

MANITOBA CROP BULLETIN.

ACTUAL CONDITION OF WHEAT AND OTHER CROPS.

Statistics and Information Gathered by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture—Prices of Lands and Other Reports.

Crop Bulletin No 34, of the Manitoba department of agriculture and immigration, reached us too late for notice in our last issue. It is summarized from the returns received from the regular correspondents of the department under date of July 1. The subjoined statement gives comparisons with 1891 of a number of items dealt with in the report:

WHEAT.

The bulletin says:—"This crop promises to be of the best. The cold weather during part of June threw it back at first from a week to ten days behind last year, but it is doing well and the farmers are jubilant over the prospect. Where poor seed was used it is not as good as it ought to be, the growth being thin. When we say poor seed we mean seed that was threshed from the stacks this spring or late last fall and became heated in the bins; but where good seed was sown it is fully up to the average. In some places there was a good deal of wind which has caused it to be thin in places. Where the seed was drilled in it is looking much better than where it has been sown broadcast, but in all cases it is reported to have a good color and making rapid advancement."

OATS.

Correspondents are more agreed in opinion as to this crop than is the case with regard to wheat. Of course there are places from which poor and thin fields are reported, but in general it is thick on the ground, healthy and of a good color, but would seem to be about ten days late. The area this year exceeds other years by about thirty thousand acres. In some places they were sown on stubble without proper cultivation and do not look so well as where they are properly cultivated.

BARLEY.

The acreage under this crop is considerably ahead of last year, and when our bulletin was issued there remained a good deal yet to be sown. All correspondents agree that the prospects for a good crop are of the brightest, and several correspondents say it promises to be the best they have seen since they came to the province, but that the two-rowed barley looks best.

Peas and flax—All reports in regard to peas and flax show that they are doing well. There will probably be a good crop.

Potatoes and roots—Are this year very late. Early potatoes were damaged by the June frosts slightly and the turnip fly and grub have done the crop much damage. They are now doing well, however, and promise a good crop.

Hay—Reports from all parts of the province are very favorable and show that the crop will be abundant and of excellent quality.

STOCK AND DAIRYING.

Live stock—Is in excellent condition on account of the abundance of good grasses. The stock looks better than it ever did.

Dairying.—The industry is not receiving the attention it deserves, but is steadily growing. In 1891 there were 75,968 milch cows and this year the number has increased to 79,856.

Stallions—The province is well supplied and almost every township has one or more stallions owned in it. The total number is 706.

Broodmares—Are rapidly increasing. This year shows 31,441 being an increase of 1,000 over last year.

GENERAL FARMING.

A statement gives the number of farmers in the province, together with the average quantity of land put under cultivation by each. The number of farmers is shown to be 20,517, being an increase over that of last year by 1,530. The average under crop by each is shown to be the same as last year. It is pleasant, says the bulletin, to know that each year shows an increase in the number of farmers in the province and consequently each year we are becoming greater producers, which means that we are becoming more prosperous. As so many new settlers have arrived in the province this year, it is expected that next year we will be able to show a great increase in the number of farmers over this year.

AVERAGE PRICES OF LANDS.

A table shows the average prices of lands, improved and unimproved, through the province as well as the percentage of the whole area fit for

cultivation and taken up by settlers. In the various district lands are nearly the same value, the highest being \$12.00 in the southwestern, and the lowest \$10.45 in the north central. The highest individual price is reported from the north central district, being \$30 for improved and \$20 for unimproved land. The average for the province is \$11.24, showing an increase over last year when it was reported at \$10.85. In unimproved lands also there is an increase in value, the rates for 1891 and the present year being \$6.96 and \$7.23 respectively. A percentage equal to 66 per cent. of the whole area is shown to be taken up by settlers. This is an increase of 33 per cent over last year when it was given at 62.7 per cent. The area fit for cultivation is given at 75 per cent of the whole.

GRISTING MILLS.

