

HARD WHEAT FOR BRITISH MILLERS.

The *Miller*, of London, England, continues strongly to urge the formation of a British millers' syndicate, for the purpose of purchasing wheat in the great hard wheat belt of America. The straits to which the British millers have been driven by foreign competition, the *Miller* thinks, is largely owing to their inability to obtain pure hard wheat. In competition with the Minneapolis millers, whose base of supply is this hard wheat region, the British millers are at the greatest disadvantage. Against the hard wheat supply of the Minnesota millers, the British millers are obliged to compete with a mixed wheat from various parts of the world. The *Miller* claims that the British miller is yet far from shipwrecked, as matters now stand, but he would do much better if he could command a supply of the pure hard wheat of America. So much faith does the *Miller* place in the future for the millers of Britain, with a supply of this wheat obtainable, that it has grown most enthusiastic in advocating the formation of a British millers syndicate to purchase wheat in Manitoba and Dakota, and heads an article upon the subject with the words, "Land in Sight." In this article the *Miller* declares that though the British millers are anxious to purchase pure hard wheat, yet this is exactly what they do not get under existing conditions, owing to the mixing in transit. Hence the advisability of forming a strong syndicate to purchase the wheat from the producer and ship through its own elevators. Not only would the proposed syndicate be obliged to own elevators at the points of production, but it would require to own a line of storage and shipping elevators all the way from the western wheat field to the seaboard, for it must be remembered that it is at these central shipping points where the hard wheat comes in contact and is mixed with the inferior wheats of the South and East.

There is another plan by which the hard wheats of the Northwest could be carried to Britain without danger of mixing, which possibly has not occurred to the *Miller*. If the *Miller* will take up a map of America, it will notice a great inland sea, called Hudson's Bay, stretching down almost into the centre of the continent. This inland sea offers a short and direct route from the hard wheat belt of the Northwest to Great Britain. The opening up of this route would bring British markets in direct connection with the hard wheat region. No special line of

elevators would be required to prevent the northern wheat from becoming mixed with the inferior wheats of the east and south, for only northern wheat would go by this route. If the *Miller* will turn in and advocate the opening of the Hudson's Bay route, it will be assisting a scheme fully as practical as the proposal to build a special line of elevators, in accomplishing the end desired—pure hard wheat for British millers.

THE FREE LIST.

By an Act passed by Parliament in 1879, the Canadian Government made a standing offer that when the United States placed any of the articles mentioned in the Act upon the free list, an order-in-council would be issued admitting the same commodities into this country free of duty. The articles included in the list were: Animals of all kinds, green fruit, hay, straw, bran, seeds of all kinds, vegetables, including potatoes and other roots and plants, trees and shrubs, coal and coke, salt, hops, wheat, peas and beans, barley, rye, oats, Indian corn, buckwheat and all other grains, flour of wheat and flour of rye, Indian meal and oatmeal, flour or meal of any other grain, butter, cheese, fish, salted or smoked, lard, tallow, meats, fresh, salted or smoked, and lumber. The United States having placed green fruits, seeds of all kinds, plants, trees and shrubs upon the free list, these articles were a short time ago placed upon the free list in Canada. Notice has now been given in Parliament that a resolution abolishing the statutory offer of reciprocity in certain products will be introduced, and a new list submitted. The proposed new list is as follows:

"Animals of all kinds, hay, straw, vegetables (including potatoes and other roots) salt, peas, beans, barley, malt, rye, oats, buckwheat, flour of rye, oatmeal, buckwheat flour, butter, cheese, fish of all kinds, fish oil, products of fish and of all other creatures living in the water, fresh meats, poultry, stone or marble in its crude or unwrought state, lime, gypsum, (ground or unground), hewn or wrought or unwrought burrs or grindstones, and timber and lumber of all kinds, manufactured in whole or in part, including shingles, clapboards, and wood pulp, may be imported into Canada free of duty, or at a less rate of duty than is provided for by any act at the time in force, upon proclamation by the Governor-General, which may be issued whenever it appears to his satisfaction that similar articles from Canada may be imported into the United States free of duty, or at a rate not exceeding that payable on the same, under such proclamation, when imported into Canada."

The adoption of this new list will not affect fruits, seeds, plants, etc., which have lately been placed upon the free list. The most important feature in this proposed change is, that the offer of reciprocity in flour, wheat, lard, bran, coal, coke, hops, Indian corn, corn meal, cured meats and tallow is withdrawn, whilst malt, poultry, etc., are added to the list of articles in the reciprocal offer. The new list is more favorable to Canadian producers, the articles which would be most largely imported from the United States, such as corn and corn meal, lard, cured

meats, flour, etc., being left off. The effect of the adoption of the proposed new list will be to considerably curtail the standing offer of reciprocity with the United States in these natural products, etc., and may have an adverse influence, so far as this country is concerned, in the proposed tariff legislation now under discussion at Washington.

THE GREAT NORTH.

In his efforts to enlighten the Canadian public upon the Great North country, Senator Schultz is doing a work which will live after him. Outside of half a dozen or so men who have given some attention to the question, the people of Canada have heretofore had but the faintest conception of this vast and interesting region. For all the interest the people of Canada, as a whole, have taken in the great northern territory, that country might as well have never existed. The few who have had their thoughts directed to the north country, have generally pictured in imagination a wilderness of ice and snow, inhabited by a few Indians and Esquimaux, and invaded occasionally by adventuresome traders, in search of the valuable furs, which are supposed to be the only exportable articles which the country possesses. The information which has been elicited before the committee at Ottawa will therefore be fresh, interesting and often surprising news to the general public of Canada. The vastness of this northern region, which we shall consider as including the country north of the North Saskatchewan river, can be imagined from the great rivers which drain the country. It has scarcely occurred to Canadians that the mightiest river in North America flows through this northern country, some 2,000 miles in length, and having great lakes in its course. It is estimated that there are 3,500 miles of navigation on the Mackenzie river and tributaries, with but two slight obstructions. A large portion of the country north of the Saskatchewan has also been shown to be well adapted to agricultural and pastoral pursuits, and capable of supporting a large population. The vast lakes abound in fish of the whitefish, trout, salmon and other well known varieties. The minerals known to exist include coal, copper, gold, salt, sulphur, asphaltum and petroleum. Surface indications tend to show the existence of the greatest petroleum region in the world, estimated to cover 100,000 square miles of country. Mountains of pure rock salt are spoken of. It has also been learned that there is abundance of timber, pine attaining a size of from two to four feet in diameter, as far north as the mouth of the Liard river. Even with the slight knowledge now possessed, enough is known to warrant the assertion that this country will yet become a source of considerable wealth to the Dominion.