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**BUSINESS CONDITIONS.**

**THE OUTLOOK.**

The first Manitoba bulletin of the crops indicating a total wheat yield of forty million bushels has slightly improved the feeling regarding North-West business. Wholesalers in the East feel that with a crop such as that in 1899, there will be a smart revival of business and a wiping off of old scores, which would greatly encourage people who have done business in that part of the country the past few years. There is a conservative feeling, however, touching North-West trade, and not much disposition to extend operations further till the crops are assured.

The demand for funds at all the principle trade centres of the country continues brisk. The large amount of contract work being carried on now in the way of railway labor and other public work, employing big gangs of men, and the activity of prospectors in New Ontario and the far West, the large movement of produce to the seaboard for export, and the activity now being displayed by the factories and mills, have been the means of circulating money through the country in large amounts. All this is expected to prove very advantageous for trade in the near future. The spending power of the people is now very large, and the coming fall sales are expected to be larger even than they were a year ago.

Throughout the country there is a buoyant feeling regarding the outlook for business. The recent rains have brought on the growth of the crops splendidly, the pasturage is in fine condition, and the dairying interests are expected to greatly benefit from the present conditions. The enquiry for cheese from the old country markets is a little slow at the moment, but it will take some time for business in the new product to get properly started.

Reports to local houses show that upwards of 1,000,000 pounds of the clip of fleece wool of 1900 are held by some twenty buyers in this province. There is still no demand for export, and owing to the greater competition of foreign countries, where more coarse wool is grown than formerly, owing to the demand for larger sheep for the mutton export trade, prices of Ontario wool in the United States are below a parity of local values. The new clip must begin to come on the Ontario markets within a month, and with large stocks of the previous clip still on hand, the outlook is far from encouraging.

Reports from New Ontario continue to tell of the great industrial activity going on in that part of the province. It is stated that Messrs. MacKenzie & Mann will spend one-half a million dollars on docks, etc., at Port Arthur, the coming summer. Mining men are exploring the country near Lake Nipigon, mostly in search of iron ore. An American company is prospecting a block of thirty-two miles on the St. Joe Railway. Difficulty is being experienced in finding surveyors

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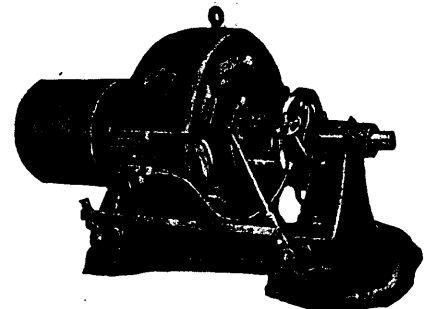
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