## The Monetary Times

#### Trade Review and Insurance Chronicle

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### The Monetary Times

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#### WESTERN CANADA TO-DAY.

A better crop outlook is responsible for an improvement in business confidence. Showers in Winnipeg have gladdened the hearts of observers. These little downpours may not have much practical effect, for little or no grain is produced in the immediate neighborhood of the city. But they give an idea of what may be expected from similar blessings in other parts of the country. In a community where the business sentiment responds so readily to changes in the agricultural outlook, even the matter of a light rain is an important consideration. The amount of rainfall throughout the country during the season has been below the average, and any indication of wetness is deepiy appreciated. While the whole crop cannot be saved, there is a fair hope that most of it may come out all right. For a time it was feared that a calamity was inevitable, but a careful review of the prospects shows that the early alarm was unwarranted. The crop as a whole has suffered, and the falling off in average yield will be more noticeable on account of the excellent showing that was made last year. A comparison with that showing is scarcely fair to the West. The most reasonable calculation is that based on the results in a series of consecutive years. It is the averages that determine the place of the prairie country, as a grainproducer, and when the statistics for 1910 are placed beside those of the normal season they should appear to good advantage.

Drought has caused serious damage in many parts of the West this year, and some farmers have suffered the loss of all their crops. In about half the grain-raising areas the situation is still uncertain. In the balance the outlook is entirely satisfactory. With so much uncertainty it would be unwise to indicate the extent of the

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probable yield, and another month must elapse before an authoritative opinion on the ultimate outcome can be expressed. In the meantime there will be all manner of guessing, some of it inspired by a particular motive. A comforting feature is the fact that the acreage under wheat shows a large increase as compared with that of last season. Especially is this true in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, where the weather conditions have been more favorable than in Alberta. It is possible that this increase will make up for the difference in average yield between the crop of 1909 and that of the present season, but it is still too early to presume that far.

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This is naturally an uneasy time in business circles, because the commercial welfare of the Western country for another year depends on what happens between now and September 15th. It may be a question as between a total production of 150,000,000 bushels and one of 100,000,000 bushels, and the difference is an important consideration. The lines of activity which reflect most sensitively the prospects have adopted a waiting attitude for some weeks, and this hesitating position will be maintained for another month. The merchants, wholesaie and retail, the railway officials, the bankers, the manufacturers, and the other elements who shape the policy of what is known as the business world are watching. They do not care to take an advanced attitude, even if the general feeling is one of confidence and hope. The time to take advantage of the benefits accruing from a successful crop is approximately that in which the best assurances of a satisfactory return are indicated. There will then be pienty of opportunity in which to rejoice and to plunge.

areas the situation is still uncertain. In the balance the outlook is entirely satisfactory. With so much uncertainty it would be unwise to indicate the extent of the situation always in check, and to suppress the boomster.