

Rain is Now Needed.

The Northern Pacific crop report issued on Friday, shows a general need of rain in the central portion of the province. Except for this the general crop conditions are good. Below is the report in full:

Brandon—The weather is cool and dry. Crops are needing rain. There has been considerable frost during last week, and it is reported some of the grain has been cut by it. There has been very little growth for a week.

Winnipeg—Crops are still looking well in spite of the heavy frost on Saturday and Sunday nights. There are some dark spots on the fields but the harm is not extensive or much damage done to the wheat. The growth would be helped greatly by a few showers of rain. There has been no rain since last report and only one shower since the crop was in the ground. Vegetable gardens suffered very serious injury by the frost, nearly everything being frozen off to the ground.

Wawanesa—Weather during the past week has been very unfavorable for the growing crop. Cool and cloudy with high winds. The crop has advanced very little and unless we have rain soon there will be a heavy loss in this year's yield.

Milton—Several severe frosts since last report have cut back the grain considerably and as rain is badly needed the outlook is rather blue just now. Considering the drawbacks grain is not as forward as it should be, but should rain come in a day or so a good crop would be assured.

Blount—The past week has been very unfavorable for the growing crop. Weather has been mostly cold, with light frosts, which will set crop back some especially oats and barley. Rain and warm weather is greatly in demand.

Bader—The new crop is beginning to show the need of rain. Weather very dry with chiefly high winds. Several hard frosts. No rain since last report.

Somerset—The weather for the past week has been cool and cloudy and light frosts reported two nights during the week, but not much damage done to the crop. The land is very dry and rain and warm weather is required to start it up.

Miami—The weather has not been very favorable to the growing crops during the past week. There has been heavy frosts and high winds during the week. Crops are looking fine and would be improved by a good warm rain.

Rosebank—The crops last week have made little progress on account of the dry weather, and in the fore part of the week windy. Some of the grain on the light land has been damaged by sand storms. The season is still two or three weeks in advance of last year.

Reband—Weather since last report dry with high winds. All grain looking well. A good soaking rain would be most beneficial now although as yet the crops are not suffering any. Have not heard of any damage by the recent light frosts.

Morris—Seeding all done and crops looking splendid. Little frost since last report, but no account of any damage done by same. The last few days have been favorable for the growing crop. A good rain is badly needed, ground getting dry.

St. Jean—Cloudy and moderately cool during the past week, no rain, three light frosts, moderately windy, grain growing nicely, everybody in good spirits in expectation of a good crop. Farmers say the light frosts did not hurt the grain any.

Letteller—The growing crop is in excellent condition. We had a little frost this week but no damage done to the grain. All the coarse grains are now in. The weather during the past week has been mostly cool and dry with no rain. A few good showers of rain would help the grain along a great deal but as it is at present everything indicates a bountiful harvest.

Emerson—Weather continues favorable and crop growing nicely. Light frost Sunday night, no damage reported.

Portage la Prairie—Since last report the growing crops have made very fair progress although the weather has been cool and windy; no harm has been done. The very late sown wheat will be the better of rain. Prospects are still very bright.

Review of Trade.

Toronto, June 3.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly statement of trade in Canada says: Reports from all parts of the Montreal district, as well as from the province of Quebec, generally, indicate a continuance of cold, backward weather conditions. The roads in some sections are reported well along impassable for any heavy traffic, owing to the continued rains of the past several weeks; from the same cause little spring work has been accomplished on low lying lands, and in the case of potatoes a good deal of replanting will probably be necessary. In some districts a good deal of grass has been winter-killed, owing to the light snow-fall of last winter, but on the whole, indications at present are favorable for an average crop of hay. It can readily be imagined that the above somewhat discouraging conditions have their effect on country demand for merchandise, and the general trade movement has not undergone any material improvement during the past week. The dry goods trade naturally suffers most from the unseasonable weather, and the effects are seen in a lessened demand and some falling off in collections. General payments are characterized by more or less slowness, but failures very few, considering, showing that wholesalers evidently recognize and appreciate the general conditions, and are disposed to accommodate their customers as much as possible. The money market is unmarked by any new features, the rate for call loans and discounts being the same as for some weeks past.

