

New York Wheat.

New York, Sept. 3.—Holiday.
 New York, Sept. 4.—Wheat, Sept. open 78½c, closed 78½c; Dec. opened 81½c, closed 80½c.
 New York, Sept. 5.—Sept. wheat, opened 78½c, closed 78½c; Dec. opened 80½c, closed 80½c.
 New York, Sept. 6.—Wheat, Sept. open 78½c, closed 78c; Dec. opened 80½c, closed 80½c.
 New York, Sept. 7.—Wheat, Sept. open 78c, closed 77½c; Dec. opened 80½c, closed 80½c.
 New York, Sept. 8.—Sept. wheat closed to-day at 78½c, Dec. at 80½c.

Chicago Board of Trade Prices

Chicago, Sept. 3.—Holiday.
 Chicago, Sept. 4.—Wheat, Sept. opened 74½c, closed 74½c; Oct. opened 74½c, closed 74½c; Nov. opened 74½c, closed 74½c; Dec. opened 74½c, closed 74½c; Corn, Sept. opened 30½c, closed 30½c; Oct. opened 30½c, closed 30½c; Nov. opened 30½c, closed 30½c; Dec. opened 30½c, closed 30½c; Oats, Sept. opened 21½c, closed 21½c; Oct. opened 21½c, closed 21½c; Nov. opened 21½c, closed 21½c; Dec. opened 21½c, closed 21½c; Pork, Sept. opened \$7.12, closed \$7.10; Oct. opened \$11.07, closed \$11.07.
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DULUTH WHEAT MARKET.

No. 1 northern wheat at Duluth closed as follows for each day of the week:
 Monday—Holiday.
 Tuesday—Sept., 76½c; Dec., 76½c.
 Wednesday—Sept., 75½c; Dec., 75½c.
 Thursday—Sept., 75½c; Dec., 75½c.
 Friday—Sept., 75½c; Dec., 75½c.
 Saturday—Sept., 75½c; Dec., 75½c.
 Cash No. 1 hard closed on Saturday at 77½c and cash No. 1 northern at 76½c.
 A week ago Sept. wheat closed at 76½c. A year ago September wheat closed at 67½c; two years ago at 61½c; three years ago at 57½c; four years ago at 53½c; five years ago at 50½c; six years ago at 53½c; seven years ago at 67½c.

MINNEAPOLIS WHEAT.

Minneapolis, Sept. 8.—Wheat closed at 73½c for Sept. and 74½c for Dec. Cash No. 1 hard closed at 76c and cash No. 1 northern at 74c.

LIVERPOOL WHEAT.

Liverpool, Sept. 7.—Wheat, spot July, No. 2 red western winter 5s 11½d; No. 1 northern spring 6s 3d; No. 1 California 5s 4½d; 5d. Futures quiet; Sept 5s 11½d; Dec. 5s 1½d.
 Liverpool, Sept. 8.—Wheat ½d to ¾d higher.

WINNIPEG CLOSING WHEAT.

The local market continues very firm, owing to great scarcity of offerings. As high as 81c was bid this morning, but no business was reported. Holders very firm.

CHICAGO FLAX MARKET.

Chicago, Sept. 8.—The market for flax seed closed to-day at \$1.60 for cash; Oct., \$1.40.

UNITED STOCKS.

London, Sept. 7.—4 p.m. —Closes for money 108½; do. for the account 15 12-10; Ansonia 2½; C. I. 12½; S. Paul 117; Illinois Central 110½; Louisville 73½; U. P. preferred 78; N. Y. C. 134½; Erie 11½; Pennsylvania 68½; Reading 8½; Erie first preferred 34½; Northern Pacific preferred 73½; U. T. R. 6½; Anaconda 3½; Island Mines 41; Bar silver steady at 23 11-100 per ounce. Money 3½ per cent. The rate of discount in the open market for short bills is 3½; do. for three months bills 3½.

NEW LUMBER MILL.

