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WESTERN CROP SITUATION.

In spite of the cold wet spring, the latest reports from Saskatchewan, the most important of the Canadian provinces as regards wheat growing, are to the effect that from 80 to 85 per cent. of the wheat has been seeded, and about 10 per cent. of the oat crop. It is said that the crop has made good progress in the western and northern parts of the province and that the slow germination has caused the grain to take root in most satisfactory manner and that it will thus be able to withstand better the spells of heat and drought which will, no doubt, materialize from time to time throughout the summer. Another result of the late spring is said to be that the farmers are putting in a larger acreage of coarse grains than usual.

EFFECT OF A GOOD HARVEST.

The whole country is greatly interested this year in the western crop situation. If the farmers west of Lake Superior succeed in taking off a crop that nets them satisfactory profits, the general trade of the Dominion must necessarily experience beneficial results.

This development, would have a tendency to strengthen the confidence of business men and financiers and to hasten the coming of better times.

COURSE OF WHEAT PRICES.

However, the farmers (East and West) have this year to face contingencies apart from the perennial dangers connected with climatic uncertainties. The prices of wheat and other grains have been falling as a result of large yields in other countries; and some authorities have been predicting that the world is likely to encounter a period of low wheat prices. So this year the producers in our prairie provinces are watching the tendency of wheat prices with more anxiety than is usually manifested.

BANKING AND GRAIN MOVEMENTS.

The bankers in Montreal and Toronto are now getting the benefit of the large shipments of wheat and other produce sent out from Fort William and Port Arthur at the beginning of the month. Bills of exchange drawn against these shipments are coming forward in considerable volume. It is said that the large shipments of last fall did not serve to cut down the quantity of grain carried at the lake terminals to any great extent. According to reports the fleet of boats leaving the head of the lakes this month carried about as much cargo as in other years; but apparently the interior elevators are about bare of grain.

LOCAL MONEY.

These bills of exchange will be available in due course in New York; and unless they are entirely offset by other movements of funds they may have some tendency to banish the premium on New York funds that has prevailed so persistently in this market. The local money market is practically as it was a week ago, unless it be that the tendency is a little easier. Call loan rates are 5½ to 6; and mercantile paper ranges from 6 to 6½.

EUROPEAN MONEY.

Paris again secured the bulk of the new gold offered in the London market. The arrivals this week aggregated about \$3,500,000 and the price paid was ⅓d. less than a week ago. Bank of England rate is held at 3 p.c. English financial papers say that the strong continental demand for the weekly consignments of gold has been standing in the way of a reduction of the London rate. In the open market call money is quoted 1¼ to 2¼ p.c.; short bills are 2 15-16 p.c.; and three months' bills 2 15-16 p.c. The Paris bank rate is 3½ p.c.; and private discounts in that market are 2¾. At Berlin the Reichsbank quotes 4, as against 2½ quoted in the open market.

LONDON GROUP IN TROUBLE.

Ca'le dispatches from London this week state that considerable anxiety prevailed there over the position of a group of prominent financiers who had loaded themselves to excess with Grand Trunks and