

The September Crop Report.

Some notable revisions of crop estimates were made necessary as a result of the publication of the September returns of crops by the United States department of agriculture, and nearly all of these revisions were in the nature of reductions of earlier estimates. The reduction of the wheat estimate was a trifling one, made necessary by unfavorable harvesting weather in the northwest, while the decrease of the corn yield was overshadowed by the hot, dry weather reported in the heavy-producing states during August. The probable production of oats also shrank quite considerably, but even with these reductions the indicated yields of the leading cereals will prove to be liberal, that of wheat being an average, while that of corn and oats will vary little from a year ago, and will, in fact, exceed all but the most liberal harvests of past years. The reduction in cotton condition as a result of August weather was, however, a serious one, and has found some reflection in an excited market at advancing prices, though the critical position of immediate supplies has been and will continue to be a source of strength. It will, of course, be remembered that this report was made up previous to the arrival of the late disastrous cyclone in Texas, in which state conditions were the most promising of any part of the cotton belt. The following table shows the condition of leading crops, as shown by percentages, on September 1 and August 1 this year and September 1 a year ago:

	Sept. 1, 1900.	Aug. 1, 1900.	Sept. 1, 1899.	Aug. 1, 1899.	Avg.
Corn	80.0	87.5	85.2	81.7	81.7
Wheat	83.0	89.0	70.0	80.0	80.0
Oats	82.9	85.0	79.0	79.8	79.8
Barley	70.1	71.0	80.7	83.9	83.9
Rye	84.2	87.0	82.0	84.5	84.5
Buckwheat	80.0	88.2	80.3	77.4	77.4
Potatoes	68.2	76.0	68.5	76.6	76.6

Based upon the above averages, it will be seen there was a notable decline in August of corn, oats, barley, buckwheat, potatoes and cotton. Compared with a year ago, it will be seen, wheat is about 1 point lower and cotton is a trifle lower. Corn is 4.6 points off, barley is 16 points off and potatoes 6 points lower. Oats are 4 points up. Reduced to bushels, it is estimated that 510,000,000 bus. of wheat are to be looked for, but if the prevailing tendency to underestimate noted in previous years is still to be reckoned with this amount may be easily raised by 30,000,000 bushels, making the ultimate yield little below that of last year's official output. A corn crop in excess of 2,000,000,000 bushels is still indicated, and of oats not far from 800,000,000 bushels will probably be gathered.

Touching cotton, it is to be noted that the percentages of condition in the south as a whole are strikingly similar to a year ago, but there will certainly be some of the increase of acreage reported this year to be reckoned with. It is to be noted that, except in Mississippi, where no change in conditions is reported, every cotton-producing state showed a decline in August. In Texas and Oklahoma only is the condition reported equal to or in excess of the ten-year average. Perhaps a more easily fixed comparison, however, can be had in the statement that, as compared with September 1, 1899, present conditions are less favorable in North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Tennessee to the extent of 9, 6, 12, 18, 4 and 12 points respectively, and more favorably in Texas, Arkansas, Indian Territory and Oklahoma to the extent of 10, 3, 10 and 18 points respectively. In Georgia the general condition on September 1 corresponded, as closely as possible to estimate it, to what it was on September 1 of last year. With the above percentage as a guide and with reference being had to the increase in acreage, there has grown a feeling that the present indications point to a crop perhaps in excess of last year's "commercial crop," 0,430,000 bales, but not much, if any, in excess of 10,000,000 bales, which latter amount may, however, be affected by the prevalence of good weather and a late frost in the picking season or the contrary.

As regards the miscellaneous crops, it is to be noted that there was a decline in the condition of tobacco, sweet potatoes, sorghum, rice and apples during August. It is shown, however, that, despite this latter decline, conditions are still far above the

average in all the leading apple-producing states, and that the southern states have produced enormous crops of peaches, in most cases doubling the average for ten years past. In Louisiana, the leading rice-producing state, conditions are well above the average and the same is true of the sugar crop of that state. The above facts would point, it will be seen, to fairly liberal, though not excessive, yields of most crops, with the only important decline, that in cotton, made up for by greatly enhanced price for that staple. —Bradstreets, New York

MINING MATTERS.

BOUNDARY COUNTRY ORES.

S. H. C. Miner in his speech at the banquet held on the completion of the Granby smelter made several important announcements concerning the policy of his company. He said that the problem to be overcome was the treatment of the low grade ore. Another great mine of the Michigan country, stated Mr. Miner, was working ore which only carried three-quarters of 1 per cent. copper, while the mines of Butte were not producing ore of an average value greater than \$7 per ton. He declared that we do not yet begin to see the limits of Phoenix camp, and that the companies had now in sight nearly 10,000,000 tons of ore in their properties here. This ore they intended to mine, ship and treat at a cost of less than \$5 per ton, and to this end they would probably soon put in an 80 drill compressor plant. Mr. Miner announced that he expected to have the Granby smelter enlarged to a capacity of 2,000 tons per day within the next fifteen months, and that he hoped to see the day when his company would have a second smelter of 2,000 tons daily capacity beside the present plant. He said his company must put itself in shape to produce copper at a cost of 6c per pound and predicted a refinery as one of the forthcoming potentials of that necessity.

