

Crop Reports.

The first wheat crop reports for the year, issued by the Northern Farmers' Association for the week ending April 30, shows that although seeding was a little later this year than last, a larger percentage of the crop is already sown. The weather conditions have been more favorable and the increased acreage will average fully 15 per cent. higher than last year.

Main Line.

North-Seeding progressing favorably and will be completed about the same time as last year; ground in good condition; weather favorable; a couple of good showers during the week will hurry along grain now in. There is still quite a lot of ploughing to be done for flax, barley and oats. Acreage will exceed that of last year by about 5 per cent. and will be mostly in wheat; the frost is deep and the snow melted away generally, there should be no lack of moisture. As near as can be ascertained, there will be an acreage of 12,500 wheat, 5,000 oats, 5,000 barley and 2,000 flax, or a total acreage of 24,500 tributary to Morris.

St. Jean—Weather to date has been very favorable for seeding; wheat about all sown; had a good shower on 25th which will be of great benefit. Seeding commenced about the same time as last year and there is plenty of moisture in the ground. Considerable plowing has still to be done for oats and barley and prospects could not be better.

Leclerc—There will be about 15 per cent. more land seeded this year than last; all wheat land was ploughed last fall and ground is in first class shape, about 75 per cent. of wheat has already been sown; appearance and general prospects could not be more favorable.

Emerson—Seeding is about one week later than last year but growth is about equal; wheat seeding is practically finished and some is already up; weather and land conditions are very favorable. Acreage will be a little in excess of a year ago. As there was considerable snow in this vicinity last winter, there is plenty of moisture in the soil; a heavy rain the evening of the 26th inst., has started the grass and seed to grow and the general prospects at the present time are very favorable.

Morris-Brandon Branch.

Roland—Wheat seeding is practically finished, the acreage seeding being about 10 per cent. in excess of last year. The soil is in excellent condition. About 50 per cent. of the acreage sown is practically fallow land consisting of crop turned under last season. Grain that was seeded two weeks ago is now about two inches above ground. The weather has been an exception of one week in which we had several cold nights, has been and is most favorable to farming operations, chiefly fair with warm light winds and general refreshing showers. Vegetation in general is making rapid advancement.

Rosebank—Seeding about two weeks later than last year; about 75 per cent. of the wheat crop is now in the ground. There is very little ploughing to be done this spring, the acreage to be sown being considerably in excess of a year ago. Weather for the past week has been fine and mild, with showers on the 25th which will greatly help seed sown on the same conditions slightly with the high wind of the 21st. Present indications for a good crop are considered favorable; the soil is in much better condition than a year ago owing to the fair amount of rain the past winter compared with none the previous winter so that there is a good deal of moisture in the ground. Indications are also good for a big hay crop.

Miami—Seeding commenced on the 1st inst., the same date as last year; wheat seeding is finished, the acreage being about 15 per cent. over a year ago. Ploughing for oats and barley is well advanced and will be ready in time for seeding. Growth is beginning to show in the fields. Weather has been very favorable, warm with light showers. There was a fair fall of snow during the winter which left the ground in good condition for seed. Prospects so far are bright for a good crop.

Altamont—Seeding commenced early, being but a few days later than last spring; with the exception of a fall of snow on the 15th, which stopped the farmers for a few days, the weather has been very favorable. Seeding is about half done; oats and

barley and about a third of the wheat have yet to be sown and about 15 per cent. of the flax remains to be ploughed. There will be an increase in acreage this year of about 40 per cent. owing to so much land being off gradually as the snow went off. There is plenty of moisture in the ground. We had heavy showers on the 25th and a few light showers on the 28th so that the seed now in should grow rapidly. If everything continues as favorable as at present, there will be a good crop.

Somerset—Seeding has been somewhat delayed on account of cold weather, operations being about two weeks later than a year ago; 25 per cent. of land is now seeded and about 25 per cent. has yet to be ploughed. Weather has been quite dry, but we had a good shower on the 25th which was of great deal of good.

Swan Lake—Seeding is about two weeks later this year than last and it is going to be quite late in the season before spring work is completed. There being less ground ready for seeding than a year ago. No growth can yet be seen but the appearance is daily expected. Had a good shower on the 26th, which was very acceptable to some farmers were complaining of ground being somewhat dry. Prospects at present are very favorable for a good crop.

