

CHICAGO MARKET.

THE WHEAT POSITION.

Weather conditions for the past two weeks have been highly favorable. There has been generally sufficient moisture for all present requirements, with damging excess in but few localities. With the exception of a day or two at the beginning of the month, temperatures have not ranged unseasonably high, and the drop toward the frost line early in the present week was not severe enough to more than nip a few early gardens.

Since May 1 every condition of temperature and rainfall has been almost perfect for the development of winter wheat, and it may be safely said that the crop shows actual improvement. So far as the damage from winter weather is concerned the full story is now known, and current reports from this time forward will have to deal only with current happenings. Last year a cool, rainy spring constantly advanced the yield possibilities of the wheat crop, until the final rate equalled all records. Up to the present time, much the same condition has prevailed, and it is serving materially to repair the damage previously suffered wherever plants enough were left in the field to warrant letting it go to harvest.

The volume of this year's wheat crop will depend to an unusual extent upon the weather conditions. Lack of early vigor over a wide breadth in some of the most important states will make the crop peculiarly susceptible to unfavorable climatic conditions, while a cool season, with an abundance of moisture, will give a return hardly thought possible in its earlier history. Complaints of insect depredations are becoming somewhat numerous, and

such complaint is likely to attract attention during the next few weeks. Spring work is still a little behind, but another ten days of equally favorable weather will remove the last cause of complaint on this score. It is, of course, much too early to talk intelligently of the corn acreage, but there is every indication of a very large acreage. Not only is there more than 4,000,000 acres of winter wheat abandoned the larger part of which will go to corn, but throughout the great central valleys, clover and old meadows suffered to an unusual extent, and should the season give opportunity, will be broken and put to corn for this year. The record for corn acreage is about 82,000,000 acres; that record is likely to be equalled this year.

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