There is a better feeling in wholesale circles in Toronto, but as yet there is no perceptible increase in the volume of business. Grain crops are said to be looking well, and the damage to fruit trees by the late frost is not of any moment. The outlook on the whole is favorable, and on the adjournment of parliament increased activity is expected. Money is cheap. Over a million and a half dollars were paid to shareholders by banks this week, the profits of the past six months, and a good share of this sum will be reinvested. The large increase in bank clearings for May is a favorable feature, as indicating an extension in trade. The clearings aggregated \$29,052,000 for the month, being the largest for July other month this year, excepting January, while the total in May last year was \$27,796,000, and in the same month of 1895 it was only \$25,638,000.

Dealers in dry goods and hardware report a very good trade this week. There is some improvement in groceries. Prices are steady as a rule. The grain market has been very dull of late, with the lowest price for wheat for some

months. Peas are weaker, the quotations being the lowest on record, and oats have had a set-back. Wool is 1 to 2 cents lower.

Prime commercial paper is discounted at 6 per cent and call loans are quoted at 4 1/2 per cent, on choice stock. Owing to increased demand for bank, cable and assurance stocks, prices are higher. Cable has declared its regular quarterly dividend of 1 3/4 per cent, payable July 1st. The Bank of England discount rate is unchanged at 2 per cent and the open market is 1 per cent.

Failures for the week are 32, as against 29 for the same week of last year.

Grain and Milling News.

Rolled oatmeal advanced 10c at Montreal on May 26, to \$2.90 per barrel or \$1.40 per bag.

Oats declined 1-4c to 1-2c at Montreal on May 27 to 26 1/4 to 26 1/2c in store.

The flour mill of the Western Milling Co., Regina, Assa., is advertised for sale on June 12.

Brackman & Ker have let the contract for the construction of an elevator at South Edmonton.

Thompson, Sons & Co., grain merchants, of Brandon, have moved to Fort William, where they propose doing a general grain commission business, such as receiving, selling, forwarding or in other ways looking after the interests of those who may consign to them.

NORTHWEST ONTARIO.

W. A. Shaw has opened his new hotel at Rat Portage.

W. G. Johnston, of Winnipeg, is opening a tin-smithing shop at Rat Portage in connection with Fyfe's hardware store.

Blackwood Bros., of Winnipeg, are establishing soda water works and a bottling factory at Rat Portage.

J. W. Wooster & Co., grocers, etc., Rat Portage, are in difficulties through the granting of a chattel mortgage to a Winnipeg jobber.

Cold Storage Buildings.

Prof. Robertson, Dominion dairy commissioner, arrived in the city on Friday from the west, where he has been inspecting the creameries in the Territories. He was accompanied by Prof. Shutt, chief chemist of the experimental farms. While in the west Prof. Robertson inspected the cold storage buildings in course of erection at Calgary and Revelstoke, which premises are being provided for the storage of products and with a view of developing trade between the Territories and the Kootenay country.

Chicago, June 1.—Heavy frosts have occurred for the past two mornings over the greater part of the north-west. Snow and freezing weather are reported from Northern Wisconsin and Minnesota, with much damage to vegetables and small fruits. The Wisconsin strawberry crop may be a total loss. Tobacco in Southern Wisconsin is reported slightly injured, and Northern Illinois is badly damaged. The corn of Northern and North Central Illinois is reported to be cut down by the frost. Ice was formed at many points in this section. Potatoes were killed at some points and must be re-planted. Iowa reports indicate considerable damage to corn, potatoes and fruits. Southern Michigan and Northern Indiana also report much injury by the frost.