

## Conditions in the West

By E. CORA HIND.

WINNIPEG, Man., August 11.

Crop conditions are causing anxiety though owing to pressure of other matters they have been less discussed than in former years. The cold and frosts of June with an inadequate rainfall were followed by an intense hot July with no general rains, though most of the country had showers. Very much of the crop put in on stubble will never be reaped as grain though some feed may be cut from it. Quite a percentage has already been ploughed down. The acreage actually cut will be materially less than the acreage seeded. Since August came in there has been cooler weather and while there have been no general rains there have been many heavy showers and the wheat is filling well and will yield heavily in proportion to the straw.

On August 9 the Province of Alberta had a general rain which will undoubtedly add much to the value of the crop, and that Province has the best wheat crop of the three, with Manitoba coming next. Wheat cutting is on in Manitoba, but harvest will not be general before the middle of the month.

At the present writing it looks as if the wheat crop would not go much beyond 150 million bushels, but it is exceedingly difficult to make estimates, and if the present weather continues it is quite possible that this amount may be materially increased. Am going out immediately into the country to make a personal investigation of a number of districts, and will hope to furnish Journal readers with something a little more authoritative before the end of the month.

The condition of coarse grains is much more critical than wheat and no matter what weather comes from now on, oats will be a very short crop and feed will be scarce and consequently dear. Hay crop is short as well as coarse grains. The big hay crop of Ontario and the Maritime Provinces may relieve this situation somewhat, but there will be very little hay for export from the west this season.

Western wool sales are progressing and the co-operative sale of Alberta under the direction of the Sheep Growers' Association brought the excellent overage price of 60c per pound for 150,000. It is estimated that 800,000 pounds of wool will be shipped from the Lethbridge district alone to the Government warehouse at Toronto and offered direct to Canadian manufacturers.

Manitoba has over 165,000 pounds and as no satisfactory bid has been received it has been shipped to Toronto also. Manitoba has not been so long in the business as Alberta and has a larger percentage of sheep of coarse wool, and more land being under cultivation the wool is dirtier than the range wool and it is possible that it will not bring quite so high a price. Saskatchewan is consigning her wool through the co-operative department of the Government to National Wool warehouse in Philadelphia.

Statistician A. N. Lambert has issued the following figures as to receipts and shipments of livestock at the Union Stockyards for the month of July: Total receipts of cattle 13,567 head, an increase of 4,568 over July, 1916. Manitoba contributed 5,327 head; Saskatchewan 6,419, and Alberta contributed 1,836 head. A gratifying feature of the trade is the increasing number of stock coming from the eastern part of the Province and the new Winnipeg waterways district.

### FEEDERS.

Of the cattle received 3,986 head were feeders, and with the exception of 390 head sent south, these have all been returned to western farms for feeding, Manitoba taking the largest number.

The total number of cattle shipped south for the month was 2,098 and of these the major percentage were thin butchers and canners.

For the seven months ending July 31, the receipts of cattle at the Winnipeg yards were 32,912 head more than for the same period in 1916; more than double for the same period in 1915, and nearly three times the number received in 1914.

### HOGS.

Receipts of hogs for the month of July were 36,346 head, an increase over July last of some 5,000 head. Total receipts for the seven months ending July 31, were 217,921 head or 5,416 more than for the same period of 1919.

Prices of hogs have been well sustained, and the average has been rather over \$30 per hog.

Saskatchewan was the largest contributor to the market sending 14,849; Alberta came second with 13,343, and Manitoba sent 8,019. Of the total receipts eastern Canada Canada took 24,509 head.

Total receipts of sheep during the month of July were only 669 head.

## American Trading in Wheat; Controller Hoover Takes Action

Washington, August 11.

A fight to the issue will be waged on speculators and profiteers in wheat and flour by the Food Administration in a campaign to cut down the high cost of living. That much was made evident today in an announcement issued by Herbert C. Hoover, in whom the President has placed practically unlimited power in this phase of the war programme.

The price to be paid for the wheat crop of 1917, Mr. Hoover stated, would, with the full approval of President Wilson, be fixed by a commission headed by Harry A. Garfield, a son of ex-President Garfield, and President of Williams College.

Gambling on the wheat exchanges, Mr. Hoover said, must end, even if the Government has to go to the extreme of purchasing the entire supply of the nation.

He added, as a warning, that the new Food Administration, under the power given to it by the Food Control Bill, is prepared to act immediately in that direction if the situation confronted seemed to warrant it in doing so.

The announcement to-night will be followed by others, which will have a radical effect upon the whole food supply of the country, as Mr. Hoover is determined to either win a big victory for the people, or go down fighting.

### TAKE OVER GRAIN ELEVATOR.

As a preliminary step, Mr. Hoover will take over the control of all grain elevators and mills with a daily capacity of over 100 barrels of flour and place them under a system of licenses which will provide full information for the food administration and make boarding impossible. The grain exchanges at the same time will be required to suspend all dealings and quotations in futures.

The programme announced by Mr. Hoover is the most revolutionary step ever taken by the Government to protect itself and the public against private interests that have sought to take advantage of con-

ditions and place prices at a level which they have never reached before. The tone of Mr. Hoover's statement showed that he was in no mood to hesitate at any action which he felt was for the best interests of the country.

A drive to reduce the price of bread, by thus putting flour under one Government control, the direction of wheat and flour for the Allies and for domestic purposes, is contemplated as one of the early steps in the campaign for lower prices. It can be stated that the Food Administration, despite the protests of some of the bread-making interests has felt that the present level was extortionate and against the best interests of the consuming public.

