

Conditions in the West

By E. CORA HIND.

Winnipeg, June 6th, 1918.

Since last writing, the weather through the Canadian West has been almost uniformly favorable to the growing crop, and conditions have greatly improved. On the night of May 31, there was a heavy general rain which has been followed by warm weather, and while many fields are still backward, reports indicate that a very considerable acreage, which a week ago looked quite hopeless, is now through the ground and making good progress. Some idea of the extreme severity of the frosts may be gathered from the fact that many of the trees in the city parks and elsewhere are not yet in full leaf, having been frozen back three times; in fact, some of the oak and elm trees are no further advanced now than they were at the beginning of May. The loss of bird life owing to the storms and cold has been very heavy and will have its reflex action in the number of insect pests during the season.

WOOL.

Shearing is now generally underway in the three western provinces, and ten expert wool graders from Boston, that were secured by the Canadian Co-operative Wool Growers, Ltd., are now located at various points in the three prairie provinces. They will grade all the domestic clip, but the bulk of the range clip will be shipped direct to Toronto and graded there. Manitoba will have about 250,000 pounds as compared with 172,000 pounds in 1917. Not only is there an increase in quantity, but a very distinct improvement in quality. Applications for standard bags and paper twine have been almost universal and the fleece is being shipped in better condition.

HARD ON THE WEST.

The West is exceedingly hard hit by the new regulations of the war trade board putting fresh fruits on the list of "non-essentials" and both trade and community are at a loss to know who can have advised the War Trade Board along these lines.

Some idea of the amount of the prohibited fruits and vegetables which are consumed in the prairie provinces may be gathered from the fact that the Customs office figures show that through the port of Winnipeg alone in 1917, 430 cars of deciduous fruits, including plums, peaches, pears, apricots, strawberries, raspberries, gooseberries, currants and grapes were distributed and 441 cars of fresh vegetables. The largest number of cars of any one variety of vegetable were tomatoes. The Winnipeg manager for the California Fruit Growers' Association states: "that at the rate of receipts since the first of the present year, this amount would be greatly exceeded for 1918," as since January 1st, shipments of vegetables have increased over 50%. Points like Brandon, Weyburn, Swift Current and Kerrobert, with, say 1,500 to \$5,000 people, have been taking entire carlots of vegetables and also of strawberries. This increase in the consumption is due first and mainly to the urgent request of the Food Controller that beef, bacon and cereals be conserved, and the price of vegetables have also been more reasonable than usual. The lower prices are not so much due to a surplus of these things in the United States, as to a better arrangement for distribution. For example, there was a need of onions in many parts of the western States and in Western Canada. Texas, which produces an exceedingly mild and delicate onion, had a good crop and the United States Government placed a special agent at Laredo; Texas to superintend the distribution and 85 carloads a day have been shipped from that point to different points in the western States and in Canada.

Had the order prohibited less staple fruits, it would have been more easy to understand, but there is no prohibition on canteloups, pineapples, or watermelon, which may very truthfully be regarded as luxuries. Oddly enough, while prohibition has been put on the importation of such fruits as strawberries and plums, no prohibition has been put on the importation of cut flowers, and hundreds of dollars worth come into Winnipeg every day. There is no prohibition on the importation of oranges, bananas or lemons, but these fruits are dearer than they have ever been for many years. The crop of oranges in California is so light, that growers are receiving for their oranges 5 cents a pound, while in normal

years they only received 2 cents. When the crop is a flush one the shipments of the Citrus Fruit Growers' Association has run as high as 800 cars a day. At the present time 50 cars a day is the largest amount that they can muster, and these have to be distributed, not only in Canada, but in the United States.

Winnipeg at the present time is eating a carload of tomatoes, another of cabbage, one at least of cauliflower and turnip, and more than a carload of strawberries daily, and the consumption at points further west is quite as heavy.

No tomatoes from Ontario reach this market in quantities before the end of August, and often not until the middle of September, yet in hundreds of households throughout the Canadian West, tomatoes have been taking the place of meat for several meals per week. Neither Ontario nor British Columbia have ever attempted to supply the prairies with raspberries, gooseberries or currants, while the supplies of peaches, plums and apricots are extremely late in coming on this market, and every season before their arrival, the West have consumed hundreds

of cars "to the betterment of their health and the saving of other foods," as one dealer remarked.

The trade say "all right, if it is necessary as a war measure," and every citizen spoken to said the same, but first of all the West would like to be assured that it is not a repetition of the old attempts of Ontario fruit growers to keep American fruits off the Canadian market, and also the West would like to be assured that with these restricted imports the price of Ontario and B. C. fruits will not be jumped to exorbitant figures.

