

## From Western Fields.

### INCREASE OF SIX PER CENT. IN WESTERN GRAIN AREA.

Estimates of Provincial Governments give Aggregate of 12,161,348 Acres of Grain this Year—The Upbuilding of New Towns Along the G. T. P. —Fruit, Fish and Ore in British Columbia.

Official acreage estimates for the three grain provinces are now available. The aggregate area under wheat is estimated at 6,859,608 acres, made up of 2,642,111 in Manitoba, 3,912,497 in Saskatchewan, and 305,000 in Alberta. The area under oats is given at 4,056,099 acres, comprising 1,373,683 in Manitoba, 2,192,416 in Saskatchewan and 490,000 in Alberta. The area under barley is said to be 936,471 acres, comprising 601,008 in Manitoba, 235,463 in Saskatchewan, and 100,000 in Alberta.

In 1908 the total area under wheat in the three Provinces was 6,871,736 acres, so that there is apparently a net decrease this season of 12,128 acres. The areas sown to oats and barley, respectively, show heavy increases, partly due to re-sowing of winter-killed wheat fields in Alberta. The aggregate area sown to all grains was 12,161,348 acres this year, as compared with 11,492,548 in 1908, an increase of 668,800, or about six per cent. There is a decrease of 163,129 acres in the aggregate area in Manitoba, an increase of 648,370 in Saskatchewan, and an increase of 68,793 in Alberta.

### The Coming Bread Basket of the Empire.

Generally speaking, the West itself expects over 100,000,000 bushels of wheat this year—so favourable on the whole have been growing conditions, despite the spring's late start. Some hail-storms are reported from Manitoba, and individuals have probably suffered severely—but the general outlook is not affected.

The railways are preparing for quick movement of a big crop, and approximately 35,000 box cars will be available for the movement of the crop, with about 750 locomotives.

With some reason Western Canada is confident that a few years hence it will fully establish its title as "The Empire's Bread Basket." The new territory to be opened up by the G. T. P. and its branches—not to speak of other railway extensions—will ere long be largely devoted to grain raising. Thus far, to be sure, Canada supplies the United Kingdom with only some 30 per cent. of its wheat—as is evident from the following summary given by The Times, of London:

### Wheat Produced and Imported by U. K. (millions of bush.)

|                         | 1907-8. | 1906-7. | 1905-6. | 1900-1 |
|-------------------------|---------|---------|---------|--------|
| Home Production.....    | 53.9    | 56.5    | 60.6    | 53.9   |
| From Canada.....        | 29.5    | 25.2    | 26.0    | 8.4    |
| From India.....         | 19.5    | 27.3    | 21.8    | 2.5    |
| From Australasia.....   | 12.3    | 15.0    | 15.4    | 10.5   |
| Total.....              | 115.2   | 124.0   | 123.8   | 75.3   |
| From other Countries... | 145.2   | 144.6   | 151.6   | 173.6  |
| Total Supply.....       | 260.4   | 268.6   | 275.4   | 248.9  |

But at the beginning of the century it supplied less than 10 per cent.—so advance has not been inconsiderable. And already, as the following

exhibit shows, Canada's wheat production is almost quarter that of the Empire as a whole:

### Empire's Wheat Crops—(millions of bushels).

|                                | 1908    | 1907    | 1906    | 1901    |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| United Kingdom.....            | 54.0    | 56.5    | 60.6    | 54.0    |
| Canada.....                    | 112.4   | 91.3    | 136.0   | 55.2    |
| India.....                     | 209.8   | 301.2   | 315.4   | 263.4   |
| Australia.....                 | 70.8    | 71.7    | 75.3    | 54.9    |
| Other British Possessions..... | 36.0    | 33.6    | 33.6    | 23.2    |
| Total, Empire....              | 483.0   | 554.3   | 620.9   | 450.7   |
| World's Total.....             | 3,107.6 | 3,118.5 | 3,387.8 | 2,858.8 |

### Growth of New Towns.

A sample of what a Western town can do in the way of a good start is furnished by Carmangay, of which the Lethbridge Herald says:—"This town started less than sixty days ago, and there are now about fifty buildings, three general stores, two hardware stores, a \$2,000 building for the Canadian Bank of Commerce, five restaurants, a blacksmith shop, a harness shop, and residences and other buildings."

The Grand Trunk Pacific Townsite Company is making every effort to ensure growth of well-built towns along the new line—parks are being laid out and all along the line the situation and plans of the townsites will be arranged with a view to their advantageous development. In regard to grain elevators, the president said the Grand Trunk Pacific had decided not to enter into this business itself along the line of the road, but will encourage various individual companies to build elevators, charging them a nominal rent, and by this means competition between grain buyers is ensured and the farmers will never be at the mercy of any one elevator or elevator company.

### Mr. Wm. Whyte not to Retire Yet.

The West has cause for rejoicing in that it is announced that Mr. Wm. Whyte, second vice-president of the C.P.R., will not retire from active service when he reaches the scheduled age-limit of 65 in October. "Having regard to Mr. Whyte's ability and his unimpaired energies, the directors have decided to extend his term of office for two years more."

Mr. Whyte's retirement just now would be generally regretted, his understanding of the requirements and possibilities of the West being greater perhaps than that of any other transportation official.

It is announced from Nelson that Mr. F. W. Peters, assistant to the second vice-president of the C. P. R., has stated that the railway company will immediately commence and continue to advertise the resources of Kootenay District, its attractions for tourists, and its opportunities for investment, as has been done for main line points. In this connection the Canadian Pacific is likely to construct and maintain at some point between Nelson and Proctor on the west arm of Kootenay Lake, or Balfour on the main line, a tourist hotel of the class and character of those established on the main line; the house to be ready for occupation next year.