

Conditions in the West

Crop Damaged Exaggerated --- Limited Acreage of Flax and Barley --- Wheat Prices this Year Considerably in Advance of Corresponding Date in 1915

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Winnipeg, August 4th.—Since last writing, conditions in the West, with regard to the crop, have undergone a material change, but first I would like to say that unless some further serious and general disaster should overtake the crop, we still stand to have splendid returns from the fields. In Manitoba, especially, and in certain parts of Southern Saskatchewan, there is undoubtedly considerable damage from black rust, but it is safe to assume that the wheat bulls have made the very most of it. Up to August 2nd, Central and Northern Saskatchewan were entirely free from it, though the weather is certainly favorable to the development of rust. There has been serious damage in localities from rainy weather and hail, and at the present time it is not possible to ascertain the full extent of this damage but it is confined to areas and when deducted from the total sum of the crop, the percentage will be comparatively small. The writer has, during the past few days, made some extensive motor trips into the crop of Central and Northern Saskatchewan. The stand however is more even and the heads better developed and with much better promise of filling than was the case in the same territory at the same date of 1915.

The Western Canada crop will not be safe from possibility of serious damage until after the 15th of September, but in the meantime there is absolutely no reason to give up hope of a very fine return from the country as a whole.

Two things are very noticeable in driving through the country, and that is the very small acreage in flax and barley. Just why the barley and flax have been so much curtailed is probably due to the fact that the last week in May and the first week in June were too wet to do much seeding, but in districts where is used to be mile after mile of flax, it is now mile after mile with no flax to be seen. Both flax and barley are late. Oats, speaking for the country as a whole, are not as promising a crop as they were at this time last year.

Flour.

The very active wheat market which has been induced by the really serious damage from black rust in the spring wheat States to the South, and the possible damage to our own crop, has sent the price of flour soaring. The advance for the present week being 80 cents per barrel and the present price is \$7.60 for first patents. This is within ten cents of the high water mark since war opened, which was \$7.70 in the latter part of January and February, 1915.

Domestic flour trade was, as previously intimated, very dull for a long time, in fact local millers stated it was the dulllest flour market in many years. Heavy stocks had been laid in and people were using up and looking for lower prices when the American winter wheat began to move, and the great majority of them have been caught with short stocks and have had to place orders at the newer and higher prices. The millers are jubilant and the consuming public will not be effected immediately, as there is still a fairly good stock in retail hands and the retail dealers will probably not advance prices immediately.

Wheat Prices.

It is interesting to make some comparison between the prices of October wheat in July of 1915 and 1916. The average price of October in July, 1915 was \$1.05 1-8; October in July, 1916 opened at \$1.09 and closed at \$1.21 1-2 on July 31st. The closing price on August 1st, was \$1.25 3-4 and the closing price, August 4, was \$1.36 3-4 or an advance of 14 1-4 cents in four days. The close today was 1 1-8 over the previous high close of the season.

There is still a very material quantity of last year's crop to move, and during the past week it was quite a common thing in the country to see five and six wagon loads of wheat standing waiting their turn at country elevators.

The Labor Problem.

The labor problem is serious, but it has one mitigating condition, and that is that the crop

will not all come in at once. There are some sections of the country that are fully three weeks, if not one month behind the others, and this will help somewhat in the labor shortage, as men can be moved from one point to another as the harvest is reaped. While of course there is nothing definite or official it is leaking out from various channels that there is a distinct disinclination on the part of military authorities to let men go on any extended harvest leave. There is a pretty active movement of troops at the present time and every expectation that more will be required, and experienced officers state that with troops as green as those at present in Western Canada, that a month off drill puts them back further than a year with seasoned men.

Live Stock.

All previous hog price records have gone by the board and hogs have sold at \$11.85 per cwt. for selects on the Winnipeg market this present week, and they have been eagerly sought after even at these prices. Local packers have shown a disposition to cut on heavies and stags, but the keen demand from the South has prevented them making any serious cut, even on these weights. Conversations with breeders of hogs at the circuit of large Western Fairs, indicated pretty clearly that the supply of hogs in the country for immediate marketing is comparatively limited.

Cattle.

Grass cattle are not shipping very well. The very wet season has made the grass lush, but there is not a very great deal of substance in it and the cattle show very material shrinkage in shipment. Offerings are comparatively light and prices are holding fairly steady.

Bankers and Cattle Men.

