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THE WESTERN CROPS.

Our Winnipeg despatch of Thursday noon indicates that opinion at that point as to the crop is not only not of an alarmist character, but is calmly confident of a good crop. Our correspondent says: "The weather has been cool throughout the West during the past week. There have been light frosts, but not enough to damage crops in the least. The presence of rust is noticeable in some localities, but damage from this cause has been very much exaggerated. The majority of points reporting its appearance estimate damage from that cause at five to ten per cent. Latest reports indicate that wheat cutting is half over, and that threshing will start in a few days."

THE TORONTO EXHIBITION.

The Toronto Industrial Fair of 1904, which is now dignified by the title of Canada's National Exhibition, is not undeserving of even this pretentious name. For it assuredly gives, in buildings and by means of arrangements whose equal was never reached in Canada before, a succinct view of most of the natural and artificial products of the country under conditions which are satisfying alike to exhibitor and spectator. In his address at the opening, His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario very happily summarized the features of this Fair. He expressed the opinion, and there are many who agree with him, that "from the nature of the exhibits, the extent of them, the multiplicity of them, the present Exhibition will eclipse everything which has been known in this country." Its predecessors have been

showing the growth of Canada year by year, and one may now say that it reflects the creditable position which the Dominion has attained in various fields of productive activity.

While the Fair must always possess in a marked degree interest for agriculturists and admirers of domestic animals, seeing that we are primarily an agricultural people, it is impossible not to recognize, and to warmly welcome, the strides that the country is making in mining and manufactures. Visits to Machinery Hall, the Manufacturers' Building, and the Process Building of to-day, to say nothing of the Dairy Auditorium, the Stove Building and that representing Transportation, compel admiration of the industrial advance shown, and inspire hope for a vastly greater future growth in varied handiwork at furnace and forge, lathe and loom. The note of progress has been caught by individual exhibitors, who signalize their cheerful accord with the march of improvement by greater efforts at worthy display of their wares in surroundings that manifest the growth of an aesthetic sense. Witness the many tasteful booths and temples that shelter the exhibits, the greater care in arrangement, the greater regard for harmony of color. Mention ought to be made of the remarkable array of musical instruments, such as pianos and organs of Canadian production. These are a revelation to the foreign visitor in their beauty and variety, while in quality and tone the instruments deserve high praise.

A merited encomium was pronounced by His Honor upon the exhibit in the Art Gallery. It is in every way satisfying, and marks in a gratifying manner the improvement in Canadian art. The crude, the tawdry, and the pretentious daubs which used to