

A CORRESPONDENT writes us from Riviere du Loup to complain that the critics of the Government railways are unfair to the employees. He claims that the staff of the Intercolonial is as hardworking a set of men as any other railway staff in Canada. He thinks it unfair to try to make profits for an unprofitable road by taking money from conscientious and painstaking employees.

The most interesting portion of his letter contains an admission that the critics who are advocating the transfer of the Intercolonial, for operation, to some one of the three private railway corporations, are quite correct. He is apparently weary of Government mismanagement, and would prefer private operation. Indeed, he goes so far as to say that this "is likely the secret desire of every employee of the railway." This is much worse than any of us anticipated. If the new management has a set of employees who all favour private operation how can they possibly succeed in making the road a financial success? It looks as if Mr. Graham's commission had attempted the impossible.

STARVING FOR THE CAUSE

WHEN convictions reach the starving point, one is forced to take them seriously, however absurd the starving propagandists may have seemed. The English women who carry the suffrage agitation to the point of starving for their views are, at least, desperately in earnest and will give the world a deeper impression of their sincerity by their refusal of brown bread and treacle than by any other method of enforcement. Hunger is elemental and supremely convincing. When our neighbour professes an admiration for Bach's preludes or Whistler's "arrangements," we may be entirely unmoved or skeptical. When he goes without beef or beer, in order to buy a picture or attend a concert, we yield to his sincerity, however bewildering his desires may appear. When he is willing to starve for a cause,

we may call him a fanatic, but we must believe in the compelling earnestness of his belief.

Consequently, the suffragettes who are choosing starving and emaciation that they may hasten the day of votes for women are affording the most primitive argument in that behalf. Tears, speechifying, belabouring of the Asquith hall door will not begin to do what a few days of starvation will accomplish. Even the men who have been bitterly opposed to them are uneasy at the thought of the least of the suffragettes not having her daily bread. The vote for women may be among the issues at the next general election in Great Britain.

AN IMPERIAL DUTY

MR. JOSEPH BERNIER, M.P.P., member for St. Boniface, contributes an article on the Empire to *Le Manitoba*, St. Boniface, and the following is a translation of his closing paragraphs:

"Our population is composed of different elements—English, French, Scotch, Irish, Americans, Germans and many others, amongst which the Galicians and Poles are numerous. Every one must have his eyes turned towards the same goal. All must be Canadian at heart and in spirit, otherwise our great dreams for the future will never be realised; but there must be a standard around which all these citizens, whatever blood might run in their veins, can unite as a great family.

"That standard can be no other than the British flag. No people can expect to live and become great without a flag—loved, respected and cheered. The flag represents the country. The flag is that simple piece of cloth which, floating over a house or at the top of a mast, says clearly and highly the aims and ideas of a citizen. For us Canadians, the British flag means liberty and power; the British flag means union, unity of action, unity of thought. To-day more than ever should we see the raising of the British flag in all the colonies of England. It must be proved to the world that England is not isolated in her isles and that the British crown is formed with all the jewels spread in the world like Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the others.

SASKATCHEWAN'S WONDERFUL WHEAT HARVEST

Hon. Mr. Motherwell Explains the Phenomenon

Editor CANADIAN COURIER:

Sir,—Premier Scott has handed to me your wire of the 15th instant, in which you state that the public are inclined to doubt that Saskatchewan this year produced eighty-six million bushels of wheat. Such hesitancy in accepting the report is perhaps excusable when we, who are most closely in touch with the development of our province, can scarcely realise how rapidly it is reaching the high position which it seems destined to attain. And while the present results surprise them, it is well that our people should prepare themselves for the day—not far distant—when Saskatchewan's wheat crop will be measured by hundreds of millions of bushels.

With regard to the alleged production of wheat, I have to say that our Bulletin No. 13 indicated that 86,668,692 bushels of wheat would be harvested. Our bulletin did not really give an estimate of the crop, but stated that the average yield per acre was estimated to be 22 bushels. Commenting upon the estimated yield, that Bulletin said: "While these figures may be a fair approximate, it is still rather early to use them as a basis of calculation for the total yield of the province" They were, however, felt to be so nearly accurate that, unless the crop were injured by frost or by severe hail storms, practically that quantity would be threshed.

