

mers expect to get their cutting all done before the first frost comes.

Shortage of harvest help is now the one worry of the West—and it is no slight one in more out-of-the-way sections. It is a recurrent problem that must be squarely faced if the full prosperity of the West is to be assured. Its solution must lie along lines of agricultural development that will make it possible to profitably employ all-the-year-round labour. This is one among many reasons why increased attention should be given to mixed farming throughout the West.

A Clearing-House for Grain.

There has now been formed, with head offices at Winnipeg, the Lake Shippers' Clearance Association. The association will have large premises in Fort William and in addition to the grain clearing-house, the association will act as agent for grain shippers and exporters, and as a marine agency for all vessel owners trading into Fort William and Port Arthur. The officers of the new association are:—John Fleming, president; Capel Tilt, vice-president; A. C. Rutan, secretary; A. K. Godfrey, treasurer, and H. N. Baird, director, thus furnishing a committee of five for the transaction of business. The primary object of the association is to do away with vessels having to go to a large number of elevators in order to complete their cargo. For the present it will only be used for the clearing of documents in connection with the higher grades of grain.

British Scientists' Interest in the West.

That the members of the British Association for the Promotion of Science found much to interest them in the West itself, was made evident by the attention given to Western topics during their Winnipeg sessions. For instance, two important resolutions passed by the Zoological Section recommended government action in matters that may vitally affect the West. One of these recommended to the governments of the West that immediate steps be taken for the extermination of the rats from the South. The resolution was moved by Prof. Shipley, president of the department, who stated that if rats were allowed to spread through the West they would, he estimated, damage 25 per cent. of the yield annually.

The second resolution was one urging the federal authorities to appoint a commission to investigate the question of preventing the disappearance of the salmon in British Columbia. It was felt by the members that if immediate steps are not taken the fish might ere many years become extinct.

Discussions on wheat were recurrent features of the association's sessions. A paper was given by G. Harcourt, deputy minister of agriculture of Alberta, which dealt with the development of the grain industry in Western Canada and its future possibilities. Of the country which is known, he placed the area capable of producing grain at 220,000,000 acres. The total area in crop last year was 11,257,870 acres, producing a total crop of 240,000,000 bushels. The unoccupied land in future will produce at least five billion bushels. This was not the end. There was a great northern country, the Mackenzie basin, which was capable

of producing grain. To all of this must be added the result of what science and experiment will bring in the way of earlier and more suitable varieties of grain.

The Dominion Government was urged by Mr. R. J. Campbell, head of the forestry department, to take more interest in the question of the preservation of the timber resources of the Dominion. The fire patrol should be strengthened and made as effective as possible. An exploration of the public lands should be made in advance of settlement, and lands not fitted for agricultural purposes should be segregated and administered for forestry purposes. A larger staff was necessary for administrative purposes, while a more vigorous educational propaganda was necessary.

Some Economic Aspects of the Western Cattle Trade was the important topic dealt with by Dr. J. G. Rutherford, Dominion Veterinary-General and Live Stock Commissioner. He pointed out that the methods of cattle production in the Canadian west were rapidly undergoing a change, due to the inrush of settlement and the consequent cultivation of lands hitherto devoted to ranching. The history of Canadian ranges from 1870 to the present day showed the rapid development of the cattle industry, the various difficulties and drawbacks experienced, the deterioration in the class of cattle, the introduction of eastern stockers, and latterly of Mexican cattle, and the endeavour of the Federal Government to improve the standard of production by encouraging sales of pure-bred bulls. The conditions of Canadian cattle steamers were capable of being greatly improved. The business, although badly conducted, is profitable to the dealers, commissionmen and railway and steamship companies, but unprofitable to the producer and the country. Dr. Rutherford stated that it was advisable to finish western cattle on grain and hay.

Financial Development of Saskatchewan.

According to the report of the Provincial Secretary of Saskatchewan, four million, six hundred and eighteen thousand, eight hundred dollars represents the aggregate capital stock of one hundred and eight companies incorporated in the province of Saskatchewan from March 1st, 1908, to February 28th, 1909. The average capital is small, being less than \$45,000. Only a score of companies are capitalized at \$100,000 or more, while none exceeds half a million dollars.

Ten trust companies are now doing business in the province, their aggregate investments in Saskatchewan being well on to \$4,000,000. About a dozen private banks are established in the province in addition to the branches of nearly a score of the chartered banks.

Thirty-six loan and investment companies transact business in the province, their Saskatchewan investments in 1907 totalling well on to \$8,000,000.

Of interest to purchasers of bonds will be the going into effect, at the close of the year, of the Saskatchewan Rural Municipality Act. This measure, passed this year by the legislature of the province, creates rural municipalities throughout the older-settled parts of Saskatchewan, which will in many ways resemble the counties of Ontario and Quebec. They will on the average in-