It is even believed entirely possible in some quarters that a standard sixteen ounce loaf could be sold with a reasonable profit at five cents once the Food Administration had the power to regulate the cost of wheat and flour. Whether that end is accomplished or not, it will be used as a basis for action taken.

The statement issued to-night showed that Mr. Hoover had decided against all but reasonable profits, and might act to abrogate contracts made for futures if the prices seemed to him out of all proportion. He advised all who held wheat or flour contracts in larger quantities than necessary for the ordinary course of business to liquidate them, pointing out that the new Food Administration had full power to prosecute under the law. Wheat shipments to the Allies and to neutrals, Mr. Hoover decided, would for an indefinite period be made largely in the form of flour in order not to take work from American mills because of the huge exports which must be sent to Europe in excess of the amounts taken in normal times.

There was no intimation as to the price which would be fixed for the 1917 crop, but Mr. Hoover was careful to point out that the minimum of \$2 a bushel fixed by the food control bill did not apply to it, and affected next year's crop only under restrictions to be later explained.

## CANADA'S PRODUCTION OF BUTTER AND CHEESE.

OTTAWA, August 9, 1917.

In a press bulletin issued to-day, the Census and Statistics Office reports on the total production of butter and cheese in the creameries and cheese factories of Canada for the year 1916, as compared with 1915, the report being based upon returns collected from the dairying branches of the Provincial Departments of Agriculture. The figures for 1915 represent approximate estimates, as the returns for that year are not quite complete. The total number of creameries and cheese factories operating in 1916 is reported as 3,446, including 993 creameries, 1,813 cheese factories, 624 combined factories (cheese and butter), and 16 condensed milk factories. The total number of patrons contributing to creameries and cheese factories during the year 1916 was 221,192 the deliveries of milk amounting to 2,600,542,987 lb., and of cream to 157,620,636 lbs. The two chief dairying provinces of the Dominion are Ontario and Quebec. Both manufacture cheese and butter; in Ontario more cheese is made than butter; in Quebec more butter is made than cheese. In Ontario the total number of establishments operating in 1916 was 1,165 and the patrons numbered 87,325, whilst in Quebec the establishments numbered 1,984, and the patrons 79,145; so that the average number of patrons per establishment was 75 in Ontario and 40 in Quebec.

### PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF CREAMERY BUTTER.

The total production of creamery butter in Canada in 1916 is returned as 82,564,130 lb., of the value of \$26,966,357, as compared with 83,824,176 lb., of the value of \$24,368,636 in 1915. Comparing the relative production of the provinces the production in 1916 is highest in Quebec with 34,323,275 lb., of the value of \$11,516,148, compared with 24,680,103 lb., of the value of \$8,031,998 in Ontario. These two provinces together produce about 70 p.c. of the total creamery butter of Canada. Of the other provinces the production and value of creamery butter in 1916 were in relative order as follows: Alberta, 8,521,784 lb., value \$2,619,248; Manitoba, 6,574,510 lb., value \$2,038,109; Saskatchewan, 4,310,669, value \$1,338,180; Nova Scotia, 1,586,679 lb., value \$505,000; British Columbia, 1,243,292, value \$497,316; New Brunswick, 709,932 lbs., value \$236,194; and Prince Edward Island, 613,880 lb., value \$184,164. The average price per lb. of creamery butter for all Canada works out to 33 cents in 1916 as compared with 30 cents in 1915. By provinces in 1916 the highest price was in British Columbia, 42 cents, and the lowest in Prince Edward Island, 30 cents. In the other provinces the price per lb. for 1916 was as follows: Nova Scotia 32 cents; New Brunswick 33 cents; Quebec 34 cents; Ontario 33 cents; the prairie provinces 31 cents.

### PRODUCTION AND VALUE OF FACTORY CHEESE.

The total production of factory cheese in 1916 was 192,968,597 lbs., of the value of \$35,512,530, as compared with 183,878,898 lbs., of the value of \$27,587,775 in 1915. By provinces the lead in production is taken by Ontario with a total quantity in 1916 of 126,015,870 lbs. of the value of \$23,312,935, Quebec being second with 61,906,750 lbs., of the value of \$11,245,104. These two provinces together account for 98 per cent of the total production of factory cheese. The production and value of factory cheese in the other provinces in 1916 were as follows: Prince Edward Island 2,121,736 lbs., value \$409,495; New Brunswick 1,185,664 lbs., value \$210,692; Manitoba, 880,728 lbs., value \$158,931; Alberta 745,122 lbs., value \$154,454; Nova Scotia 94,727 lbs., value \$16,959, and British Columbia 18,000 lbs., value \$3,960. The average price per lb. of factory cheese for all Canada works out to 21 cents in 1916, as compared with 17 cents in 1915. In 1916 the average price is highest in British Columbia, 25 cents. In Quebec and Ontario the average price is 18 cents, and in Alberta it is 21 cents.

### STATE-OWNED RAILWAYS.

OTTAWA, Aug. 11.

The Government measure putting the Intercolonial and other State-owned railways under the jurisdiction of the Dominion Board of Railway Commissioners was put through committee in the House of Commons Saturday. A number of technical amendments introduced by Hon. Frank Cochrane were adopted without question, largely upon the assurance of F. B. Carvell, of Carleton, that he had gone over them carefully and found no room for criticism.