

## GOOD NEWS FROM THE WEST

## Many Homes Are Being Built, Agricultural Education Provided and Railroads Constructed

Monetary Times Office,  
Winnipeg, December 10th.

The trend of events in the Winnipeg building inspector's department tends to show that the tight money period is wearing itself out.

In spite of the fact that funds have been scarce, hundreds more small dwellings have been constructed by the people this season than last, and the owners have been able to secure the necessary funds with which to do this work, and the inspector has expressed the opinion that there will be a revival of business in the near future in Winnipeg, and this will be established on a much more solid basis.

Over \$8,000,000 have been expended in actual building operations. If this condition has happened during the money stringency, it is reasonable to suppose that, now the clouds are disappearing from the financial horizon, early next season Winnipeg will experience a progressive period. One must also keep in view that the many indiscriminate deals that were in evidence in many quarters at that time have been eliminated, and the business basis of Western Canada is, as a result, on a more sound foundation.

## Manitoba's Agricultural College.

A further indication of progression in the west is to be found in the record amount of money now in circulation as recorded by the Winnipeg clearing house.

I am sure that the province of Manitoba cannot make a better investment than they have done in the institution of the agricultural college.

"They are building, not for to-day only, but for the future, and I venture to predict that the people of the province will find that, ample as the provision is, it will not be large enough to accommodate the students who will flock to the college within the next ten years, which, I understand, is the period for which the accommodation is supposed to be sufficient," said Dr. Carlyle, acting president of the University of Idaho.

## Railways Have Been Busy.

During the year 1913 the railways of Canada have had in hand, fully 6,000 miles of new construction. By June 30 last, when the year for railway statistics closes, between 1,800 and 2,000 miles had been taken into operation as finally completed, and since that date there has been immense activity. Including lines which have been surveyed, lines for which the contracts have been let, and lines for which the contracts have been completed, the total will run to the extraordinary figure quoted. At present the Canadian Pacific has well over 1,000 miles in hand, the Canadian Northern not far short of 2,000, and the Grand Trunk Pacific about 1,000, while there also is to be considered the 500 miles of the Hudson Bay Railway, and the National Transcontinental, which is now nearing its completion. The present activity in construction work constitutes a record.

## BUT WE CANNOT EAT RUBBER.

The most noteworthy feature of the November wholesale prices was the advance in eggs, for which different reasons, but more especially a diminished production, have been assigned.

In butter, potatoes, coal, milk, and prunes the tendency was upward. In a number of Canadian cities, fresh pork and lard declined, but beef, veal and mutton advanced.

Higher than a year was the level in animals, meats, dairy products, textiles, hides, leathers, boots and shoes, lumber, miscellaneous building materials, furniture and crockery. On the other hand, a lower level than last year was registered in grains, fodder, fish, paints and oils. Miscellaneous groceries were somewhat lower than last year, while fruits and vegetables were slightly higher.

The month's increase was attributable to advanced prices in grains and fodders, beef, cattle, sheep, dairy products and fresh vegetables. Most notable was the increased price of eggs. To offset these advances, however, were declining prices in flour, glucose, raw cotton, silk, honey, coke, iron pipe, linseed oil, resin and raw rubber.

The monthly bulletin of the Labor Department shows a ratio of increase, but not nearly so marked as compared with the sharp advances at different periods within the past few years. The index number for November stood at 138.4, as against 136.8 in October and 136.6 in November, 1912.

## DEMANDS FOR POWER SUPPLY

Output of Plants in British Columbia All Absorbed—  
Better Feeling in Coast Cities

(Staff Correspondence.)

Vancouver, December 6th.

Statistics for November in different of the coast cities show an increase over those of the month previous. This is taken as an indication that the tide of depression has passed the ebb and that better conditions will obtain. The increase of fees in the land registry office in Vancouver was nearly \$3,000 over October. The timber officials report on the amount of logs scaled to date since the first of the year, show an excess of 17,000,000 feet over the same period of last year. But, while the cut of timber in the coast district is greater, the surplus on hand is larger. Big mills are cutting and putting in large stocks. This with the several proposed mill projects, would seem to indicate that prominent lumbermen have little fear for the future.

Since the recent visit to the coast of the heads of Yarrow's, the big shipbuilders in the Old Country, there has been talk of the establishment of a large industry here. Mr. Yarrow stated that the party came to the Pacific Coast with a full knowledge of labor conditions, but found that the price of sites was too high.

Reports are current that they have purchased the Wallace shipyards in North Vancouver, a concern that has been established for many years. The representative of the Yarrows, states, however, that while a number of propositions have been offered, no decision has yet been taken.

## Western Canada Power Company.

Steady progress is being made by the Western Canada Power Company, the Montreal concern that is developing the Stave River Falls. Because of the increased demand for power, the company has placed orders for two more 13,000 h.p. hydro-electric generating units. One of these will be installed early next year, and the other a year later. More than 25,000 h.p. is now being generated by the two large units now in operation. The company is developing a radial system which will supply electricity to all points on the lower mainland. The height of the dam at Stave River Falls was raised 10 feet this year, next year it will be raised another 10 feet while in 1915 it is expected that the ultimate capacity will be reached when another raise of 10 feet is made. The maximum output is placed at 110,000 h.p., the capacity when the units now planned are installed to be 43,000 h.p. The expenditure involved in next year's improvements will amount to about half a million dollars.

This development shows the great advance made during the last 10 or 12 years. That length of time ago, the British Columbia Electric was just starting its power plant at Lake Buntzen, and it was thought then by that company that when this scheme was carried to completion it would have ample power for all the purposes required. Growth, however, has been such, not only in Vancouver, but all over the lower mainland, that with the Lake Buntzen working to capacity, and millions of dollars spent to perfect the project, power has to be purchased from the Western Canada Power Company. Even at that, there is a big field left for the new concern, which in the end will develop more power than the British Columbia Electric does, exclusive, of course, of its big Vancouver Island plants. The power question on the coast is a big one, for at Victoria, the British Columbia Electric has the immense plant at Jordon River, and in addition a large supplementary steam plant at Brentwood Bay, about 10 miles north of the capital city.

## Granby Purchases Snowshoe.

Expansion of mining companies is shown further by the purchase of the Snowshoe Mine at Phoenix by the Granby Company. This company has been making very large investments in British Columbia during the past two years, operating in three different locations. The Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company had the Snowshoe under lease, but ceased operations a year ago. The Granby has been working on the property and has such ore reserves in sight that it was decided to take over the property. Another purchase by the Granby is the Midas mine at Valdez, Alaska, which will be worked in connection with its plant at Hidden Creek, on the northern coast. The new smelter there will be blown in early in January.

The Shawinigan Water and Power Company is in the market for bonds to be retired by the operation of the company's sinking fund. Tenders are being asked for the sale to the company of \$62,000 of the five per cent. bonds, due 1934.