

# Conditions in the West

By E. CORA HIND.

Conditions in the West are very far from satisfactory and much anxiety is felt as to the outcome of not only the crops, but of feed for livestock. The Manitoba Free Press published their sixth crop report on July 16, and conditions from the three provinces were summed up as follows:

## MANITOBA.

From 82 points queried 71 replies were received. Of these only one reported no rain at all since last report; 30 points stated good to fair rains, and all others showers or light rains. Under caption "rain needed" 14 replied that none was needed at present, and 24 stated that rain was needed very badly or badly, while all other points need rain to complete filling. Only 25 points report wheat 60 to 90 per cent in head and the others run from "starting" to 50 per cent in head. In reply to question, "How much wheat ploughed down" 32 points report done ploughed down, as few adding "as yet" the balance stated "very little" to 10 per cent; only one point claiming 25 per cent ploughed down. Coarse grains in Manitoba are making a very good showing, as 48 points report condition "good," "excellent" or "fair," at only 2 points are coarse grains reported as "poor"; a few points state that coarse grains at standstill for want of rain, and other below average or only medium. Regarding hay 12 points report fair to good crops; 22 points "poor" to "no good." Under general conditions, 29 points report good to fair, with one bumper; 4 points state only a 50 per cent crop, while from the balance conditions are put as "medium," "not promising," and poor at present. Damage from hail, frost and wind very slight.

## SASKATCHEWAN.

In Saskatchewan 97 points queried, 89 heard from. Of these points 16 have had absolutely no rain since last report; 29 have had light showers only; 24 have had good rains, some of them lasting from 10 to 24 hours. Need of rain is urgent, as 59 points is needed "badly" or "very badly." Only 6 points claim rain "not needed"; all other points require it in varying degrees. There has been little hail damage, 7 points report slight, and one point only reports a serious damage to 20 per cent of the crop. Wind has done considerable damage at 4 points. Wheat is not so far advanced as in Manitoba as 45 points report from 50 to 90 per cent headed; other points small percentage running from 3 to 5. As to crop ploughed down 36 points state "none," but most of them add "not yet" or "it's too dry to plough"; 15 points report percentages of land ploughed down running from 3 to 15. As to coarse grain 32 points report conditions of progress "fair," "good," or "excellent"; 29 give varying replies, all indicating very poor conditions. As regards hay, only 7 points state crop good, all others report "light"; "short," "a failure," etc. Under general conditions, 6 points report crops of 50 to 75 per cent normal, 25 points "fair to good"; 16 points report "poor," "very poor," or "bad."

## ALBERTA.

In Alberta 27 points queried; 22 heard from. Of these, 3 have had no rains; 9 have had good rains, but a number of these reported as coming too late; other points report light rains. Rain is needed everywhere almost; 11 points reported "badly" to "very badly" needed; only 2 points state rain "not needed." Five points report slight hail damage, but no fresh damage from wind is reported beyond the drying up of moisture almost as it fell. Wheat is further on in the matter of heading than the other provinces, the percentages running from 25 to 100. In the matter of land ploughed down 8 points state "none," some add because "it is too dry," but others of these districts have had plenty of moisture, and there has been no occasion to plough up the crop. Other points report large areas reploughed, some 50 per cent. As to coarse grains 8 points report them "good" or "doing well"; all others "bad" or "poor." Under general conditions 6 points report "fair" to "good" others "practical failure," "may get seed," or "very poor." Only two points in Alberta report good hay. There has been no damage from frost.

While there had been considerable rains in the twenty days which lapsed between the two reports, it had not been sufficient to wholly relieve the situation, and in many districts in Southern Alberta and southern Saskatchewan, it came too late to be of

material benefit.

With regard to livestock. There was a meeting in Winnipeg on July 12, with the Hon. T. A. Crerar, and he announced that his department would meet any reduction in rates which might be made by the various railway companies. On the 13th, there was a meeting of the railway companies and they agreed to give a half rate for the movement of cattle to feed and feed to cattle over a very large area. This really comprises the whole of the three provinces, east of Cochrane and Lundbreck in Alberta, south of the line running from Lacombe, southeast to Kerrobert, then northeast to Wilkie, then southeast following the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway to 100 miles west of Winnipeg. A glance at the map will show how enormous is the area believed to be effected by drought. The railway offer included the movement of cattle and sheep up to the 15th of November of the present year, and permits of their re-shipment to their home ranches as late as October 1st, 1919. There will be half rates also on both hay

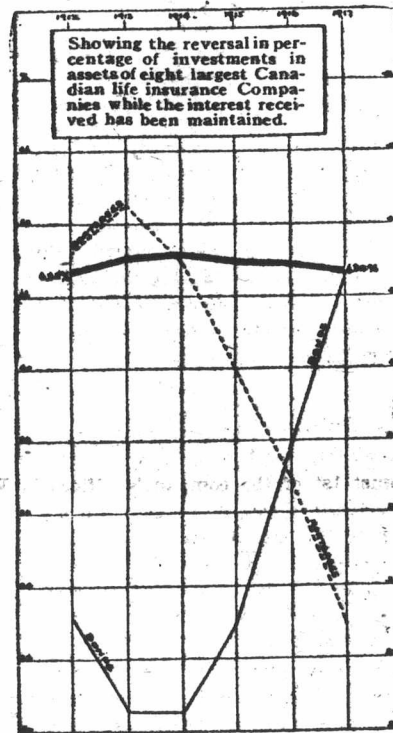
and straw in the reverse direction to that which the cattle move, and these half rates on hay and straw will be in effect up to the 1st May, 1919. It is an extremely liberal offer on the part of the railway companies, and it will do much to relieve the situation. Already the price of cattle has dropped materially, while the receipts are increasing daily. Many of the cattle coming in are very thin, and there is at the present time very little demand for them, though to-day American buyers began to arrive and they want choice she stock.