BRITISH COLUMBIA MINING.

The Princess May, near Princeton, has been bonded to an English syndicate for \$35,000.

Work has been resumed on the English and French claim, Brown's camp, on the north fork of Kettle river.

The Juno group on Morning Mountain, in the Nelson district, has been acquired by a Montreal syndicate.

An English company has been formed to take over the Magpie May group on Trout lake, in the Lardeau district. Work will be commenced at once.

An assay made of some of the ore of the Rusty, a claim on Haskins creek, Lardeau, resulted in returns of 36 ounces silver, 6 dwts. platinum, and about \$54 lead.

Rosland camp shipments for the last week were: Le Roi, 4,300 tons; Centre Star, 2,275 tons; Le Roi No. 2, 218 tons; Giant, 41 tons; total, 6,930 tons.

High grade ore is being encountered in the south drift of the new St. Elmo, Rosland camp, a recent assay gave \$126 in gold and silver, and the value increases as work proceeds.

A second lead of ore has been discovered on the Dundee, Rosland camp, and it seems likely that it will prove to be richer than the first. Assays gave returns of as high as \$123 a ton in gold and silver.

The Yellow Jacket group in the Nelson district, has been sold for \$65,000. Work will be commenced immediately, and a 10-stamp mill and electric plant will be placed on the property as well as other improvements done.

The Minnehaha Gold Mining Co. has been absorbed by the Saffor Consolidated Mining and Milling Co. The capital stock will be increased to \$2,000,000. The Minnehaha and Saffor properties are near camp McKinney.

The Imperial Development syndicate, composed of Nelson capitalists, has bonded for \$20,000 the Northern Light group, situated on the centre fork of Forty-nine creek. Work will be pushed during the winter. Already over \$3,000 worth of development work has been done, and the property is showing up in good shape. There is a large quantity of high grade ore on the dump and a valuable body in sight. The ledge is seven feet wide and has been uncovered for a distance of over 45 feet. Assays of the ore run from \$45 to \$116 per

ton of gold and copper values. The ore is free milling.

The American Boy, in the Slocan, is now a regular and heavy shipper.

The Athelston is now shipping ore to the Granby smelter at Grand Forks.

The new concentrator for the Ivanhoe mine, near Sanden, is nearing completion.

It is claimed that on the White Elephant, Brown's camp, 35 feet of solid ore has been encountered.

Free milling ore has been struck on the property of the Gold Hills Mining and Development Co., near Kaslo.

The B. C. mine, Summit camp, is at present shipping an average of eight carloads of ore daily to the Trail smelter.

On the Senator claim in Summit camp the lead is over 100 feet wide, giving an average surface value of \$5.00.

A recent two-car shipment from the Sunset, Deadwood camp, to the Trail smelter, is said to have yielded \$10 per ton.

The Rosland Miner estimates that there has been about \$750,000 worth of machinery placed in the mines of Red Mountain, Rosland, this season.

The Humming Bird, near Grand Forks, has commenced shipping out, and it is understood that an effort will be made to send out shipments regularly in future.

Work has commenced on the property of the Cowan Coal Co., situated at the eastern end of the Crow's Nest Pass. Present indications are that the deposit is a remarkably good one.

Two cars of ore from the Buckhorn near Cascade City, to the Trail smelter, gave net returns of \$24.32 to the ton. The copper value was nine per cent., gold \$5.70, and 30 cents in silver.

If reports can be credited, the Homestake claim in Franklin camp, north fork of Kettle river, is a wonder. A series of assays gave high returns. One showed values of \$50 gold and 26 ounces of silver per ton. The ledge is 50 feet wide.

An iron mine, situated about three miles from Chemainus, which is now being worked, is said to contain very rich ore. The ledge is twenty-two ft. wide and an assay gave 63 per cent. of iron, with no trace of sulphur or phosphorous silica.

N. W. ONTARIO MINING.

The Gold Winner has started its 5-stamp mill.

The 10-stamps of the Gold Panner have started up.

It is reported that the 30-stamp mill on the Sultana will be increased to 100 stamps.

The forty-stamp mill of the Hammond Reef, operated by electricity, has been started.

The location adjoining the Keeva-tin mine on the north has been purchased for the sum of \$10,000. Work will be carried on during the winter and a steam drill will be employed.

