

The Coming of a Great Host.— (Toronto Globe.)

our merchants and manufacturers would like to devote a good deal of attention to events impending in western Canada. Every day has its note of the arrival of batches of people settlers. One day it is the Scotch and the others have joined their brethren in Southern Alberta, the next it is a party of 400 English farmers from the Corn Law, and the following day it is the Scotch and the English, and from this source a migration is looked for which will equal, if not surpass, anything of a similar kind that has ever taken place at the continent. The Oklahoma land rush was thought to be the most remarkable movement of population that has been seen in this western hemisphere. It was certainly not rapid. Within a few days 50,000 people went in to the land to inhabit it. We are not going to witness any such high-pressure settlement as that, but before the season of 1902 closes, some 40,000 people will have gone into the Canadian west to settle in the new land, from the American towns where they have been accustomed to deal. It is easily credible that they would put themselves so much about unless they had some better goods across the line than they do here. We should think that they would well wish to pay some attention to their preferences, even the prejudices, of the incoming race, and give them a excellent quality and value for their money that any disposition to look to the old home for their supplies would quickly be removed. There is one thing at all points that the eastern merchant and manufacturer have to get a good grip of, and that is the fact that this will see such a transfer of population as this continent has not witnessed, to the same extent at least, for many a day.

The day of big things has already arrived for the west. The debate in the Commons on the grain blockade in Manitoba and the Territories contained revelations even for the well-informed members of parliament. It was stated even by the hon. member in charge of the blockade that the Canadian government had moved 35 per cent more wheat and 125 per cent more oats than it had done in the last season, and that in the same time, it had made but little impression on the mountains of grain that still remained in the west. The fall rains that year greatly delayed the threshing, with the consequence that the year had had 43 days to move grain before the closing of navigation. This was an unusually short season, and at the same time, the weather was so treacherous of the crop and the closing of navigation will always be narrowed by the margin, as we are concerned with the magnitude of the production, which the actual physical conditions of the grain has demonstrated. The Canadian Pacific railway has 100 boats and engines in the western division. In the transport of grain, 3,000 of these cars were employed. It was estimated that the trucks they would extend almost to the Pacific coast, and that the first of September and the 28th of December the railway delivered 14,281,401 bushels of grain at the Port Arthur and Port Arthur elevators. A great deal has since been moved, and yet the grain has not been moved. Every possible place of cover, except the barge, has been filled with wheat, and it is said that if it has been moved outside and covered as well as

the necessities of the case will allow. The situation is, as put by Mr. T. O. Davis, the member for Saskatchewan, that 400,000 people all told have produced 100,000,000 bushels of wheat. If we are going to add to these producers at the rate of 100,000 a year, the problem of transportation is bound to grow greater and greater, and that is the fact that the merchant and industrialist in the east, as well as the railways and the governmental authorities, must look at, not as a question of the future, but a question with which they are face to face.

Confederation Life.

The annual statement of the Confederation Life Association shows that substantial progress was made during the past year. The statements which is the 30th annual report of this company shows that as a result of the increase in the surplus of over \$40,000 on the company's own standard, and over \$70,000 on the government standard of valuation. In addition to this there was paid to policy-holders for profits during the year over \$71,000. The expenses of the year were \$5,000 less than in 1901, and the ratio of expenses to income the lowest in the history of the com-

pany engaged to most ports. There has also been a good demand from Canadian exporters, as a large volume of business has also been worked by them in Manitoba wheat; in consequence, the prospects are now more encouraging than they have been at any previous date this season for the grain export trade. Owing to the activity which has prevailed and the fact that the bulk of the May room has been engaged a firmer feeling has developed in the market and asking rates in several cases have been advanced 1-2 to 3d. The asking rates are as follows:—Liverpool, 1s 3d; May, London, 1s 2-1/2d; May, Glasgow, 1s 3d; May, Avonmouth, 1s 3d; June, Manchester, 1s 7-1/2d; June, Hamburg, 1s 2-1/2d; May, Antwerp, 1s 3d; May, Belfast, 1s 10-1/2d; May, Dublin, 1s 10-1/2d; May, Leith, 2s 3d; June, Cork, 2s 3d; May, Rotterdam, 1s 3d; May, according to latest mail advices from New York, more interest has developed in the market for full cargoes of grain. Steamers for prompt shipment, Cork for orders, have been engaged at 2s 5d, and bids of 1s 9d have been made for tonnage to be picked ports. Rates are quoted as follows:—Liverpool, 1s 1-1/2d; London, 1s 3-1/2d; Glasgow, 1s 1-1/2d; Newcastle, 1s 1-1/2d; Antwerp, 1s 3-1/2d; Rotterdam, 1s 1-1/2d; Bristol, 2s 3-1/2d; Leith, 2s 3d; Hull, 2s 1-1/2d; Bremen, 2s 10 pfgs.; and Hamburg, 2s 10 pfgs.

