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Manager.

TORONTO, CAN. FRIDAY, AUG. 30, 1889

THE SITUATION.

The official Crop Bulletin of Manitoba, issued on the first of the month, is a discouraging document. The prospects of the majority of the farmers were blasted by the drouth and heat of June, the rainfall at 36 different places being less than three-quarters of an inch. In some places the drouth was continued in July, in others copious showers of rain fell. The yield of prairie hay is unusually small, the average being 1-10 tons. Of timothy and clover the crops are poor; hay on cultivated land averaging less than a ton to the acre. Wheat, which has been injured by drouth and gophers, ranges all the way from 3 to 40 bushels to the acre, the average being put down at 14-8, which is very low for the rich virgin soil of Manitoba, where twice that quantity would be no more than a good fair crop. In some places gophers are almost as great pests as are rabbits in Australia. The average of oats is put at a fraction over 22 bushels, barley 18-5, peas 12-5; flax, unless injured by early frosts, may be a fair crop. Root crops suffered with the grain and are poor. The area brought under cultivation is increasing satisfactorily, 135,649 acres being added this year; the increase in the area of new land brought under culture in the years 1888-9 being 55 per cent. This bulletin is not quite decisive of the fate of the crop in Manitoba; the harvest is certainly a poor one in point of yield, whatever the quality may be, though there has been an improvement in some crops since the 1st of the month.

In spite of capture and menace, Behring Sea is alive with sealers. They are constantly harassed by the revenue cruisers of the United States, and additional captures have been made. All this makes more imperative a speedy settlement of the question. Reclamation regarding past seizures is said to have been made by the British Government, and no doubt with truth. The American Government cannot continue to shut itself up in its shell and refuse to do anything. A palpable wrong demands a remedy, and it is impossible to believe that it will not be forthcoming. There is no occasion to quarrel, but there is occa-

sion for adjustment, and this ought to be obtainable in a rational way. It is now said that the "Black Diamond" is owned wholly or in part in the United States.

The shipping business has suffered great injury by the strike of the dock laborers in London, England. Perishable cargoes have been left to perish. Thousands of sailors and firemen have joined the dock laborers and quit work. Mutton, after coming all the way from New Zealand, has been left to rot. The shippers are at the mercy of the dock companies. Coal has got up to double its price and, as a consequence, manufactures must suffer. The movement of flour is so impeded that biscuit makers have difficulty in getting what they want. Various articles of food received by water are likely to follow coal in a large increase of price. The Thames iron workers have joined the gang of idlers, and there are fears that the strike may spread in other directions, and if so the extent of the trouble cannot be foreseen. The dock companies are under great pressure, and must soon either import foreign labor or yield something to the strikers, who number 150,000.

Canadian manufacturers have been in the habit of shipping to the United States shoos—the different parts of boxes fitted by machinery and ready for nailing together—and the question has arisen whether they were manufactured or not, the duty being dependent upon the decision of that question. The United States Treasury Department has decided that "the simple act of nailing them together is not a manufacture within the meaning of the statute." On the other hand, it may fairly be contended that shoos are not boxes, not a complete manufacture. The fact is that the complete manufacture does not take place on either side of the line, part of it being performed on one side and part on the other. There are many things which while complete manufactures in themselves yet enter into more complex manufactures, but among them shoos cannot be placed, they are not in any sense complete manufactures. At the same time, the decision of the Treasury Department does not surprise us, and as it will be enforced, no protest nor appeal would avail to bring about a change. The point might possibly be decided either way if national self-interest or supposed self-interest did not over-ride every other consideration; and it cannot be said that the actual decision is conspicuously strained and unfair.

Mr. Dyke, the Canadian emigration agent at Liverpool, Eng., accounts for the falling off in emigration from Great Britain by the fact that, for some time past, the surplus rural population, better instructed than formerly, make their way to the seats of manufacture and find employment without emigrating. According to him a crop of new emigrants will have to grow up before we can depend upon getting them. The great want of our North-West is settlers, and we agree with Mr. Dyke that the hostility of the labor organizations is carried too far and in its excess is greatly to be deplored. Emigra-

tion from the Old Country to the United States is greatly aided by the momentum which the movement has acquired during a long period of time. The large body of emigrants who have reached that country constantly send back money to enable their friends to follow; Canada, not having so large a body of settled immigrants, has not the advantage of this resource to the same extent. In time, the same force will produce a powerful effect in Canada, and from this cause alone we may hope to increase our population largely in future.

Facts continue to crop up from time to time showing that the precautions taken by Canada against importing pleuro-pneumonia from the United States are not capacious and unnecessary. On the 10th August, the steamer "Maryland," from Baltimore, landed at London a cargo of cattle, among which was a bull suffering from this disease. As a matter of precaution, all the animals were at once slaughtered. Facts like these show that the American authorities have not succeeded in stamping out the malady, and that we must continue to exercise care in preventing its introduction here. Canada's immunity from this disease has given us an advantage in the British market which we should forfeit if pleuro-pneumonia found its way over the border.

Quebec City is said to have been feeling its way to the conversion of its debt, but so far no substantial progress has been made. A civic deputation which went to England has come back. If it has effected nothing so far, may it not have discovered the terms on which conversion might be obtained with a chance of success?

A better understanding between England and Germany has evidently resulted from the recent visit of the Emperor. A section of the German press is anxious to make it appear that practically, if not in terms, Great Britain has joined the triple alliance. The statement goes too far, and has even called forth an official denial. On the accession of the present Emperor of Germany the relations of that power with Great Britain were greatly strained. All this has now passed away, and a cordial understanding exists between them. The two countries ought to be on friendly terms; all their interests point in that direction.

Is it possible, and if possible would it be profitable, for American millers to sell direct to English bakers? This question the North Dakota Millers' Association has decided to put to the test, by sending an agent to London to effect direct sales. Bakers buy from hand to mouth, and whoever sells to them must be prepared to supply in dribblets, from time to time. The flour would have to be warehoused in London, and would be subject to all the contingencies of the market. Perhaps the future may have in store other movements on the same lines as this, and a considerable reduction in the number of intermediaries may be possible. It would not be safe to predict the result of the experiment at present.

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