

Conditions In The West

By E. CORA HIND

Calgary, July 3. — The past five days have brought very broken weather all over the West with considerable hail in districts and very heavy rains, which have been fairly general, though there are still districts and large ones in Southern Alberta and southern Saskatchewan that have as yet had no rain which could be of any value in improving the condition of the crops. Prior to these last rains the feed situation for stock was occasioning great anxiety. It was worse than last year for the simple reason that grass and hay were short growth in the north as well as the south whereas in 1918 fodder was very abundant in the northern sections of the provinces. The recent rainfalls will mean that much of the grain crop, which has been too stunted by dry weather to make a threshing crop will at least supply a very large amount of good feed. Sixty day barley is already being seeded on land where the wheat crop had been blown out or ploughed down.

FROST PLAYED HAVOC IN ALBERTA.

With the exception of a very few intensely hot days Alberta has had a cold summer and the scientific farmers who have kept diaries for the last 25 years report that there were frosts varying in intensity from 3 to 10 degrees every night for the first twelve nights of June. Had these frosts been followed by immediate rains the loss from them would have been small, but it was the interval of two weeks of high winds dry weather that played havoc with much of the crop. There have been rains all season in certain stretches of Alberta and Saskatchewan, in these the crops are fine, but the areas are not large. One of the most noted is that along the Blackfoot reserve running south and south-east from Cluny on the Main line of the C. P. R. in Alberta, and included in it are 8,000 acres of wheat, part of the increased production campaign of the Indian department, which promises a magnificent crop.

It is these occasional areas, and the well-known recuperative powers of the West that prevent farmers from taking an entirely gloomy view of the situation, though many of them are frank in stating that they do not believe that under the most favorable conditions from now on Alberta can count on any more wheat than she had last year. Conditions are very similar in Saskatchewan excepting that Saskatchewan has had more trouble with grasshoppers. In Manitoba conditions continue favorable for an excellent crop.

FINE CATTLE EXHIBIT AT CALGARY.

Calgary always opens the circuit of the five big agricultural fairs on the prairie provinces and this year in spite of shortage of feed and high priced feed and labor she has put on the best cattle exhibit she has ever had, and an excellent exhibit of heavy horses, more especially Percherons of native breeding, and while the sheep and hog exhibits are numerically smaller than previous years the quality is better.

The attendance has been very large, running to 74,000 in four days. The entrance fee is 50c.

There is much discussion among farmers around the cattle rings on industrial conditions and the recent strikes and while the odd man here and there expresses sympathy with the strikers the vast bulk of farm opinion is in favor of the Government putting down with a strong hand the present revolutionary tendencies in Canada. Over and over has the opinion been expressed that not only the whole West but Canada from coast to coast owes a debt of gratitude to the citizens of Winnipeg for their pluck and endurance during the six weeks of the strike. It seems pretty generally recognized that it was the citizens, whose sentiments were voiced by the citizens committee who finally compelled the Dominion Government to take action. The farmers of Alberta have, more

than any other province of Canada, excepting British Columbia, had to deal with the I. W. W.'s at first hand and fully recognize that the One Big Union is only another name for them. Another matter which has been very freely discussed during the past four days has been the appointment of a new minister of agriculture. There are large numbers of farmers and stockmen here from all over the western province and there is only one name in the West, only one man who will be acceptable to western farmers and livestockmen, and that is Dr. Tolmie, of Victoria, B.C. Very strong representations have gone from livestock associations to Premier Borden, and he is being left in no manner of doubt as to the weight of western farmers opinion on this most vital subject.

AETNA EXPLOSIVES REDUCE CAPITAL.

Stockholders of the Aetna Explosives Company Thursday adopted resolutions reducing the capital from \$18,100,000 to \$8,650,000, the number of shares outstanding remaining unchanged. The contract between the receivers and J. & W. Seligman & Co., the company's bankers, was approved, as was the issue of class "A" and "B" bonds necessary to carry out the terms of settlement.

CANADA'S WHEAT WORTH \$600,000,000.

