

system of weather reporting to Western Canada before another year, the Manitoba government should consider the advisability of establishing a meteorological system for the province, as an auxiliary to the present provincial system of crop reporting.

### DISGRUNTLED BOOMSTERS.

The article in last week's issue of this journal, entitled "Engineering a Boom," seems to have had a nauseating effect upon the tribe of itinerant boomsters who are sojourning in Winnipeg at present, and the fact that any journal should use its influence to check a speculative attempt at booming local real estate, is to some of them cause for astonishment. Even some of the mere speculative of our permanent residents are a little astonished at the action, and in a tittle-tattling way are trying to circulate the impression that this journal is endeavoring to dissuade outside capitalists from investing money in this country. It is a noteworthy fact, however, that among the industrious business class here there is but one opinion expressed, and that is in favor of the course THE COMMERCIAL has embarked upon in connection with real estate speculation. In so doing it is following out the only course it can consistently adopt. Every reliable trade journal uses its influence to check and if possible stamp out speculation in connection with commercial affairs, and it would be a singularly anomalous policy to do so, and at the same time pass unnoticed an attempt to fan up crazy real estate speculation, which the experience of the past eight years has taught Winnipeg business men, would bring incalculable injury to legitimate trade in the city.

THE COMMERCIAL is ready to welcome any genuine outside capitalist who is ready to make judicious investments in Manitoba and particularly in Winnipeg real estate. Money judiciously invested thus cannot fail to prove a safe and eventually a remunerative undertaking. But the province, and particularly the city, offer no allurements to the gambler who expects to reduce real estate business here to the level of dealing in grain futures, Chicago style. It is at that crowd of shysters which this journal aims its blow, and it cannot be either coaxed or scared into rating a crowd of gambling idlers, whose natural location is around the faro bank, as capitalists looking for real estate investments. If the men who have real estate for sale will refuse every offer for option or what they want to sell and see that agents acting for them follow a similar course, thus placing real estate within the reach only of men who have money to buy and pay down a fair proportion of the selling price, they will frustrate the unprincipled schemes of those shysters and send them out of the province convinced that the "sucker" is a fish not yet acclimated in the prairie province capital.

### EASTERN CANADA FRUIT CROP.

Latest advices from Ontario are more unsatisfactory as to the apple crop. Apples are a failure in many districts, and reliable reports place the total crop of the province at not over one-third of an average. Peaches and plums are a failure also. In fact grapes are the only

exception to the general reports of very poor fruit crops. The grape crop is remarkably fine in the districts of Ontario where this fruit is largely grown.

J. J. Vipond, a well known fruit dealer of Montreal, has made a trip of investigation through the apple districts of Ontario, and he says the crop is a failure in the best apple districts west of Toronto, with the exception of the northern section bordering on Lake Huron and Georgian Bay. The Prince Edward district in eastern Ontario is also a failure. Buyers from the United States have been in the province, and it is reported they have offered \$2.50 and \$2.75 per barrel to growers, delivered on cars. The great Annapolis apple country in Nova Scotia it is also said will produce a light crop this year.

Mr. Philp, a Winnipeg fruit dealer who has recently returned from Ontario, confirms these reports. In very rare instances he saw any quantity of apples on the trees, and all reports were very unsatisfactory. In the Niagara district he says there will be few apples over local requirements. Along the western portion of the Lake Erie shore apples were reported to be very scarce. In view of the general scarcity, growers hardly know what to ask, and prices he says are not mentioned yet for winter fruit. Early varieties were selling at about double last year's prices.

The recent official crop report of the Ontario Government says that "much of the fruit did not set, and apples, pears, plums and other fruits have been falling in an immature condition to an alarming extent. Apples will be less than one-third of a crop, and the quality so far as appearance is concerned will not be of the best. It is also a poor year for pears. Plums are a comparative failure; except in Grey and one or two other localities; the black-knot and the curculio are doing deadly work. Cherries are reported as giving a big yield in several sections, but the black-knot has also claimed this fruit for its own, and in many instances the trees are rapidly disappearing from the orchards. There will be a few early peaches for the market, but the later and better varieties will be very scarce. Strawberries were not so abundant as was expected, but small fruits generally were about an average. Grapes give promise of a glorious yield in the lake Erie region, where this fruit is now being largely grown."

