

tion of companies or joint utilization of facilities that may be found to be of economic advantage and in the public interest.

"While the utilization of natural resources, the development of industries and extension of commerce depends upon adequate transportation, existing facilities are inadequate to meet the increasing needs of the nation. We urge that the government speedily complete river improvement projects already authorized and that congress provide for a comprehensive system of waterways with co-ordination of the services of waterways and railways.

"Congress should create a federal highway commission, independent of present departments of the government, composed of members from the different geographical sections of the country, to perform all executive functions of the Federal government pertaining to highways, including those relating to existing appropriations in aid of state construction. Such a commission should act in co-ordination with any federal agency that may have functions of articulating rail, trolley, water and highway transportation. Congress should make substantial appropriations for the construction and maintenance of a national highway system to serve the need for the maintenance of interstate travel and traffic. The commission should report to congress a plan for continued aid for state construction of highways in the period beyond 1921, to which time the provisions of existing federal-aid laws extend."

TO GET INDUSTRY FOR ISLAND

An Industrial Promotion Committee has been formed in Charlottetown, P.E.I., for the purpose of stimulating the industrial life of the island. The membership of the committee includes the Council of the Board of Trade, the City Council, the Rotary Club, the Retail Merchants' Association and the Great War Veterans' Association. There are a number of sub-committees, including the Investigation Committee, whose duty will be to investigate and report on interesting industries and the prospects for new enterprises, and a Recommendation Committee which will receive in confidence the financial report of any enterprise wishing to extend its field of operation, or of any new industry. A Publicity Committee is planning a suitable campaign to assist in the work.

DOLLAR CANNOT BE STABILIZED

Speaking before the Vancouver Board of Trade recently, Professor T. H. Boggs, of the University of British Columbia, stated that the dollar could not be stabilized under normal conditions of international trade. He was not referring, he said, to dollar exchange, rates for which always varied, even in this country, in accordance with the volume of trade eastward and westward.

Dealing also with high prices, he urged that a vigorous government investigation be carried out. Profiteering had, he said, been a factor in making the cost of living high. Other causes were waste and extravagance; trades unionism and restricted output; cold storages, inefficiency and the tariff. The fundamental reason and the most important single reason for the rapid increase of prices since 1896 has been, said Prof. Boggs, the change in the volume of the money credit. The deposit currency on this continent, had enormously increased. Speaking about gold, he said that the price of gold never changed but its value did. The price of gold had always been \$18.60 an ounce for nine-tenths fine. The weight of the gold dollar had been fixed at 25 and 8-10 grains, but not the value. The solution advanced and endorsed by prominent financiers and others all over the world was to remove gold from circulation and to issue gold certificates for the gold brought to the mint. As prices increased, more gold would be demanded by the mint and vice versa.

CROP OUTLOOK IN WEST

A detailed crop report covering the territories served by the western lines of Canadian National Railways has been received at the head office of the company here, and is generally optimistic in character. This detailed report is divided into three districts, central, prairie and western. The first and last report generally favorable conditions, sufficient moisture and rapid growth with good prospects. The prairie district, in quite a number of cases, indicates a need of rain. Subsequent advices to the company show that heavy rains have fallen over a large part of the area, and the prairie district therefore should be making normal progress at the present time. Out of 245 places reporting along the C.N.R., 127 report the wheat thriving, with weather and other conditions good and prospects bright.

The following summary of conditions in Manitoba has been issued by the Provincial Department of Agriculture, under date of June 9th:—

"Manitoba crops, on the whole, are well advanced and promising. The splendid amount of moisture in the ground at the beginning of May, combined with the general warmth of that month, caused rapid growth. The heat during the last ten days of May was almost unprecedented for the time of year, but very few complaints as to any bad effects have been made. In a few spots slight frosts fell at the beginning of June, but no serious damage occurred. Cutworms are at work in some places, and in the extreme south-western part of Manitoba there are grasshoppers. Damage through soil drifting by wind has not been great, and very little re-seeding, if any, has been necessary. At present there is a general need of rain, though the crop is still going ahead on the supply of moisture in the soil. Pastures have been good and animals are thriving. The acreage sown to various crops seems to be about the same as last year. Some correspondents complain that the Winnipeg strike has interfered with farmers getting supplies and machinery needed to carry their work forward, and it is known that the dairy, livestock, wool and egg trades have been harmed by the same cause. Farm labor generally is scarce and wages high, being about \$60 to \$65 per month and board."

Our Winnipeg correspondent writes that since the above official report was prepared, good rains have fallen, and the outlook is improved.

An official report issued by the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture on June 17th, states that rain was fairly general all over the province last week. In the south-eastern districts, the grasshoppers have done a great amount of damage, but it is thought the situation is now under control. Reports from south of Moose Jaw, Outlook and Eyebrow indicate serious damage from the same pest.

The recent rains will be helpful in reducing the damage. In the south-western and central districts crops are reported as the best since 1915, no damage of any kind being reported. In the central and northern districts, the rain would appear to have come just in time to save the crops from being destroyed from wind or drought. The cut worms have done some damage in nearly all parts, but it is too early to form an estimate. To summarize the situation, it would seem that the crops are much further ahead than at the same period last year and prospects are generally favorable to crop of at least equal to last year and in parts better than they have been for some years.

Very few of the Winnipeg strikers receive strike pay and considerable difficulty has naturally been encountered in meeting financial obligations. Rental agents have been trying to decide upon a uniform course of action; if heavy arrears are allowed to pile up it is felt that they can never be collected. Rents for May are not paid in many cases, and June will soon be over. All the strikers' available cash is required to meet the more immediate requirements of food, etc. Many Victory bonds are being sold, sometimes at sacrifice prices through ignorance of market values. The banks and reputable dealers are however, paying market prices.