

JANUARY 13, 1911

About sixty per cent. of the wheat is fit for milling, and oats and barley grade badly. The flax crop was larger than in 1909 and the price during 1910 has been as high as \$2.54 per bushel, and is still most unusually high, so that the crop is much more important than might be supposed. The money result from the crops of the three prairie Provinces, as estimated by conservative Western opinion, will be about \$20,000,000 less than for 1909. The estimate of the Census Department, which includes all field crops, is less favorable. The total field crops for the three Provinces for 1910 are valued at \$155,926,000, as compared with \$192,839,000 for 1909, a less amount by about \$37,000,000. Much of the shrinkage in value is due to decline in price.

The smaller yield of the crops of these Provinces is due to unfavorable weather in three districts, Southern Alberta, Southern Manitoba and Southwestern Saskatchewan. In the northern districts and in some southern parts results were most excellent. In the districts where results were generally unfavorable, however, isolated cases stand out, clearly showing splendid results obtained, despite the weather, simply by scientific farming. Agricultural conditions at the moment in Southern Manitoba and parts of Southwestern Saskatchewan are unsatisfactory because of lack of moisture, while in Southern Alberta, because of plentiful moisture during the last few months, the prospects are as good as could be desired. For some years the necessity of more advanced methods in such older parts as Southern Manitoba has been painfully evident. May we now hope that the Government of Manitoba, as well as the farmers, will forthwith do the quite obvious and not difficult things necessary to redeem and maintain the reputation of this part of Canada as a grain-producing country. Undoubtedly the crop is largely reduced every year by the prevalence of weeds, and it is clear that the Provincial Government cannot take too much trouble to remove this evil as far as possible. Enough has been done by individual cases of good farming to show how much larger the profits of agriculture in the West should be. The results of the present poor crop have been improved by the fact that mixed farming has been increasing—indeed, that is one direction in which Southern Manitoba is already working out the reform made necessary by the impoverishment of the land as a result of repeated grain crops.

There is no question of more importance to Western development than that of improving the breeding of live stock and of increasing their numbers. We are witnessing the gradual extinction of the rancher and the gradual establishment of a great grazing and feeding industry. It is naturally difficult by the increase due to the slower methods of the latter to make up for the losses consequent on the passing of the rancher, but the outlook as a whole is promising. The Live Stock Exhibition at Winnipeg in 1910 exceeded all records in the number of high-grade animals shown, and these were of such excellence that little further improvement can be looked for, some classes having been the finest ever shown in America. The progressive Western farmer is demonstrating to his fellows that if each of them will, as soon as he can afford it, raise a few head of high-grade stock, the disappearance of the rancher will redound to their gain and the problem of maintaining a sufficient supply of animals will be solved. As matters now stand, stocks are not as large as they should be, nor are they increasing as fast as they should. Statistics do not go far enough back in Saskatchewan and Alberta to be of much service, but in Manitoba horses have increased in numbers only about 50 per cent. in ten years, cattle a trifle more than 50 per cent., sheep have lessened in number, swine have increased about 100 per cent., and poultry about 65 to 70 per cent. Such statistics as are available show that stocks on hand for the three Provinces are about 870,000 horses, 2,300,000 cattle, 345,000 sheep, and 698,000 swine. Figures for poultry seem unreliable, but apparently there are not yet half as many as in Ontario. One has only to look at the map and consider the small part of Ontario that is farmed and to compare it with the West, in order to see how very much must be done before it can be made impossible for the Vice-President of the C.P.R. to reproach Manitoba with the importation of 12,000,000 eggs in one year over that railway alone, and to say further that the poultry and cream for their dining cars must be obtained partly in the United States.

In lumber the year was one of anxiety, for the manufacturer, the wholesaler and the retail dealer alike. Logging was difficult because of unfavorable weather, the water in the streams in spring was low, extensive forest fires and large losses of manufactured stock by fire affected the situation. The inability of the manufacturer, how-

ever, to supply as much as usual held prices firm, and this was the more necessary because of the lessened purchasing power of the farmers where crops were not good. On the whole, a fairly profitable year resulted. For the coming year prospects are bright, counting upon fair crops, but because of the enforced cutting of areas burnt over, stocks may be increased.

The storage capacity of terminal and inland elevators has increased from 63,190,000 bushels in 1909 to 77,901,000 in 1910.

The railways are again to be congratulated on the manner in which they handled the crop. It is estimated that by the close of navigation 60,000,000 bushels had reached the head of the lakes. Terminal facilities for handling the crop have still further improved, and through the Lake Shippers' Clearance Association vessels can be loaded and despatched with much greater rapidity than heretofore. There has been the usual large increase in the mileage of railways, with prospect of a still greater increase in 1911. In addition to Winnipeg there are now many important railway centres, such as Brandon, Regina, Moose Jaw, Weyburn, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Yorkton, North Battleford, Edmonton, Calgary and Lethbridge.

During the first nine months of 1910 the number of immigrants entering Canada was 274,901, divided as follows: From Great Britain, 96,924; from the United States, 96,366; from Continental Europe, 81,611. For the year 300,000 is apparently a safe figure, and we have official estimates as high as a third of a million. Of this number, taking the returns to October 1, and estimating the balance of the year, about 180,000 will settle in the three prairie provinces and British Columbia. Of these about 80,000 are vines and from the United States, 70,000 from Great Britain, and from the United States, 70,000 from Great Britain, and the balance from Continental Europe. As far as capital, in cash and effects, is concerned, the average United States settler has somewhat more than \$1,000, the average British settler about \$150, while the Continental European will bring about \$10 in money and little, if any, settler's effects. Sales of land, payments on account of land sales, and homestead entries all exceed the totals of the previous year, Saskatchewan leading the other Provinces.

One of the most interesting things in the settlement of Canada is the work of the superintendent of the irrigation schemes of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The policy of providing "ready-made" farms is succeeding admirably, and the dryness of the past season has drawn attention to and the value of irrigation in Southern Alberta. Sales of land in the irrigation area have been very large during the last three years, and have lately averaged a million dollars a month. The railway company naturally favors sales which result in immediate occupation. Their plans have succeeded so well that an appropriation of \$8,000,000 is said to have been voted by the railway board in order to carry the irrigation system further east.

Despite lean crops in the south, farm lands have increased in price in almost all districts. In towns and cities the increase in assessments, in building operations and in population is even more startling than in previous years, while in the already numerous manufacturing establishments of Winnipeg there is the same increase in plant and output as in the East, and with the advent of cheap power we are doubtless, destined to see a great manufacturing centre rapidly created. There are said to be already in Winnipeg 236 manufacturing establishments, with an annual output of \$36,500,000. In 1910 there were sixty-five industrial companies incorporated, with an authorized capital of \$16,000,000; while thirteen existing companies increased their capital by \$3,000,000.

We regret that it is impossible to supply the details of the extraordinary growth of several of our Western cities, but we cannot refrain from recording that in 1910 Winnipeg was the largest actual wheat market on the North American continent.

BRITISH COLUMBIA.

British Columbia experienced a year of great and general advancement in 1909, and this was continued throughout 1910. Immigration, at first slower than in the prairie Provinces, is now steadily increasing, and it looks as if the unusual resources of this extensive part of Canada would gradually become known to the rest of the world. As far as the settler is concerned, those who are willing to work and to accept the social conditions of a new country can hardly fail to succeed, but too many of those who have already failed elsewhere are not desirable even in this rich land. Capital is flowing to British Columbia in a continually increasing volume,

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