

season of 1891, so that on an average, each farmer has a surplus of over 1000 bushels of wheat, after deducting the quantity required for his seed and for domestic use. This is besides producing a large quantity of barley, oats and other grains, and vegetables, cattle, butter and cheese, etc. What other community on the continent can make such a showing, in producing such a quantity of agricultural commodities per head of population? Manitoba has yet a mere handful of farmers, and of her 50,000,000 acres of land, less than 1,400,000 acres are under cultivation. While the increase of production has been rapid in the past, there is ample room for even as rapid an increase for many years to come, without at all crowding the field.

Viewed from the standpoint of the limited population, the grain production is very large, and this is even more astonishing when we consider that this is a new country. Many of our farmers have only been settled a very short time in their prairie homes in Manitoba, and most of them came here with limited means. That they have succeeded in producing such a large surplus, is abundant evidence of the natural advantages of the country. The only drawback has been, that on account of the scarcity of farm help, and the limited means of the newer settlers, this large production has been to some extent at the expense of quality, or in other words, many farmers have sown more grain than they were able to harvest in good condition.

CROP AREAS.

The area under crop in Manitoba in 1891, as shown by the returns to the provincial agricultural department, was as follows: In wheat, 916,664 acres; in oats, 305,644 acres; in barley, 89,823. A smaller area was devoted to other grains and roots, making the total area of all crops of 1,352,201 acres. This made an increase of 267,407 acres over the total area in crop in 1890, and the increase was distributed among all kinds of crops. The figures of crop area show a steady increase every year. The first record of crop area was taken in 1884, showing the crop area of Manitoba in that year at 490,000 acres. In 1885 the area increased to 597,000 acres; in 1886 to 628,684 acres; in 1887, to 642,831 acres; in 1889, to 937,000 acres; in 1890 to 1,082,794, and in 1891 to 1,350,201 acres. This shows a steady and rapid increase year by year.

The final crop bulletin of the Manitoba department of agriculture, for 1891, gives the average yield of wheat at 25.3 bushels per acre, producing a total of 23,191,599 bushels. Oats give 48.3 bushels per acre, making a total crop of 14,762,605 bushels, and barley gives 35.6 bushels per acre, and a total crop of 3,197,876 bushels. Thus in these three grains alone, Manitoba farmers produced last year over 2,050 bushels each, on an average, besides a large quantity of potatoes and other crops. Of this total of grain crops, the surplus for export of wheat, as stated above, will be 20,000,000 bushels, 4,500,000 bushels, and barley 1,500,000 bushels, or a total surplus of the three leading cereals of 26,000,000 bushels. These figures deal with the province of Manitoba alone, and do not include the settled territory just west of the Manitoba boundary, which has also a considerable surplus of wheat, etc.

MANITOBA'S WHEAT EXPORTS.

Crop (1890).....	4,000,000	bushels
" (1897).....	10,500,000	"
" (1889).....	4,000,000	"
" (1883).....	4,500,000	"
" (1890).....	11,500,000	"
" (1891 Estimated by Government Department) ..	21,000,000	"

WHEAT INSPECTED AT WINNIPEG.

Crop (1886)	1,362,600	bushels.
" (1897).....	3,878,800	"
" (1883).....	2,183,350	"
" (1889).....	2,207,400	"
" (1890).....	6,639,000	"

Balance of wheat went out as flour or was inspected at Fort William.

THE ENGRAVING.

The cut accompanying this article is from a photograph taken at Brandon, Manitoba. It shows the line of grain elevators, and the farmers, with their loads of grain, awaiting their turn to discharge their loads into the elevators. A similar scene may be witnessed at almost every Manitoba town, on a busy day during the season for marketing grain.

Our Elevator System.

