

Conditions in the West

By E. CORA HIND.

Winnipeg, October 17, 1918.

The number of cattle passing through the Winnipeg Union yards during September was 58,020 head, an increase of 12,444 over September of 1917 and with the exception of October of 1917 the biggest month in the history of the yards. The receipts for the nine months of 1918 ending Sept. 30 were 178,971 or an increase of 25,395 head over the first nine months of 1914 when the yards were opened.

The origin of the cattle receipts for Sept. is of special interest in view of the feed shortage. Manitoba contributed 19,916 head to the market, absorbed 17,934 head locally and took 1,778 head of feeding cattle back on the farms, as against 3,507 in the month of August. In other words Manitoba has in September, marketed a large amount of her finished product in cattle.

Saskatchewan contributed 28,978 head and took back on to her farms only 686 head. Alberta shipped in 8,902 head and took back only 250 head. Out of the 58,627 head received in September 17,393 were feeders or roughly 10,000 more feeders than were marketed in Sept. 1917. Of these feeders Eastern Canada got 5,630 head and the United States 9,048 head or considerably more than 50% of all the feeders marketed at Winnipeg, while in 1917 the United States got just one third of the feeders marketed in September. During the nine months ending September 1918 the United States took out of western Canada 20,015 head of young stock.

The United States through its bureau of markets has announced that it abandons the weight test for carcasses for the Army and Navy. Until recently, the buyers for the Navy rejected all carcasses, no matter their quality, that did not weigh 575 pounds dressed. The army buyers started at that figure but sometime ago came down to 475. The result of this weight test was to make it difficult to get a supply for the Army and Navy while much choice beef, entirely suitable for the feeding of the men overseas, found a very slow market. The abandoning of the weight test is certainly a move in the right direction and it is to be hoped the buyers in Canada will follow suit. They seem incapable of originating anything. This action in the United States will increase the demand for our feed cattle to go to that market. If the same regulation is put in force in Canada it will mean a price for feeders here that should be some inducement to stock men to try and feed more at home. Between the lakes, in the country east of Winnipeg and in the northern part of the province, there is an abundance of feed for thousands of cattle in excess of the numbers now in these districts and there is no excuse for the feeding of stock not being undertaken. There is a shortage of labor, of course; but not such a shortage as to make it impossible to feed thousands of cattle in the vicinity of Winnipeg if there was the will to do it.

COMMANDEERED BUTTER.

The delegation from western creameries and dairying interests which was in Ottawa and Montreal last week, interviewing the Food Board and the Produce Buying Committee in an endeavour to secure something better in the matter of terms on the commandeered butter, are back in the west again and their

mission has been a total failure so far as any relief to the dairy industry of the west is concerned. Their experience in the east however will not be without affect as they will assuredly carry the fiery cross through the prairie provinces in the matter of a combined western organization so strong that the Government will not again be able to utterly ignore consultation with the west when regulations are being put in force which are calculated to seriously injure an important industry vital to the country.

The answer given the delegation to the question as to why the west has not been consulted was that Britain's need of butter was so urgent there was not time. When the delegation asked if the need was so urgent why the butter was not taken from storage in big eastern centres and shipped at once, the reply was that it would have upset trade as it had done in the United States, in other words, the gentlemen owning storage stocks in Montreal and other eastern centres would not make as much money as they will do by having the September and November make commandeered and the price of stored butter boosted. A little matter like keeping Britain waiting five weeks for butter which she needed in such a hurry that they could not take a few days time to consult the west before to a great extent destroying an important industry, is nothing compared to upsetting trade in the east. In other words one of the members of the delegation "once more the West is the goat, but it will not be the only goat I am afraid. The Produce Buying Committee have cabled Britain and the make of these five weeks for the west alone will be roughly 2,000,000 lbs. I question, if in view of the lowered price for butter fat to the producers, half the amount will be assured for shipment overseas."

There is no law compelling a western farmer to keep cows if it is not profitable for him to do so and already many dairy herds are sold and others are being offered mostly daily. We ventured to ask why the butter could not have been taken from store and at the same time the price of both creamery and dairy butter fixed the same as the wheat prices had been fixed, but to this we got no satisfactory reply.

