

WESTERN CANADA SECTION

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MOVEMENT OF THE CROP.

**Statement is Issued Showing the Progress Made—
Charges Against the Railways by Livestock Men
—Winnipeg Men's Campaign for Capital.**

Monetary Times Office,
Winnipeg, December 21st.

Merchants at this season of the year are reaping their harvest. Business shows great improvement when compared with the holiday trade of the last two years. The farmers are more liberal buyers this year than ever before. Many of them are indulging in luxuries to an extent that people in the large centres of population can scarcely realize. The rural telephone is becoming common, and large numbers of farmers have line connections in their own homes.

Another sign of the prosperous conditions is the unusually heavy passenger traffic at the holiday season to Eastern Canada. One authority states that in Christmas railway traffic to the East this year Western people will pay out over a million dollars.

Insurance, loan and mortgage companies having their head quarters at Winnipeg, report 1908 to be a record year so far as cash collections are concerned. Banks during the closing months of the year find the savings depositors' wicket the busiest on the floor.

Where the Wheat is.

An important statement has been issued by the Grain Dealers' Association, which indicates at a glance the progress that has been made up to date in the moving crop. It is estimated that something like 21,500,000 bushels of wheat is still in the farmers' hands and has yet to be marketed. The Association believe that their estimate of 107,000,000 bushels made August 20th is more accurate than their later calculation of 99,000,000 bushels.

The following figures indicate exactly where the wheat now is:

	Bushels.
Inspected to date at Winnipeg, 46,367 cars at 1,050 bushels	48,685,350
In transit, not inspected	1,680,000
In store at country points	15,048,000
Marketed at Winnipeg, not inspected.....	125,000
Allow for country mills	8,000,000
Allow for seed and feed	12,000,000
Total	85,538,350

The close of navigation this year will not soon be forgotten by the men engaged in the grain trade of Western Canada. The finish of shipping at the Lake ports took the form of almost a mad rush. Railway men, grain handlers, and vessel men worked day and night. Some idea of the amount of work the elevators at the head of the lakes were called upon to perform may be gathered from the fact that during the open season of 1908, 36,013,617 bushels of wheat, 5,953,201 bushels of oats, 1,450,864 bushels of barley, and 517,913 bushels of flax were loaded from the elevators into the waiting vessels, making a grand total of 43,935,596 bushels of all grains loaded outward for the season. This compares with 23,482,497 for the season of 1907, and by far the largest amount that has ever been handled during the

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shipping season of any one year. The wheat continues to arrive at the rate of several hundred cars a day.

Livestock Men Meet.

The live-stock shippers of Western Canada will present their grievances to the Railway Commission at the sitting to be held in Winnipeg in the month of January. The annual meeting of the Association was held last week at Winnipeg. Over forty of the sixty members of the Association were present. The claims made by the organization and the concessions the members claim ought to be granted by the railway transportation companies were fully discussed, and it was decided that the case of the stock-shippers be put before the Commission at the earliest opportunity.

The railways are charged directly with acting in a manner which practically does away with legitimate competition in the live-stock shipping business in Western Canada, even to such a degree that it is impossible for a dealer or company with limited capital to carry on business. This, it is claimed, is done by their not furnishing adequate facilities at terminal stock yards and loading stations, by failing to supply cars when ordered, which is essential in a shipping business of this sort; and by refusing to supply cars to all points which the dealers require, and thus occasioning loss to the shipper. The president of the Stock Shippers' Association, Mr. J. B. Baird, M.P.P., stated in his address that the Railway Commission had power to grant any demand it might see fit, and he thought that they had ample evidence to show that some better arrangements should be made.

Reduction in Insurance Rates.

The long-looked for reduction in insurance rates in Winnipeg has come, and rebates will date from November 1st last. The rate of reduction is not yet known, but rebates will date in accordance with the adjustment of rates to be announced by the Board of Underwriters in January. Mr. W. H. Birch, secretary of the Underwriters' Association informs the Monetary Times that the Board were prepared to make a reduction last July, but that the high pressure plant was not ready and was not taken over by the city until late in the year. During the period since July 1st, a large number of changes have taken place in the district liable to the surcharge, and these changes necessitate practically a new survey, which is now being done as rapidly as possible. Mr. Birch is devoting his attention to the matter, and has the assistance of three surveyors. When this work is completed, the new rates will be announced and adjustments in accordance therewith will be made from November 1st.

A new industry, that of match manufacturing, is to be established in the West at Selkirk, Man., by the Selkirk Match Company. This will be the first factory of its kind in Western Canada, and it is expected that it will be ready for business in March. Property has already been secured for the building of the factory, and the plans are now in preparation. The size of the structure may be judged by the fact that at the opening of the business at least fifty hands

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