The Rat Portage Lumber company are making preparations to commence work on their proposed new mill at Winnipeg. The mill will be erected on Point Douglas and will be reached by a spur line of railway running along Sutherland street. For the construction of this spur permission has yet to be obtained from the city. When this is granted work will be commenced and the foundations completed this fall. The mill will have a capacity of 30,000,000 feet of lumber per year and will give employment to a large number of men. The logs for this mill are to be brought from the Rainy River country over the new Southeastern railway.

Western Business Items.

N. McIntyre has opened a butcher shop in Pilot Mound, Man.
 Frank S. Rollins has taken possession of the Western hotel, Carberry, Man.
 S. Buchanan, livery stable keeper, Plumas, Man., has sold out to Chas. Kitson.
 D. C. McKinnon has succeeded D. Beaubien in the Palace hotel business at Brandon, Man.
 W. J. Binning, of Carberry, has been appointed general agent for Alberta of the Federal Life Association, with headquarters at Calgary.
 The Great West Cold Storage company, of Winnipeg, of which J. H. Anderson is the head, is in the hands of the bailiff. This concern lately changed its name to the Merchants' Produce company.
 The book accounts, shop furniture, and real estate belonging to the estate of the Selkirk Trading Company and D. S. Read, of Selkirk, Man., will be sold by auction in Winnipeg on Sept. 21.
 The many friends of R. H. Agur, manager at Winnipeg for the Massey-Harris Co., will be pleased to learn that he has so far recovered from his prolonged illness to be able to be in the office a portion of the time this week.
 The trouble between the C. P. R. conductors in Manitoba and the company is assuming a more threatening attitude as the company has laid off two more men, making four in all for refusing to give up their trains to its auditors.
 Notice is given that the position heretofore held by Frank Morrison, of the firm of Whyte & Morrison, general printers, Winnipeg, in that firm, will hereafter be assumed by Francis C. Morrison, son of the aforesaid Frank Morrison.
 Another Cheese and Butter Makers' association was organized in Winnipeg this week. The officers elected were as follows:—President, S. M. Barra, Winnipeg; vice-president, D. W. Shunk, Ste. Anne; secretary-treasurer, A. E. Hunter, Teulon; directors, C. E. MacDonald, E. J. O. Alaire, J. T. Regher, Chas. Mignault, Robert Scott, J. H. Ross, T. C. Geyard, A. A. Jory, L. A. Race, T. L. Morton, Wm. Grassick. A general meeting will be held on Nov. 8.

At Coventry, England, all the tools and steel work in a watchmaker's factory were rendered useless by being magnetized during a thunderstorm.

Crop Reports.

Commissioner McCreary has received the following telegram, dated Sept. 5, from Red Deer, Alberta:

"Weather fine and warm, no frost here yet. Considerable grain cut. Crops are enormous; wheat uncultivated badly lodged, but with fine weather every bushel will be saved. Please publish these facts."

In addition to the above the commissioner has received crop reports from agents at Edmonton, Brandon, Maple Creek, Calgary, Pincher Creek, Wapella, and Regina, all of which indicate that the damage caused through the recent rain storms has, on the whole, been very slight. Below are given extracts from the reports received:

Calgary.—I do not think that any material damage was done to the crop by the storm on 25th August, and about one-third was cut and in shock and that is all right. The grain that was standing and not cut when the storm came was knocked down quite flat, thereby incurring a greater expense in cutting on account of having to be cut all one way. As for the report of the crop being almost totally destroyed by the severe storms, that is not true. Mr. Hawkey, who is a very reliable man, and whose occupation compelled him to travel a great deal through the country, says that the crop has not been damaged to any great extent, and about a third was out and in shock on 25th, and is all right, and what was standing was thrown down, but there was no damage done to amount to anything, only it will cost a little more to harvest it. Mr. Patterson, postmaster of Okotoke, says that he will challenge anyone to go into his 125 acres of ripe grain and say that it was damaged by either snow or rain. He says that his wheat will yield a very large crop of No. 1 grain, and his oats cannot be beaten. A. P. Patrick, west of Calgary, says that he expects his wheat to yield 40 bushels of No. 1 per acre. He has about 40 acres, and he says his oats will go 85 bushels per acre. They are No. 1. He has 70 acres.

