

## Conditions in the West

Special Correspondence by E. CORA HIND, Commercial and Agricultural Editor, Free Press, Winnipeg.

The week between Christmas and the New Year has been a quiet one in market circles, and the Grain Exchange has decided that the final market of the year will go out unmarked by any of the usual festivities, it being the opinion that this is no time for spending money on what is merely diversion. There is, of course, one market still to record in the year, but it is not likely to show any very extreme change, practically everybody is playing safe and trades will be evened up, and an extremely quiet period is looked for following the opening of the New Year.

The market to-day for December closed at \$1.73 1/2, while the close for the corresponding day in November was \$1.54 1/2. The average price of December wheat during November was \$1.88, while the highest price at which it closed during December month was \$1.85 1/2. May wheat, which closed at \$1.84 1/2 on November 29th, closed at \$1.76 1/2 to-day. A feature of to-day's market was the reported heavy buying by strong American interests near the close. Deliveries through the Winnipeg clearing house for the day were 233,000 bushels of wheat, 108,000 bushels of oats, and 38,000 bushels of flax.

Inspections have been running very light for some days; this is due not only to the holiday period, but to the severe weather and heavy roads that have prevailed throughout the west, Christmas day, which was beautifully fine, being followed by a very severe snow storm and blizzard. The congestion of traffic in the west is very severe, and embargoes are on in all directions, there are beginning to be indications that the Railway Commission is taking a hand in the matter of the movement of wheat for both the French and Allied governments. The eastern millers, it seems, are complaining that they have not been able to get sufficient supplies of wheat to fill their flour contracts with these governments. Sir Henry Drayton, head of the Railway Commission, is personally interesting himself in this question of congestion.

### Sample Market.

So far nothing further has been heard of the proposed Sample Market. Further protests have gone in from the Grain Growers' Association, but up to date, the Grain Exchange has received no official notification to prepare for such a market. Members are leaving in large numbers for California, Florida and other points, declaring that it is not worth remaining, in view of the constricted trade.

### Live Stock.

The movement of live stock has been very limited during the past week, and there has been a sharp advance in hogs. Prices for select hogs have stood at \$11.25 to \$11.50 per cwt. for some days, with very limited offers. It is anticipated that immediately after the New Year there will be an increased demand for live stock, and distinctly higher prices. Within the last few days there has been a demand for stockers to go to South St. Paul, and American buyers have been willing to take a class of animal greatly inferior to those that they bought earlier in the season. The movement of young feeders from Winnipeg market back into the land has pretty well ceased for the time being, and receipt of feeders and stockers on the yards is very small.

### Flour.

Flour has advanced 20 cents per barrel in the last few days, and No. 1 Patent is quoted at \$9.40 per barrel. Rolled oats have advanced and are \$3 per 98-pound sack. Bran and shorts have also advanced during the week, bran in sacks per ton being quoted at \$28, and shorts at \$30. Owing to the bad roads and storms hay is somewhat steadier in tone, and higher in price.

Some of the western stock feeders are bringing in car loads of corn to supplement other feeds, claiming that in spite of high prices it is paying them to do this in view of the high prices that are to be had for finished cattle and hogs.

### Farmers' Meetings.

With the beginning of the New Year there will be an almost continual succession of farmers' meetings. The various live stock associations of the province of Manitoba open the series in Brandon on 8th January. On the 10th of January the Manitoba Grain Growers' Association convene in the same place, and indeed the two organizations will hold some joint meetings, a number of very important questions will come up for discussion. Among the breeders the question of marketing stock will be prominent, and with the Grain Growers the question of a third or

farmers' party will have a prominent place. The question of sample markets, "hospital" elevators, and the mixing of grain will also receive attention. It is likely at these meetings also that there will be very considerable discussion of National Service.

The United Farmers of Alberta will follow the Grain Growers of Manitoba, and their meetings will probably take up many of the same questions. They are also going to discuss such matters as the segregation of the feeble minded, rural medical inspection of school children, and kindred matters.

The Live Stock Breeders of the Province of Saskatchewan will convene at Saskatoon, January 9th, and will take up such questions as the Dominion policy of distributing pure bred sires and the live stock distribution policy of the Saskatchewan Provincial Government, live stock markets from the packers' point of view and similar questions.

Early in February the Saskatchewan Grain Growers' Association will convene in the town of Moose Jaw, and it is expected that there will be an attendance of over 1,500 delegates at this convention. Not only will the question of the third or Farmers' party be discussed, but also the possible amalgamation of all Farmers' organizations in Western Canada.

