

## WESTERN CANADA HAS BIG PLANS

**For Nineteen Hundred and Ten—Railway Extension Will be an Important Factor—Building Will be Heavy—The Wheat Markets.**

Monetary Times Office,  
Winnipeg, January 25th.

The general predictions throughout Western Canada are that 1910 will be a record breaking year, and from present appearances it looks as if these predictions would come true.

The plans of the railways indicate in a marked degree the progress of the West, they being already busy on plans for the coming season. The three transportation systems will continue to spread out to meet the traffic demands of the increasing population. It is too early to indicate with any degree of accuracy the extent of each road's construction operations, but it is certain that the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern Companies will push forward the extensions of their respective lines toward the Pacific coast, and will also link up some of the most important towns and cities on the prairies.

From present indications also, the building operations in Winnipeg and throughout the West will be extensive this season. Wholesale houses and financial institutions are extending their activities, and are seeking to obtain a closer grip on the country which they have been trying to serve from Winnipeg for a long time. In every direction enterprise is being shown and a keener effort to take advantage of commercial opportunities is indicated.

### Building Expansion in Winnipeg.

To show the great building expansion in Winnipeg, it can be seen almost daily how old buildings are being vacated on main thoroughfares, and these structures being replaced by modern business blocks. The same holds true of the smaller centres all over the West. Building expansion means assured business, and the men who put their money into this class of investment usually know what they are doing.

It is, of course, early yet to say anything about the 1910 crop outlook, but it is understood that there will be a considerable increase in acreage over last year, general reports going to show that a large area was prepared for crop and that when seeding time comes an increase in acreage will be shown.

The weather during April and May will be an important factor in this connection, but at present, all signs point to an increase in production.

In the Winnipeg district alone, the Dominion Government will, early in February throw open for homestead entry more than 1,200 free farms, all within 100 miles of the western Metropolis. These farms above mentioned are located north of Winnipeg in what is known as the Dog Lake district, and the lands are reported to be admirably suited to mixed farming, and when the time comes for entry to be made there will undoubtedly be a big rush to secure them.

At the beginning of the week the general tone of the wheat market was lower and weaker. News both foreign and domestic was far from stimulating to holders; cables were lower, and cash wheat in slow demand and receipts large. The result was that markets declined sharply, but a reaction in values set in at the week's close which carried prices back to their former level.

### Decrease Accounts for Undertone.

Bad crop news from the Argentine and decrease in the visible supply there were big factors in accounting for the strong undertone which prevailed at the end of the week. In Winnipeg there was an active pit trade, a fair amount of buying by exporters, and a good demand for local cash wheat. In this connection it should be remembered that our wheat this year is of high average quality and condition, and finds a ready demand from experienced buyers. The weather is favorable for movement from the country, and Winnipeg receipts are double those of a year ago.

The latest estimate of the Argentine surplus for export is 64,000,000 bushels, and is considered to be poor quality. This is 30,000,000 bushels less than exported in 1909, but as a set-off to this the European visible supply is just that amount larger than the corresponding period of last year. In addition, it is estimated that the Australian crop will be 12,000,000 bushels larger than that of a year ago, and that by the time Australian shipments begin to ease down, India, which is expected to raise a record crop of wheat, will begin to export in large volume. It seems now fairly well established that the world's surplus over and above estimated requirements is between 275,000,000 and 300,000,000 bushels, and that therefore, there is more than sufficient for all necessities until the American winter wheat is available. Buyers in Britain and on the Continent are apparently satisfied on this point, and show no apparent eagerness for either Canadian or United States wheat.

The Canadian visible supply shows an increase of over 4,000,000 bushels, and now stands at close upon 13,000,000, double the quantity of a year ago. This, however, includes four millions of wheat aboard vessels for winter storage, shipped before the close of navigation. The United States visible supply although not increasing, is falling off at a much less rate than last year, and the condition of the winter wheat cannot be decided upon yet with any positiveness, but it is conceded that a larger area of this is now clear of snow and ice than at any time since the first snow in December. Where the crop is not covered the condition is reported as satisfactory, but complaints of the unfavorable appearance of the plant are increasing. Should no widespread damage develop, wheat prices are not likely to be so high later on, as the present level is likely to be maintained until advanced prices bring out wheat in greater volume.

Winnipeg is assuming a prominent place as a financial centre. One of the factors in the attainment of this position is the growth and success of loan, insurance and trust companies having their offices here. Now that Western people have surplus funds to invest they are quick to realize the fact that the securities of these institutions are in many cases better than the stocks and shares of outside concerns, and where a few years ago real estate absorbed all attention, people now believe that it is wiser to place a portion of their capital into something which is readily convertible into cash, and at the same time provide a fixed income.

## GENERAL ACTIVITY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

(From Our Own Correspondent.)

Vancouver, January 24.

With the rapid progress that is being made by Canadian cities on the Pacific coast, the question is frequently heard as to what is behind those cities? This is more frequently propounded in connection with Prince Rupert, where real estate values started high at the auction sale last summer, and have increased 25 per cent since, some sales having been made at the advanced figure. It is well known that the cities are growing as the country is being developed, and that Victoria, Vancouver, New Westminster and Prince Rupert on the coast, and Kamloops, Revelstoke, Nelson, Rossland and Fernie in the interior, have each separate supporting industries and districts, as well as receiving benefit from the whole of British Columbia which is now attracting so much attention.

As pointed out in these columns previously, enterprises are being established in proportion as the people are filling up the country. Now, when the population is fairly large and increasing rapidly, new concerns are being established almost every day. Indication of this may be seen in the mention of the new box and paper board factory at New Westminster. It is again apparent in the announcement of the hearty support given by the ratepayers of North Vancouver municipality to the by-law to grant exemption for a term of years on a site for the Imperial Car, Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Corporation, as well as guaranteeing their bonds of \$200,000. Apart from the mining propositions in the North, the Pacific Coast Fisheries Company, in which many prominent people are interested, are about to start their plant at Pacofi, Queen Charlotte Islands, some of the directors having gone north in that connection. This company will use trawlers, and what fish are not edible will be turned into the fertilizer.

At Nelson, Mr. F. A. Starkey, president of the Board of Trade, in his annual report, refers to the large business done during the past year, and speaks with confidence of that city's increasing importance.

At Fernie, which is the headquarters of the coal mining industry of the Crow's Nest Pass district, the returns show that many of the mines have to be operated overtime to supply the demands made upon them.

Railway activity, too, is a feature of the prosperity of British Columbia. The G. T. P. is going ahead in the North; grading will soon commence on the Canadian Northern, construction on the coast sections of the Great Northern is proceeding; British Columbia Electric Railway extensions on the lower mainland are many, while other and shorter lines are to be built on Vancouver Island and at other points.

Mr. C. H. Neely, of the Ocean Accident and Guarantee Assurance Company has just returned from a business trip in Western Canada.

Mr. Cameron, of the Pioneer Fire Insurance Company, Brandon, and Mr. R. T. Riley, of the Northern Trust Company, Winnipeg, were visitors to Toronto this week.

The capital of the Mexican Light and Power Company, Limited, is to be increased by \$3,600,000 preference shares and \$5,400,000 common shares, thus making a total capitalization of \$25,000,000. By-laws to the above effect were passed at a special general meeting of the shareholders called for this purpose.