With the scarcity of apples in the United States, high prices are certain for this commodity. A theory advanced for the scarcity of apples in Ontario is, that heavy rains washed the pollen from the blossoms before fertilization took place.

### ONTARIO CROPS.

The Ontario Government has recently issued its annual report showing the condition of the crops, area planted, and other statistics. The acreage of fall wheat is 720,101 acres, estimated to return a total yield of 14,832,240 bushels, or 20.6 bushels per acre, against 15.8 bushels per acre last year, and an average of 19.4 bushels per acre for eight years. The spring wheat area is 601,753 acres, which is estimated to return 9,628,186 bushels, or an average of 16 bushels per acre, against 14.8 bushels per acre last year, and an annual average of 15.6 bushels per acre for eight years. This makes fall wheat about a bushel more and spring wheat about a bushel

below an average crop. In fall and spring wheat combined Ontario will thus have a total of 24,460,426 bushels of wheat, or a surplus over home requirements of about 15,000,000.

The area sown to barley is stated to be 701,326 acres, which is estimated to produce 23.3 bushels per acre, or about three bushels less than the average; 1,882,368 acres are devoted to oats, which are estimated to yield 30.1 bushels per acre, or about five bushels under the average. Rye is a less important crop, only 103,061 acres being given to this grain, with an estimated yield of 15.7 bushels per acre, which is slightly under the average. Peas were sown on 781,206 acres, and are expected to produce 20.9 bushels per acre, which is about an average crop. Beans were sown on 39,452 acres, and are expected to return 21 bushel per acre. The most important crop as to area is hay and clover which covers 2,462,002 acres, and is estimated to give 1½ tons per acre, or about ½ of a ton above the average.

The area of fall wheat is 102,300 acres less than last year, and the area of barley is 174,000 acres less. There is also a decrease of 41,000 acres in the oat crop. On the other hand, the area of spring wheat is greater than last year's by 203,000 acres, of peas by 73,000 acres, of beans by 17,000 acres, of rye by 13,000 acres and of hay and clover by 76,000 acres. The estimated yield of wheat exceeds last year's crop by 5,700,000 bushels, that of peas by 2,500,000 bushels, of beans by 470,000 bushels and of hay and clover by 577,000 tons. But the estimated yield of barley is less than last year's crop by 7,000,000 bushels, and the yield of oats is less by 8,000,000 bushels. Compared with the annual averages of the eight years 1882-9 there is a decrease of 2,400,000 bushels in wheat, of 4,000,000 bushels in barley and of 500,000 bushels in oats, but an increase of 3,000,000 bushels in peas, 400,000 bushels in beans and 1,264,000 tons in hay and clover. The wheat area is less than the average of eight years by 176,000 acres, and the barley area by 71,000 acres, while the oats area is greater than the average by 269,000 acres, the peas area by 137,000, the beans area by 17,000 acres, and the hay and clover area by 225,000 acres.

The returns show that Ontario will have a fair crop all around, based on the average returns for the past eight years. Oats give the poorest yield as compared with the eight year's average, but the acreage, though less than in 1889, is sufficiently greater than the average acreage for eight years, that the total crop is only 500,000 bushels less than an average. Fall wheat is a good sample, and spring wheat fair. Barley is said to be "uncertain in color and probably not a great deal will rank first-class." Rain during harvest damaged the crop. The imported two-rowed barley which was sown to some extent this season for testing, is from ten days to two weeks later than other barley, and though the season was favorable for this grain, it was not generally regarded with favor.

Of other crops the corn area is 223,836 acres, or 41,000 acres more than the average of the previous eight years. Potatoes 150,094 acres; buckwheat 90,111 acres and turnips 110,055 acres. There are 2,540,092 acres of cleared pasture land,