

## Conditions in the West

Special Correspondence by E. CORA HIND, Commercial and Agricultural Editor, Free Press, Press, Winnipeg, Man.

WINNIPEG, Man, November 22nd.

The opening market of the week was one of wide fluctuations. The spread between high and low for November being 7 cents, for December 6 cents, and for May 7½ cents. There did not seem to be any adequate reason for this wide fluctuation, nor for the gain in price by which it was accompanied. There was a suggestion in Broomhalls cable that there might be an embargo on Argentine wheat, but there seemed to be no real reason for any such action.

There was some very good buying from outside, which was rather a new departure, it may have been occasioned by the filling of old contracts for New York export houses. It is almost impossible in these days, to tell what is being done. Oats and barley made no such phenomenal gain, they were very strong but flax broke all records. November flax jumped 18 cents on Monday, December, 19½ and May, 18½ cents.

Stocks in terminal elevators are gaining rapidly, and the wheat is increased 13,000,000 as against 18,000,000 bushels for the corresponding date of last year; but the shipments are what furnish the most food for thought, they were only 4,397,437 bushels for the week ending 18th, November, while the minimum for the corresponding week of last year was 10,639,592 bushels. Canadian visible showed a gain of 2,000,000 bushels for the week.

The movement of bonded wheat to Duluth has been much smaller than was expected, being only 119,000 bushels of all grains for seven days. This is undoubtedly due to the very strict embargo on cars which existed. The Canadian roads are determined that their cars shall not go on to American lines; it is claimed at the present time that one railway alone has 30,000 of their cars on American lines, and that they cannot get them back. This embargo on cars is seriously hampering the movement of lower grades of wheat which would find a ready market on the American side if they could be shipped direct, but price and the duty would not permit of them being sent to Fort William and from there by lake to Duluth and then distributed by railroad to Minneapolis and other milling points.

A petition was circulated in the Grain Exchange recently with a view of having a new option estab-

lished with No. 4 wheat as the basis of delivery and the lower grades to be delivered at suitable penalties. It seems now that this is not likely to be put in force, it would only apply on the new contracts and while it has been very fully discussed, it is not generally thought that it would relieve the situation.

Many people here feel that in view of the fact that the British Government does not wish to take grades lower than No. 4, and apparently very little of that, they should come to some arrangement with the exporters whereby they would be allowed to handle the lower grades of wheat, finding market for them abroad where possible, and the British Government supplying a certain amount of tonnage for such sales to be transported. It has further been suggested that the Railway Commission should be able to devise some scheme whereby cars of wheat going from Western Canada to Minneapolis could be unloaded and returned without delay. It goes without saying, that there is a good deal of talk of what a help it would be if our wheat was admitted free into the United States.

### MISS HIND RECIPIENT OF APPRECIATIVE RECOGNITION.

Miss E. Cora Hind, western correspondent of the JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, and Commercial and Live Stock Editor of the Manitoba Free Press, was the recipient last week of a splendid tribute to her constructive journalistic work in the Western Provinces. The occasion was the gathering of the Western Canada Live Stock Union held in Calgary last week. At the close of the convention, Miss Hind was presented with an illuminated address, accompanied by a purse containing \$1,300 in gold. The presentation was from the stockmen and livestock organizations of Western Canada and was in recognition of Miss Hind's constructive service in their interests. The presentation was made by Dr. J. G. Rutherford, C. M. G., Calgary; James G. McGregor and W. L. Smale, of Brandon, who all paid warm and eloquent tributes to the ability and enthusiasm displayed by Miss Hind.

In her reply Miss Hind said that in her experience she had always found the men with whom she worked and came in contact to be the best of comrades. The age of chivalry was not passed and she, although a woman and doing work in a field which was regarded as peculiarly that of a man, had always been treated with the utmost kindness and courtesy wherever she went.

and tungsten, and is finding a good demand from munition makers and other workers of modern hard steels.

#### Copper.

The extraordinary rise in the price of copper, which averaged 27c per pound in New York during the nine months, has brought about the opening of several deposits of copper ore, chiefly west of Lake Superior, from which shipments have been made to British Columbia smelters.

#### Gold.

The output from the mines of northern Ontario is steadily increasing, being 28 per cent in excess of

### ONTARIO'S MINERAL OUTPUT.

#### Bureau of Mines Report for Nine Months Ended September 30th.

The Ontario Bureau of Mines has collected returns from the metalliferous mines and works of the province showing the production for the nine months ended September 30th. The large increase in aggregate value and in the value of nearly all the individual products is noticeable.

Summary for mineral production first nine months of 1916 with comparisons:

Product.	Quantity.	Value.
1915.	1916.	1915.
Cobalt (ore) . . . . . tons	92	\$ 12,472
Do. oxide . . . . . lbs.	135,337	378,732
Do., metallic . . . . . lbs.	76,979	172,055
Cobalt and nickel oxides (unseparated) . . . . . lbs.	2,501	57,026
Copper ore . . . . . tons	1,715	500
Do. in matte . . . . . tons	14,057	16,989
Gold . . . . . ounces	281,712	363,955
Iron ore . . . . . tons	302,586	271,034
Molybdenite (concentrates) . . . . . lbs.	15,845	15,845
Nickel oxide . . . . . lbs.	142,483	54,152
Do. in matte . . . . . lbs.	11,905	17,435
Do., metallic . . . . . tons	24,054	31,046
Pig iron . . . . . tons	354,153	501,410
Silver . . . . . ounces	17,178,629	16,203,091

The silver mines of the Cobalt district have definitely established their supremacy in the sources of the world's supply of this mineral. Notwithstanding the war, which has closed the European markets, the shipments of cobalt oxides were much greater, both in quantity and value, than in the first nine months of 1915. It will be observed that metallic cobalt is assuming an important place in the list. This is mainly due to its use in the manufacture of special alloys, principally stellite, for high speed tools. Stellite is made of cobalt, chromium

and tungsten, and is finding a good demand from munition makers and other workers of modern hard steels. The extra-ordinary rise in the price of copper, which averaged 27c per pound in New York during the nine months, has brought about the opening of several deposits of copper ore, chiefly west of Lake Superior, from which shipments have been made to British Columbia smelters. The output from the mines of northern Ontario is steadily increasing, being 28 per cent in excess of

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### CROP ESTIMATES FOR NORTHWEST PROVINCES.

The following statistics of the 1916 grain harvest in the three northwest provinces: Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, show a marked falling off as compared with last year. It must be borne in mind, however, that the 1915 crop was an abnormal one, and comparisons made with 1914 figures give a better idea of actual conditions. The following figures are of interest:

Three (000) omitted.

	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Flax.
Acres . . . . .	10,597	6,919	1,787	643
Bus. per acre . . . . .	15.1	40.9	23.8	1.0
Bushels . . . . .	160,015	282,015	42,530	6,430

#### Wheat Situation.

	Nov. 1, 1916.	Nov. 6, 1915.
	bushels.	bushels.
Inspected to date . . . . .	53,640,000	108,226,000
In store at country points . . . . .	22,905,000	34,400,000
In transit not inspected . . . . .	4,800,000	8,400,000
Allowed for seed, feed and country mills . . . . .	35,000,000	.....
	116,345,000	

	Bushels.
Bal. in farmers' hands to market . . . . .	43,670,000
Amount yet to be inspected . . . . .	71,375,000

#### Other inspections to date.

	Nov. 11, 1916.	Nov. 6, 1915.
Oats, bushels . . . . .	18,500,000	16,000,000
Barley, bushels . . . . .	3,900,000	3,400,000
Flax, bushels . . . . .	1,050,000	400,000