

Opinion on the Crops.

J. K. Macdonald, of Toronto, managing director of the Confederation Life Association, has completed his annual tour of inspection throughout the west. Mr. Macdonald has been making this trip through Manitoba during the harvest season for years, and he is consequently able to speak as something of an expert, regarding the crops.

Mr. Macdonald traced on a map the route he had taken in which it will be seen he had covered a tremendous stretch of country. Starting on the 18th of September he drove to Rounthwaite, Wawanesa, Souris, south from Souris, then west to Hartney. From Hartney he went to Melita, and then from about two miles west to the border of the province to Deloraine. He was as far west as Waskada and was well up in the Turtle Mountains. From Bolsosavin he drove out in different ways, and then turned east, passing through north of Pembina river and crossed the Pelican Lake stream. Then he passed up to Balduf, and from Balduf went in different ways touching at Cypress, Holland, and driving in various directions from these points. From Holland he went to Glenboro, from Glenboro to Stockton and Treasbank, and from that to Brandon. Leaving Brandon he went north and east to Minnedosa and from Minnedosa to Strathclair. Then he drove from Strathclair north some 12 miles, and then south, and southwest, to Hamiota. Leaving Hamiota he returned by train to Winnipeg. He had been driving more or less for three weeks, and for the first ten days he drove at the rate of 50 miles a day.

With regard to the crops, said Mr. Macdonald, for most part the wheat, oats and barley were in the shock. In some few districts considerable stacking had been done. The crops, judging from the stacks, were lighter than I have seen on former occasions, while in a few instances I observed the crops would compare favorably with former years. I may say I went into a number of fields of wheat, and while a good many gave evidences of growing around the bands, in none of the fields visited did I find any wheat grown on the top of the sheaf. I was particularly pleased to see very many instances of good farming, with a fairly good yield and fine, clean straw and apparently well headed. I conversed with quite a number of farmers and was pleased to find that they were in good heart and in no way cast down. In fact they were so hopeful that it was a matter of surprise to me. They seemed to say, "Well, it will be all right next year and we are all going to prepare for a large sowing." I found a good deal of summer fallowing done and a good deal of stubble ploughed. The shocks were moved from the actual line of ploughing and the work proceeded with.

"With regard to the condition of the wheat crop, I am firmly convinced that if the weather will now hold up and give an opportunity of saving the wheat, that a very pleasant surprise is in store for the province—in other words, that the yield will be very much greater, with less injury in consequence of the wet than is generally anticipated. So far as the grain which came under my observation goes the grown part of it is in comparatively small proportion to the total crop. The greatest loss it seems to me will arise from shelling, and the depredations of fowls which seem to have fed somewhat extensively upon the shocks. The worst grown wheat I observed from the train was on Saturday as we approached Portage la Prairie."

"I had heard so far as threshing was done of yields that were a great surprise to me. I know of one case of 40½ bushels per acre and another case of from 20 to 35 bushels per acre. Then the prices that are being paid for wheat are most encouraging. I had some samples with me at Hamiota, which I find were classed as No. 2 hard, and this class was purchased at 68 cents, and a much inferior quality—I don't know if it was graded or not—brought 58c. While it is borne in mind that the ruling price last year for No. 1 hard was from 50 to 53 cents and that the bulk of it would be sold at 51 cents, it indicates that even with the present crops that the province will be much better off than was anticipated. I feel satisfied that if the fine weather now prevailing should continue the crop returns will be much more valuable than it seems is the general opinion at the present time."

The Outlook for Cod Liver Oil.

Now that the active consuming season for cod liver oil is at hand it may be well to again point out that the statistical position of supplies is favorable to higher values than are ruling to-day, or at least for a well sustained market. The production of Lofoten oil last spring was much below the average of past years, although not the smallest on record. In the following table we give figures showing the production, in hectoliters, of steam refined oil, in each of the producing districts of Norway since 1889:—

Year.	Lofoten.	Søndmøre.	Flmårken.	Total.
1900.....	10,500	4,500	5,000	20,000
1899.....	18,000	3,500	2,000	24,500
1898.....	11,200	3,400	3,000	18,500
1897.....	13,200	3,300	3,400	24,900
1896.....	8,500	1,100	9,500	19,400
1895.....	12,300	1,200	2,500	16,000
1894.....	12,300	1,500	4,400	18,200
1893.....	18,000	3,000	2,100	23,100
1892.....	8,100	5,300	3,000	17,300
1891.....	18,200	5,000	800	24,000
1890.....	18,700	8,400	1,400	28,500