Correspondents were asked if there was a grist mill in their district and for the name and address of the owner or manager, and the result is the following list:

- Wm. Grant, Toddburn. Arrow Milling Co., Birtle. Herriot & McCullough, Plum Creek. Pearson Bros. & Man, Minnedosa. J. G. Boulton, Russell. W. H. Whimster, Strathclair. Assissippi Milling Co., Assissippi. J. Ovas, Rapid City. R. Muir, Shoal Lake. Shaw Bros., Lake Dauphin. Herriot & McCullough, Souris. Preston & McKay, Boisvevain. Keosler Bros., Virden. Leitch Bros., Oak Lake. Melita Milling Co., Melita. Moore & McFarlane, Virden. Carberry Milling Co., Carberry. Geo. Rogers, Carberry. Beautiful Plains Milling Company, Neepawa.

- McDonnell & Cameron, Baldur. W. H. Clandenning, Carman. J. M. Cochrane, Crystal City. Will & Dow, Pilot Mound. G. & H. B. White, Pilot Mound. R. McIntosh, Manitou. Peter Reimer, Schanzenfeldt. Abraham Reimer, Schanzenfeldt. John Peters, Schanzenfeldt. W. Ford, Treherne. Holland Roller Mills, Holland. John Moyers, Holland. B. Froser, Morden.

OUR PRIZE WHEAT.

The bulletin calls attention to the fact recently chronicled in the SAXON, that last spring the department sent to the International Miller's Exhibition in London, England, samples of Manitoba wheat and as a result Manitoba carried off the championship gold medal. The importance of wheat becoming so favorably known in the old country markets, can scarcely be over-estimated.

Money Made in Farming.

"I have paid careful attention to the working of farmers' business at our country branches, and the managers of the bank have been instructed to give special attention to it also. The past year has not been supposed to be a year of much saving with farmers, but it is fact that out of 29 branches where farmers' deposits are received, in 27 of them there has been an increase in such deposits. In only two has there been a decrease, and that only of a small amount. I have no doubt that this experience has been common. The whole deposits of the country in the banks, and in government and other savings banks a year ago were \$213,000,000. They now amount to \$231,000,000. I have little doubt that a large proportion of this increase belongs to farmers."—(George Hague, Manager Merchants' Bank, Montreal.)

Many More Coming.

Parties of United States farmers from Dakota are arriving in Winnipeg every week to make homes in the British Northwest. The last party consisted of nearly fifty souls from North Dakota and were going west to take up homesteads. They say that there is a general feeling throughout the whole state in favor of moving to this country, and only the late season and wet weather prevented hundreds from joining this party, but they are coming later on. In this party are first-class representative farmers from all parts of the state. Most left for the west immediately, a few remaining behind until to-day.

Experiments have been made at Old Point Comfort, Va., and Ocean City, Md., which the British and Canadian Governments will no doubt feel interested in. From cannon stationed on the beach canisters filled with oil so constructed as to allow the contents to gradually find their way to the sea, were fixed seaward when the weather was stormy and the waves unusually high and fierce. The result was to enormously diminish the force of the breakers and render the launching of lifeboats and saving of lives from shipwreck comparatively easy.

RICH NICKEL DEPOSITS.

REMARKABLE FINDS IN LAKE OF THE WOODS REGION.

Mammoth Lodes Located—100 Feet of Solid Ore at Sultana Mine Showing Visible Gold at Every Blast.

A despatch from Rat Portage says letters received there show the recently discovered nickel mines in the Lake of the Woods region are attracting considerable attention. They are also bringing many strangers to the district.

An offer was made to the owners of the Frenchman mine, located southwest of Keewatin about two miles, the sum being \$6,000 cash and one-eighth interest in paid up stock. The offer had not been accepted, as a better offer was pending on the report of an expert sent on by a Boston syndicate. The despatch continues: "This is a remarkable property; the outcrop occurs on the face of an escarpment bordering on the lake, and is over 200 FEET IN WIDTH.