Baldur—About three-quarters of the wheat is now sown, seeding being about a week later than a year ago. Weather has been favorable and seed has been put in, in good shape. Acreage under crop will be considerably in excess of last year, the greater part of the ploughing being done last fall and from the present prospects, seeding will be finished early.

Belmont—Seeding operations started if anything, a little earlier than a year ago. On the 26th inst. there was a heavy snow storm, the weather has been all that could be desired. Fully 75 per cent. of the wheat is now in; wheat ploughing has yet to be done for the rest of the week, but on account of the wet fall, about the same acreage will be sown as last year, the new ground broken equalizing that to be sown last year.

Hilton—Wheat seeding is well advanced and about 75 per cent. is now sown; there is an increase in acreage sown; of about 12 per cent. over last year. The soil is in excellent condition and the farmers are taking advantage of it. About 30 per cent. of what is sown is summer fallow from last year, and part of this is part of last year's crop. Seeding commenced about the same time as a year ago, and the early sowing is now above the surface and coming on nicely. Weather, with the exception of a hard frost about a week ago, has been very favorable; air is quite damp in the morning, which is beneficial.

Wawanesa—Weather has been very cloudy and cold, but is now clear and warm; seeding is in full swing and about 90 per cent. of the wheat sown. Acreage is about the same as a year ago and all conditions equally favorable except that there is more moisture in the soil this spring.

Metcalfe Junction—Seeding has been in progress since about the 21st, being about two weeks later than last year and there has been no delay to operations since beginning. Acreage is about the same as a year ago and ploughing for wheat has all been done, a little yet remaining for oats and barley. On account of the heavy rains last fall and the snow fall last winter being plentiful, together with the rains and snow this spring, the soil is good and moist. About one-half of the wheat acreage has already been sown and the prospects are very bright.

Rochester—Seeding has just commenced, being about two weeks later than last year. Farmers have completed about half of their ploughing, and, if weather remains fine, will finish in about three weeks; all spring work should be completed by May 24 if weather permitting. The soil is in splendid condition, quite moist and much better than last year. No rain in the district at present. Everything points to a very favorable crop.

Brandon—Seeding about two weeks later than last year, not being general until about the 24th inst. There will probably be an increase in the acreage of about 10 per cent. over last year; weather is favorable and rain is not needed yet. There is more snow last winter than usual and the ground was very wet from last fall. It is believed that have been dry for years are filled with water this spring.

Sour: River Branch, Hartley Ex-

Nimette—Compared with last year, seeding commenced about the same time; weather is hardly as favorable

as in 1900, but still the grain is in very good condition, about 80 per cent. of the wheat crop being under ground. Acreage to be sown will be about the same as a year ago, with a small percentage of ploughing yet to be done. Up to date, the weather has been too cold and windy for much growth; ground very moist. No rain required as yet.

Dunrea—Wheat seeding is about half done, the acreage sown being fully 25 per cent. over last year. Very little oats and barley have yet been sown; the acreage sown is about 5 per cent. over 1900. Root crops about the same as a year ago; land in fairly good condition; depth of moisture in contact with subsoil. Operations about ten days later than last year. About 10,000 acres of ploughing still to be done, about 100 to be finished immediately tributary to this station.

Minato—Weather in this district has been very favorable for farming operations; seeding commenced about the 15th and is about ten days later than last year. It is estimated that there will be an increase in the acreage to be sown of about 10 per cent. over 1900. A large amount of plowing still to be done owing to portions of the land being too wet. Owing to the heavy snow fall of last winter there still is not so much moisture in the soil in this vicinity for a number of years.

Elgin—Seeding commenced about the 15th, about one week later than last year. The weather has been favorable, with the exception of a few stormy high winds and a light snow storm on the 26th inst. The wheat in the ground and the balance of the soil is in good condition and ready for seed; ploughing was pretty well all done last fall; all that remains to be done this spring being just what is required for seed oats, barley, etc. A few trials of flax will be made this year but not to any great proportion. There is plenty of moisture and rain will not be an absolute necessity until the latter part of May or the first of June, and if it comes then a crop is assured. The acreage is about the same as last year and the general conditions favorable.

Hartney—Seeding is a week or ten days later than last year and is progressing favorably. Fully 75 per cent. of the wheat is now under ground. It is estimated that about 45,000 acres will be sown naturally tributary to Hartney; of this 90 per cent. will be wheat. Owing to wet weather last fall, there is considerable ploughing yet to be done, but most of the wheat land is ready for seeding. Weather is, and has been, very favorable for the spring work, and the land is very moist in it than there has been for years, owing to the heavy rains of last fall and the heavy snow fall of the past winter. Taking everything into consideration, the prospects so far are very good; better than for the past two or three years.

