

Conditions in the West

The crop as a whole is slightly later than last year and very material areas of wheat have been destroyed entirely

By E. CORA HIND.

Winnipeg, June 26, 1918.

The fifth crop report of the Free Press for the season of 1918, which was issued June 25, was not very cheerful reading, but in view of the weather that has prevailed since the last report was issued on May 28, it is somewhat better than might have been expected. On May 28th it was stated that the crop needed warmth and moisture to overcome the setbacks of May, warmth it has had, too much of it, more especially as it has come in the form of hot winds that have blown almost constantly. While the rainfall has been rather light and decidedly patchy. The reports received indicate that the crop as a whole, is slightly later than last year, and that very material areas of wheat have been destroyed entirely and have either been reseeded, to coarse grains or are being summerfallowed. This means that there is a substantial reduction in the areas originally seeded to wheat; whether it is sufficient to carry the crop bearing area below that of last year, it is impossible to state, but it would seem to be pretty well established that there is no increase excepting in Alberta where less seeding has been necessary. A full crop on the area producing is entirely contingent upon the rainfall from now on, the rainfall of June up to the 23rd, having fallen much below the average. The most encouraging feature is that with the rain of Sunday night, Monday and Tuesday the drought seems to have been broken at the points where it was most stubborn and most serious, though there are still many points where no rain has fallen. However, the barometers point to still further rain. One or two points reported no rain this season or no rain for two months. The labor situation is decidedly acute. Several points where wheat areas are large state that with the most favorable weather from now on only half a crop is possible. The scrub country to the north in Manitoba and Saskatchewan are the only districts that have escaped the winds.

The questionnaire sent out was as follows:

Has any land originally sown to wheat been reseeded to other grain? Give percentage if possible?

Any wheat in shot blade?
Any rain since last report?
Is rain needed?

Is there any damage from any of the following causes: Wind, rain, cutworms, frost, since last report?

Generally is wheat crop ahead or behind last year at this date?

What is general condition of coarse grains?
How is summerfallow progressing?
Is there any breaking?
What is outlook for labor supply?

MANITOBA.

In Manitoba 81 points were queried and 73 heard from. Of these 54 reported reseeded from "slight" to 50 per cent with the average about 10 per cent, while 18 points reported no reseeded necessary. In all 40 reported in shot blade, the percentage running from 1 to 50, but the average being possibly 8 per cent. The remaining points reported "none" in shot blade. With regard to rain 27 Manitoba points reported "none" since last report. All other points heard from have had some rain, though at quite a number it did not come until June 22 or 23. Five points report rain still "desperately" needed; 20 points rain "very badly" needed; 24 points rain "badly" needed and only 6 stated that no rain required. Wind damage has been serious and runs from "slight" to 40 per cent damage. There is no damage from hail in Manitoba so far, a very slight damage from cutworms and none from frost since last report. In regard to progress of crop, 28 points in Manitoba report it ahead of last year from a week to two weeks; 24 report it behind last year from 10 days to three weeks and the remainder "about the same." Every straw is reported short. Regarding coarse grains 52 points state general conditions fair to excellent and the remainder run all the way from bad to medium.

Summerfallow has progressed well in Manitoba. Breaking is limited. Labor situation is very acute.

Only one point reports supply good and seven points that it is sufficient. Under general conditions, only five points report "excellent" or "good"; 17 state "fair," nearly always with the rider "if we get more rain." 15 points report "rain imperative" within the next few days if crop is to be saved, while a number report conditions serious or grave. At a few of these points, rain fell on the 25th so conditions have improved.

SASKATCHEWAN.

Out of 102 points queried in Saskatchewan 90 were heard from. Of this number 39 points reported no reseeded, a few adding that blowing out had come too late to make reseeded possible, and some that no new seed had been obtainable; 37 points reported no reseeded running from 1 to 20 per cent, about a 5 per cent average. The percentage of wheat in shot blade is much smaller than in Manitoba. With regard to rains, 23 points report absolutely no rain since last report; 19 points report no rain until 23 or 24; 50 points state rain "very badly" needed and 17 "badly" needed. Only two points in the province report no rain needed. 57 points report damage from hot winds running from "slight" to as high as 50 per cent. Damage from cutworm and hail very slight. Crop on the whole is later than last year. Coarse grains make a pretty good showing, 43 points reporting "fair" to "good," while 20 points report conditions "poor" or "unsatisfactory" mainly due to want of rain. A few of these points have had rain, but need more. Good progress have been made with summerfallow and breaking, but a number of points report that both operations have now ceased owing to ground being "too dry." Labor situation about the same as in Manitoba, but also somewhat contingent on out-turn of crop. As to general conditions of crop. Out of 50 points if reported rain in the next few days imperative to avert an almost total failure; many points state "fair average" if we get more rain; a few points state only 50 per cent crop with rain.

ALBERTA.

