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CROP PROSPECTS ENCOURAGING.

Seeding Late-American Millers Coming to Canada-Railroad Construction Increases.

> Monetary Times Office, Winnipeg, May 10th.

The progress of wheat seeding in the West is the all-important topic, and interest is centred on how late the sowing will be. Every hour of weather suitable for putting in the grain is now of great consequence, but climatic conditions during the past week have not been all that could be desired. Experience has shown that it is unwise to sow wheat after the 20th of May, and even after the 15th the risk is considerable. The chances for a good crop are favored by seeding from the middle of April to the 10th of May. The great danger now is, not so much that seeding is late, but that it might be interrupted and delayed by heavy rains. This season has one advantage. The fine weather last fall gave ample opportunity to prepare the ground, and the bulk of the wheat land is ready for the seeders the moment the moisture dries up sufficiently for the machines to get on.

The fine weather with which last week opened was broken by cold and somewhat wet conditions, which formerly prevailed. Notwithstanding this seeding operations are going on at all points. Estimates of the amount of grain put in vary considerably. It is computed that not more than ten per cent. was seeded up to the 1st of May, taking the three provinces as a whole. Of course since then rapid progress has been made. Probably 30 to 40 per cent. of the seeding has been accomplished in Saskatchewan and Manitoba at this time, and 70 per cent. in Alberta. In the Swift Current district the sowing is practically finished, and the same with regard to Medicine Hat, where the grain in some cases is showing above ground. One estimate of the total acreage under wheat this year says it will be 7,500,000 acres, as against 6,813,000 acres under crop last year; an increase of less than to per cent. On the other hand, competent authorities say that on account of the late spring the wheat acreage will be decreased, and that of coarse grain increased. Farmers in North-western Manitoba are reported to have given up the idea of sowing wheat and have been buying oats for seed. Reports in general are of an encouraging nature, and a hopeful view is taken of crop prospects.

#### Railway Construction Proceeds Apace.

Owing to the developments in the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, with immigrants crossing the border in larger numbers than in any previous year, the various railway companies are pushing ahead with their new lines. The Canadian Pacific Railway have let contracts for work on six branch lines in the Western division. These include the line running east from Hardisty; one east from Stettler; one north from Cheadle to Alix; one from Kipp to High River; all in Alberta, and one west from Weyburn, Sask. This makes about 270 miles of new track to be constructed by the C.P.R. in the Western division this summer. The Canadian Northern

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are also busy in Alberta. Premier Rutherford states that he expects the C.N.R. will be into Calgary from Strathcona before the close of the season. In this connection the C.N.R. have an application before the Railway Commission for the amalgamation of the Alberta Midland Railway with their company. This track will be built to establish communication between Calgary and Edmonton, and between Calgary, Lethbridge and Macleod approximately 500 miles. The various employment agencies in Winnipeg are at present sending out about 250 men daily for construction work. It is not believed that there will be a surplus of labor when the season has once fully opened.

(Continued on Page 2051).

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