The rapid growth of the grain trade of Manitoba and the adjoining territory, is admirably shown in the elevator system of the country. Ten years ago there were no elevators in Manitoba. Now the country has an excellent elevator system, unsurpassed by any portion of America. The first elevators were built in 1882, in the Red river valley portion of Manitoba. Now, at every town, village and hamlet in the settled portion of the wheat belt, there are from one to half a dozen elevators. These elevators may be said to be of three classes. There are first the country receiving elevators, constructed mainly for the purpose of facilitating the handling of grain from farmers. This class are the most numerous, but they average much smaller in capacity than the other elevators. The country receiving elevators mostly range from 20,000 to 40,000 bushels' capacity each. They are mostly operated by steam, but some are worked by horse-power. Most of them have facilities for cleaning grain as it is taken in from the farmers. The farmer drives his rig upon a platform alongside the elevator, whence the grain is rapidly dumped into a large hopper. It is then weighed and distributed by the elevator machinery into bins, according to quality, different grades of grain being kept separate. There are very few points which have not one or more of these elevators, but at a few of the smaller markets grain is received into flat warehouses. This requires a slower process of handling, and is unsuited to the busy wheat markets of the country.

The second class of elevators may be considered to include those of a larger size than the ordinary country receiving elevators. These may be called partly storage and partly receiving elevators. They are built in connection with flour mills, or at points where for some particular reason it is desired to have more storage than the ordinary receiving elevator affords. These elevators range from 40,000 to 250,000 bushels' capacity, and in one case one of our mill elevators has a capacity of 400,000 bushels.

The third class of elevators includes the

mammoth storage and handling elevators at terminal and important shipping points. The Canadian Pacific Railway Company has established a line of seven elevators, with an aggregate capacity of 5,500,000 bushels, for the purpose of handling the exportable surplus of our crop on its way to the east. This includes four elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur, on Lake Superior, with an aggregate capacity of over 4,000,000 bushels. A good deal of our wheat goes to these points for winter storage, or for transshipment to boats. The company has one elevator at Owen Sound, Ont., where grain is again transferred from boats to cars, with a capacity of 285,000 bushels. The two remaining elevators are at Montreal, with a capacity of 650,000 bushels each.

The issues of this journal of December 28 and January 4 last, contained a full description of the elevator systems of the country, with a list of all elevators, point of location, capacity, etc. We will therefore only at present give a summary of these elevators. The following will show the total elevator capacity of Manitoba and the adjoining wheat territory to the west, including also terminal elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur:

	Bushels.
Elevators on Canadian Pacific	8,445,000
Warehouses " "	389,100
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Total storage on C. P. R.	8,834,100
Elevators on Manitoba Northwestern	425,000
Warehouses " "	229,000
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Total capacity on M. & N. R.	654,000
Elevators on Northern Pacific	650,000
Warehouses " "	7,500
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Total on N. P. R.	657,500

Grand total on all roads

10,145,100
This shows an average of over 1,000,000 bushels capacity for every year since elevator construction began in this country. The season of 1891 shows a record of thirty-five new country elevators built on the Canadian Pacific, with an aggregate capacity of 1,112,000 bushels; one on the Northern Pacific, capacity 40,000, and four new elevators on the Manitoba Northwestern railway, with an aggregate capacity of 160,000 bushels, besides the new annex elevator at Fort William, with a capacity of 1,250,000, making the grand total of 2,562,000 bushels' capacity added during the year 1891. This does not include new flat warehouses erected during 1891, which, if added would make a considerable addition to the new grain storage for the year.

Sheep raising is a profitable industry in Manitoba, and many of the farmers are going more extensively into sheep.

Manitoba has for the past few years been exporting considerable numbers of cattle, and the trade is growing. A few horses have also been shipped from the province, and it is expected that this will grow to be an important industry.

Three loads of wheat were brought in to the mill, here, on Tuesday, says the *Vidette*, published at Qu'Appelle, Assa., by as many different farmers, whose respective crops averaged 56, 54, 52 bushels to the acre. The samples were No. 1 hard, and each turned the scale at 62 pounds to the bushel.