

From Western Fields.

RAILWAY PREPARATIONS FOR AUTUMN RUSH.

Harvesting now in Full Swing—Dominion Minister of Agriculture Tours the West—Grain Exchange Dispute—G.T.P. Progress—Activity in Prince Rupert.

Never have arrangements for carrying Western crops and general autumn traffic been so well in hand as this year, is the statement of Mr. H. H. Vaughn, assistant to the vice-president of the C. P. R. The company has been preparing for weeks back for the wheat rush, and there are now between 18,000 and 20,000 box cars in the West. Many of these are being used, but a large number of them are on sidings waiting the wheat. To haul these cars there are no fewer than 750 locomotives, an ample supply of motive power. "These together with the improvements in the tracks, especially the double-tracking between Winnipeg and Fort William, will mean that even last year's record for speedy handling will be eclipsed," remarked Mr. Vaughn.

Incidentally it may be said that during the past twelve months the Canadian Pacific has added some 3,000 cars to its equipment, or at the rate of ten for every working day. During the same period it has put into commission 100 new engines.

From Calgary word is sent out by the Alberta Pacific Elevator Company to the effect that the grain storage of that province will be 1,250,000 bushels in excess of last year. This company alone has erected ten elevators this year, of which seven were built in Southern Alberta.

Excellent samples of winter wheat are being submitted to Calgary grain men who state that the majority of the samples will grade number one. Reports from all portions of the province show that the yield will be generous. The majority of the districts predict 30 bushels per acre.

Arrival of Harvest Hands.

Western harvesting is now in full swing. The first harvest excursion arrived at Winnipeg on Monday, being from the Maritime Provinces. Five hundred were engaged at Winnipeg, and 2,000 re-ticketed to various western points, where they were distributed. There was a demand for 5,000 men, and only 2,600 arrived on the Maritime excursion. This week Ontario and Quebec are sending their advance contingents to help in the West's garnering—about eight thousand being the number. The bulk of these are from Ontario, harvest excursions having never attracted more than 1,500 or so from Quebec Province.

United States grain experts are impressed with the favourable Canadian crop outlook. A Minneapolis correspondent of J. S. Bache & Co., of New York telegraphed the other day:—"The Canadian Northwest wheat crop promises a yield of 125,000,000 bushels this year against 95,000,000 bushels last year. Quality fine unless the grade is reduced by wet weather the next two weeks. We have had more or less rain over the entire Northwest the past week, but with clearing weather next week threshers will be busy and railroads taxed to their full limit for next eight or ten months."

Hon. Sidney Fisher's Impressions.

Interviewed recently at Saskatoon, Hon. Sidney Fisher, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, stated that after an extensive tour of the wheat areas, he had noticed but a few hailed crops, very small in the vast area of grain, and some of these are not a total loss, even though badly damaged. "In the individual case this is very hard on the farmer, but the destruction by hail cannot have an appreciable effect on the season's yield. It is not large enough for that."

Speaking of Western progress and prospects generally, Mr. Fisher said:—"The condition of the farmers reflects the country's prosperity; substantial houses, not dreamed of a few years ago, have followed the shack. Good stables and barns are found where they were done without before, and I am particularly pleased to see many planting trees, in the lee of which are found gardens containing vegetables and flowers."

Winnipeg will Welcome Lord Strathcona.

Nowhere in Canada will the Dominion's High Commissioner, just now arrived from London, receive more enthusiastic welcome than in Winnipeg. This week the Centennial Exposition committee met in the Grain Exchange and discussed the public reception to Lord Strathcona. His Lordship is no longer a young man and it is desirable that the welcome tendered him should not be overburdened with tiring functions. It was agreed that he should be publicly received with all honours at the railway station when he arrives, by special train, the military, the cadets, the City Council, the St. Andrews Society, and other bodies.

Hon. R. P. Roblin, premier of Manitoba, on behalf of the Government, recently cabled Lord Strathcona expressing the satisfaction it has given them to know that his Lordship is coming to the province and city, and extending him a hearty welcome. He also cabled that the residence of Hon. Robert Rogers would be reserved for his private use during his stay in the city. Lord Strathcona has acknowledged the receipt of the cablegram and is anticipating a pleasurable visit to his old home.

Forestry in the West.

More and more the West is coming to realize that scientific forestry must play an important part in assuring its future prosperity. A special meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association will be held in Regina, Sask., on Friday and Saturday, September 3 and 4. The subjects dealt with will refer particularly to conditions in the prairie provinces and will embrace:—Tree planting on the Eastern and Western sections of the prairies, forest reserves, game protection, growing wood for fuel and for windbreaks, the relation of forests to the conservation of moisture, etc. The Lieutenant-Governor will open the meeting, and representatives of the Provincial Government, the City of Regina and the Board of Trade will welcome the delegates and take part in the discussions.

Elevators vs. Commission Men.

Again the Winnipeg Grain Exchange has been the centre of heated discussion. A majority vote of its members recently revoked the commission rule establishing a "1 cent. per bushel" rate for handling wheat, oats, barley and flax. Elevator