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THE WESTERN CROPS.

A very cheerful account of the prospect for the wheat yield of western Manitoba and south-eastern Assiniboia is given by our correspondent, writing from Indian Head last week. He appears to make light of rust damage. As to the probable yield, the usual differing accounts continue to appear. On August 26th the bankers and grain men of Winnipeg estimated the wheat crop at 44,000,000 bushels. A week later, the advices of the Ogilvie Company were that there would be 58,000,000 to 60,000,000 bushels. Now, it will be observed, our Winnipeg correspondent wiring yesterday noon, modestly opines that "the yield will be a good average." Here is his telegram: "Harvest has been delayed throughout the West during the past week owing to general rains, and the season is now fully two weeks later than last year. Latest reports indicate that 70 per cent. of cutting is finished. With favorable weather threshing will be in full swing next week. It appears, on the whole, that there will be a slight damage from rust, but none from frost. It is expected that the yield will be a good average one."

THE SHOE AND LEATHER INDUSTRY.

There seems to be an undertone of disappointment among boot and shoe merchants regarding the amount of business they were able to transact during the summer. Responsible for this probably is the cool, wet weather which has prevailed so largely during the season. The Montreal advices reflect this tone. At Toronto, however, the Exhibition has

brought a great number of out-of-town visitors into the city, and this fact should give an impetus to buying. At the same time, another consideration has been working in the direction of bringing about slowness in business, and this is the uncertainty felt regarding crops. In Ontario, these have been hardly up to average in many sections, while in Manitoba and North-West the issue is still in some doubt, though in all probability it will be found that the adverse reports as to rust and rain damage have been grossly exaggerated.

The leather market is another branch which has felt the effect of these dulling influences, though the high price of hides would likely have acted in a similar manner apart from the condition of the boot and shoe industry. Already, however, according to latest advices, the leather trade seems to be picking up, and many fair-sized country orders have been received during the present week. It should not be supposed in any case that either manufacturers or dealers in boots and shoes feel depressed as to the state of trade; for, on the other hand, as a general rule, they are looking for a really good fall season.

So far as we can learn, manufacturers have not decided in favor of any radical change in styles. They will rather adopt the more conservative plan of improving and modifying existing standards, and, we trust, will continue their policy of imparting to the solidity of their output the high finish which has gained such a good reputation for some of the United States makers.

The trade in rubber shoes, so far as jobbers and dealers are concerned, may be described as very satisfactory. Last winter was such a severe one that no difficulty was experienced in clearing out practi-