a farmer seeds 100 acres. If with frosted or other poor seed, the cost will be—175 bushels at 50c=\$87.50; when good seed will cost—133 bushels at 75c=\$100, or a difference of \$12.50 for 100 acres. Now experience has proved, from actual tests at the experimental farms at Brandon and Indian Head, that the loss this year by sowing poor seed on 100 acres, was, at a very low estimate, \$250.

A sample of smut, taken from the cleaning machines of our large mills, was sent by the exchange to Professor Saunders, director of the central experimental farms at Ottawa, and he writes as follows: "The smutty grain you sent is a very bad sample of the bunt or stinking smut. This can be got rid of to a very large extent by treating the grain before sowing. From experiments carried on at Indian Head, this year, we are able to submit the following results: Where very smutty grain was sown, about one-half the crop was smutted. The same grain treated in the proportion of a pound of blue stone dissolved in water and sprinkled in ten bushels of wheat, the proportion of smutted wheat did not exceed five per cent. Where one pound of blue stone was used to five bushels, the grain was almost entirely free from smut. Very similar results were obtained last year, both at Brandon and Indian Head, and the importance of this subject cannot be impressed too strongly on farmers. Many cases have occurred this year to my knowledge, in Manitoba, where the grain was so smutted as to be unsaleable, and where it is so easy to remedy this trouble, it seems a pity that farmers should neglect to take the necessary precautions. If the treatment of seed grain could be made general over the province for several years, this disease might be almost eradicated."

After handling several million bushels of the 1891 crop, this exchange unhesitatingly concludes that the depreciation in value of the crop from smut is fully greater than from frost.

REMEDY.

Choose the best and soundest seed you can procure, and soak it for ten minutes in brine of the ordinary strength used for pickling pork (that is in which an egg or a potato will float), stir the seed well and skim off the light grain, smut balls and dirt, which rise to the surface. Then take out the seed and immerse in a solution composed of one pound of blue stone, dissolved in a pailful of warm water, (for every five bushels of seed to be treated). The seed may be placed in a basket or sack and plunged into the bluestone mixture, where it should be kept until every grain has been thoroughly wetted. Now, drain the seed, and dust i

with lime until the grains are white, and they will dry quickly; while germination will be greatly assisted. The remedy is simple! Do not fail to use it! See that your local merchant has plenty of bluestone, and get your own supply as soon as possible. Do not delay or the merchant's supply may be exhausted. Copies of the circular may be had from any grain buyer or storekeeper in Manitoba or the Territories, or from the Winnipeg Grain and Produce Exchange.

Consumption of Horse Flesh.

The people of Paris have consumed within the year 21,291 horses, 229 donkeys, and 40 mules, the meat weighing, according to the returns, 4,615 tons. At the 180 shops and stalls where this kind of food is sold the price has varied from 2d per pound to 10d, the latter being the price for superior horsesteaks. But only about one-third of the meat is sold fresh and undisguised; the rest is used in making sausages, and it should be added that 402 horses were seized and condemned as unfit for food before entering the sausage state.

Jamea Hall & Co., of the Ontario Glove Works, Brockville, write THE COMMERCIAL as follows: "Having noticed that you gave publicity to the following paragraph in your last issue, viz.: 'Thos. Clearihue, well known in the west as traveller for the Ontario Glove Works, of Brockville, Ontario, is establishing a new manufactory in gloves, mitte, moccasins, etc., at Brockville.' As this is misleading, and is not true, and may have an injurious effect on our business in Manitoba and the Northwest, we ask you to give this denial a place in your next issue. Mr. Clearihue is not establishing a new manufactory in Brockville, the Ontario Glove Works being the only factory of any note between Montreal and Toronto."

SPECIAL TRADE NOTICE.

SOME tobaccos spurt up in the pipe while smoking, with little crackling explosions. This is caused by the addition of foreign matter to assist the combustion. When the purity of the tobacco is not tampered with and it has been properly taken care of, this combustible foreign matter is wholly unnecessary. For in that case it burns at a lower temperature than almost anything else. Nothing of this kind is seen in smoking the "Myrtle Navy." It burns with steady combustion throughout.



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ROBT. KERR,

Gen. Pass. Agt.,

WINNIPEG.