C. P. R. Land Sales.

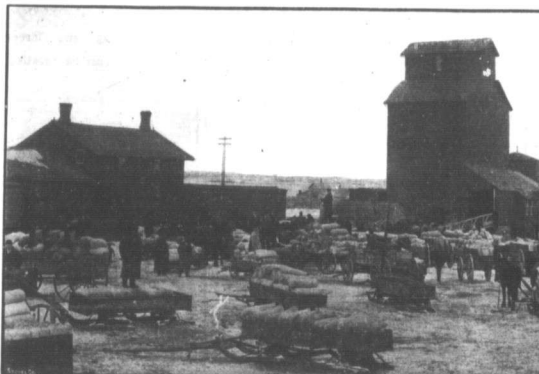
The month of March has in former years not been a particularly good one in the land sale business of the C. P. R., and no big returns were looked for, but the figures given out by the land department beat all records for corresponding months in previous years.

The sales for March, 1902, more than triples those of the same month a year ago. There were 101,029.22 acres sold during the month just closed for \$28,822.22. For March, 1901, there were 30,540.14 acres sold for \$122,292.47. The total sales for the year 1902 up to date amount to \$288,910.64 acres for \$807,770.83. This is a big increase over the sales for the same months for the previous year.

The C. N. W. Land Company's sales for March, 1902, amounted to \$18,163 acres for \$75,671, against only 3,650 acres for \$10,000 for March, 1901. The sales for the present year by this company amount to 39,430 acres, for \$181,406.

May 20, 1902, in the date fixed by the United States for turning over the Island of Cuba to its people.

Eastern papers assert that the maple sugar and syrup produced this spring is being extensively adulterated.



The Grain Blockade—Photo Taken at Wolseley, Assiniboia, in February.

pany, which is an excellent showing, in view of the general tendency of late years in life insurance business to increase the expenses incurred. The total insurance in force at the close of the year was \$23,152,085, under 22,000 policies. The interest received in the year was sufficient to pay the claims and leave a surplus of \$86,208. The financial statement reproduced in the annual statement gives a clear exhibit of the favorable position of the company.

In the West the Confederation Life has long been developed in life insurance, and the past year has been one of the best ever experienced in the West. The good work done by the western officials of the Confederation Life was recently recognized by the promoters of the managers of the departments here, as noted in a late issue of The Commercial.

Ocean Grain Freight.

The improvement in the demand for ocean grain room for spring shipment from this port, noted in our report of a week ago, says the Montreal Gazette, has continued to show considerable activity, and a large volume of business has been done. This has been due to the recent sharp decline in prices for grain in the United States markets, which has enabled American shippers to do a large amount of business with foreign houses; in consequence, they have been in the market for ocean grain space, and some large lines have been

Prices at Dawson.

Dawson, March 12.—Correspondence—Tolled oats are selling in Dawson cheaper than oats. Oats are cornered, and have been for months, and rolled oats are a glut and are going for horse feed. Oats sell at 9 cents per cwt. out at 8 cents. Many farmers are also buying cornmeal, grits and the like at about the same prices as rolled oats. Fine class hams are all gone. Hay is abundant, and has recently taken a slump to 7 cents. Hay which most all stocks have Cream has made a notable advance the last few weeks to \$15 a case for all brands, and all brands are exhausted. Several sold early in the season as low as \$8, and \$10 was a high figure until an short time ago. Fine class hams are all gone, and second class go at 35 cents. Bacon has gone up accordingly from 20 to 25 cents. The first fresh eggs over the ice season are just about over in stove-heated and covered rigs. No serious shortage in any line will occur, and this is the first winter this has been the case, and the first in which most all stocks have declined in price toward the end of the season. Fear of stocks being left in the air has caused the freight rates to rise next summer lower rates in many lines.

John Lee, New York agent of the White Star line, confirmed the report this week that the British and continental lines have reached an agreement regarding saloon passenger rates, and added the information that these rates will be slightly advanced

Regina Board of Trade.

Regina, March 24.—The annual meeting of Regina board of trade was held this evening. Mayor Smith, the president, in the chair. Mr. H. Martin, treasurer, read the annual statement, which showed receipts \$21,157, expenditures \$182,085, balance in hand \$28,800. Mr. Wm. Trant, secretary, read his annual report, which reviewed in detail the work of the year, pointing out the benefits accruing to the district through its labors. The board has materially assisted in attracting immigration and was a great assistance to the farmers last fall in procuring help and threshing outfits and solving the transportation question.

The report was adopted and the thanks of the board conveyed to the retiring president.

Mr. J. M. Young was then elected president for the ensuing year, and Mr. F. N. Drake vice-president. Mr. Wm. Trant for the sixth time was elected secretary by acclamation. The following were selected to serve on the council: A. P. Angus, R. S. Barrow, G. Colbeck, W. J. Cumming, W. McCausland, J. R. Marshall, E. Martin, C. Michelson, J. W. Smith, R. Williams, W. M. Williamson.

Mr. J. M. Young, the new president, then was installed and thanked for his meeting for the honor done him, promising to do his utmost to carry on all works for the good of the town. A long discussion then took place as to subscription fees to the board and ultimately it was decided to raise it from \$1 to \$2, and the meeting then adjourned.