

WESTERN CANADA SECTION

ROOM 315, NANTON BUILDING, WINNIPEG. 'Phone 8142. Representative, G. W. GOODALL.

Not the first gentleman to recommend an Eastern company to invest more largely in the West is Mr. Frank Sanderson, who, so long connected with the Canada Life Insurance Company, is a capable observer. His long inspection trip throughout Western Canada afforded the best possible idea of the excellence of Western investments. He has stated his intention to recommend that his company should increase the amount of its money placed in the prairie country. Eastern capital, which goes West, does two excellent things—it helps the West to grow; it brings back satisfactory profits to the investor.

HARVESTING OPERATIONS COMMENCE.

**Weather Very Warm—Some Districts Hailed Out—
Portage la Prairie and Brandon are Progressing.**

Monetary Times Office,
Winnipeg, August 3rd.

Fine, warm weather has been the programme of the past week. Many districts would be benefited by a refreshing rain, as very warm weather is liable to bring the grain on too fast. Barley cutting is in full swing, and the yield is expected to be very good. By the end of the week the farmers of the West will be busily engaged laying low the fields of waving grain. Harvesting will be general by the 15th of August. In a number of districts serious storms have occurred within the past few days, and in several instances quite large tracts of country in Saskatchewan have been hailed out. The worst of these storms occurred in the Fillmore district, where several hundred acres of wheat were destroyed by hail. This is the first serious damage to the crop from this source. Last year, much injury was caused by hail, and the principal hail insurance companies lose considerably on the season's operations. This year, with the above exception, little damage is reported.

Water from the Assiniboine.

Your representative visited the Portage plains and the Brandon district last week, and gathered some information in regard to the crops in these two important centres. Several bank managers of Portage la Prairie stated that the crops in their district would not be of more than a fair average; but let it be said that this part of the country never has what can be called a crop failure, and at the same time seldom has a bumper crop. It is generally a bountiful one. One bank manager had travelled extensively through the whole district and his remarks may be taken as authoritative. He stated that the Portage plains would reap as good a harvest as last year, possibly a little better. Business among the merchants was fairly brisk, and their accounts were being met satisfactorily, while in very few instances were obligations being unfulfilled.

Mr. Edward Brown, the energetic Mayor of Portage la Prairie, stated that owing to the inadequacy of the water supply, the city had embarked on a scheme for procuring a supply from the Assiniboine River, which would be ample for the city's requirements for all time. A new system of sewage was also being installed, and when these public utilities were completed Portage la Prairie would be in most respects an up-to-date and modern city.

Mr. Herbert W. Baker, publicity agent and secretary of the Board of Trade of Portage la Prairie, is at present preparing a beautiful booklet setting forth the advantages of the city. It will be profusely illustrated, and when issued will be one of the finest booklets of its kind ever got out in Western Canada.

In the Brandon district, the crops promise a much more satisfactory return than last year, and the country generally could not look better. The crop will not be a bumper one,

If interested in Western Canada write

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but will be well above the average, according to the report of one of the city's bank managers. Your representative saw several fields of barley in course of being cut, and this cereal also will show a good average crop. The business men of Brandon never felt more confident than at the present time, as the outlook for the district could not be better. One feature which was particularly noticeable in both Brandon and Portage la Prairie was the handsome bank buildings on every hand. The Brandon branch of the Merchants Bank have recently moved into new quarters on Rosser Avenue, which are splendidly appointed down to the smallest detail. City Treasurer Sykes also reported that the finances of Brandon were in a very satisfactory condition.

Municipal Stockyards for Winnipeg.

The recently expressed intention of the city to promote the construction of municipally owned stockyards and abattoir has had the effect of inducing the railway companies to resolve upon building these utilities, and thus obviate the necessity of the city going into the stockyard business. Mr. F. W. Peters, assistant to Mr. Whyte, second vice-president of the C.P.R., stated in an interview that it was needless expense for Winnipeg to go into the business, especially when the railways were willing to take upon themselves the burden of the work. Mr. Peters added that the Union Stockyards Company received a charter from the Dominion Parliament just before the close of the present session, and although a majority of the stock would be held by the three railways combined, quite a lot of it would be held by outside parties. The Union Stockyards would have all facilities for buying and selling stock, abattoirs, packing houses, and every modern and up-to-date convenience. It was quite recognized that the present stockyards were quite inadequate, but this would be remedied by the new company, which would be able to take care of all the business for many years to come. It is understood that a suitable location has been acquired where it will be no nuisance to the city.

Banks are Getting Ready.

The banks are commencing unusually early to make arrangements for the financing of the crop in the autumn. It is announced that the Bank of Montreal has a standing order to ship \$250,000 daily until \$2,000,000 has been reached. In local commercial circles, the general conditions continue to grow better, and with the improved credits throughout the entire West, little anxiety is felt in respect to meeting financial obligations resulting from legitimate business transactions. Commercial paper is also being met in a more satisfactory manner.

IN THE WHEAT MARKETS.

**Wheat Season of 1908-9 Begins—Markets Fluctuating,
But Steady—Higher Prices Certain.**

Monetary Times Office,
Winnipeg, August 3rd.

Although there have been fluctuations of a few cents during the past week, with at first a lower tendency, prices on the whole have maintained their position. The market may best be described as steady to firm, and moderately active. The situation is strictly one of demand and supply, and one which carries with it steady and comparatively high prices. In the early part of the week, heavy shipments on the market brought lower foreign cables, and despite bullish crop reports prices on the Winnipeg and American markets weakened. On Wednesday and Thursday a stronger tendency was indicated. Black rust reports from Minnesota and the Dakotas came to hand, and although these reports were conflicting, there seemed to be sufficient truth in them to influence the markets to some extent, more especially when they became increasingly numerous and form a wider territory as the week wore on. On the other hand, it was claimed