Maple Creek.—We have had no storm here so far. This is not a farming district, it being exclusively adapted for stock raising, although many of the ranchers sow sufficient grain for their own use, and this year the crops have been, on the whole, a good average. The grain is all harvested in good condition. Notwithstanding we have had an unusual amount of rain, which has delayed the haying, but from what I can learn a large majority of the ranchers are through for the season. The root crop is good, and all the ranchers in this district are happy and contented.

Edmonton.—The grain crop throughout Alberta is all right, although the snow in many places laid the grain flat, yet the farmers inform me that the grain has since come up considerably, and that the yield per acre will be just as good, but will necessitate more labor. Up to date we have had no frost to speak of, and the weather is extra good for ripening, and I think that I can safely say that the farmers all through Alberta are going to have the largest yield of grain they ever had, and of the very best quality, if no rain comes later on to prevent slackening the grain. Nearly every farmer is busy cutting his grain now.

Brandon.—The storm did no damage of any kind in this locality with the exception of some stocks being blown down. The rain in some districts caused some grain to grow, but the last few days being windy and hot sun, has made the grain safe, if we do not get any more rain. Nearly all the grain is in stock and threshing will commence at once, if the weather proves favorable.

Pincher Creek.—No storm here or within a radius of 50 or 75 miles. Crops of all kinds have sustained no damage as yet. All are cut, but small parcels of late-sown grain or new breaking. Haying nearly complete, and outlook very favorable; all material at hand to meet the winter.

Wapella.—The storm traversed the country to the north of this place and severely damaged the crop from here to the Qu'Appelle, destroying many buildings and totally destroying the standing crop, which at that time amounted to about 25 per cent of the whole. The same is true of the country north of Whitewood and

Moosomin. A large amount of the grain cut before the storm has sprouted. The weather since Saturday has been very favorable for drying the wet grain. Fully 50 per cent of the grain in stock will be lost as the sheaves were thrown about very badly. The storm was the worst I have ever seen and I have been in the country for 18 years. Many of the large new barns which have been built during the last three years are destroyed or rendered useless.

Regina.—Since my last report of Aug. 13 we have had no more damage done to the crops around here by hail and storm, but the rain has done some, but nothing to speak of. If we have for a week fine weather the crop will be all stacked. It has been cut long ago. All the delegates coming here are delighted with the crop, and say that it beats every district seen west of Ontario.

INVESTIGATE FIRES.

An important conference was held in Winnipeg recently between the fire, water and light committee and representatives of the board of trade and underwriters' association. This conference was an outcome of the recent incendiary fires in the city. Several important recommendations were made to the committee looking toward the strengthening of the fire department and improving the facilities for coping with fires. It is our intention, however, to enlarge only upon one point brought up, namely, the advisability of having an investigation made as to the cause of every fire. The adoption of a plan of systematic investigation of every fire, was urged upon the committee. This is by no means a new or novel recommendation. It is a point which has on more than one occasion in the past been discussed at length in these columns. The Commercial certainly concurs in the suggestion. We believe that as a matter of course, every fire should be made the subject of careful investigation, whether it occurs in a city or in any other part of the country. Machinery should be provided whereby such investigations could be held without delay or serious expense. If it were known that a searching investigation would be made, there would be many fewer fires than there are. Men of experience in connection with fire insurance or other work in connection with fires, are of the opinion that a great many fires, supposed to be accidentally caused, are the deliberate work of parties who wish to realize upon property by disposing of it at forced sale to the insurance companies. The insurance companies are not themselves blameless in this matter, as they frequently, knowingly or otherwise, allow property to be over-insured, thus directly encouraging the destruction of property by fire. The value of the property and the amount of insurance thereon would be features which could be taken into consideration in the investigation. If it were shown by such investigations that the insurance companies were careless in accepting insurance, it would be a good thing for the public. Over insurance is a menace to the property of others in the vicinity of the over-insured property. Insurance companies are no doubt sometimes deceived or imposed upon by unscrupulous persons, but in many cases the over-insurance is the result of carelessness. One of the good features resulting from some plan of systematically and thoroughly investigating each and every fire, would no doubt be to make the companies more careful about placing insurance and this would be almost as beneficial in its results as the direct effect such investigations would have in preventing attempts to sell out to the insurance companies.