To obtain the data to which reference has been made our crop correspondents were asked early in August to estimate the average yield per acre; and upon the reports of about 900 township correspondents was based the estimated yield of 22 bushels per acre. But that estimate was made before the crop was harvested and there was still a possibility of the yields being lessened by unfavourable conditions. In order, therefore, to have the opinion of our correspondents respecting the condition of the crops at maturity, and when they had actually been harvested, a later circular was sent out to them. At the time when the first estimate was made, it could not be foreseen whether the crops would mature as well as their condition at that time gave cause to expect. There was still a possibility of their being damaged more or less. But when the second circular was returned, harvest was practically ended, and no eventuality could materially affect the results. Our correspondents were uniformly of the opinion that the harvest was completed under extremely favourable conditions and that the yield was very little below their

original estimate. There was, however, a slight change, and Bulletin No. 14, now in the press, will summarise the latest crop circular, according to which the crops are expected to yield approximately as follows:

	Est. acreage.	Average.	Total yield.
Wheat	3,912,497	21.49	84,095,050
Oats	2,192,416	46.9	102,821,244
Barley	235,463	34.1	8,030,229
Flax	278,835	13.96	3,893,306

There is, of course, a slight difference between these figures and the earlier estimate to which exception has been taken. But when analyzed that difference will probably be found to be due to a fuller consideration having been given to the hailed and otherwise damaged areas, and to a more perfect knowledge of the facts.

Certainly the hesitancy in accepting these figures must be due to a fancied exaggeration of the facts as stated. But let us refer to some of the other estimates that have been made, and to the methods employed in arriving at our estimate. The preliminary estimate of the Census & Statistics Office was 91,941,000 bushels, or an average yield of 24.95 bushels per acre. This estimate was subsequently reduced to 85,566,000 bushels. The *Manitoba Free Press* covered the province very carefully, and after making adequate deductions for losses both actual and prospective—for the harvest was still far from ended—concluded that the yield of wheat would be 70,130,000 bushels, or an average of about 17 bushels per acre. This also was the average yield estimated by the Northwest Grain Dealers' Association.

Now just a word regarding the estimates made in previous years by the Department of Agriculture. Since the organisation of the Department in 1898 it has been shown by actual threshers' returns that in every case the preliminary estimates of our correspondents were below the actual yields, and there is no reason to suppose that the present is any exception. The methods employed by the Bureau of Statistics of our department are thorough and complete. The whole crop-reporting service is divided according to the new uniform municipalities into which the province is being divided, and the area of each of the principal crops has been carefully computed for each municipality. The average yield in each of these districts is estimated by our township correspondents and the product is then computed by municipalities, after which the

totals for the province are ascertained. The scheme includes the appointment of a leading farmer in each township as a crop correspondent for his district.

The report under consideration was prepared from returns supplied by about 900 members of our crop reporting service which comprises approximately 1,300 men. Three weeks later, reports were received from 692 of the same men and are embodied in Bulletin No. 14, which estimates the yield of wheat to be 84,095,050 bushels. If any confirmation of our estimated yields were needed, it is found in the despatches appearing daily in the local press, which report yields of twice that given as the average for the province, and these reports are not estimates but actual results. Corroborative evidence is contained in the fact that the East cannot supply all the help that the West needs. To-day we are receiving telegrams from all parts of our province asking for men, and we cannot secure them. Manufacturers of threshing machinery never had so great a demand for threshing outfits and the sale of binders was phenomenal.

But why should we not have eighty million bushels of wheat in Saskatchewan this year? It is true that two months ago so magnificent a crop was not expected, for the spring was undoubtedly late. But there have been since seeding such perfect weather conditions that the province has reaped a crop which, while not at all a maximum as regards average yields, is nevertheless the best that the province has yet produced, when considered in every way. And the high quality of the crop is most gratifying. There are indications that fully 75 per cent. of it will be better than No. 3 Northern, while much of it will grade No. 1 or No. 2 Northern. The average length of time in which the crops were matured was: Wheat, 112 days; oats, 105 days; barley, 92 days; flax, 101 days; and these figures almost constitute a record. The season demonstrates the productiveness of our province when given the requisite warmth and moisture as required.

Of course, in every season there are some who are so unfortunate as to have poor crops or to have them hailed. The latter contingency is not under our control, but the former is very largely in our own hands; and in such a year as this the results of energy and thrift are abundantly evident.

Yours very truly,

W. R. MOTHERWELL.

Regina, Sept. 23, 1909.