

Conditions in the West

By E. CORA HIND.

The annual bulletin of the returns from the farmers has been issued by the Free Press and makes a wonderful showing of prosperity for the three Western Provinces. The total amount received so far, from the sale of wheat, oats, barley, flax and rye is \$270,000,000, and there is, at least, 50,000,000 bushels of wheat still in the hands of the farmers to come forward and this 50,000,000 is worth \$2.18 a bushel and possibly \$2.21. The figures as they now stand, show up to the 31st of December, 112,987,500 bushels of wheat had been inspected, that there were 20,000,000 in interior elevators, and at least 5,500,000 in transit. I see no reason to change my estimate of 214,000,000 bushels made last September, unless it should be to increase it slightly. Even with this amount, the quantity available for shipment overseas, is extremely limited, in view of the terrible need. It is reckoned that at least 25,000,000 bushels may be used for seed.

The showing from livestock is really very wonderful. The Union Stockyards at Winnipeg show a movement of cattle, sheep, swine and horses valued at very nearly \$40,000,000. The receipts from hogs alone were over \$11,000,000; the average price of hogs for the year being \$30.00 a head. The actual receipts of cattle to the yards were 286,651 as against 158,949 in 1916. Of this number of cattle, the province of Manitoba contributed 112,554, Saskatchewan 137,357 and Alberta 33,622. There were 113,871 head slaughtered at Winnipeg, 83,258 went East, 37,877 head, mainly stockers and feeders, went West, 52,013 went South. There were 73,912 head of stockers and feeders received during the year, and of these only 20,000 head went South, the remainder going back on the Canadian farms to be finished. Manitoba took 14,372, Saskatchewan 12,720, Alberta 9,231, while 17,096 went to Eastern Canada. The Dominion Government's scheme to pay half the freight on these feeder cattle to Ontario was an immense help. A very large number of feeder hogs have been going back to the farms also, the movement being over 8,000 to the Manitoba farms in the past ninety days.

The stockyards at Calgary showed an increase in their handling of livestock for the year of \$5,209,368. Edmonton yards, which had only been open three months at the time of last year's figures, show that in 1917 they handled very close to \$3,000,000 worth of livestock, and of this amount \$1,000,000 worth was stocker and feeder cattle and \$74,800 dairy cattle.

The returns of figures for Alberta were not available, but Saskatchewan and Manitoba had exceptionally good years in the dairy business. Manitoba made nearly 12,000,000 pounds of butter and considerably over 1,000,000 pounds of cheese. The value of the butter and cheese was \$4,352,261, while the milk and sweet cream brought a total value for dairy products of \$5,895,631. The increase value for the year was \$1,412,016. Saskatchewan showed a return for dairy products of \$8,600,000. The returns from the two provinces, for dairy products was nearly \$2,000,000 more than the returns from three provinces in 1916.

Wool brought to the West one and a half to two million dollars.

During the week of January 7th to 12th, the Livestock Breeders' Association of Manitoba met in annual session, and the chief feature of interest was the scheme brought forward by Col. McEwan, President of the Canadian Sheep Breeders' Association, for a Dominion wide plan of co-operation in the collecting and selling of wool. At his suggestion, delegates were elected to attend a conference, to be held in Toronto, February 5th, 6th and 7th, when the whole matter will be fully discussed and decided upon. There is a tremendously strong feeling in the West against the embargo on wool to the United States. It is not that the Western wool men have any desire to send out of Canada what is needed here for our own soldiers, but they have a very lively recollection of the drop of from 6c to 8c a pound, which immediately followed the embargo of 1916. It is a curious fact, that during 1917 when the wool warehouse was established in Toronto, with a view to bring Canadian wool within easy reach of Canadian manufacturers, that there was not a single Canadian bid, and that practically all the wool went to the United States. The claim of the Canadian manufacturers is that the bulk of the Canadian wool is combed, and that they cannot comb it in Canada, as there are only four sets of combs and these have not been in operation for a long time. Prior to the admission of the Canadian wool, duty free, into the United States, a great deal of it was bought cheaply, shipped over to Bradford, combed there and returned to mills in Ontario that had Bradford connec-

tion. It is a little significant that several of the members of the Wool Commission are either managers or high officials in the mills with a Bradford connection. Of course, it is probable that the Food Controller will decide that all wool must remain in Canada this year, but if so, there is no doubt but that it will be handled on a co-operative basis; all the wool in each Province being collected, graded and sold on its merits, with a due regard to what it would bring on the American side. If this was done, the Government would then utilize all the clothing wool and dispose of the combing wool as they thought fit, but in any case, the movement looking to a Dominion-wide co-operative organization of sheep men is highly to be commended.

FISH CONTROL.

Fish dealers in the Canadian West have been sharply jerked into line by J. D. McGregor, Western representative of the Food Controller, and now fish in carload lots can be obtained by co-operative societies and farmers' organization at 1c per pound over the price paid to the fishermen, plus freight, and any householder can secure 100 pounds of Lake Win-

nipeg white fish at 12c per pound, and in addition to this, the women's section of the Winnipeg Food Control Committee have undertaken to receive orders for small quantities for the ordinary householder, giving them in this way, the advantage of the same rate as for 100 pounds. The question of controlling the consumption of wheat flour is making fairly good progress in the city, but so far, very little is being done in the country districts, and it will require very drastic regulations to effect any real saving.