This mammoth lode is traceable for a distance of twelve miles northeast, crossing the narrows on Black Sturgeon Lake, following the line of contact at the Huronian slates.

Arrangements are made with a Milwaukee party for putting a diamond drill on the property of Chas. Moore, situated about four miles east of Rat Portage, and three miles north of C.P.R. The outcrop there is about 60 feet in width and is nearly solid pyrites of iron the associate metal of nickel. Big developments are looked for in this important metal that abounds in such a large body in this district of the Lake of the Woods. The Sultana is turning out to be

A WORLD BEATER.

Recent developments made in stripping the ore body exposes a width of more than 100 feet in solid ore that shows visible gold from nearly every blast. Mr. J. F. Caldwell, the manager, has ordered two barges to be built at once and has also ordered a steam drill. The ore will be quarried in open cut instead of sinking shafts and hoisting. The cost of mining will not exceed 75 cents per ton with the Diamond drill. It is estimated that the ore will average clear across the vein \$50 per ton. Enough ore is now in sight to make the owner a millionaire several times over. Other mines in the district are rushing in ore to the reduction works until the vicinity around it looks like a young mountain growing up. Oliver Doumaix THE SILVER KING of Port Arthur, is here looking after his mining interests. He was on Clearwater Bay and will bring in some 500 tons of ore which he took out one and two years ago. Taking the present outlook, Rat Portage has a bright future ahead of it and every one is happy.

LIQUID TAR DISCOVERIES.

Indian Traditions of "Springs of Black Mud" Lead to the Locating of a District Where Tar Oozes from the Earth.

The Edmonton Bulletin reports the following interesting discovery of liquid tar beds: For years past reports have been spread from time to time, regarding the presence of asphalt and petroleum tar in the country surrounding Edmonton, and a good deal of time and money have been expended in the hitherto vain effort to locate the actual springs. Indian stories were told of springs of black mud here and there, but none of these stories could be traced up to actual facts. The Indian who knew the place was dead, or the one who had heard of it was unable to find it, or the spring having been found, it was only black mud and not the wished for petroleum. Color was lent to these reports by the known facts regarding the

VAST PETROLEUM DEPOSITS on the Athabasca, which might easily extend to underlie the Edmonton district; by the fact that limestone boulders saturated with petroleum tar in a hard dry state were frequently found on the river bars, and by the further fact that in the valley of a creek, about 60 miles southwest of Edmonton large boulders or broken pieces of sandstone saturated with tar were found, and a similar find was made at Pigeon lake. The weak point of these discoveries was that, although beyond all question the tar was there, being only in loose movable pieces of stone, no clue was given as to the locality of the springs from which it came. A local company was formed to bore for oil at the creek mentioned, but the drill procured was unsuited for the purpose and soon broke, and the boring was abandoned. This was the last attempt that was made to find oil until Monday of this

week. Rumors had been gathering ever since spring opened as to the existence of

A MOST PECULIAR SPRING, north of St. Albert, and on Monday last P. Daly drove out to the place about 22 miles distant to investigate. On his return he brought with him a number of pieces of earth or mud saturated with tar so as to be quite flexible and a panful of the tar itself in a semi-liquid state, taken out of a hole which he caused to be dug to a depth of about five feet. Apparently the tar had exuded through a crack in the ground, saturating the surface earth and being itself hardened by the process. About two feet below the surface the first

PURE LIQUID TAR

was found in what appeared like pockets as far as the digging was carried. The color of the tar is black with a very slight brownish tinge. It is of the consistency and has very much of the smell of ordinary coal tar. In every way it exactly resembles the tar found on the Athabasca, which has been pronounced by geologists to be the product of petroleum beds. The tar burns readily in a fire, giving off smoke and a smell exactly like petroleum. Whether or not the tar is a sure indication of a profitable petroleum field, there is no doubt of the genuineness of the find, and as little that it is not confined to that single locality.

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