

From Western Fields

TIDE OF IMMIGRATION AGAIN PRONOUNCED.

Railway Activity on Both Sides of the Border— Extent of Wheat Shipments—Civic Financing.

Immigration to the Canadian West from the United States promises to be unprecedented this year—C.P.R. officials estimating that not less than 50,000 people from the middle western States alone will make the trip this year to the Coast over the Canadian route, now that the movement towards Texas, which has been going on for several years, has fallen off.

Over two and three-quarter million acres of land are available for homestead entry in the province of Manitoba. Slightly less than eighteen thousand settlers still have an opportunity to obtain free farms by making entry, for there are almost eighteen thousand quarter sections open at the present day. The exact figures of the acreage are 2,880,000. The whole available homestead land, or nearly all of it, lies in a region which is as yet not supplied with railway facilities, and, in fact, much of it is unsurveyed. Nearly all of it, however, is well suited for mixed farming.

International Railroad Invasions.

Invasion of territory in the West is not all on one side of the boundary. While American immigrants and United States railroads are seeking to avail themselves of opportunities in the Dominion, Canadian railroad enterprise is steadily playing a "return match." Rumour persistently has it that the Canadian Pacific, with its Minneapolis, St. Paul and Sault Ste. Marie connection, will soon be running trains into Portland, Oregon, and will thus be able to compete with the Hill and Harriman Lines.

Wheat Sold and on Hand.

Officials of the C. P. R. state that the little town of High River, Alberta, shipped more wheat than any other place in western Canada, the shipments averaging 60,000 bushels per mile for the entire mileage in that district.

The Mid-March report of the Trade and Commerce Department at Ottawa shows that up to the first of this month there had been inspected at Winnipeg and points west, for the six months ending with February, 57,009,600 bushels wheat; 13,930,200 bushels of oats; and 2,896,800 bushels of barley.

While wheat quotations have fluctuated somewhat from their recent highest, the prices are still such as to make the farmer with grain to sell feel "mighty lucky." Taking Canada as a whole it is estimated that 20.22 per cent. of the wheat crop of last year is still in farmers' hands, which is 22,747,000 left out of a total product of 112,434,000 bushels—indicating that the quantity available for seed, consumption and sale between now and next autumn is not over large.

New Winnipeg Loan.

The recent London flotation of £500,000 4 per cent. Winnipeg consolidated registered stock at par means a price some points better than those secured for 1908 issues. The Manitoba Free Press publishes the following table of Winnipeg 4 per cent. issues since 1901:—

1901—\$ 202,000 30-yr...	96.00	1903—\$ 524,960 mixed...	97.00
1901— 100,174 30 yr...	98.25	1904—1,204,031 mixed...	99.32
1901— 84,365 mixed...	98.10	1907—1,360,506 mixed...	97.27
1901— 834,481 mixed...	98.25	1908—7,500,000 stock...	94.10
1902— 576,301 mixed...	98.66	1908— 525,000 20 and 30	
1903— 120,000 20-yr...	100.00	yr. 4's	96.25
1903— 5,000 20 yr...	99.75	1909—2,430,000 stock...	98.10
1903— 25,000 30 yr...	99.10		

Referring to the loan The Economist of London recently published the following:

"This City of Winnipeg £500,000 4 per cent. consolidated registered stock due April 1, 1940, is offered at £100 per cent. The stock is charged upon the general rates of the city, and will rank *pari passu* with existing stock; it is required to pay for local improvements, power works, and other purposes. The existing debt of the city is £3,285,572, or £26 per head of population, which numbers 125,000. The rateable assessment in 1908 was £20,557,034, which with £2,663,244 assessment for business tax constitutes the security for the loan. The estimated revenue for 1909 is £636,000, against an estimated expenditure of £631,000. The debt of the city is large, but the rate taxation which the prospectus states to have been 15 miles on the dollar in 1908, seems to afford an ample margin for further revenue."

British Columbia Mining News.

Three recent British Columbia mining items of interest—one of them scarcely pleasant—are the following: a rich strike in the War Eagle at Rossland, the closing down of the famous Le Roi mine indefinitely owing to want of ore, and the announcement that the well-known Payne mine at Sandon is to be worked once more. The fact that zinc ore can enter the United States duty free under a recent American decision is another mining matter of great importance to Kootenay.

Total British Columbia smelter receipts of ore last week were as follows:

Granby.....	15,488	191,262
Greenwood.....	8,786	79,870
Trail.....	7,674	62,000
Northport.....	910	11,682
Total.....	32,858	346,297

FIRE AT KINGSTON, N.B., CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

A fire occurred on the 14th inst., on the premises of the Kingston Consolidated School buildings, twenty miles from St. John, N.B. The following Companies are interested:

Equity.....	\$6,000
Anglo-American.....	2,000
Acadia.....	2,000
Ontario.....	1,500
London Mutual.....	1,000

Loss Total.....\$12,500

MONTREAL FIRE ALARM HEADQUARTERS were transferred this week from the tower of the City Hall, where they had been located since August 28th, 1878, to the new No. 5 fire station, Berthelet street. There are now more than 500 fire alarm boxes, 26 fire stations, and almost 200 miles of wire.