It will be seen from the above that the farmers of the Prairie Provinces will be pretty actively engaged during the next two months, and at the beginning of March will come the Winter Live Stock Shows, beginning with that of Manitoba, to be held in Brandon from March 5th to 9th.

## THE ALLIES REPLY TO GERMAN PEACE PROPOSALS.

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surance to proclaim that treaties were 'scraps of paper,' and that 'necessity knows no law.'

"At the present moment these sham offers on the part of Germany rest on the 'war map' of Europe alone, which represents nothing more than a superficial and passing phase of the situation and not the real strength of the belligerents. A peace concluded upon these terms would be only to the advantage of the aggressors, who, after imagining that they would reach their goal in two months, discovered after two years that they could never attain it.

"As for the future, the disaster caused by the German declaration of war and the innumerable outrages committed by Germany and her allies against both belligerents and neutrals demand penalties, reparation and guarantees. Germany avoids mention of any of these.

"In reality these overtures made by the Central Powers are nothing more than a calculated attempt to influence the future course of war and to end it by imposing a German peace. The object of these overtures is to create dissension in public opinion in the Allied countries. But that public opinion has, in spite of all the sacrifices endured by the Allies, already given its answer with admirable firmness, and has denounced the empty pretence of the declaration of the enemy powers.

"They have the further object of stiffening public opinion in Germany and in the countries allied to her — one and all severely tried by their losses, worn out by economic pressure, and crushed by the supreme effort which has been imposed upon their inhabitants.

### Deceive Public Opinion.

"They endeavor to deceive and intimidate public opinion in neutral countries, whose inhabitants have long since made up their minds where the initial responsibilities lie, and are far too enlightened to favor the designs of Germany by abandoning the defence of human freedom.

"Finally, these overtures attempt to justify in advance in the eyes of the world a new series of crimes — submarine warfare, deportations, forced labor and forced enlistment of the inhabitants against their own countries and violations of neutrality.

"Fully conscious of the gravity of this moment, but equally conscious of its requirements, the Allied Governments, closely united to one another and in perfect sympathy with their peoples, refused to consider a proposal which is empty and insincere.

"Once again the Allies declare that no peace is possible so long as they have not secured reparation for violated rights and liberties, the recogni-

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tion of the principle of nationalities and of the free existence of small states; so long as they have not brought about a settlement calculated to end once and for all forces which have constituted a perpetual menace to the nations and to afford the only effective guarantee for the future security of the world.

"In conclusion, the Allied Powers think it necessary to put forward the following considerations, which show the special situation of Belgium after two and a half years of war. In virtue of the international treaties signed by five great European powers, of whom Germany was one, Belgium enjoyed before the war a special status, rendering her territory inviolable and placing her, under the guarantee of the powers, outside all European conflicts. She was, however, in spite of these treaties, the first to suffer the aggression of Germany. For this reason the Belgian Government thinks it necessary to define the aims which Belgium has never ceased to pursue while fighting side by side with the Entente Powers for right and justice.

"Belgium has always scrupulously fulfilled the duties which her neutrality imposed upon her. She has taken up arms to defend her independence and her neutrality violated by Germany, and to show that she remains faithful to her international obligations.

### Chancellor's Admission.

"On the 4th of August, 1914, in the Reichstag, the German Chancellor admitted that this aggression constituted an injustice contrary to the laws of nations, and pledged himself in the name of Germany to repair it. During two and a half years this injustice has been cruelly aggravated by the proceedings of the occupying forces, which have exhausted the resources of the country, ruined its industries, devastated its towns and villages, and have been responsible for innumerable massacres, executions and imprisonments.

"At this very moment, while Germany is proclaiming peace and humanity to the world, she is deporting Belgian citizens by thousands and reducing them to slavery.

"Belgium before the war asked for nothing but to live in harmony with her neighbors. Her King and her Government have but one aim — the re-establishment of peace and justice. But they only desire peace which would assure to their country legitimate reparation, guarantees and safeguards for the future."

## HOW TO DEVELOP MEMORY.

A writer in the January American Magazine says about a man he knows:

"If I should get three hundred letters in today's mail," he replied, "from teachers in this state about this State Teachers' Association, I could glance over them and then tell you from whom each one came and the gist of what it said. This work is on my mind, that's all."

"When I asked him how he had acquired this remarkable ability, he explained it in this way. 'When I meet a person, I get the name and the face. I concentrate my thoughts on that person what he is doing, and who he is, just for a moment until I have him thoroughly fixed in my mind. Then, when I see him again, no matter where or how, I speak to him and call him by his name. I don't find it at all difficult to do this. By following this rule all my life I am now able to remember practically every person I meet.'