

recent years, as it eliminates many of the disabilities of which they complained and which prevented their reaping the fair reward of their industry. Farmers have hitherto complained that the elevator operators mixed the grades, and that the standard of their wheat was lowered in consequence.

To Preserve Identity of Grades.

The new legislation guards against this and provides for the preservation of the identity of the grades. Whatever mixing is now to be done must be done before the wheat is graded, and if there is any profit in it the farmer will benefit. Mixing at a Fort William elevator or any subsequent terminal or transfer elevator, is forbidden; and as practically all the grading will be done in Winnipeg, the mixing must be done either before or after the grain reaches the city.

One important outcome of this will be the establishment of a sample market in Winnipeg, which is already recognized as the main point for the assembling of the grain, and whose importance as the centre for the handling of the grain will be enhanced. It is here that the grain will pass from sample into grade. Provision is also made for shipping grain bought on sample by the British or Eastern Canadian miller. In order to achieve this, the shipper is permitted to lease special bins from the elevators. To ensure the preservation of the identity of the grades in the general wheat movement in the autumn, the terminal and transfer elevators in Eastern Canada will be subject to the same inspection as the elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur. Thus, the wheat, in store and in transit, will be under the eye of the Government's officers from the time it leaves the West until it reaches the seaboard. It is expected and hoped that the working of the new act will result in better prices for the farmer, and that the provisions for shipping wheat on sample will give growers of good grain a chance of getting full value for it.

SITUATION IN WHEAT MARKET.

Prices Continue Firm—Enormous Shortage of Wheat and Flour.

Monetary Times Office,
Winnipeg, July 27th.

The past week has witnessed a continuation of the firm tone which has characterized the markets for the past two weeks. Cash prices No. 1 Northern are now in the vicinity of \$1.08, the highest point reached since the recent break, while the options all show an upward trend. Cables as a rule have been slightly higher, principally due to small Argentine shipments and decreased offerings from America and to unfavorable crop reports from certain of the grain producing countries. It is reported that the crop prospects in the Argentine are becoming less promising, and that estimates of the yield of various European countries are being reduced. Should the Argentine crop turn out a moderate or small one, as is quite possible after the large crops of the past four years, prices will almost certainly be higher next spring. Europe will make enormous demands upon America for supplies, and it is only a question of time when this demand must force Canadian markets higher. As it is, the export demand seems to be improving, and the domestic trade shows encouraging signs of improvement.

The season of 1907-8 started in with considerable supplies of old wheat on hand. The new season starts with practically nothing but the new crop to depend upon to supply a twelve months' requirements; while the world's crop of wheat for 1908-9 will in all probability be little greater, if any, than the yield of last season. There is an enormous shortage reported in the present stocks of wheat and flour, both visible and invisible, which are down to a very low point. Last week the world's shipments were only 4½ million bushels, the smallest quantity in one week for over ten years, and not half enough for European requirements of wheat for one week. The quantity on ocean passage was only 23¼ million, compared with 31½ million at the same period last year. The American visible shows a still diminishing quantity, being only 13¼ million against 46½ in 1907.

PROSPERITY AND CRIME.

Canada's Growing Population in Relation to Criminal Statistics.

As Canada grows older and richer so is it able to support a larger population, its need for which has led in the past to the adoption of extensive immigration schemes. From all parts of Europe, men and women have responded to the allurements of the advertising agent, and before the introduction of the new Government regulations none but the diseased and imbecile were turned away. At so much a head,

the agent did a big trade; Canada has paid the price in cash and other ways. Different races have different codes of morals. In the cosmopolitan army of settlers that has found its way to these shores during the past decade many there were who had yet to learn our principles of law and order. Not long ago it was the questionable practice of magistrates in England to acquit youthful male offenders on condition that they came to Canada. Fortunately, this country is no longer regarded as a convenient refuse heap for the morally deficient and criminally inclined. It is gratifying to note that the class of immigrants now arriving is perceptibly improving. The city loafer is realizing that he is not wanted.

Not Only the Foreign Element.

It must not be supposed that the foreign element alone is responsible for offences against the law in Canada. As a matter of fact, their delinquencies, as shown by official statistics for 1906, have been less in number than those of either Canadian or British born. Of the total number of persons convicted during the period 1896-1900, there was an average percentage of about 70 Canadian born, 12 British born outside of Canada, and 9 foreign born. During the period 1901-1905, the average percentage of convictions was 67 Canadian born, 11 British born outside of Canada, and 12 foreign born, as compared with 61 Canadian born, 12 British born outside of Canada and 16 foreign born for 1906. According to the last census, the Canadian born represented 87 per cent. of the total population, the British born outside of Canada, 8, and the foreign born, 5.

It is a tribute to the elevating influence of education that whereas laborers contribute more than any other class of occupation to the crime of the country, the professional class contributes the least. In 1906, the figures for the two categories were 3,140 and 92 respectively. Next to laborers, the commercial and industrial classes contributed the most, the former 1,027; and the latter, 1,049. Life on the farm and in the tranquil sphere of domestic service conduce apparently but little to criminality. Together, these two classes represent 587 in the records of crime for 1906. In 1906, 6,046 of the persons convicted had received only an elementary education, while 627 were unable to read or write. The number of persons of superior education who outraged society was 202.

Some Sentimental Considerations.

An argument in favor of the blessings of matrimony might be adduced from the fact that only 24.70 per cent. of the persons convicted were married, the irresponsibilities of the single state being indicated by a percentage of 58.76. Of the widowed, 99 out of just over a hundred were in the eyes of the law without stain or blemish.

A pleasing feature of these returns is the steady decrease since 1896 in the proportion of young offenders (under 16 years). Last year it was 11.68 per cent. The proportion of older offenders (40 years and over), shows a regular increase. But the bulk of crime is found in the group of 21 to 39 years, with a little less than one-half of the whole—49.84—in the period 1896-1900, 50.19 per cent. in the period 1901-1905, and 50.19 in 1906.

Increase in Population and Crime.

Comparative figures for the past few years show unmistakably that crime and prosperity have gone hand in hand. During 1906, there were 10,900 charges and 8,092 convictions for indictable offences throughout the provinces of the Dominion, as compared with the yearly average of 9,462 charges and 6,439 convictions for the period 1901-1905, and 8,033 charges and 5,638 convictions for the period 1896-1900. In other words, there was one conviction for every 134 inhabitants for the period 1896-1900, one conviction for every 110 inhabitants for the period of 1901-1905, and one conviction for every 84 inhabitants in 1906. The provinces showing the higher rate of increase in criminality were Manitoba and the Territories. This is explained by the corresponding rise in population in the western provinces.

The average percentage of crime compared by provinces was in 1906, highest in Ontario—43.60. Quebec followed with 24.88, then Manitoba with 9.69, the Territories, with 9.17, British Columbia with 6.90, Nova Scotia with 3.63, New Brunswick with 1.73 and Prince Edward Island with 0.31.

The great bulk of crime consisted of offences against property without violence. The percentage was 56.47. Offences against the person represented, 20 per cent.; offences against property with violence, 7.07; forgery and other offences against currency, 2.72; and malicious offences against property, 1 per cent.

Local option and the temperance campaign notwithstanding, drunkenness shows no signs of abating. During the ten years ending with 1905, this vice accounted for 35 per cent. of the total summary convictions as compared with 40 per cent. in 1906. Ontario is the only province whose share of convictions for drunkenness is lower than its share of population, while Prince Edward Island and Quebec share with Ontario the honor of having the lowest percentage for drunkenness as compared with their relative population.