

SEEDING FINISHED AND SOIL CONDITIONS GOOD

Reports From West Indicate Rapid Progress During First Three Weeks of May—Good Supply of Labor for Summer

FARMERS in the west are rapidly getting the important cereals into the ground, according to a detailed report covering operations along the territories from the great lakes to the Rocky Mountains, served by the national railways, which was received at the head offices of the company on May 15. Wheat seeding has been general over all areas where the ground was dry enough to work, and it was indicated by the majority of the agents reporting from the "late" points that wheat seeding would be general there by the middle of May.

It is, of course, obvious, that with such a wide range of territory as that covered in the C.N.R. report there should be marked climatic differences. It is clear that the utmost advantage has been taken where the weather has been favorable and it would appear also that where the wetness of the soil or the cold spell has kept the farmers from work, the first opportunity will find the operations in full swing.

The majority of the reports indicate that there is abundance of moisture in the ground and that once the seeding has been completed and the warmth is in the air, the prospects should be most bright.

Farmers Not Taking Chances

The first 1920 crop report of the Manitoba Free Press, issued last week, is a more cheerful document than might have been expected from the very late seeding. Perhaps its very best feature is the fact that farmers are wise and are not attempting to go on seeding wheat long after the middle of May. Speaking broadly, wheat seeding is 90 per cent. done and the supply of moisture is excellent, the soil in fine condition and growth very good, not a few districts reporting wheat up two to four inches and no set-backs since seeding started. Of course, there is a decrease in acreage in wheat, but as that was expected it is no surprise. As nearly as can be estimated from the returns (194 points have been heard from) the decrease is 15 per cent. in Saskatchewan and 10 per cent. in Manitoba and Alberta, or in other words in 1920 the acreage in wheat is something over 15,370,000 acres as against 17,670,000 in 1919; and given a continuance of the present favorable conditions it will be quite possible for the west to reap more wheat from the reduced acreage than it did from the larger acreage of 1919. The only disappointment in the report is the apparent small increase in coarse grains, the reports indicate that while there will be increases at many points, at many points there will be no increases at all. The increases will be mainly in barley and flax.

Farmers are preparing to do extensive summer fallowing which is a good thing and much needed after the war period. Supplies of feed and labor are decidedly better than was anticipated and horses are not in as poor a condition for spring work as might have been expected after the exceptionally hard winter. In the districts where there was hopper trouble last year they were asked to report on that condition and the reports are uniformly to the effect that so far no trouble is indicated and preparations are made for fighting it should it occur.

Saskatchewan Official Report

From 75 to 80 per cent. of the wheat seeding is completed in northern and central Saskatchewan, and conditions at time of writing are excellent. There is plenty of moisture to carry the crop well into June. Wheat acreage will be decreased. General conditions as regards business and collections are good in Saskatoon.

A fortnightly report of the Saskatchewan Department of Agriculture, dated May 17th, states that three-quarters of wheat seeding in the province is completed. In many districts seeding will be fully completed this week, and oat

seeding is now under way and will be general within a few days. The weather has been ideal, and the land is in splendid condition for seeding, so much so, that in many places wheat appeared above the ground in three days from being sown. Heavy winds occurred in some places, but no damage was done. There is ample moisture to insure growth, but rain is needed in the northern districts. Regarding the supply of potatoes for seed, there appears to be sufficient at from \$2.50 to \$4 a bushel. With the good growth of grass, cattle are picking up well, and all live stock is in fair condition. Although the spring is late, wheat seeding will be completed not more than seven days later than last year.

Reports from the Melville district, dated May 15th, state that 65 per cent. of the wheat sown is showing above ground. A much higher percentage is claimed for the Qu'Appelle valley, estimates running as high as 90 per cent. Along the valley farmers have started to plough for oats. Reports from Pense claim only 70 per cent. of the wheat sown. Some oats have already been sown.

HUDSON BAY ROAD WOULD HELP WEST

Winnipeg Board of Trade Urges Completion of Line—
Weather Good for Growing, but Seed Blown Out in Some Places

(Special to *The Monetary Times*.)

Winnipeg, May 27th, 1920.

SEEDING of coarse grains in Manitoba and throughout the west is proceeding, and good growing weather prevails. It is estimated that the decrease in acreage will be from 10 to 15 per cent. Every effort is being made to check the grasshopper plague in southern Manitoba. Severe winds in various parts of the west have resulted in a small percentage of acreage being blown out, but no serious reports on this have come to hand. Good rains have fallen in many localities, which have been of great benefit in preventing blowing.

The crop outlook in the prairie provinces at this date is quite satisfactory. There is ample moisture in the ground, and, with warm weather coming in June, there is every probability that the west will reap a larger crop from less acreage than was the case last year.

Want Hudson Bay Road Completed

The completion of the Hudson's Bay Railway is receiving considerable attention in the west just now, and representations are being made to the authorities for the completion of this road. This subject has held the attention of western citizens for many years, being more or less of a political question.

The Winnipeg Board of Trade has done considerable research work on the subject during the past two months, and the Research Bureau has brought out some important points in connection with it, stating that the completion of the Hudson's Bay Railway is a matter of paramount importance to the wealth of western Canada, and holds such wonderful possibilities for the future development of the three western provinces that every effort should be made to have it completed as soon as possible. The Board of Trade Research Department, in an investigation of the project, has collected a vast amount of data, and this bureau goes on to state that the further the subject is investigated the better it looks. The northern part of Manitoba adjacent to the Hudson Bay is undoubtedly rich in mineral wealth, has great water-powers, and is adaptable for agriculture.

At a meeting of the Royal Arcanum in Montreal on May 20th, it was announced that the association had received permission from the governor of Massachusetts, where it was formed, to invest in Canadian securities. This is the first time that any organization of this kind in the state of Massachusetts has been allowed to invest outside of the United States.