

Need for more Rain in the West

Practically everything which could militate against a bumper crop in the West this year has been overcome.

By E. CORA HIND.

Winnipeg, July 14.—Conditions are not quite so good as at last writing as there has been a further week of very dry weather in many large sections of the west, in fact the Manitoba Free press crop report, the fourth in the series, issued July 13 gives returns from 241 points and 115 of these reported rain needed and 75 per cent. of them rain badly needed. The present forecast gives no promise of general rain. Rain within a week would offset most of the damage but considerable of the flax sown on breaking and a lot of the late oats are stunted and rain is needed to fill the wheat which is now 75 per cent. out in head. Rye has done remarkably well this season and considerable winter rye has been cut for hay and that retained for seed will be ready for the binders at the end of next week. There is lots of good crop in the country but most of it needs rain if it is to mature a yield in proportion to the stand.

The grasshopper plague has been largely overcome and loss from that source will be small. There is considerable damage from cutworms in some districts, more especially in Alberta, but there is little or no hail damage and no further drifting since the report of June 23. The southern portion of Alberta is about the only large area that has had a general and heavy rain during the past ten days and the improvement in conditions there, in the territory that was not injured by wind, is very marked indeed, in fact men well posted on agricultural conditions think that with decent moisture from now on the unblown portion of southern Alberta, which means all but some 200,000 acres will reap as good a crop as in 1917 which while not a bumper, was still a paying one.

No Black Rust.

The development of black rust in the western states has led to many anxious inquiries as to the possibilities of rust in the western Canadian crop. So far there is absolutely no cause for anxiety. There has been no weather to breed rust, the nights being cool and clear, the straw is not lush and the shortage of rain, so deplored for development of crop, is certainly a protection against rust. Whatever may develop in the future there is no likelihood of rust with present weather conditions.

The reports as to rust in the western states are conflicting but there is little doubt that

there is serious damage over a very considerable areas of the spring wheat country, but their conditions have been entirely different, they have had heavy rains and very hot sultry weather for some weeks.

Agricultural Council Want Control.

The Canadian Council of Agriculture at a meeting held yesterday have come out definitely for controlled selling of wheat again this year. During the week announcement has been made of an advance of 30c. per bushel on the participation certificates. It is probable, judging by the amount of wheat inspected, that this payment will run somewhere in the neighborhood of \$35,000,000. It will come at a very acceptable time for farmers who wish to stock up for harvest time, engage additional help, etc.

The Winnipeg Grain Exchange held a meeting this week of representatives of the various branches of the trade to discuss the question of the handling of the 1920 crop. So far what transpired at the meeting has not been made known to the public.

The opening of the American wheat market tomorrow is being looked forward to with great interest though it is not expected that it will have more than a brief effect on the coarse grain markets. The trade is experiencing the truth of the old saying "beware of the tail end of a short crop as it is apt to have a long tail." Oats that have been so scarce all season are beginning to come in quite freely while the demand is of the most limited character only a few cars of 2 C.W. oats being taken by the eastern millers. Export is out of the question, with new American oats coming on that market at from 35 to 40c. under our price.

Transportation of Coal and Wheat.

With the prospect that the railways will have to carry enormous amounts of coal eastward from Alberta in the next three months it looks as if, even with a moderate crop there was likely to be considerable congestion. The labor situation has not permitted railways to get their equipment up to anything like the standard of efficiency which prevailed before the war, indeed the government railways have roadbeds that are assuredly not in the best condition to carry heavy grain trains and with much coal moving there is likely to be a shortage of cars also.

their price to be twenty cents a pound and that it was generally retailed at thirty cents.

He called later on the manager of the store in which he had bought and stated the facts of the case asking that the store either prove that a mistake had been made or justify their price before the local officer of the Board of Commerce. The manager was profuse in his explanations and finally the matter was settled.

As far as prices go, the public is more at the mercy of the druggist than any other dealer. That the druggist is entitled to a larger percentage of profit than the ordinary tradesman goes without question. He employs a chemist to dispense his sales where the ordinary stores employs a clerk, the care with which he carries on his business is daily a matter of life and death to large numbers and he must carry on his shelves expensive drugs not used more than several times a year. Lowering the status of the chemist by asking him to work for a clerk's wage is not suggested. Surely though, one hundred percent profit would be sufficient except in cases where the compounding of the prescription took exceptional care and a considerable amount of time. In this particular instance the druggist admitted that he was invoiced twenty cents for what he attempted to sell for a dollar—five hundred per cent profit. There was no compounding to be done. One wonders what percentage that druggists makes on prescriptions.

Denmark Curtailing Imports.

All classes in Denmark have been so thoroughly schooled lately in the necessity for curtailing imports, especially of luxuries, that the termination of the exchange council is not likely to have any serious effects. It was announced through the Danish Minister of Commerce that the council would cease to function as of June 4, but it is believed that the large banks, commercial and agricultural institutions represented in the council will continue to operate on the general lines laid down by the council in its efforts to rehabilitate the international standard of the Danish krone.

It was understood when the council was formed that its life should be of short duration. On the other hand, it is reported that its cessation followed the failure of efforts to incorporate its rulings into legislation which many of the merchants and agricultural interests opposed. The particular bill itself contemplated legislative restrictions on imports until the end of the current year, and made clearance of goods into Denmark dependent upon the sanction of the exchange council.

In advocating enactment of this legislation, emphasis was laid on the growing excess of imports over exports, but it was also pointed out in this connection that a large part of the goods arriving in the first quarter of this year was ordered prior to last December when the exchange council began to operate.

The situation with which the country is faced in the matter of imports, according to the exchange council, is briefly as follows:

First—Denmark imported a large quantity of goods to fill stores absolutely depleted on account of war's restrictions on importation.

Second—Large quantities of goods were imported with a view to re-exporting them to Germany and the East, but this course was blocked on account of the exchange situation affecting these prospective customers.

Third—Denmark's principal industry, agriculture, suffered during the war and had to be rehabilitated.

The exchange council also recently called attention to Denmark's invitation to transit trade to make Copenhagen its clearing house,

The question of honest Drug Charges

By HAROLD H. METCALFE

A man read last week all about the effect of Bordeaux mixture in preventing potato blight and increasing the yield. Having a small garden plot he decided to make some of the mixture and went to several seed merchants to get copper sulphate. Not being able to procure any there he went into one of the best known uptown drug stores in Montreal. The chemist on duty stated that there was less than a pound in stock but that he could procure a pound in an hour or two. Asked the price of a pound he stated that it would be about a dollar and a quarter. The customer expressed some astonishment at this price and stated his impression that the price should be around twenty cents a pound. The chemist then dilated on the tremendous increase in drug prices during the last

year, but stated that he would call the wholesale druggist and find out exactly what the price would be. This done, he stated that the best price he could make would be a dollar a pound. This price was agreed on and later in the day the transaction was completed.

Looking over the Government bulletin which told about using the mixture the man was struck by the tremendous difference between what it cost to do an acre of potatoes and what it was costing him to do a very small patch. The lime constituent was reasonable enough in price and the only possible explanation of the excess cost lay with the copper sulphate.

He immediately investigated the cost of copper sulphate with several wholesale houses and found