

Echoes from the West

The condition of the crops continues to occupy public attention and though conditions, as a whole, are not as favorable as could be wished there has been an improvement in the last ten days.

Southern Manitoba is still suffering from drought and things have gone so far there now that even an abundance of rain at the present time would not be much help. Thousands of acres in that part of the country are not over seven inches high and are passing into shot blade. The days have passed, however, when the Western crop depends on what they do in Southern Manitoba. Along the main line of the C. P. R., all through northern and western Manitoba and through Saskatchewan and Alberta rains have been plentiful and though the crop is still two weeks late it is making splendid progress and there is a good prospect for an average yield and in a good many sections something more than an average crop. An example is the Carrot River country where from the hour the seed was in, conditions have been almost ideal and the crop is as far advanced as it was at the same date last year. As far as can be ascertained by extensive telegraph inquiry 75 per cent. of the wheat will be in the shot blade on July 12th and five per cent. will be headed. On the same date in 1906, 75 per cent. of the wheat crop was headed. If the Canadian west escapes an August frost this year, and there are years when no frost comes (though the outsiders find that hard to believe) there is every chance of a crop of 12 to 15 bushels to the acre and a very fine quality of wheat. Should there be frost it will not only materially reduce the quality, but it will reduce the quantity also. The reason why the yield will be light this year, even with continued favorable weather, is the fact of the wheat being sown too late and germinating too rapidly to stool well. These conditions always produce a crop more sensitive to damage than one that germinates more slowly and stools eight and ten to the grain, a common thing in the west.

The oat crop is liable to be short in the straw and this is looked upon with regret by all farmers with stock, as hay is also short. The reported failure of the oat crop in Ontario and

the consequent high prices of oats during the past month has inclined farmers to sell shorter of feed than was altogether wise. The reserves were smaller than usual this year, owing to the extra two months this spring when feeding was necessary. Everything the farmer has to sell this year promises to be a good price, so that even very considerably reduced yields will give a very handsome margin of profit, especially as a light crop, so long as the straw is a sufficient length to thresh, is always less expensive to harvest.

Deliveries of wheat have been enormous during June, as the farmers have been reaping the advantage of very high prices. One commission firm handled thirty-five cars of farmer's wheat loaded over platforms in three days, and there is com-

stimulated export trade in Winnipeg. In any event the French crop is late and as France never carries heavy stocks in store she will have to import a certain amount to meet the requirements of the immediate future.

MOVEMENT OF CATTLE.

The first bunch of export steers, grass fed, passed through the city of Winnipeg on June 24th. By that date last year thousands of head had been exported. The whole movement is slow, owing to the extreme winter and the late spring, though the steers that are coming forward now are in prime condition. Prices are ruling high and the bulk of the sales of choice butchers stock were, for the week ending July 6th, \$5.50 to \$5.75, while exporters went as high as \$5.90 and \$6.00. It is generally conceded that live stock prices will be high throughout the year.



AN IRRIGATION SCENE IN WESTERN CANADA

plaint that cars are short in some sections even yet. Over four thousand more cars of wheat passed inspection in the June of 1907 than in the June of 1906 and July promises to be a still heavier month. Over 62,500,000 bushels of wheat, crop of 1906, have passed inspection for the ten months of the year ending June 30, as against 60,730,000 last year for the same period.

Export trade in Manitoba wheat is very active and three days ending July 6th saw 1,500,000 bushels sold on the Winnipeg market for Liverpool. Over 3,500,000 bushels will leave the head of the lakes between the first and 12th of this month for British ports and the bulk of it will be carried in Canadian bottoms.

The reported shortage in France and the constant rumor that France will have to remove the duty to supply her own necessities has certainly

DAIRY SPECIAL.

The Government of Manitoba has at last seen the wisdom of active dairy education along practical lines and of taking that education to the farmers doors. At the close of June a dairy special was run to a number of points on the Canadian Northern Railway, that company supplying a well equipped train for the purpose, and lectures on the points of a dairy cow, the testing, ripening and general care of cream and the making of butter were given. It is generally understood that the movement is due to the perseverance of Professor J. W. Carson, head of the Dairy School at the University of Agriculture, and is a forerunner of aggressive work along dairy lines.

Everyone who knows anything of Professor Carson's career knows how thorough he is and in this work he is having the support and assistance of Prof. Rutherford. The spending