

## "Business as Usual"

### TWO MILLION ADDITIONAL ACRES

Western Canada had 11,000,000 acres in wheat last year, and it will have 13,000,000 acres in wheat this year, according to the estimate of Mr. Thomas S. Acheson, general agricultural agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway at Winnipeg.

"To-day," he says, "the farmer in those areas has every cause for optimism. Never have they had so much moisture in the fall as this year. The snow lies in various depths up to six feet, and the prospects for the crop next year are exceedingly bright."

"What particularly strikes me in the three provinces, and especially in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, is the fact that almost every farmer seems to have been converted to the sheep raising theory. They seem to have at last realized that there is nothing handier on a farm than a few head of sheep. There is nothing better for clearing off the weeds, they are useful in such a variety of directions that the farmers are determined to keep a few head."

"Sit tight and attend to business."—Mr. Grant Hall, general manager of the western lines of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

### BIG ORDER FOR IRON FENCE

An order for a \$7,500 ornamental iron fence is a good one for war times. Such an order was recently placed with the Page Wire Fence Company at Walkerville. About 3,300 lineal feet will be required to fence in the ten-acre estate of Mr. E. Chandler Walker. The fence is seven feet high and is composed of three horizontal rails. Pickets are  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch square set 4 inch centres.

A new record for quick delivery will probably be made on this order, which was placed in October and is to be delivered complete by December 1st.

General Manager Church of the Page Company says that the fence business for the past year has been considerably better than it was during 1913, with every indication of a substantial increase in the coming year.

### COUNTRY IN A SOUNDER POSITION

"Half the trouble is that we have been able to borrow too easily, taking away the incentive to produce." This sentence from *The Monetary Times*, says the Edmonton Journal, "puts the truth regarding the Canadian economic situation in a nutshell. We not only should recognize it, but we should also recognize that as a result of the temporary cutting down of our borrowing power the country is in a much sounder position, and those who really work for a living can look more hopefully to the future than was the case when things were described as 'on the boom.'"

### FROM EDMONTON TO PACIFIC COAST

"The work on the west end of the Grand Trunk line between Prince George and Prince Rupert will probably be closed up about the end of the month, because winter weather has settled down and makes railway construction work impracticable. All the important ballasting is completed. The only work remaining is finishing up the line which will probably take two months in the spring. The road is now fully ballasted from Winnipeg to Prince Rupert," said Mr. Morley Donaldson, vice-president of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, on his return from a tour of inspection of the line west of Edmonton.

"There will be a great deal of construction work going on this winter, such as reinforcing the banks of streams and this will give employment to a large number of men. The works for four terminal divisions are now under construction and will be completed early in the spring. This will practically complete the construction work on our line. Twelve-stall round-houses are being built at Prince George, Endako, Smithers and Pacific. Oil plants terminals and stations are included in the contracts. All bridges will be

completed on the main line by the first of January. The contract for the new dock at Prince Rupert, which will handle the oil steamers, will be let within the next two weeks. The Grand Trunk Pacific drydock will be in operation by the first of the year. Part of the plant will be in operation within a fortnight.

"Prince Rupert is feeling the benefits of the Grand Trunk Pacific line. This city is becoming an important fish port."

"Prince George has developed into a lively little city. With the early opening of the construction work of the Pacific Great Eastern, there will be work for a large number of men, both skilled and laborers. Conditions generally throughout central British Columbia are good."

"Don't rest on your laurels; they're fine on your forehead, but they make a mighty poor mattress."

### ONTARIO IS RECEIVING MONEY

The lifting of the moratorium in England had an immediate effect upon the cash balance of Ontario's treasurer. The underwriters of the five million loan placed in England just before the outbreak of war are now forwarding large sums to Ontario. Of the total due in the first instance, all but about a million has been received, making close to two millions furnished by the underwriters since the war started.

### GOOD BONDS ARE WANTED

"During a trip through New York, Philadelphia and Boston, I noticed a change of feeling in the States, and a general tendency toward business optimism," said Mr. A. R. Doble, vice-president of the Royal Securities Corporation, on his return to Montreal. "Where everybody was in a panic for some time after the war broke out there is now a considerable demand for the better class of securities, particularly municipals—that is for the issues of the larger cities and towns—and first-class railroad bonds."

### CANADA'S OCTOBER TRADE

An improvement in the total volume of Canadian trade is shown by a comparative statement of exports and imports issued for the month of October. The increase for October is almost equal to the total decrease shown in the figures for the seven months of the fiscal year.

The October trade amounted in value to \$139,537,008, an increase of \$24,974,093, while the total for the seven months' period was \$640,171,607, a decrease of \$25,993,741. Despite the heavy increase in imports of coin and bullion, some \$52,500,000, which do not benefit the revenue, the statement is considered to indicate an encouraging trend.

October exports, domestic and foreign, amounted to \$51,844,559, a decrease of \$9,295,326, but an increase of \$128,903 is shown in the statement of exports for the seven months, the amount for the present fiscal year up to October 31 being \$272,141,330.

Imports increased by \$34,269,419 in October, reaching a total of \$87,692,449. They decreased by \$26,122,644 in the seven months, the total imports for this year's period being \$368,030,277. Imports of coin and bullion amounted to \$52,578,669 in October and \$81,228,410 in the seven months, an increase of \$51,536,944 in one case and of \$77,620,266 in the other.

Exports of domestic products gained considerably under some heads and lost only slightly under others. Exports of manufactured products increased by \$2,098,837 in October and \$8,011,278 in the seven months. Exports of agricultural products dropped by \$14,338,761 in October and by \$33,447,946 in the seven months, the heaviest decrease in the list. War conditions and difficulties in the shipment of the new crop and agricultural products are influences affecting these returns, though the waiting European markets can absorb all Canadian surpluses, and this will give to future returns an upward movement. Under animals and their products, there is an increase of \$1,949,694 for October and \$10,635,151 for the seven months. Under fisheries, the decreases are \$747,754 and \$1,406,415; under mines, \$697,684 and \$2,561,795, while under forest products decreased by \$170,377 in the seven months and increased by \$430,648 in October.