There has been a meeting of bankers and loan men and government officials called to see what can be done in placing cattle in districts in Manitoba where there is an abundance of feed. The tendency to liquidate cattle is not unnatural in view of the condition of the pasture, and this, coupled with the past experience of ranchmen that in an extremely dry year, there is likely to be no rain at all until late in August or September, makes them feel that they must either get pasture somewhere or sell before the cattle are so thin that their value will be further depreciated. It is the firm conviction of practical men, who have covered the three provinces, that there is sufficient feed to meet all the requirements; the only thing is the necessity of locating the feed and seeing to its proper and equitable distribution.

## REVERSING INVESTMENTS WHILE MAINTAINING THE INTEREST RETURN.

Practically everyone will admit that the eight largest life insurance companies in Canada are well managed, and that if their methods could be applied to the individual's private funds that he would be benefited. In the face of War Conditions these companies have changed their investments very materially, as while they always buy large amounts of bonds—they have during recent years purchased bonds much more heavily than before and have maintained their interest yield on their invested capital, while their securities have increased very much in quality by their purchase of Government and Municipal Bonds.

No better illustration of this can be had than that presented on the graphic illustration shown here—which shows a practical reversal of investments of mortgages and bonds but a maintenance of yield rate. — Buy Bonds Now. — From Canadian Bond Market News—issued by Hew. R. Wood Company, Montreal.



## LAST WEEK'S RECORD OF ACTIVE MONTREAL STOCKS.

Sales.		Open.	High.	Low.	Last sale.	Net ch'ge.	— YEAR —	
							High.	Low.
120	Ames-Holden .....	22	22	22	22	unch.	24 1/2	15
130	Do. pfd. ....	60	61 1/2	60	61 1/2	+1 1/2	64	47
344	Bell Telephone .....	130	130	130	130	unch.	132	*130
260	Brompton .....	55 1/2	56	55 1/2	56	unch.	56	41 1/2
3,786	Can. Car .....	33 1/2	36 1/2	32 1/2	36 1/2	+3 1/2	38 1/2	18 1/2
1,795	Do. pfd. ....	80 1/2	86 1/2	80	86 1/2	+5 1/2	86 1/2	49 1/2
397	Can. Cement .....	*60 1/2	*60 1/2	60 1/2	60 1/2	unch.	62	*57
98	Do. pfd. ....	92 1/2	92 1/2	92 1/2	92 1/2	+ 1/2	92 1/2	90
230	Can. Converters .....	45	46	45	46	+1 1/2	46	43
705	Can. Steamship .....	41 1/2	41 1/2	40 1/2	40 1/2	+ 1/2	43 1/2	39 1/2
655	Do. Vot. Trust .....	41 1/2	42 1/2	41 1/2	42 1/2	+1	43 1/2	38 1/2
720	Do. pfd. ....	76	76	76	76	unch.	76 1/2	76
659	Dom. Steel .....	60 1/2	61 1/2	60	61 1/2	+ 1/2	63 1/2	*53
120	Laurentide .....	168	169	168	169	+3	169	152
67	Lyall .....	78	78	77 1/2	77 1/2	+ 1/2	79	*62
110	MacDonald .....	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	unch.	16 1/2	13 1/2
360	Maple Leaf .....	108	114	108	114	+12 1/2	114	*95
567	Mont. Power .....	76 1/2	78 1/2	72	76 1/2	+1 1/2	80 1/2	68 1/2
202	Ogilvie, pfd. ....	100 1/2	100 1/2	100	100	.....	100 1/2	100
80	Penmans .....	76	77	76	77	+2	77	68
335	Quebec Ry. ....	19	19	18	18	-2	22 1/2	15
471	Shawinigan .....	110 1/2	111 1/2	110 1/2	111 1/2	+ 1/2	116 1/2	*107
445	Steel of Can. ....	*64 1/2	*65 1/2	*64 1/2	*65 1/2	+ 1/2	67 1/2	*49 1/2
737	Wabasso Cotton .....	42	44 1/2	42	44 1/2	+2 1/2	45 1/2	21
125	Wayagamack .....	50	50	50	50	unch.	50	50
100	Woods Mfg. ....	70	70	70	70	unch.	70 1/2	57 1/2
— BONDS —								
\$12,500	Can. Loan (1925) .....	96	96	95 1/2	95 1/2	unch.	96	93 1/2
14,400	Do. (1931) .....	95 1/2	95 1/2	95 1/2	95 1/2	+ 1/2	95 1/2	92 1/2
11,300	Do. (1937) .....	93 1/2	93 1/2	93 1/2	93 1/2	unch.	94	91 1/2
— UNLISTED SHARES —								
245	Laurentide Power .....	52 1/2	52 1/2	52	52 1/2	- 1/2	54 1/2	50

\*Ex-dividend.

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