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The most important event this year in Canada, from an economic point of view, is the successful agricultural result that has attended the planting, growth and harvesting of all our main crops. We present on another page an estimate of the Manitoba Free Press, which has been compiled with great thoroughness and has been unusually accurate in years past. Its observations cover the three Prairie Provinces only, which harvest the bulk of the wheat, oat, barley and flax crops. Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces have undoubtedly planted much larger areas to wheat, particularly, than in the past, and many millions of bushels of wheat will be added to the total yield from the estimate of 222,000,000 bushels for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The hope that the farmer would receive at elevator points \$1.25 per bushel for his Number One grade has been dissipated some weeks back. It is, however, likely that for the bulk of his crop he will receive in the neighborhood of 80 cents per bushel, which is a fair average price. The estimate mentioned above states that about 180,000,000 bushels will go out of the Prairies for milling and export purposes. Averaging roughly on seventy-five cents for wheat, \$135,000,000 of wealth will be added to those Provinces for one crop alone. A larger percentage of oats and barley is consumed within the Prairies than of wheat, and the added new wealth is not so evident as in the latter case, but the benefit to the communities is just as real as if so much new money or credits were added.

With these large additions to the wealth of the agricultural districts of the Prairies, its beneficent influence on trade and industry must be felt throughout the length of the Dominion. Debts will be liquidated, extensions made, necessities purchased, and the countless other elements of trade and finance will be stimulated to such an extent that practically every element in the business structure will be beneficially affected.

British Columbia takes a great interest in the result of the crops in the three Prairie Provinces, as successful crops increases demand for our lumber and increases demand for a number of our other products. The lumber outlook in this Province is much brighter because of these bounteous crops. While it is likely that economy will prevail all through the agricultural and distributing districts of the Prairies, much building of a necessary character must be undertaken, and the lumber for its construction will be

The services of this journal are offered through an inquiry column, which is open to subscribers and the public generally without charge, for detailed information or opinion as to financial or industrial affairs or institutions throughout the Province of British Columbia. Wherever possible the replies to these inquiries will be made through this column. Where inquiries are not of general interest, they will be handled by letter. We think that we can assure our readers that the opinions expressed will be sane and conservative, and that all statements will be as accurate as possible.

purchased in this Province to an extent that it never has been before. The natural growth and development which was so seriously interrupted last year on account of crop failure and war will, this fall and next year, assert itself, and in that growth British Columbia must contribute, and receive its meed of profit.

The announcement that the Granby has entered into arrangements for the purchase of coke from a Vancouver Island colliery is a hopeful sign.

Twenty years ago Vancouver Island turned out some high-grade coke; but, due to the increasing demand for Vancouver Island coal, which is the best mined on the Pacific Coast, the quality soon retrograded and the output of coke practically ceased. In the meantime the demand for coal continued to spread, until the coal operators had difficulty in filling orders from Mexico to Alaska. Under these conditions the operators had little inclination to experiment in the coke field.

Since then the Coast coal industry has fallen on evil days. The development of mining was attended with ever increasing demands on the part of labor; strikes resulted, with their attendant wastes of capital and labor.

Then the huge supply of cheap oil fuel from California has induced many industrial and commercial establishments to change to oil, so that the demand for coal for other than domestic purposes has materially slackened.

This was the time to have diligently sought to produce a coke which would meet the Coast demand. The sources of coke are generally from the Atlantic seaboard, which, with the opening of the Panama Canal, has reduced the price at Pacific seaboard points. Germany hitherto regarded the Pacific as a dumping ground and often shipped cargoes to this Coast in ballast, which demoralized the market whenever a German vessel landed.

German competition has been removed for perhaps some years; and although Atlantic Coast coke, because of the Canal, will offer stiffer competition than in the past, nevertheless by perseverance and application of scientific principles a coke-making industry can be built up on Vancouver Island that should be reasonably profitable. The idea that coke is coke won't do. The coal must be mined free from slate, screened, and thoroughly washed, and then properly burned. Burning in the old bee-hive has long been considered antiquated. The bi-product oven, with the saving of ammonia, benzoal and other products, is necessary for economical operation. So far has the bi-product industry in the manufacture of coke been carried in Germany that it is said that Germany could afford to give away her coke, so profitable has the bi-product industry become. With proper care and treatment, the coke-consuming industries of the Pacific Coast should be supplied by British Columbia coke only.