MARKETS.

The grain markets are joggling along very much in a rut with small receipts and very little change in the situation from day to day; in fact, very little change is looked for before the opening of navigation, unless some drastic action is taken by the Board of Grain Supervisors to get the balance of the wheat out of the farmers' hands. There are hints of this, but nothing definite to go upon, and the present railway situation is not conducive to the rapid movement of freight of any kind. The tail end of the storm, which has been so severe in Eastern Canada, seems to be reaching the West to-day. This morning the long monotony in markets was broken by sharp advance in oats, carrying them to 90c a bushel for No. 2 C.W. This is the highest price on record for oats at Winnipeg Exchange. More than one broker recollects selling them at 15c.

Standard Bread and Flour

Ottawa, Jan. 17.

Canada is to have standard flour and standard bread. The date on which the new order will go into effect has not yet been fixed, but Hon. W. J. Hanna, Food Controller, definitely announced that a date would soon be named, after which Canadian mills will not be permitted to use more than 265 pounds of spring wheat or more than 275 pounds of winter wheat to produce 196 pounds of flour. This will give standard grades of spring wheat and winter wheat flour for all Canada, and no mill will be allowed to manufacture flour of a lower extraction than the standard. By making available a larger part of the wheat berry for human consumption, and by stopping the manufacture of patent flour, a considerable saving of wheat for export to the allied nations will be effected. Moreover, a uniform extraction will be established which may be increased if considered advisable.

STANDARD LOAF ALSO.

The Food Controller is also making arrangements for a standard loaf of bread from the standard flour. He has written to millers, wholesale flour dealers, wholesale grocers, retail flour dealers and retail grocers, emphasizing the necessity of discouraging hoarding of flour. It is pointed out that the new regulations will not lessen the quantity available for consumption in the Dominion.

Millers are asked not to sell more than the usual quantities of flour to bakers and wholesale dealers, and to advise their customers not to stock heavily with regular grades of flour. Wholesale dealers are asked not to allow retail dealers to stock heavily with regular grades of flour, and retail dealers are asked not to sell more than one week's supply of flour to families, except in cases where it is impossible for the customers to secure supplies weekly.

Millers are also requested not to require dealers to take certain quantities of flour when purchasing other products of the mill.

WARNING TO HEED REQUESTS.

Mr. Hanna states that it should be distinctly understood that "millers, wholesalers and retailers who do not accede to these requests will be promptly dealt with, and the shipment of flour by or to these persons will be prohibited."

The letter adds that a date will be set, after which bakers will be required to sell their bread based on the price of the standard flour. Therefore, bakers who purchase large stocks of patent flour may find themselves in an unfortunate position when the order is issued for the production of bread from standard flour.

The standard flour will be of high quality, and will be quite as palatable as the patents, and even more conducive to health. Samples of the standard spring and winter wheat flours will be furnished, and all mills will be required to produce a quality of flour which will not be superior in color to the standard samples.

BI-WEEKLY STATEMENT FROM MILLS.

Every mill must furnish to the Food Controller's office every two weeks a statement showing the quantity of wheat ground and the weight of flour produced therefrom. Failure on the part of any of the mills to comply with the Food Controller's regulations may result in cancellation of license.

One hundred and sixty-seven Canadian flour mills are already under license from the Food Controller's office. All the remaining mills will be similarly licensed. The profits of the licensed mills have been limited to a maximum average of 25 cents on the milling of enough wheat to make a barrel of flour (196 pounds.)

RECORD OF ACTIVE MONTREAL STOCKS FOR WEEK ENDING JANUARY 19, 1918.

		YEAR							
		Open.	High.	Low.	Last sale.	Net chge.	High.	Low.	
Sales.	Stocks.								
535	Brazilian	32½	32¾	32	32	-½	33½	32	
826	Brompton	42	44	42	44	+1½	44	41¾	
120	Can. Car Co.	18½	18½	18½	18½	-1¼	19¾	18½	
150	Do., pfd.	49½	49½	49½	49½	unch	49½	49½	
165	Can. Cement	57	57	57	57	unch	58*	57*	
250	Do., pfd.	90	90	90	90	unch	90	90	
205	Can. Steamship	41	41½	41	41½	unch	41½	39¾	
536	Civic Power	71	73½	70½	73½	+3	73½	68½	
647	Dom. Steel	54½	55	54½	55	unch	56	53	
275	Macdonald	13¾	14¾	13¾	14¾	+¾	14¾	13¾	
415	Smelters	25	25	25	25	unch	25½	25	
411	Steel of Can.	51½	51½	49¾*	51*	+½	53	49¾*	
BANKS.									
58	Merchants	167*	167*	167*	167*	+2½	167*	167	
43	Montreal	210	210	210	210	unch	210	210	
69	Royal	208	208	208	208	unch	208	208	
BONDS.									
\$23,600	Can. Loan (1927)	93½	93½	93½	93½	+½	93½	92¼	
UNLISTED SHARES.									
1,320	Tram. Power	29¾	32	29	29¾	+½	33	29	

*Ex-dividend.