The average production for the ten years previous to 1900 was 14,240 hectoliters in Lofoten, 3,570 hectoliters in Søndmøre and 3,450 hectoliters in Flmårken. The average total production was 21,260 hectoliters. In addition to the fact that the total production was below the average and nearly twenty per cent. below that of 1899, it will be remembered that but little or no surplus was held in Norway at the beginning of the fishing season—a very unusual circumstance. Early in the season values in Norway were fifteen dollars and fifty cents per barrel f.o.b. Bergen. When it became evident that the Lofoten catch would be small values advanced until twenty-three dollars f.o.b. Bergen was reached at the end of March. A speculative movement in London and Hamburg also contributed to this advance, but as soon as it became evident that the production in Søndmøre and Flmårken would be above the average values declined until eighteen and one-half dollars f.o.b. Bergen was reached, about the middle of May and eighteen dollars at the end of June. Early in July a firmer tone developed, and values advanced to nineteen dollars, which quotation was well maintained until within the past week. Cable advices received Thursday last reported a decline of twenty-five cents a barrel in Bergen, but this decline is expected to prove temporary. That market has been dull for several weeks past, and the decline will probably be more than recovered at the first appearance of any demand of consequence.

The following table, showing the highest and lowest prices which have ruled in this market during the past thirteen calendar years, will prove of interest:—

Year.	Highest.	Lowest.
1900.....	\$24.00	\$22.00
1899.....	26.00	19.50
1898.....	25.00	20.00
1897.....	43.00	22.00
1896.....	60.00	41.00
1895.....	49.00	27.00
1894.....	28.00	19.50
1893.....	22.00	19.00
1892.....	23.00	21.00
1891.....	23.00	13.50
1890.....	19.50	19.00
1889.....	21.50	19.00
1888.....	23.00	22.00

Now that the consuming season is near at hand the market has taken on a more active appearance, and the opinion is very general throughout the trade that values will not only be well maintained, but that there is a strong probability of higher values within the next three months.—Oil, Paint and Drug Reporter.

Elder, Dempster & Co. have given contracts for two large cargo boats for the St. Lawrence trade. One of these will have a tonnage of 12,000 tons dead weight and will have a speed of 13 knots. It is intended to put this boat on the London service next spring if possible.

Previous to the destruction of Galveston, Texas, by the great storm of Sept. 8, the Galveston Tribune had in press a handsome publication entitled Picturesque Galveston. The edition was mostly lost, but the sheets sufficient to complete a few thousand copies have been saved. These are being offered at \$2 each and the proceeds of the sale has been donated to the Galveston relief fund. Parties wishing to contribute to the fund may therefore do so by purchasing one or more of these books.

A Change of Standards.

When electric lights first appeared and became popular, stockholders of gas companies grew glum, thinking the end of the world, in the matter of dividends, had come. To-day municipal lighting plants are being erected in all parts of the country at a pace never before equalled. This revolution is now watched with complacency, even joy, by the stockholders, mentioned above, for time has sufficiently demonstrated that the introduction of electric light in a community increases the demand and the consumption of gas. The explanation seems to be that the standards of lighting have been vastly raised by the introduction of electricity and that what satisfied before no longer brought contentment. The cry is ever for more light. The candle dip era has passed away, eye sight is preserved and happiness extended. The people are also reaping rich rewards from this new education upon the light question. Manufacturers have kept pace with the demands and are now offering attractions in illuminants that were undreamed of five years ago, and that too at prices that are marvelously low. For these attractions there is a lively demand. The electric light was a capable pioneer and the harvest is being reaped.

This principle, that change in standard brings change in demand has a much wider application than to lighting. It is an influence quite forcible in the iron and steel trades. The farmer visits towns and beholds the telephone. He wants one extending to his own farmstead. He visits the next county and rides on the trolley, then insists that the electric line pass his doorway. Telephone and electric railway companies are being organized rapidly just now. The farmer has been buying machinery for many years. There seems to be less opportunity for future progress in that direction, and he is diverting his attention to other lines of acquisition, equally gratifying to the iron and steel industries.

Examples might be multiplied. The lesson is that future needs cannot be measured by those of the past. There is perpetual industrial change and expansion in this age and wild dreams soon become realities—Iron and Steel.

Freight Rates and Traffic Matters.

The freight officers of eastbound rates held a meeting in Chicago last week to consider an advance in grain rates, the export rate at 13c and the domestic rate at 15c per 100 pounds. The increase may not go into effect before November 1.