The Glass Reef, in the Manitou district, will very shortly start up the ten stamps which they recently erected, and they expect to increase the number to thirty stamps during the winter.

Work will hereafter be rushed ahead on the Big Master mine on the Manitou lake. Hoisting plants and pumps have been installed, and a 5-drill compressor and a 10-stamp mill will also be put in.

MISCELLANEOUS MINING.

"A matter of great consequence to the miners in the Klondike is the discovery of extensive deposits of lignite, which makes a very good substitute for bituminous coal. Twelve miles below Dawson and five miles inland, the North American Transportation company own a deposit, while up the Klondike about twenty miles the Alaska Exploration company have a deposit for which they paid \$20,000. Another deposit at Five Finger Rapids, outcrops on the cliff on the river bank, and can be carried to Dawson very cheaply. It is expected that the Alaska Exploration company will sell coal this winter at \$20 per ton, as compared with \$16 for cordwood. These deposits are not of so much value to Dawson itself because wood in considerable quantities can be floated down the river from the islands

above, but up the creeks wood is scarce, and is costing at the present time about \$35 per cord. It would be quite impossible to continue mining and employ machinery extensively were wood for fuel to become much scarcer than it now is. It is probable therefore, that lignite will be used extensively for mining up the creeks this winter."

Freight Rates.

Chicago Trade Bulletin—Traffic with eastern roads is fair and rates have been ordered restored. Rates in the south are still unsettled. Tariff on domestic grain and grain products from Chicago is as follows: To New York, 17½c, Boston, 10½c, Philadelphia, 15½c, Baltimore, 14½c. On export grain, rates from Chicago are as follows: To New York and Boston, 13c; Philadelphia, 12c, Baltimore, 11½c. From the Mississippi river for export: To Boston and New York, 15½c; Philadelphia, 14½c, Baltimore, 14c. Lake and rail rates from Chicago to New York are 12c per 100 lbs. on flour, 5½c per bushel on wheat, 5c on corn and 4c on oats. Ocean freight room in active demand and firm at 4½d per bushel on grain from New York, and 4d from Boston to Liverpool. The through rate on wheat from Chicago to Liverpool is 15½c per bushel, lake and rail via New York, and 15.25 via Boston. Flour is 31¢@34.75c per 100 lbs., and provisions, 47¢@49.69. Lake rates are higher at 2c for wheat, and 1½c for corn, and 1½c for clipped oats to Buffalo.

Fiber Prices.

The situation in the fibre market as reported by Lent & Rukenbrod is as follows:

"The manila market continues to decline, and manufacturers are unwilling to operate on falling market. Prices are fully half a cent lower than at this time last week, and from present indications the market is likely to decline still further. There is a sufficient quantity of hemp now on spot here and Boston to fill manufacturers' urgent needs, and London hemp has been somewhat neglected recently. The steamship Cam from Manila and Cebu arrived here on Sept. 6 with 10,500 bales of hemp. At least 4,500 bales of this hemp is for sale; we hear from one source that the entire cargo will be put on the market, but only a small lot at a time. So much unsold hemp is being offered at one time, together with the hemp available on spot Boston, will not tend to make the market any stronger, especially with the London and Manila markets showing such heavy declines. The shipments from Manila last week amounted to 22,000 bales, so it would seem that the syndicate's hemp is now beginning to move. The receipts also, were quite heavy, viz., 19,000 bales, and the estimate for this week varies from 18,000 to 25,000 bales. In fact everything seems to point toward a lower market.

"There has been some business done during the past week in sisal. About 1,800 bales of inferior sisal on dock were sold and there is still a small quantity obtainable at a low figure. For shipment there is very little doing."

Fiber Statistics.

Receipts of manila hemp at Manila, for eight months ending Aug. 31 were 607,000 bales, as against 469,000 bales during the corresponding period of 1899. Importations into the United States were 222,001 bales, of which 58,238 bales came from England. The bulk of the manila shipments left Manila before Jan. 1, as only 83,000 bales have cleared for the United States since the beginning of the year, and of this 40,783 bales have not arrived. Stocks in the hands of importers and speculators Sept. 1 at New York and Boston were 5,254 bales. Deliveries to manufacturers since Jan. 1 were 215,662 bales, and in August alone 33,972 bales.

Importations of sisal hemp for the eight months reached 343,390 bales, as against 259,204 bales from Jan. 1 to Aug. 31, 1899. Stocks in the hands of eastern speculators on Sept. 1 were 2,786 bales. Deliveries to manufacturers since Jan. 1 were 341,143 bales, and in August alone 31,110 bales.

A number of the managers of the Hudson's Bay Company posts in the west, have been in Winnipeg visiting headquarters recently.