Out of 23 points queried 23 were heard from. There has been little reseeded, 11 points none and 6 small areas. At some points 75 per cent of wheat was reported in shot blade, but nearly all of these report extremely short straw and advance due to overly hot weather. With regard to rain Alberta has been the worst off of three provinces. Out of 25 points, 15 had no rain since last report until June 23. Among the districts suffering most severely have been Medicine Hat, Winnifred, Purple Springs, Seven Persons, Foremost and Milk River. Copious rains have fallen at a number of points in the past three days, but even so, 16 points report rain still very badly needed and 2 points "desperately." Damage from hot winds runs as high as 50 per cent at some points. Pasture is reported very short and cattle extremely thin. Coarse grains are not as good as in the other provinces, and Munson, Alberta, reports 50 per cent oats not germinated on account of drought. As a general condition 9 points state "rain imperative," and 6 that even with rain half a crop is all that can be hoped for.

It is fairly evident that the Canadian West is not to have a bumper crop this year, but with good weather from now on there is reasonable hope of a fair crop; more especially as the last 24 hours have given a distinctly better weather map, there being rain at many points that were not visited on the 22, 23 and 24. The land which has been blown out and reseeded to coarse grains is beyond hope, so far as the wheat supply is concerned, but the power of the West to recover from seemingly impossible conditions has been proved so often that there is no reason why there should not be a good crop on the acreage which is left, provided that sufficient moisture comes from now on. The shortage of grass in the range country is a serious matter as there is a very light hay crop. Grass that will be produced from now on, even with abundant rain, has not the nourishing qualities of the grass that makes its growth in May or June, and is matured in the early part of July. No matter how lush the grass of the latter season may be it is not found satisfactory for the wintering of cattle on the range. A number of ranchers have been inquiring into conditions in the Peace River Country, but found it difficult to secure large areas, as it is quite probable that many of these ranches will find their way to market fairly in the season and will be transported to northern Saskatchewan and northern Manitoba where there is abundance of pasture and where these sections having had plenty of rain all season.

LAST WEEK'S RECORD OF ACTIVE MONTREAL STOCKS.

Sales.	Stock Name	Open.	High.	Low.	Last sale.	Net change.	Year	
							High.	Low.
100	Bell Telephone	130	130	130	130	+2	135	130
70	Brompton	66	66	66	66	unch.	66	41 1/2
180	Can. Car	32 1/2	32 1/2	30 1/2	30 1/2	-2	33 1/2	18 1/2
150	Can. Forgings	150	155 1/2	150	155 1/2	+5 1/2	156	150
853	Can. Cement	61	62	61	61 1/2	+ 1/2	62	57
136	Do. pfd.	90 1/2	91 1/2	90 1/2	91 1/2	+2	91 1/2	90
100	Can. Cottons	61 1/2	61 1/2	61 1/2	61 1/2	+2	64	48 1/2
233	Can. Steamship	40 1/2	40 1/2	40 1/2	40 1/2	unch.	43 1/2	39 1/2
575	Do. Voting Trust	41	41	41	41	+2	43 1/2	38 1/2
1,145	Dom. Steel	61 1/2	60 1/2	60 1/2	61	- 1/2	63 1/2	53
695	Laurentide	167	167 1/2	165 1/2	166	+2 1/2	167 1/2	152
115	MacDonald	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	13 1/2	unch.	16 1/2	13 1/2
436	Mont. Power	76	76 1/2	75 1/2	76	+ 1/4	80 1/2	68 1/2
135	Quebec Ry.	19 1/2	20	19 1/2	20	unch.	22 1/2	15
508	Riordon	118	118 1/2	118	118	unch.	123	117 1/2
112	Shawinigan	111 1/2	111 1/2	111 1/2	111 1/2	+ 1/2	116 1/2	107
730	Spanish River	13	13	13	13	unch.	16 1/2	13
511	St. Lawrence Flour	76 1/2	78	76 1/2	77 1/2	+1 1/2	78	50
1,252	Steel of Can.	67	67	65 1/2	65 1/2	- 1/2	67 1/2	49 1/2
165	Woods Mfg.	70	70	70	70	unch.	70 1/2	57 1/2
— BONDS —								
\$23,500	Can. Loan (1931)	94 1/2	94 1/2	94 1/2	94 1/2	unch.	94 1/2	92 1/2
28,200	Can. Loan (1937)	93 1/2	93 1/2	93 1/2	93 1/2	+ 1/2	93 1/2	91 1/2
14,000	Steel of Can.	92	92 1/2	92	92 1/2	+ 1/4	92 1/2	92
— UNLISTED SHARES —								
650	Laurentide Power	52 1/2	53 1/2	52 1/2	53 1/2	+ 1/2	54 1/2	50
525	Tram. Power	28	28	28	28	unch.	33	23 1/2

*Ex-dividend

NEW ZEALAND'S EFFORTS.

(Christian Science Monitor.)

This is how New Zealand is going to do it. If any of the Dominion citizens, who earn more than £700 a year, fail to assume their proper share of the war burden by contributing to future war loans, she is going to assess them with additional heavy taxation.

There is need for such a proceeding, if the voluntary plan is to bring an inadequate return, for the conflict has taught the lesson that while voluntary methods serve in times of peace, in times of war they do not always meet the requirements. New Zealand, like her neighbor Australia, is determined that those who get the benefit of the music shall help to pay the piper.