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### THE WESTERN CROP PROSPECT.

Our Winnipeg crop despatch of yesterday noon says: "The weather during the past week throughout the West generally has been fine and warm, very favorable for all the crops. Cutting will be general in a few days provided we have continued fine weather. There have been so many conflicting reports of the estimated damage from rust that only threshing returns will show the true state of affairs. The most reliable sources, however, estimate rust damage at ten to twenty per cent., but this may become greater, inasmuch as rust may spread to many places where grain is late and is still unaffected." An excursion of grainmen and bankers of Winnipeg who had gone south and west to investigate the state of the Manitoba crop returned from touring the country on Wednesday evening. They estimate the wheat crop at 44,000,000 bushels, a shrinkage of 30 per cent. We learn further that the information received by the Bank of Commerce from their branches and agencies in the North-West places the average yield of wheat at eighteen bushels per acre. Even should the yield be less than this, the increased acreage and the increased price now prevailing as compared with last year means riches for the farmer.

### MARITIME PROVINCE TOPICS.

The annual meeting of the Maritime Board of Trade has come to be regarded as the most important meeting of representative business men at the eastern end of the Dominion. We made a brief reference to it in last week's issue, having but telegraphic despatches about a few leading resolutions. But to-day we can give a tolerable digest of the conclusions reached from our own correspondent and the daily press. The sessions at Moncton, in New Brunswick, this year were particularly interesting. There

was a large representation from Halifax, including J. E. DeWolfe, Hon. W. Ross, Hon. G. J. Troop, B. F. Pearson, M.P.P., James Hall, Alex. Stephen, A. M. Bell, J. B. Foster, A. M. Payne, Edw. Stairs, W. B. Arthur, R. B. Colwell, O. E. Smith, G. S. Campbell, H. S. Colwell, F. A. Ronnan, H. R. Silver, Fred DeWolfe. And there was an attendance of delegates very generally distributed over the Maritime Provinces. The subjects discussed by these gentlemen were many and various.

It may be remembered that at the 1903 meeting of the Board, held in Charlottetown, there was a lengthy discussion of a fast Atlantic line of steamers for Canada. This year again this subject was debated, and the resolution passed upon it at Moncton, towards which many adroit whereases converge, is both strong and convincing. A matter which merited all the consideration it received was that of steel ship-building in our Atlantic Provinces. Again and again we have insisted in these columns upon the great importance of this. The resolution which deals with it deserves to attract wide attention because of the surpassing advantages which these Provinces possess for that industry. To the utterance of the meeting upon the dumping clause and to that desiring the British preference to apply only to goods imported through Canadian ports we referred last week. Various matters of real import to the Island of Prince Edward were discussed, and we present the resolutions carried with respect to them. The matter of winter communication with the mainland is a vital one to the Island.

—The same paper which announces the production on Wednesday last of the first steel rails at the Canadian Soo brings word also of a purchase in the United States by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company of 60,000 tons of steel rails at \$20 to \$21 a ton,