

# The Farming World

For Farmers and Stockmen

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## The Western Wheat Crop.

**S**o much is being written and said these days about the big wheat crop of Manitoba and the West that to touch of the subject at all is much like falling back upon a hackneyed subject just to fill up. But as we have just returned from a two weeks' visit to the West a few of the impressions gathered on the spot regarding the crop may not come amiss.

That Manitoba has a big wheat crop to harvest cannot be doubted. But whether the yield will come up to the rosy estimates now being presented to the public remains to be seen. We visited several parts of the province and the crop on the whole promises well. Especially is this the case in southern and south western Manitoba and in the Brandon and Portage la Prairie districts. At the Government Farm, at Brandon, and at one or two other points we saw fields that gave every prospect of reaching close to forty bushels per acre. But these would form only a very small percentage of the total crop area. The bulk of what might be called the best fields, and these cover a very large area indeed, perhaps, over one-half of the growing crop should if good ripening and harvesting weather prevail, run thirty bushels per acre. The balance, which is no very small portion would from what we saw, average, from fifteen to twenty bushels per acre.

To analyze a growing crop in this way may seem somewhat far fetched, especially as nothing is so uncertain as growing grain. But it is the only way of getting near the facts. From the figures we have given our readers will readily see that a good average yield for Manitoba would be about twenty-five bushels per acre. And this is no small average for a country covering the area represented by Manitoba and the Territories. The fact of the matter is, it is a big average, and if after the threshing is all done, the total yield per acre averages up to this figure, Western Canada will have had the largest crop in its history.

But let us compare this estimated average with the general average in other countries. In England where the largest yields per acre are obtained of any other grain growing country in the world, a good average yield of wheat for the whole country is about twenty-seven bushels per acre. In Ontario an average yield for the whole province scarcely runs over fourteen to fifteen bushels per acre, while in the United States the average yield is from four to five bushels per acre less. It will thus be seen that our estimate of twenty to twenty-five bushels per acre for Manitoba is not a small average, but on

the contrary a very good one.

From what we learned from farmers in the Territories the outlook there is perhaps better in most places than in Manitoba. The lands sown to wheat in the Territories are newer and capable of producing larger crops. In the province, however, there are lands that have been sown to wheat every year for the past fifteen or twenty years, and it is not to be expected that these, unless the methods of farming carried on have been exceptionally good, will produce to the same extent as more virgin soils. There are good and bad farmers in Manitoba as well as in other countries, and where the land has not been kept in order and properly cultivated some very poor crops of wheat were to be seen even this year. And this is casting no reflection upon the country or its people. Such a condition merely tends to lower the average yield over the whole country considerably from what it would have been had the best farming methods been followed in every case.

We stated in last issue that fully 20,000 men would be required to harvest the crop. This may seem like a large number, but when we consider the area under crop, the proportion of farm help on the average Manitoba farm is very small indeed. For this reason a large amount of extra help is needed to gather in the harvest. The western farmer realizes this just now as he never did before, and he is prepared to pay good wages, as high as \$50 to \$60 a month, being talked of. And if he can get the men he needs at these figures he may consider himself pretty well off. Though several thousand men left this province for the West last week many more will be needed.

The cities and towns of Western Canada, as well as the rural sections, should be very much concerned in getting off this big harvest in good condition. In fact the townspeople would suffer as much as the farmers should any part of the crop be lost because of insufficient help. It would seem to us therefore to be a good plan for all factories and manufacturing concerns in the cities and towns to shut down all unnecessary work for a few weeks and send their employees into the country to help gather in the harvest. It would be a most profitable outing for the men and would go a long way towards ensuring a safe harvesting of the crop.

## The Cattle Embargo.

In addition to placing the capabilities of Canada as a food producing country before the consuming classes of Great Britain during his recent visit to the old land, the Hon. Mr. Fisher gave some attention to other questions affecting the interests of the Canadian farmer. An effort was

made to have the embargo against the admission of Canadian live cattle removed. An amendment to the law would have to be made to grant this concession and this would seem to be impossible at present, owing to the hostility of British agriculturists who are afraid diseased animals might be brought in. The English authorities tried to show that in maintaining the embargo no reflection upon the health of Canadian cattle was intended. But as Mr. Fisher pointed out, the only ground for maintaining the embargo is the dread of importing diseased animals. The British official opinion seemed to be that Canada and the United States, being allowed to land cattle for slaughter, were better off than other countries and consequently, there should be little ground for complaint. But the last has not been heard of the matter, and with persistent and well directed efforts on the part of Mr. Fisher, which we have every reason to believe he will continue to make, and the co-operation of the several cattle dealers and feeders' associations in the old land, who are asking for its removal, the raising of the embargo may yet come.

## The Provincial Winter Fair.

The directors of the Provincial Winter Fair met on Friday last at the Palmer House, Toronto. There was a representative gathering and a large amount of business was transacted, including the arrangement of the prize list and the selection of judges. The complete official report will appear in next week's Gazette Department. Mr. A. W. Smith, Maple Lodge, Ont., was elected president, to succeed the late Jno. I. Hobson, and F. W. Hodson, Dominion Live Stock Commissioner, vice-president.

## The Temiscaming Fire.

The After Effects Will be Beneficial.

Mr. Thos. Southworth, director of colonization returned a few days ago from a visit of inspection to the burnt district in the Temiscaming country. To a representative of The Farming World he stated that the fire was confined nearly altogether to the settled land. It is hard on the settler for the time being, but will eventually do good, as the fire will help to clear up the land much faster than was being done by the settler. The spruce wood on the burnt lands will be available for pulpwood if taken out this winter. About 114 heads of families and young men who have taken up land were affected by the fire and about 25 entirely cleaned out, yet no one is discouraged, and all