Portage Extension and Lake Branch.

Ell—Seeding commenced on the 8th, about the same time as a year ago, with 4,000 acres to be sown, and 800 acres of ploughing to be done; weather conditions favorable and seeding progressing nicely; had about four or five hours rain on the 23th and 28th, but not enough to interfere with operations.

Portage la Prairie—About 40 per cent. of the seeding has been done; operations being about one week later than last year. Weather during the past week has not been very favorable on account of rain; acreage to be sown is about the same as a year ago; very little ploughing to be done, and depth of moisture will average about four feet.

Oakland—Wheat seeding is well under way and the weather fairly favorable. Operations have been somewhat retarded by a snow storm, and also by a couple of heavy showers on the 25th and 26th; about 80 per cent. of the wheat is already sown. The acreage to be sown is about the same as a year ago, and there should be enough moisture for some time to come; it having been thoroughly soaked last fall.

Beaver—Wheat seeding is now nearly finished. The season did not open as early as last year and operations were interrupted by a fall of snow, which last about four inches, but the land is in fairly good condition again. The weather has not been very favorable for vegetation, being cold with quite a number of showers. The acreage in wheat will be about the same as last year.

C. F. R. Reports.

The C. F. R. are receiving seeding reports from their agents through the province and it is understood that a large increase in acreage will be shown this season. Seeding has again commenced after the wet weather and the large amount of ground where wheat was spoiled and which was plowed up last year has added, it is estimated, about 400,000 acres to the total acreage. An increase in all of ten per cent. is expected, which would give about 200,000 acres over last year, which at 20 bushels to the acre would mean four million bushels of grain.

Seeding in Neepawa District.

Provincial Treasurer Davidson returned from Neepawa on Monday. In answer to an inquiry yesterday he said the seeding around Neepawa is pretty far advanced, as that part of the province escaped the recent rainfall. The weather, however, they have had snow, and on Monday, the states, there was several inches of the "beautiful" on the ground at Neepawa. Snow also fell in the Dauphin district.

Brandon's Demands.

An influential deputation from Brandon waited on the government on Monday in regard to railway matters. The gentlemen comprising it were Messrs. S. W. McInnis, M. P. P.; Andrew Kelly, J. W. Murray, E. Evans, F. A. Hopper and John Harnbury. They were met by Mr. McInnis and presented a request that Brandon's interests be not ignored in connection with the building of any railway this year in the northwestern portion of the province and that the proposed line be built this year. A lengthy conference ensued with the members of the delegation and the cabinet and the latter announced at the close that the matter would receive consideration and that Brandon's interests will receive due attention. A member of the matter last evening said that the new line will be built this year and will probably run northwesterly through the municipalities of Woodworth and Daly as far as range 25, and then to the west. He preferred that it be built by the C. F. R. but even if it is constructed by the C. F. R. they ask for a proper recognition of the interests of their town as an established commercial centre.

Stocks Advance.

Montreal, April 26.—Several small lots, totalling \$800,000 of P. R. stock sold at par value to-day on the Montreal stock exchange. This stock reached this point for the first time in a couple of years. Another small lot sold at 100%.

Toronto, April 26.—To-day was a red letter day for Toronto speculators who were long on Northern Pacific and Union Pacific and steel stocks. The remarkable advances in the prices of these securities must have netted holders in Toronto many thousands of dollars, that is, those who took their profits and cleaned up. It is probable, however, many are still holding on in expectation of further advances.

Speculation in Toronto during recent months has been of an exceptionally heavy nature. People who never bought stock before are in the market now, business men, clerks, women, even office boys who have gone into bucket shop gambling. It is indeed rather a novelty in the history of speculation in Toronto to find such a number of ladies taking flyers in stocks as there are to-day, and it is said that some of them, whose money is being handled by brokers, have come out pretty well in recent advances.

Work on the grading of the northern extension of the Canadian Northern line from end of track, seven miles west of Erwood, will be resumed this week continuing the line toward Prince Albert.

A meeting of furniture manufacturers was held at Berlin, Ont., last week for the purpose of forming an association independent of the Canadian Furniture Manufacturers' Association. After discussion, it was decided to give the old association a chance to remedy a state of affairs which these manufacturers object to and action was deferred until after a meeting of the association could be held.