One of the chief topics of conversation these days is the "flu." Winnipeg and Manitoba provincial health authorities have combined to take all possible precautions and up to the hour of writing the matter seems to be well under control. It is pretty severe in some of the towns further West than Winnipeg but the situation has been dealt with promptly everywhere. The meetings of Sir Thos. White re the Victory Loan have had to be called off and there is some apprehension that should the plague continue it may somewhat interfere with the campaign for the loan, but it is felt that the first business must be to check it and check it before it obtains headway.

Hon. J. A. Calder has been holding conferences with the provincial premier as to immigration and it is announced that each province is to plan its own method of handling this matter while the Dominion Government is to do the propaganda work outside of the Dominion. Before these worthy gentlemen go much further they are likely to be asked to explain to the women of the west where they expect to get immigrants and what will be the future qualifications for

citizenship. There is to be a big gathering of women in Winnipeg in November and one of the principal items on the programme for discussion will be this very one of immigration. The immigrants who have come into the west during the past year are not such as to inspire confidence in the wisdom and patriotism of the officials who let them in. The whole west is considerably stirred up on this matter but the women more especially, particularly those women whose men are overseas and who feel that they have a right to ask what kind of people are going to be brought in to possess the land for which so many of their men have died.

The only source of immigration for sometime to come will be the United States and the only settlers who are likely to be available from that country, in any numbers, are those whom Uncle Sam is willing to do without. The question is, does Canada want such settlers?

ST. CATHARINES WELL.

In giving due credit to the wonderful remedial Springs of Europe we are apt to lose sight of the value of the ones nearer home. About one thousand springs of various medicinal virtues exist in America. Of one of them Hare's System of Therapeutics (1891), page 523, thus speaks: "A number of Saline Springs exist in America and Europe, very strong water of this kind being the St. Catharines Well in Canada, which contains about 275 grains sodium chloride to the pint, as well as 135 grains calcium chloride. Its prototype in Europe is the celebrated Kreutznach Springs in Prussia, which contains about 110 grains sodium chloride (Kurbunnen)." Other references are Encyclopaedia Britannica, Appleton's American Encyclopaedia, The Allbutts System of Medicine, etc. The Grand Trunk Railway System's train run direct to St. Catharines and further information can be obtained from their representatives. Apply to M. O. Daffoe, C.P. & T.A., 21 St. James St., Montreal.

MONTREAL STOCK EXCHANGE.

The local stock market, during the past week, was devoid of any outstanding features. In addition to that, the Thanksgiving holiday shortened up the week so that altogether business enlisted securities totalled little over 12,000 shares as compared with over 21,000 for the previous week. The most active issues in the list were Brazilian with 1800 shares traded in a gain of 2 points and Spanish River with 1700 shares in the common and with over 1000 shares in the preferred. The only other active issue was Steel Company of Canada with transactions of 1500 shares.

The announcement regarding the increased price of paper to be paid by the American publishers was only made Saturday morning so there was no opportunity of seeing its full effect. There is no doubt but that it will have a very strengthening effect on the paper securities as the increase from \$62. to \$75. a ton means a great deal to Canadian companies, especially as the action is retroactive.

Total business for the week compared as follows with the previous week and the corresponding week a year ago:—

	Week ending—		
	Oct. 19.	Oct. 12.	Oct. 20.
	1918.	1918.	1917.
Shares.....	12,270	21,144	23,630
Do. unlisted ..	5,675	1,200	620
Bonds	12,270	\$136,200	\$379,325

HIS LETTER.

Perhaps no letter ever written contains more Irish bulls, so called, than this, actually and seriously written and sent from the front:—

Dear sir: Having now a little peace and quiet, I sit down to inform you of the bustle and confusion we are in from the blood-thirsty rebels, many of whom are now, thank God, killed and dispersed. We are in a pretty mess. We can get nothing to eat. When we sit down to dinner we are obliged to keep both hands armed. While I write this letter I have my sword in one hand and my pistol in the other. I concluded from the beginning that this would be the end; and I am right for it is not half over yet. At present there are such goings on that everything is at a standstill. I should have answered your letter a fortnight ago, but I only received it this morning.

Yours very truly, B. R.

P. S. — If you do not receive this, of course, it must have miscarried; therefore I beg you to write and let me know.

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* Daily. † Daily except Sunday.

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