

Echoes from the West

Judging by clippings from eastern exchanges and telegraphed reports to Winnipeg dailies some very remarkable echoes have been reaching eastern Canada in the last few weeks in regard to western crop conditions, from the most foolishly optimistic views on the western crop the east appears to have swung round the compass and arrived at the point of "blue ruin," which is equally absurd. The story in brief is as follows:

The western crop went into the ground fully three weeks later than it is usually planted. The seed-bed, taking the country as a whole, was in prime condition, and in all but a few sections a good start was made. Then followed the most remarkable summer the West has ever seen, a cool June, with too much rain in some sections and none at all in others. At the beginning of July it looked as if the whole of the crop in the southern part of the country would be an almost total failure for lack of rain, while in the north and west the promise was abundant. Rains came in July in the south and the crop picked up wonderfully; they also came in north and west where they were not needed, and the growth was the most luxuriant it is possible to imagine. July was not a hot month, and when it came to August, everyone who wished to know the truth knew that the crop was fully a month behind time. August was cool, cloudy and wet, for the West, and the crop did not make up any time. September has been of the same pattern to date. What then, there are thousands of acres of wheat as green to-day as they should be at the middle of July and not much further advanced as to filling. But thousands are a small part of millions. On September 5th the West looked good for a crop of 15 bushels to the acre on 4,750,000 acres. This allowed for all wheat land ploughed up for drought and all wheat so green there was no probability of its ripening. If the West had had good hot weather from Sept. 5th to 15th that promise would have been realized. The hot weather did not come. Instead it was only warm and a good deal of rain, and for three nights there was heavy frost and out in Alberta there was some snow. The frost was by no means general over the entire west, but it certainly covered large areas and the amount of damage must be serious. Just what damage these frosts did can only be told when the threshing machines have done their work. On the 5th of September the crop promise was 71-125,000 bushels for wheat and about 80,000,000 for oats. As to how much that yield is cut down, time only will tell, but the most persistent pessimist has not yet suggested anything lower than 45,000,000 of marketable wheat. Taking things even on that basis, which is much too low, and with October wheat selling at \$1.05-7-8 and December wheat at \$1.06 on September 1st, the wheat crop will be a very profitable one for the country as a whole. There is a large crop of barley also and har-

ley is selling at 60c., oats are high and likely to bring good prices.

It is not unlikely that the short crop of 1907 may bring the country nearly as much money as the long crop of 1906.

There is still a considerable percentage of last year's wheat in the farmer's hands, men are holding lots of 300 to 3,000 bushels and already mill companies are offering a premium of anywhere from 1½c. to 1¾c. per bushel for old wheat, and the premium will be much higher before the winter is over.

There is no question but the percentage of high grade wheat will be small in the west this season and the man who has No. 1 hard and No. 1 northern will pretty well get his own price for it.

Oddly enough the crop that

With reference to good farming, a concrete example can be found around Wawanesa, where the land has been well farmed for the past twenty years. This section suffered very severely from drought, in fact it was well into July before they had any rain to speak of and yet today they are threshing 22 and 25 bushels to the acre, and threshing it too from apparently a light yield, light so far as straw is concerned.

This land, however, has been well cultivated, had a good dust blanket to hold the moisture and the ground was free from weeds.

The old Portage Plains tell the same story and there wheat has grown for the past 35 years, but men like the McVickers and the Sissons have had a crop irrespective of drought, frost, hail or deluge ever since they came



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Judging the Shorthorn calves, bred and owned by exhibitor, at the Canadian National Exhibition

was supposed to be ruined in June and July, is now the crop that is bringing the best prices. This year is a feather in the cap of Manitoba, for all the best wheat will come from that province this year, except, of course, in the matter of winter wheat, of which Southern Alberta has reaped a particularly fine and profitable crop.

The wheat from southwestern Manitoba, while it is not a heavy crop, is of splendid quality and was early enough to escape all damage from frost or bleaching, much of it is already threshed and a little of it has come on the market.

The lessons of the year have been many, but the most obvious are that good farming pays best, whether the year be good or bad, and that mixed farming is the safest for all sections of the Canadian west.

into the country, because they have farmed right.

Sections that have suffered this year, however, where even the best farming would not avail, are in the newer districts of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Here the land was very new, very rich and cold. There was a superabundance of rain and the growth was the heaviest and finest I have ever seen, but there was not sufficient heat to ripen it. This is where mixed farming tells. If these men had stock all the grain could be fed at a profit. As it is those who have been in a few years have some stock and will do well, others who have put their little all into wheat will suffer materially.

Along the line of the Canadian Northern from Dauphin to Edmonton it was very noticeable the difference in attitude of

(Continued on page 943.)