There is a good deal of agitation at the present time with regard to some means of making the amendment to the banking act to permit of loans to cattle men more elastic and workable. There is no lack of evidence that at last our bankers are awakening to the fact that this business is going to be done by somebody and that if they want a share of it they have to be a good deal more accommodating than they have been in the past. This question of rural credits and livestock loans has been very generally threshed out among the live stock people at the five big Western Shows, namely, Calgary, Edmonton, Brandon, Regina and Saskatoon, and it is very noticeable the general feeling which exists among the live stock men that our present banking system could never be made workable in this respect. There is a very strong leaning to some form of rural banks, cattle loan companies, cattle loan boards, or something which the live stock man will recognize as definitely apart from the present banking system. There is no doubt that the bankers of Western Canada have by their attitude in the past, largely antagonized live stock men to Canada's present banking system, and if they want business, and apparently from recent conferences they do, they will find it much more difficult to secure than they would have done even two years ago. The live stock men are not now prepared to meet them half way; they are much more inclined to start some system which will be under their own control, though there is at present a great diversity of opinion as to just what form it should take.

PERSONALS.

Mr. A. S. White, of White and Co., brokers, New York, and President of the Federal Dyestuff and Chemical Corporation, has been in Toronto with Mr. R. R. Bongard, in consultation regarding the plans for establishing a branch of the Federal Company in this country. The parent corporation operates at Kingsport, Tennessee.

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Manufacturers of

**Jute and Cotton
Bags, Tents,
Clothing, Etc.**

FACTORIES IN

**MONTREAL, TORONTO,
OTTAWA, WINNIPEG**

GRAIN AT THE HEAD OF THE LAKES.

Fort William, Aug. 5th, 1916.

Statement of stocks in store in Terminal elevators at Fort William and Port Arthur on August 4th, 1916, with receipts and shipments during the week.

Elevator.	Wheat.	Oats.	Barley.	Flax.
C. P. R.	1,030,346	587,719	88,592
Em. & T. Bay..	889,327	405,635	70,526	234,541
Consol.	621,498	244,271	33,201	80,828
Ogilvie.	1,013,473	131,979	16,677
Western	875,178	321,515	24,482	185,458
G. G. G. Co. . .	835,873	714,034	43,541
Fort William .	255,252	465,328	44,021	46,179
Eastern	447,395	177,666	10,066
G. T. P.	875,324	617,748	44,685	95,780
Can. Nor. . . .	2,534,369	1,764,111	197,404	138,313
Horn & Co. . .	176,593	77,587	23,294	112,491
Can. Gov't. . .	818,532	598,107	37,033	105,529

Total.10,373,164 6,105,705 633,529 998,123

A Year Ago. . .1,363,817 504,998 63,041 1,194,415

Receipts	5,616,591	2,821,656	333,362	229,011
Shipm'ts Lake..	5,810,845	1,748,052	259,143	376,570
Shipm'ts Rail.	126,171	396,217	8,094	1,047

Stocks by Grade.

Wheat.	Oats.
One Hard.....	41,172
One Nor.....	4,077,136
Two Nor.....	1,796,901
Three Nor.....	1,435,399
No. Four.....	812,228
Others.....	2,210,327
Totals.....	10,373,164

Barley.

Three C. W.....	314,030
Four C. W.....	167,504
Rejected.....	34,841
Feed.....	7,644
Others.....	109,508
Total.....	633,529

Oats.

1 C. W.....	101,744
2 C. W.....	3,646,388
3 C. W.....	902,584
Ex. L. Fd.....	198,658
Others	1,256,330
Total	6,105,705

Flax

One N. W. C.....	818,243
2 C. W.....	134,764
3 C. W.....	13,990
Others	31,125
Total	998,123

REDUCTION IN CANADIAN FAILURES.

Improvement in the business mortality is not confined to the United States, strictly commercial failures in Canada during July making the best exhibit for the period since 1913. Thus, insolvencies numbered 113 and supplied liabilities of \$2,515,098, against 210 for \$3,265,802 last year, 234 in 1914 for \$1,843,851 and 113 three years ago, when, however, the amount involved was only \$684,652. Of the total, 27 defaults were in manufacturing lines and the indebtedness of these was \$879,203, as compared with 62 for \$1,282,897 in the previous year, 36 for \$459,681 in 1914 and 31 in 1913 for \$398,215. In the trading division, failures were comparatively light, numbering 77 and involving \$736,794, against 137 last year for \$1,835,402 and 186 in 1914 for \$1,273,169. Three years ago there were 78 similar suspensions and the amount was but \$283,187. Among agents, brokers and other concerns not properly included in either manufacturing or trading, the returns showed nine defaults, with liabilities of \$899,101. These figures contrasted with eleven reverses for \$147,503 in July, 1915, and twelve in 1914 for \$111,001. In 1913, however, the number was only four and the indebtedness reached the insignificant sum of \$3,250. —Dun's Review.