

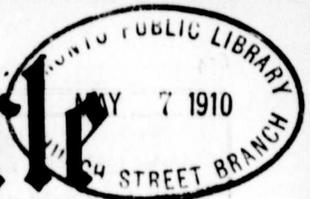
# The Chronicle

Banking, Insurance & Finance.

ESTABLISHED JANUARY, 1881

R. WILSON-SMITH, Proprietor

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY



Vol. XXX. No 18.

MONTREAL, MAY 6, 1910.

Single Copy - 10  
Annual Subscription \$2.00

**HALLEY'S COMET.** **T**HE two strangest things about Halley's Comet are what we know about it, and what we do not know. The former is greatly exceeded by the latter; but to the astronomical layman, the fact that the orbit and the varying speed and the period of the celestial visitor have been got down to such a fine point that we know when to expect a call from it, is a wonder of wonders. We are told that it turns up about every seventy-five years and most of us know what that means. We are told that it has an elliptical track of 7,000,000,000 miles and most of us denizens of Mother Earth, whose own orbit is elliptical, don't know an ellipse from a handsaw. The fact that it makes a speed of 1,548 miles a minute when passing between the earth and the sun, is encouraging to the people who yearn for rapid transit in Montreal. The fact that it gets tired and saunters along at 65 miles an hour, is consoling to the people, who are waiting for rapid transit. The fact that its tail 100,000,000 miles long is sometimes turned towards the sun, and sometimes turned away from it, has in it elements of hope; for the people who sometimes want to see the tail wag the dog, the fact that the comet's tail is at least as thin as it is long, is a relief to the fools who fear that a swish of the tail will wipe us all out of existence. The interest in its re-appearance for at least the twenty-fifth time—its silver wedding—is very natural. The greatest marvels of the Universe lose by familiarity; and the Comet which comes once in seventy-five years and probably has no appreciable effect upon our planet, excites more interest and wonder than the Sun which day by day rejoiceth as a giant to run his course, and which makes light and life possible upon our own planet.

**GRAIN IN HAND.** **T**HE report of the Canadian Department of Agriculture for the month ending March 31, 1910, says:

At the end of March the quantity of wheat in farmers' hands in the whole of Canada was about 18.28 per cent. of the crop of last year. This is 30,484,000 out of 166,744,000 bushels, as compared with 20.23 per cent. or 22,747,000 bushels out of the harvest of 112,434,000 bushels in 1908. Of oats there was 40.03 per cent. or 141,499,000 out of 353,466,000 bushels, as against 43.62 per cent. or 109,222,000 out of 250,377,000 bushels last year. Of barley there was 29.81 per cent. or 16,517,000 out of 55,398,000 bushels, as against 33.56 per cent. or 15,692,000 out of 46,762,000 bushels last year. Of buckwheat there was 1,835,000 out of 7,906,000

bushels, being 23.50 per cent, as against 29.03 per cent. or 2,078,000 bushels out of 7,153,000 bushels last year. Of corn, which was nearly all produced in Ontario, there was on farms at the end of March 3,604,000 bushels out of a total crop of 19,258,000 bushels. Of potatoes there was 43,289,000 out of 99,087,200 bushels or 43.68 per cent., as against 44.10 per cent. or 32,542,000 bushels out of a crop of 73,790,000 bushels last year. Of turnips and other roots there was 15.93 per cent., being 17,166,000 out of 107,724,600 bushels, as against 39.18 per cent. or 39,871,000 bushels out of 101,248,000 bushels last year. Of hay and clover there was 23.51 per cent., being 2,793,000 out of 11,877,100 tons, as against 34.51 per cent. or 3,952,000 tons out of 11,450,000 tons of the crop of 1908.

It is estimated that 95.87 per cent. of the wheat crop of the Dominion in 1909, equivalent to 159,868,000 bushels, was of merchantable quality; of oats 90.86 per cent. being 321,190,000 bushels; of barley 92.87 per cent. being 51,449,000 bushels; of rye 89.98 per cent. being 1,543,000 bushels; of buckwheat 87.42 per cent. being 6,825,000 bushels; of corn 81.04 per cent. being 15,608,000 bushels; of potatoes 79.86 per cent., being 79,140,000 bushels; of turnips 86.17 per cent. being 92,833,000 bushels of the total yield. Three of the crops were over 90 per cent. in quality, four ranged from 80 to 90, and only one was under 80 per cent.

**RECIPROCITY WITH THE UNITED STATES.** **T**HE Council of the Montreal Board of Trade is coy in accepting the approaches

of President Taft on the subject of reciprocity between Canada and the United States. The President who is by no means a bashful wooer, said at Pittsburg: "It is the view of the administration that the peculiar relations existing between Canada and the United States, with a boundary line of 3,000 miles in extent between them, justifies a different policy as to imports and exports between the two countries from that which obtains in regard to European and Oriental countries, and that if, by reciprocal arrangements we can make the commercial bond closer, it will be for the benefit of both nations.

The United States has been a long time in discovering the peculiar conditions involved in the 3,000 mile frontier, and meanwhile Canada has discovered some attractive conditions in other markets. The Dominion will need to exercise the greatest caution in any negotiations for closer trade relations with the United States, which will involve the safety of more stable markets.