

RAINFALL OF INESTIMABLE VALUE IN THE WEST

Nearly all Parts of Prairie Provinces Benefit by Abundant Moisture—Storm Damage is Comparatively Small—
Saskatchewan Wheat Yield Reduced by Drought,
But Rainfall Prevented Absolute Ruin

SINCE the last crops reports were published in *The Monetary Times*, the western situation has changed materially and the outlook is much more cheerful in some parts. There have been beneficial rainfalls of inestimable value in nearly all parts of the west, and although in some places the storms were very heavy, the damage by hail, wind or lightning is comparatively small. In Alberta, the Red Deer, Lethbridge, Manton, MacLeod and Carmangy districts experienced heavy downpours. Grains were not suffering in these places, because about a week before, as already mentioned in these columns, there had been a fairly general rain in the province, but nevertheless the additional moisture was welcomed.

In Southern Saskatchewan heavy rains have fallen, which, according to experts, arrived just in time to save thousands of acres from ruin. While the rainfall varied considerably in different districts, it is believed that the dry spell has been broken. There are still some parts, however, which are badly in need of moisture. A rain, said to be worth millions of dollars to the growing crops, has fallen in Manitoba, extending to and beyond Brandon. Other districts also received benefit of this nature.

Storm Damage in Saskatchewan

Southern Saskatchewan where the storm was the heaviest is the only place, as far as known, where there was damage to any extent. Frobisher, Alameda, Benson, Lampman, Kronau, Edgeley, Edenwold and Avonhurst districts were affected the most, barns and crops in those districts being completely wrecked by winds and hail. In the first two places two deaths and many injuries are reported. At other points outside of those mentioned, the rain was so heavy as to result in the grain being lodged. Damage in the whole of Southern Saskatchewan is conservatively estimated at \$200,000. This may be doubled in the final estimate.

British Columbia Fruit not so Good

Fruit crop conditions in British Columbia are not nearly as good as they were reported some weeks ago, the sudden change from cold to heat, following a late spring, having worked havoc among the berry plants, according to J. A. Grant, British Columbia fruit commissioner, following an inspection trip of the lower fruit lands of British Columbia.

The shortage of berries is explained by the fact that the berry crop will only be 60 per cent. of last year's crop, and that the growers can get as good a price from the by-products factories as they are getting from the prairie jobbers, with the result that tons of the berries never reach the prairie markets.

A prominent Ontario fruit grower estimates that the damage done to fruit in the Niagara district by last week's storm will aggregate not less than \$500,000. The peach and apple crops, he said, suffered the most severely.

Saskatchewan Yield Reduced

Despite the valuable rainfall in the province of Saskatchewan last week, farmers have incurred very heavy losses in wheat as a result of the scorching heat and drought of the preceding ten days or so, according to Hon. Geo. Langley, who estimates the decrease in yield from this cause at between fifty and seventy-five million bushels. The minister of municipal affairs has returned from an extensive tour of the northern part of the province. He stated that with the information he already had of conditions elsewhere, and from what he had seen during his journey by rail and auto, he had formed the opinion that, in consequence of the drought, the wheat yield of Saskatchewan would be less from fifty mil-

lions to seventy-five millions bushels than was promised at the beginning of July.

In other places, the Minister had seen the crop ruined beyond redemption. "In the district fifty miles east, west and south of Saskatoon and twenty-five miles north, the average yield," said Mr. Langley, "could not possibly be greater than from five to eight bushels to the acre, and in the other parts visited where the crop was much more promising, such as the district north of Battleford, towards Turtleford and the Jackfish country, where the crop was really magnificent, I saw scores of fields where the young ears had been scorched by the sun, and will likely entail a reduction in yield of from 20 to 35 per cent.

"The recent ample rains would not to any material extent assist the above estimate," continued the Minister. "Had the heat continued for four or five days more the loss would have been more than double what it is above stated. The farmers have been saved from this calamity by the rains. The oat crop, which over large areas had become stagnant and was being dried up, will be greatly benefited by the rain and will show a large increase, both in the threshable grain and bulk fodder."

NEW COMPANIES IN MANITOBA

Every sort of business in Manitoba is on the increase. More business has been done during the past eight months than during the whole of 1919, according to the books kept in the provincial secretary's office, showing new companies incorporated and increases in capitalization made by old firms. Letters patent and licenses were issued for companies having an aggregate capitalization of \$60,000,000 during the eight months' period. The total for the whole of last year was \$57,000,000.

METROPOLITAN LIFE AGENTS MEET

Representatives of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. met in Vancouver on July 20th at a company convention. Those present from head office included Haley Fiske, president, and F. O. Ayres, R. L. Cox, K. Frankel, James E. Kavanagh and Dr. Lee. Mr. Fiske described the enormous scope of the company's work, stating that it had a policy on the life of every eighth man, woman and child in Canada, and had \$60,000,000 invested in this country.

CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

At the fifteenth annual general meeting of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of British Columbia, held in Vancouver, many items of interest to the profession were discussed. The report of the retiring president, W. S. Buttar, dealt with, amongst other matters, the proposed new by-laws and regulations, the raising of the membership subscription, the holding of the annual examinations in December instead of May, as heretofore, and the alteration of the end of the institute's financial year to 31st January instead of 30th June.

The following members were elected to serve on the council during the ensuing year, viz.: A. L. C. Chalk, H. C. Chiene, J. D. Forsyth, H. D. Christie, A. H. Edwards, A. F. Griffiths, G. F. Gyles, G. E. Winter and J. B. Woodthorpe.

G. E. Winter and G. Tansley were elected to represent the institute at the meeting of the Dominion Association of Chartered Accountants, to be held in Toronto in September next, and it was decided to invite the members of the Dominion Association to visit Vancouver in 1921 as the guests of the British Columbia Institute.

At a council meeting held subsequently the following officers were elected: President, J. B. Woodthorpe; vice-president, G. F. Gyles; secretary-treasurer, H. D. Christie.