

markets may improve, but the Western Canadian stock-raiser feels no benefit.

Last winter, when the cry went up over the shortage of cars for moving the crops, the railways blamed the snowstorms, and the reply was always "unfavorable weather." There have been no snowstorms, no unfavorable weather so far this season, yet complaints are already finding their way from country points to the columns of the newspapers. Why shouldn't the railways be made to pay for their incompetence? Their breakdown last winter was an outrage and a serious blow to Western Canada. Assurances have been handed out by the railways ever since that they would be able to handle the business without difficulty "next fall," yet signs are in evidence that such is not the case. The companies have had ample warning and ample time to make proper preparations for handling this season's crops. If they again fail they will fail deliberately, and should be made to take the consequences. Last year excuses were accepted. This year no excuse should prevent the matter being dealt with in a manner such as to make another repetition impossible.

After putting up with an inefficient and crippled service all last fall and winter, the people of the West had a right to expect that they would be protected from a repetition of last year's inconvenience and loss. The prime necessity just now is to get the crop out of the country. The money coming back will afford the financial relief so much needed. The combination of circumstances now existing in the West renders the prompt movement of the crop imperative. Throughout the country banks decline to renew advances to farmers so long as their grain remains unsold, arguing that if farmers can afford to hold grain for a speculative rise, they can afford to pay their debts. Grain buyers are confronted by the same argument. They are told that they must dispose of the grain now in their elevators and use the returns therefrom to buy more. But the cars are not forthcoming and elevators in many cases are at a standstill. It is said that no less than eight out of seventeen elevators south of Calgary were refusing grain recently. Both grain buyers and farmers are thus between two stools—the banks and the railways. The banks are as much in disfavor, indeed, as the railways, which is scarcely to be wondered at when Canadians go into the United States and find Americans liquidating the Canadian bills. This certainly lends color to the conviction of western men versed in financial matters, that our banks have loaned the money across the border at large discounts, at the inconvenience and loss of the people in Canada to whom it belongs.

Mr. T. C. Irving, Canadian Manager of Brodets' Commercial agency, when in Winnipeg recently, said to an interviewer, "I see nothing

but the most promising optimism in this vast Western country, and the optimism is warranted. There is nothing to justify pessimism. You have land with mineral and vegetable wealth in it, and in my opinion you should have no fear for the future, for you are really better off than the East. The present money stringency is having an excellent effect on the country, and when it is tided over, matters will be brighter than ever before."

PRICE OF FROZEN WHEAT

The Secretary of the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association, Mr. R. McKenzie, Brandon, has furnished the Ontario Department of Agriculture with some interesting facts and figures regarding the price of feed wheat. Frozen wheat is being sold by farmers at Manitoba points at from 25c. to 30c. less per bushel than is quoted at Fort William. While elevator owners were refusing to pay more than 22c. per bushel for wheat graded No. 2 feed, the cash price at Fort William showed a margin to the buyer of 25c. per bushel. If purchased through the regular channel this frozen wheat would cost laid down in Ontario about 70c. per bushel, which is too high for profitable feeding as compared with corn. The Department advises farmers in districts where feed is scarce to organize and purchase cooperatively in car-lots directly through the Grain Growers' Grain Co., Ltd., Winnipeg, to whom orders for feed wheat may be sent.

Parties desiring to secure frozen wheat for feeding purposes may also communicate with W. W. Moore, Chief Market Division, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, who will put them in touch with people in the West who have frozen wheat to sell.

OTTAWA NOTES

"Farmers buying grain from Manitoba for feed should be very careful lest they introduce weeds into their land that may be very difficult to eradicate."

So said Mr. T. G. Raynor, the Ontario representative on the Dominion seed division to the Ottawa correspondent of the Farming World yesterday.

"Though the bringing this grain here is a great benefit," he added, "it constitutes a real danger to the pure seed cause in Ontario. Owing to the low price at which this grain is sold it is not carefully cleaned, and contains in some cases large quantities of weed seeds. This is true of both wheat and oats, which contain a great deal of wild buckwheat, ball mustard, and oats and other bad seeds. In the consignments of oats the greatest danger is from wild oats. An official of the Ontario Department of Agriculture recently inspected at Port Arthur a carload of number three

oats, and was surprised at the alarmingly large percentage of wild oats. All farmers are aware of the danger of importing grain containing the seeds of noxious weeds, and it will be to their advantage to take advantage of a warning given in time."

A bulletin setting forth the work of the Seed Division has been prepared for the use of reports addressing Farmers' Institute meetings during the coming season. The three principles that the seed division stands and works for are enumerated as follows:

"For the production of high class and pure seed.

"For the eradication of noxious weeds.

"For the best methods of cultivating the soil in order to secure most effectively the two previous objects."

The bulletin contains other useful information, in connection with seed production and trade.

The Seed Division, this summer, undertook a very important work in the testing of garden seeds. General complaints from all over the country had reached the Seed Commissioner, and for that reason samples were taken of seed offered for sale by grocers and by seedsmen for garden use. Turnip, mangel, onion, cabbage, carrot, and all other leading garden seeds were tested for germinating power, and the results will shortly be issued in printed form.

Ottawa, Nov. 28.

F. D.

NOVA SCOTIA CROPS

The Nova Scotia crop report for November 1907, just issued by the Secretary for Agriculture, Prof. M. Cumming, is reassuring. Though some lines are short, the crop yield as a whole has been good. The estimated yield of hay is 90 per cent. of a crop, a wide variation in yield being reported for different parts of the province. In some places hay is selling at \$20 a ton. Oats are estimated at 100 per cent., with the straw yield unusually heavy. Both wheat and barley are estimated at 95 per cent., and ensilage crop at 90. The estimated yield of potatoes is 110 per cent.; mangels 95 per cent.; and turnips 105 per cent. of an average crop.

The condition of live stock improved greatly during the summer as compared with what it was in the spring, though owing to the cold rains it was not in as good shape at the approach of winter as it was a year ago at this time.

1907 has been a most satisfactory year for fruit. The crop return gives an estimate of 100 per cent., as compared with 75 per cent. last year. Dealers have been paying all the way from \$1.75 to \$3.50 per bbl. for fruit.

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