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## CONTENTS

	Page		Page		Page
The Harvest in the West.....	353	Canadian Bowlers in Britain....	364	A Board of Trade for Mount	
Wheat and Flour .....	353	The Situation in Hops .....	358	Brydges .....	362
The Iron Market .....	354	The Underwriting of Credit.....	358	Toronto Markets .....	375
Nova Scotia Trade .....	354	Letter from the Prairie Country.	358	Fire Insurance Matters .....	366
Trade with Mexico .....	355	Our Halifax Letter .....	359	Clearing House Figures .....	360
The Trust Company Idea.....	355	Insurance Institute of Toronto..	359	Montreal Markets .....	377
The City of Toronto.....	356	Life and Accident Assurance... 360		Some English Dry Goods Notes.	379
Industrial Exhibition .....	357	Banking and Financial .....	361	Exporting Canadian Canned	
Fire Waste in August .....	357	Exhibits at the Fair .....	366	Goods .....	379

### THE WESTERN HARVEST.

Our Winnipeg correspondent sends, under date noon yesterday, the following despatch: "The weather during the past week throughout the West has been cool, with general rains in the last few days, which have hampered harvesting. It has now cleared, with indications of warmer weather. Light frosts have been general throughout the country, but only in a few localities were they heavy enough to do any damage to grain, and, as about 80 per cent. of grain cutting is completed, damage from this cause will be very slight. Threshing has started in many districts, and returns are most satisfactory in the majority of instances. Several authorities estimate that the crop will equal that of last year."

Wiring from Swift Current, the party of Canadian Pacific directors now on an inspecting tour in the West expressed the opinion that the crop in the Territories would be even greater than last year. And Sir George Drummond sent a despatch on Wednesday night from a point in Assiniboia to the general manager of the Bank of Montreal of the following tenor: "Rain fell in Winnipeg yesterday afternoon and night, but to-day is clear, bright and dry. In our trip to-day we saw everywhere the wheat cut and a good deal in stacks, and, consequentlv. safe. So far as my judgment goes, the damage, if any, must be quite trifling."

### WHEAT AND FLOUR.

Wheat has made still further advances in price, and, with it, flour. Partially, no doubt, this is due to the damage already caused by rust and frost to the growing crop, though probably these factors will be

found eventually not to have been so detrimental as some have endeavored to show; that is, unless the end of the harvesting period in the West be attended with more unfavorable conditions than those which have made themselves felt so far. A more powerful cause, however, for the growing strength of the market is the shortage of wheat in the United States. We see that the United States Government's final estimate of the wheat crop in that country indicates a yield of about 540,000,000 bushels, the smallest crop since 1900, and 100,000,000 less than last year's. As the home consumption is figured at something like 480,000,000 bushels, the balance available for export is a mere bagatelle, and, indeed, the high price at which wheat is held, \$1.10 in New York, practically precludes, at any rate for the moment, any chance for export at all. One peculiar feature of the condition of the market across the border, and one which, if it be true, is of great significance, is the reported offer to land Russian wheat at Atlantic ports of the United States at a smaller price than that at which that grain is now held at the latter.

The milling interests are attracting to themselves just now a large share of public attention in three countries, Canada, Great Britain, and the United States. In Britain, millers find themselves confronted by the fact that importations of flour into the United Kingdom during the last year or two reached a point higher than ever known. From the United States it looks as if the flour exports will become less and less, while the proposal by Mr. Chamberlain to place a duty upon all flour entering the United Kingdom is exercising the minds not only of millers in the States, but in the Dominion as well.

The American flour milling industry, too, is in