Announcement is made that the official committee of the trunk line and general freight association will meet in New York on October 16, for the purpose of preparing a new classification sheet. It is said to be the intention to make a general increase on all commodities, the higher rates to become effective January 1, 1901. Preparations for the advancement of rates in the territory of the two organizations—that part of the country east of the Mississippi river and north of the Ohio—are now being made. The traffic officials of the east-bound lines, as announced yesterday, authorized an advance in export and domestic grain rates, which will become effective the first of next month. The present export rate is 13½ cents from Chicago to New York, and 15½ cents from the Mississippi river to New York. The new rate will be 16 cents from Chicago and 18½ cents from the river to the seaboard. The existing tariffs on domestic grain—15 cents from Chicago and 17½ cents from the river to New York—will be raised to 17½ cents from Chicago and 20½ cents from the Mississippi.

The corner stone of the Quebec bridge was laid by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, on the 2nd inst. There were about ten thousand people present.

It is stated that by next spring the Northwestern Steamship Co. will have four steamers ready, which they propose to use for carrying grain cargoes between the lake ports and Europe without a change of bottom.

September's imports into Great Britain from Canada amounted to £2,629,967, and exports to £372,554. The imports were Cattle, 13,020, value £221,593; sheep and lambs, 6,170, worth £7,976; bacon, 48,093, cwt., £100,324; hams, 25,838, cwt., £59,546; butter, 32,328, cwt., £155,259; cheese, 233,215, cwt., £576,102; eggs, 107,000 great hundreds, £39,423; horses, 323, £9,502.

Insolvency Law Wanted.

The Canadian Manufacturers' association, at its recent annual meeting, adopted the following resolution:—

Whereas: The fact that the insolvency laws of the various provinces are very diverse, and lead to trouble and expense in winding up insolvent estates;

And whereas: This difficulty operates very seriously to the impediment of the growth of the interprovincial and foreign trade in Canada;

And whereas: This matter has been repeatedly brought to the attention of the Dominion government;

Be it resolved: That this association urge its executive committee to bring every possible pressure to bear upon the Dominion government to have enacted at the next session a general Bankruptcy Act which will provide for the speedy, equitable and economical distribution of estates of insolvent persons in Canada.

Edward Hyde Villiers, fifth Earl of Clarendon, has been appointed Lord Chamberlain in succession to the Earl of Hoptoun, recently appointed governor-general of the Australian commonwealth. He was appointed aide-de-camp to the Queen in 1897, has been her lord-in-waiting, lord lieutenant of Hertfordshire since 1892, and honorary colonel of the Hertfordshire Yeomanry cavalry. He is a Liberal Unionist, and was member of parliament for Brecon in 1870. He is the owner of about 5,000 acres and Kenilworth Castle.

OVERALL CLOTHING



OUR GOODS ARE WELL MADE.
They will please your customers.
You will be pleased yourself.
Send us your orders. Satisfaction guaranteed.

The Hoover Mfg. Co. Ltd.

Bakery Business for Sale.
One of the best bakery and confectionery businesses in the Northwest for sale. Rare opening for a hustler. Capital required, \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00. Poor health cause of selling. Possession given at once. Write C. O. N., care Commercial, Winnipeg, Man.

For Sale.

A good paying general store business, in a first-class mixed farming district in Northwestern Manitoba, on the M. N. W. Ry. Stock about \$3,000.00. Store can be purchased or leased for any length of time. Apply to N. O. X., care of The Commercial, Winnipeg.

For Sale.

A general store business, thoroughly established, in good town. Good will and lease of premises to right buyer. Address N. Y., care of Commercial.

For Sale.

On easy terms, Hotel and Livery Stable, doing a good all round business. Good reasons for selling. Must be sold at once. Apply Leland House, Birtle.

NOTICE.

School Lands Sale Commission.

Notice is hereby given that, acting under the powers and authority conferred upon me by an Order of His Excellency the Governor-General-in-Council, appointing me a commissioner to investigate certain irregularities in the public sales of school lands made in the month of June last, I will proceed to investigate the said matters, and hear all complaints relating thereto, at the following times and places, namely:—
Minnedosa, at the Municipal hall, Monday, Oct. 22, at 4 p.m.; Birtle, at the Municipal hall, Tuesday, Oct. 23, at 7.30 p.m.; Rapid City, at the Municipal hall, Wednesday, Oct. 24, at 8.00 p.m.; Gladstone, at the Municipal hall, Monday, Oct. 29, at 2.00 p.m.; Portage la Prairie, at the Court House, Tuesday, Oct. 30, at 7.30 p.m. Notice of sittings at other points of the province will follow.
Dated at Winnipeg, this 5th day of October, A.D. 1900.

JAMES E. P. PRENDERGAST,
Commissioner.