IMMIGRATION IS HEAVY

In Western Canada—Real Estate Active—World's Fair Being Well Supported—In the Wheat Markets.

Monetary Times Office,
Winnipeg, April 26th.

The influx of landseekers continues, and from present indications all past records will probably be eclipsed in 1910. Mr. Hugo Ross, the well-known Winnipeg real estate man just returned from a western trip, states there has been nothing like it in any previous year of Western history. In the Moose Jaw district, the number of land entries for the first three months of this year number 4,720 quarter sections. The influx of United States citizens is increasing. In addition to their numbers, the prosperous class of immigrant coming in speaks well for the future. The opportunities of Western investment are being more realized by British and foreign capitalists, as is evidenced by numerous inquiries from abroad and by the personal inspection of capitalists with money to invest in a promising field.

Real Estate and Investment

In common with the West in general, the real estate market in Winnipeg is unusually active. The demand for good properties at reasonable rates exceeds the supply, and owners refuse to sell at prices fixed by them a short time ago. Inquiries have been strong on inside residential and business property. Suburban lots and acreage are also active, and a large number of transactions have taken place. For the first quarter of the year Winnipeg has an increase in building over last year of 185 per cent. and is third on list of Canadian cities in respect of new buildings.

The special finance committee of the World's Fair which has been at work on a capital stock subscription for Canada's International Exposition, feel encouraged by the response to their appeal for stock subscriptions.

World's Fair Will Be Supported

The real estate men of Winnipeg will support the proposed Exposition by subscribing for about $150,000 worth of stock. The wholesale houses of Winnipeg will also subscribe $50,000, while the hotelmen will contribute to the financial success of the project to the extent of $100,000. A subcommittee of the wholesale interests of Winnipeg will put the matter before the executive heads of the large corporations in the south doing business in Western Canada. By the enthusiasm shown and the interest taken by the business men of the city generally, the committee appear to have been thoroughly successful in having the first issue of stock subscribed for.

The home, industrial and expansion committee of the Winnipeg Development and Industrial Bureau are considering the question of the city acquiring a block of land specially adapted for manufacturers. In conjunction with the city council they will investigate and report upon a plan that might be adopted by the city, in view of future industrial developments.

Industrial Expansion in Winnipeg

Various propositions for industrial sites adjacent to Winnipeg have been submitted and will be considered.

It has been arranged to organize a business men's trip to visit the principal cities in Western Canada. Only executive heads of the largest wholesale, jobbing and manufacturing concerns of the city will accompany the party.

The week opened with a general decline in prices varying from two to three cents. This marked the recognition on the part of the grain trade of the changed conditions of the world's breadstuffs situation as compared with a year ago.

In the Wheat Markets

From August to January last, prices centred round a comparatively high level. Trade remained brisk until February, when millers having replenished their stocks, the trade became dull, and in spite of the Argentine shortage, wheat was plentiful owing to the large world's crop. The crop-killing reports from Kansas and neighboring States, however, gave the speculative markets a new lease of strength. Traders turned their attention to the damage reports in the United States winter wheat, and for a time neglected to consider the course of the commercial situation which has all the time becoming more bearish through increasing supplies and falling off in demand. Latterly, the immense supply, visible and otherwise, of wheat available for commercial purposes and the improved prospects for another big world's crop, have been forcing themselves on the notice of the traders.

Brisk Demand For Wheat

The result of these considerations was seen in a collapse in all markets in the early part of the week. Bad crop news from the winter wheat country, and the fact that the entire wheat belt of the Canadian West was subjected to frost helped to bring about a reaction. Our Winnipeg market was strong all week, with a brisk demand for all grades. There was a large volume of trade, and a lot of May and July wheat changed hands. Exporters were good buyers at the lower values, but at the reaction British buyers backed away. Cash wheat was in fair demand by members with eastern connections. The movement of wheat from the country is large for this time of year, but the active resumption of seeding operations may cause a slackening off.

The world's statistical situation is strong. The United States visible is steadily increasing, as against decrease at the rate of two million bushels per week a year ago. The aggregate now stands at round 30 millions as compared with 32½ millions last year.

World's Supply Increases

World's shipments were 12½ million bushels against 7 millions this time last year, and the amount on ocean passage exceeds 50 million bushels as compared with 43½ millions a year ago. In two weeks last year there was a decrease of twelve millions in the world's visible supply, while this year there is an increase of one million bushels. The world's crop prospects forecast a large yield, taking into account the condition and increased acreage. Generally, there is no change in either the cash wheat or flour situation, and while the progress of the 1910 crop may periodically reassert itself as a factor in the market, the 1909 crop will continue to force itself to the front as a predominating influence in price making for the next few weeks.

BERESFORD BECOMES CRITIC

Of British Trade Methods in Their Relation to Canada and Gives Some Advice—Immigration Figures.

Monetary Times Office,
London, England, April 26th.

Although business is far from buoyant in England generally, the trade of the country as shown by Government reports demonstrate that the imports and exports have largely increased. The figures for March represent a net increase of some eight and a half million pounds sterling, made up as follows:—Imports increased by £6,106,928, or 11.74 per cent., and exports by £2,486,855, or 7.97 per cent.

The statement received from Ottawa that in the new gold coinage the ten dollar gold piece is to contain two hundred and fifty-eight grains, other coins in proportion, in order that they may be interchangeable with the United States gold issues, is somewhat criticized here by persons who see in this monetary equality and interchange an indication that Canada and the United States are drifting commercially closer together. They forget, however, that our system in both countries being identical, everything is to be gained by freedom of interchange upon a standard basis.

Lord Charles Beresford has given the British producer and exporter some sound advice, and it would be well if they would carefully study the pointers that he has given them regarding their representation in Canada.

Lord Charles Beresford's Advice.

He says. "Secure the services of a first-class resident commercial traveller, one with a connection and experience. He must know what is required by the Canadian people, respecting the class of goods that he recommends, and having ascertained what is required, convey the necessary particulars to the British manufacturers."

Under the heading, "A Winnipeg Contract," much space has been devoted by certain publications, both technical and commercial, regarding a contract that was called for in that city, tenders for which apparently had been submitted by Canadian, United States, and English firms; with the result that the English firms were not successful. Complaints are made by the writers of these articles that sufficient time is not given for the local representative of English houses to correspond with the principals of their firm, before being able to submit the best possible terms. It is held that preference in duty is more than counterbalanced by this lack of time. This special controversy shows the absurdity of the British system when brought to play in an up-to-date market, with keen competition, and advanced methods.

Methods of English Manufacturers.

Why should it be necessary for a representative to correspond with the head office before entering for a tender? Surely if the man is good enough to represent an English firm, he is good enough to be entrusted with all the best prices, and every advantage. If not, why not replace him by the proper man? One or two intelligent letters have appeared on this subject, pointing out that the corporation or individual calling for tenders is not interested in the details of how these prices are arrived at. He dates the closing of tenders to suit his convenience, and it is up to the manufacturer to prepare himself for these contingencies. Such controversies are helpful from the standpoint of advertising Canada as a field for British institutions.

Emigration figures just issued for the Board of Trade for 1910 are of interest, showing a substantial increase for Can-