

**Grain and Milling Matters.**

Eastern grain men complain of a great scarcity of cars on the Grand Trunk. Manitoba wheat taken east by boat from Port Arthur is said to be lying at lake ports, for want of cars.

An engine and boiler with complete outfit of grist mill machinery has been shipped for the new mill at St. Albert, Southern Alberta, in course of erection by Hutton & Maloney.

Preston & McKay's new roller flour mill at Boissevain, Manitoba, has been erected at a cost of \$20,000.

The new roller mill being built at Birtle, Manitoba, by the Arrow Milling Company, will be ready for work in a week or two. It will be one of the best mills in Manitoba. The company has commenced the purchase of wheat.

J. B. Laws states that the forecast of the British wheat crop must be considerably discounted. The area for 1889 is 2,540,720 acres, or over 180,000 acres less than in 1888. He puts the crop at a little over 8,000,000 quarters, and the amount required for consumption at 27,000,000 quarters.

The receipts of Manitoba wheat at the Canadian Pacific Railway Lake Superior elevators during the week ended October 26 were 267,324 bushels, the shipments 71,695 bushels and the quantity in store on the date named 608,932 bushels.

A new company has been formed at Regina, composed of J. D. Sibbald & Co. and H. W. Hansell, for the purpose of operating the Regina roller mill and elevator. The company will be known as the Northwest Milling and Elevator Company. Operations will be commenced at the mill at once, and grain is now being purchased. The putting in operation of this mill will have the effect of improving the Regina grain market this season.

The Manitoba Government has issued another crop report, compiled from returns received up to October first. The report shows a considerable scaling down of average yields, as compared with the August report, wheat being placed at 2.4 bushels less per acre. From these last returns the department estimates the grain yield for the province as follows: Wheat, 623,245 acres under cultivation; total yield, 7,201,519 bushels; average yield, 12.4 bushels per acre. Oats, 218,744 acres; aggregate yield, 3,415,104 bushels; average yield per acre, 16.8 bushels. Barley, 80,238 acres; total yield, 1,051,551; average yield, 13.6 bushels. Potatoes, 11,941 acres; 1,393,385 bushels; average yield, 119 bushels.

Correspondents of provincial and city papers continue to talk of a combination among grain buyers in Manitoba. All this is very silly, as it has been shown over and over again that the price of wheat in Manitoba has ruled at considerably above an export basis for over a year back. If a cent or two more per bushel is being paid for wheat at one point, as compared with another place, forthwith there is a cry that the grain men at the town where the lower price is paid, have formed a combination. Sometimes a little more can be paid at one

market than another, owing to the better average quality of the wheat taken at one place, as compared with the other. Again, sometimes grain buyers at a certain market get running each other and pay prices above average values for a short time. But because this happens, it is no reason why buyers in the neighboring markets should resort to the same unbusiness-like practice of paying a good deal more for wheat than they can sell it for. When prices are a trifle higher at one point than another, some such reason as this can usually be found for it. These constant cries of combines are very absurd in the present state of the wheat markets, for if any real combine existed, buyers would not likely be paying in excess of export values for wheat.

Following are the returns from the Winnipeg grain inspector's office for the week ending October 26:

Extra Manitoba hard	3 cars
No. 1 hard	40 cars
No. 2 hard	24 cars
No. 1 Northern	2 cars
No. 2 Northern	10 cars
No. 3 Northern	5 cars
No. 1 rejected	8 cars
Rejected	9 cars
No. 1 White Fyfe	1 car

Total . . . . . 102 cars

F. and E. Pearson have taken possession of Jermyn's flour mill at Minnedosa. It is understood the consideration paid for the mill was \$16,000.

The Morden *Monitor* has another long article on the price of wheat. THE COMMERCIAL simply stated facts in the article concerning the price of wheat, and there is no room for controversy on the point. This paper is not published in the interests of grain dealers, and indeed gets very little support from the grain trade. The merchants of Morden have every right to build a grain elevator if they think proper. On business principles this journal has always advocated the plan that merchants stick as closely as possible to their legitimate business. We do not blame the Morden people for "kicking vigorously" if as the *Monitor* claims the price paid for wheat there is so much lower than other markets. The prices taken by THE COMMERCIAL were those furnished by the Canadian Pacific Railway telegraph. According to the prices furnished to-day (Nov. 1), Morden does not appear to be below the average, sixteen other Manitoba markets being quoted as low or lower than Morden. At Brandon, on Thursday, wheat ranged from 55 to 60c, as to quality. It is folly to talk about the farmers being taken advantage of, when the average price of wheat in Manitoba is actually above a parity with prices in eastern and export markets. The trouble at Morden seems to be that higher prices are being paid at a small market west of that place. Well, if the buyers at Thornhill wish to pay a good deal more than wheat is worth, the Morden buyers would be very foolish to follow the example thus set. At the same time, the Morden people are fully justified in doing everything in their power to obtain as high prices as they can for the farmers in their district.

**Dairy Matters.**

The Provincial Government of Quebec will subsidize local butter factories. The Manitoba Government might follow this example and do something to encourage the industry in this province, to advantage, though it is questionable if a promiscuous subsidy system is the best way of assisting the industry.

During the week ended October 26, at Brockville, Ont., eight factories contracted for September and October, five at 10½c and three at 10¼c.

**Editor's Table.**

THE COMMERCIAL is pleased to note the prosperity which appears to be enjoyed by its esteemed contemporary the *Brandon Times*. The *Times* came to hand last week greatly enlarged in size, and with further improvements prominent in the future.

The last issue of the *Dominion Illustrated* contains an engraving of the dry dock at Esquimalt, B. C.; also a cut of the fine new building of the New York Life Insurance Company, at Montreal, one of the finest structures of its kind in Canada. It portrays the number is rich—those of Governor Bulkeley and Col. Cone being memorials of the late visit to Montreal of the Connecticut Regiment; those of the late Hon. Sir Sidney Smith, Father Tabaret and Judge Olivier being associated with our political, educational and judicial systems. Published by the Dominion Illustrated Publishing Company. Subscription, \$4.

A sample copy of the *Insurance and Commercial Magazine*, published at 23 Park Row, New York, has been received. This publication is in magazine form, over 100 pages in size, and a gem in typographical neatness; also handsomely illustrated. A useful journal for insurance men.

A copy of the *Victorian*, the new weekly journal published at Victoria, B. C., has reached the table. The columns of the *Victorian* are mainly taken up with editorial comment and discussion, well written and interesting in style.

**Prices in British Columbia.**

The New Westminster *Columbian* reports the following wholesale prices current at that place:—

Beef, per 100 pounds live weight	\$ 4 00 to 4 50
Pork, " "	7 00 to 7 50
Mutton " "	8 00 to 9 00
Potatoes " "	75 to 1 00
Cabbage " "	50 to 1 00
Onions " "	1 00 to 1 50
Wheat " "	1 50 to 0 00
Oats " "	1 00 to 1 25
Peas " "	1 25 to 1 50
Hay, per ton	10 00 to 14 00
Butter (rolls) per lb	25 to 30
Cheese, " "	14 to 15
Eggs, per dozen	35 to 40
Cord wood, per cord	3 50 to 4 00
Apples, per box	80 to 1 00
Hides, green, per 100 pounds	4 00 to 6 00
" dry " "	5 00 to 9 00
Wool, per pound	6 to 11

SIR A. T. GALT will go to England shortly to endeavor to finance his railway schemes in Alberta and Montana.