The Wall Street Journal says editorially:

Canada is heading toward a wheat crop of 320,000,000 bushels. It is not likely to be sold for less than ours. This will mean a gross yield of nearly \$600,000,000, nearly all laid at the farmer's door in the western provinces. There is a branch bank hard by every farmer, and the vast machinery of crop moving carries back the dollar to the spot from which it transported the wheat.

Canada now gives every promise of making an estimate of 1,500,000,000 bushels of wheat from North America a living, tangible, certainty. This will be a Dominion contribution toward stabilization of world credits. Whether it will be worked out through independent banking initiative, or in co-operation with our own agencies, will be largely a matter of Canadian choice. The crop itself will assure the Dominion's own free and uncoveted choice of ways and means. But that is another story.

OPPOSED TO CENTRAL TERMINAL.

Hon. F. B. Carvell, Minister of Public works has formally disapproved the plan of the Montreal Central Terminal Company for a terminal system in Montreal and a bridge or tunnel across the St. Lawrence.

The scheme is an old one, but it has come up from time to time and extensions have been granted by parliament. This year, however, when the time extension bill got to the Senate there was opposition and it was withdrawn.

Mr. Armstrong, the promoter, had applied to the Minister of Public works for his approval of the plan, such being necessary in view of the proposal to cross the river.

A hearing was held when a chorus of protest was made by the city, the Labor Board, the south shore manufacturers and the railways.

Mr. Carvell now refuses the approval and apparently the long standing terminal scheme falls to the ground.

Items of Interest

Roland S. Morris, United States Ambassador to Japan, left Tokyo for an extended trip through Siberia to Omsk, to report officially upon the situation in this region.

The National Council of Women for the Dominion of Canada concluded a 10-days' convention at Regina, Saskatchewan, at which 85 delegates from all parts of Canada attended.

The pack of the Hawaiian canneries this season will be approximately 5,000,000 cases, an increase from 2,847,315 cases last year, 2,607,031 the preceding year, and 725,742 in 1911.

Stockholders of the Newton Steel Company of Youngstown, Ohio, have incorporated with a capital of \$3,000,000. Anticipations are that the plant will be turning out steel by April 1st, 1920.

The Oahu Railway & Land Company of Honolulu, Hawaii, have put in an application to advance its rates for passengers and upon all freight, except sugar, which is now under contract.

The British Board of Agriculture has issued an order which allows gooseberries free from American gooseberry mildew to be imported under license into Great Britain for jam-making purposes.

The corner stone for a new assay office building in New York has been laid, and it is said that when completed this building will hold more gold than has ever been assembled anywhere in the universe.

A large silk-weaving factory is to be established in Hawaii by the Japanese Silk Company of Tokyo. The firm will have a capitalization of \$100,000, stock to be subscribed for both in Japan and Hawaii.

The Louisiana cane crop deteriorated 9.7 points in June, and the yield of sugar for the coming season is estimated near 100,000 short tons less than last year. Conditions of the cane crop July 1 was fixed at 62.9.

Sir Edwin Montagu, Secretary for India, stated that British casualties in Afghanistan up till July 8 were three officers and nine men killed and thirty-three officers and one hundred and nine men wounded.

In Paris, France, a bill has been introduced in the Chamber of Deputies imposing a tax of 80 per cent on profits from the letter of windows and balconies for the victory fetes. Good places are selling freely at 1,000 francs each.

A peak in the northern Black hills of South Dakota, has recently been denominated "Mt. Theodore Roosevelt," by the Society of Black Hills Pioneers, in honor of the former American President. A memorial tablet was erected by the Society and dedicated July 4th.

The National Wholesale Grocers' Association of the United States have filed a complaint against Walker D. Hines, Director-General of Railroads, alleging unjust discrimination in railroad service in favor of the large meat-packing companies.

The President of the United States would not be permitted, during his term of office, to leave the country or to perform the duties of his office except at Washington, under a bill introduced last week by Representative Campbell, of Kansas, chairman of the House Rules Committee.