

WESTERN CANADA.

**Crop Conditions are Excellent—Good Demand for Money
—In the Wheat Markets.**

The Monetary Times Office,
Winnipeg, August 22nd.

After a season which brought much rain in some parts, the crop is being finished off with ideal weather, and fields that were green this time last week are now almost ripe, and harvest in most localities is in full swing.

Market gardeners have done especially well round about Winnipeg this year. The season has been a most favorable one for the potato crop. The fields were planted early and most of them have done well. Prices for all fresh vegetables rule high in Winnipeg and there is a good demand.

Mr. A. J. Earling, president of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul road, and Mr. William Rockefeller, a leading director, passed across the prairie provinces a few weeks ago and declared that the sight of the wheat fields and general prosperity of the country was a revelation to them. These railroad officials were so strongly impressed with the possibilities for business in Western Canada that the road in which they are interested will secure an entrance into Winnipeg at the first opportunity. The Minneapolis and St. Louis road is another system that has been attracted by the great growth of the Canadian West and will build to the boundary, at least, to connect with the Great Northern and Grand Trunk Pacific on this side.

Crop Conditions are Excellent.

Winnipeg business indicates that conditions throughout the West are satisfactory. Wholesalers are receiving large orders for immediate shipment, and there is a better feeling in all branches of trade.

Recent prevalent warm weather has again brought general confidence that the western wheat crop will average about 20 bushels per acre and total around 200,000,000—as against 117,260,000 last year. An estimate based upon reports from 220 districts, places the oat crop at 167,794,800 bushels, barley 27,638,784 bushels, and flax 8,201,700, making a total of over 400,000,000 bushels of grain in the three prairie provinces. The crop may be worth \$60,000,000 to \$75,000,000 more this year than last.

There is promise of a large lumber business this fall. Building operations have been brisk all season in most parts of the West, and stocks of lumber at country points are rather depleted. The manufacturers are confident that there will be a demand for building material after the harvest.

Good Demand for Money.

In discussing the money situation with the manager of a local loan company last week, The Monetary Times was informed that the demand was very brisk, and that loan companies were placing considerable money through their country agencies, and that first mortgages on city property was also using up a good deal of money. He stated that with the excellent crop outlook now assured, he looked for an easy money market this fall, with plenty available.

Some of the local bankers are of the opinion that money will be fairly tight this fall. The demand for money has not experienced the usual summer lull and customers of the banks have been asking for larger accommodation for purposes of expanding business, and this makes an additional drain on the country's financial institutions.

Probable Fuel Shortage.

Considerable anxiety is felt in the West in regard to the fuel situation, as the trouble with the miners of British Columbia is still on. The authorities have taken steps to give relief by removal of tariff, and the Canadian Pacific Railway have also made a reduction of the freight rate from Port Arthur to points west of Winnipeg.

It is feared that unless the western mines resume operations it will be practically impossible to ship adequate supplies for all purposes from the East. An advice from Fernie, B.C., announces that the union in that district have voted against the proposition to go to work upon the findings of the chairman of the conciliation board. Other unions have voted, with a similar result, and the deadlock is still on. For lack of coke the Granby Company's mines and smelter are being closed down.

In the Wheat Markets.

The opening days of the past week witnessed a steady reaction in wheat values, following the sharp advance of the previous week. Optimistic crop news was chiefly responsible for carrying prices down, the main consideration being the almost unvarying cheerful reports regarding the Canadian crop, which is admitted to be the most potent factor of the day. Some recovery in prices was made to-

wards the close of the week, due to bullish reports of threshing returns from Minnesota and the Dakotas, and prospects of light world's shipments. In general the trade is showing steadiness to follow news of leadership either way, with a disposition to respond readily to bullish advice, but good buying is needed to sustain values.

General Outlook for Sustained Prices.

The present situation in wheat is pronounced on some hands to be a puzzle and a mystery, as there have been developments which at other times would have resulted in large advances. When the heavy movement of wheat sets in it may easily be that prices will for a time decline, without taking into account the real standing of the world's wheat situation. It is now certain that the world's production will fall short of that of either the two previous seasons, while the requirements will be larger; and, owing to the shortage in other cereals and in potatoes, both in America and Europe, there will be an increased demand for wheat. In the meantime much depends on the maturing and harvesting of the Canadian spring wheat crop, as any serious impairment in that direction would sound a note of alarm.

On our local markets there was a good demand for all grades of cash wheat, and exporters were busy buyers, a brisk business being done. Trading in futures was not so active, owing to uncertainties on the crop situation. There is still a moderate movement of wheat from country points. This movement has been on a much larger scale than expected, and shows that last year's estimates of the crop were largely under the actual yield.

PERSONAL.

Mr. J. H. Plummer is back from England.

Mr. F. B. McCurdy, the well-known stock broker, is to be the conservative candidate at Halifax.

Mr. D. Lorne McGibbon has resigned his position as a director of the Nipissing Mining Company.

Mr. Archibald McPherson, of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Radville, Sask., died recently at Weyburn hospital.

Mr. H. J. Coleman, of Portage la Prairie, has been engaged as commissioner of the Moose Jaw Board of Trade, his duties to commence next month.

Mr. A. Stanley Henry, who has been connected with the firm of Messrs. Gordon & Shorey, is opening a brokerage office at 112 St. Francois Xavier Street, Montreal.

Mr. Evelyn de Rothschild, a son of Mr. Leopold de Rothschild, of the English house of that famous family, was in Montreal recently, the guest of Mr. C. R. Hosmer.

Sir Donald Mann has left Toronto for the West on a tour of inspection of the Canadian Northern Railway lines, which are already in existence, and which are in process of construction.

Mr. E. C. Lindsay, until recently assistant inspector of Sterling Bank of Canada, is now actively connected with Messrs. Elliott, Sherring & Company, Limited, millinery importers, 37 Wellington Street West, Toronto.

Mr. John R. McLeod, of the McLeod Lumber Company, has become a member of the firm of Messrs. F. B. McCurdy & Company, and the partnership now includes Mr. McCurdy, Mr. Metzler, Mr. Seeley, and Mr. McLeod.

Mr. H. W. Scarff, manager of the Fonthill branch of the Imperial Bank of Canada, has been appointed manager of the east end branch, St. Thomas. He is succeeded by Mr. A. F. B. Murray, manager of the Merriton branch.

Mr. Charles H. Bigelow died last week at St. Paul. Mr. Bigelow was secretary of the St. Paul Fire and Marine Insurance Company from 1871 to 1876 when he was appointed president, which position he held at the time of his death.

Mr. G. T. Allen, secretary to the Australian Treasury, is about to visit England, and will in his journey across Canada, take the opportunity of studying banking legislation with a view to advising his government as to the creation of a Commonwealth Bank.

Mr. John Knight, secretary of the Canadian Bankers Association, is said to be responsible for this:—A man who bought stock in a company, inquired if its value would jump any; he was told it could, and it probably would, provided the price didn't slump any.

Mr. John Adair, manager of the Home Bank in Fernie, B.C., has been appointed assistant manager at Winnipeg, and supervisor of its western branches. He has been connected with the Home Bank for five years, having previously been twelve years with the Canadian Bank of Commerce.