The B. C. fruit crop has suffered very materially from the inclement weather and their crop of the prohibited fruits will be very light. Ontario has a fair crop, but nothing exceptional, certainly not enough to supply the canning requirements of the army and the western trade as well, even if the fruit comes through here in good condition, which so far as berries are concerned it rarely does.

The West, owing to the late frosts, will be very shy of early vegetables, and if the supply from the south is cut off, people will eat more meat and bread, and a vast amount of work done by the Food Control Boards, in getting people to substitute perishable food for the things that can be sent overseas, will be entirely lost.

It is almost needless to remark that there is no representative of the prairie provinces on the War Trades Board.

Imports of Luxuries Prohibited

Ottawa, June 3.

A list of imports, the value of which has been heretofore about twelve million dollars a year, has been prohibited by an order-in-council passed by the Government.

The order has been sent to Niagara to be signed by the Governor-General and the detailed list will not be made public till the papers come back.

The matter has been under consideration for several months as a result of investigation made by the War Trade Board.

The prohibition is designed to have an effect in reducing the adverse balance of trade with the United States, and also to better the exchange situation.

Sporting goods, works of art, jewelry, toilet preparations and certain vegetables and fruits all come within the scope of the order-in-council passed to restrict the importation of luxuries. The order-in-council provides that the goods enumerated may be imported only on licenses issued by the Minister of Customs on the recommendation of the War Trade Board. The order-in-council cites a long list of articles classed as non-essentials in war time. Among them, in sporting goods are: Billiard tables and cues, pleasure boats, skiffs and canoes, sporting guns and rifles and the ammunition therefor, game bags and cartridge belts, skates of all kinds; pistols, revolvers and other firearms except for war purposes, and fishing rods.

Among fruits are included: Almonds, shelled and unshelled; unshelled brazil nuts; shelled and unshelled pecans; shelled peanuts; unshelled walnuts and other unshelled nuts. Mentioned in the list also

are: Blackberries, gooseberries, raspberries, cherries, strawberries, cranberries, currants and grapes.

In green fruits: Peaches, plums, quinces, apricots, pears and nectarines.

Further mentioned are: Mangoes, plantains, pomegranates and pineapples.

In the vegetables are: Sugar beets and fresh tomatoes.

Candied peels, candied fruits and nuts are included, with sweetened breads, cakes, pies and puddings, containing sugar; flavoring extracts, custard and jelly powders, lime and fruit juices.

Automobiles valued at \$1,200 and upward f.o.b. at place of manufacture.

Paintings, photographs, oleographs and prints.

Perfumery preparations for the hair, mouth or skin when imported, except as specified.

Manufactures of gold and silver, electro plate and sterling.

Manufactures of marble.

A further order-in-council prohibits the export of gold and silver bullion, except under license from the Minister of Finance. In this connection it will be recalled that, in the early days of the war, the Government took steps to conserve the gold resources of the Dominion. This was then accomplished by setting aside for the period of the war the provisions of the Currency Act under which all Dominion notes are redeemable in gold. A further step in the conservation of gold resources is now taken by prohibiting, except under license, the exportation of gold coin, gold bullion and fine gold bars.

WEEK'S RECORD OF ACTIVE MONTREAL STOCKS.

Sales.	Stocks.	Open.	— Month —			Net chge.	— Year —	
			High.	Low.	Last sale.		High.	Low.
130	Asbestos pfd.	52	55	52	55	+4	55	46%
960	Can. Car	30	33 1/2	29 1/2	33 1/2	+3 1/2	33 1/2	18 1/2
690	Do. Pfd.	76 1/2	78 1/2	76	78 1/2	-1 1/2	78 1/2	49 1/2
410	Can. Cement	59 1/2	60	59 1/2	60	+1	61	*57
134	Do. Pfd.	90	90 1/2	90	90 1/2	unch.	91	90
196	Can. Converters,	43	43	43	43	unch.	*43	43
188	Can. Steamship	76	76	76	76	unch.	78 1/2	76
2,167	Con. Smelting	25	25 1/2	25	25	unch.	26	25
322	Dom. Steel	59	59 1/2	59	*59	+ 1/2	63 1/2	*53
365	Maple Leaf	97	98	97	98	+1	98	*95
360	Quebec Ry.	19	20	19	19 1/2	+ 1/2	22 1/2	15
230	Shawinigan	112	112 1/2	112	112 1/2	+ 1/2	116 1/2	*107
1,270	Steel of Can.	62	63 1/2	62	63 1/2	+1 1/2	67 1/2	*49 1/2
285	Woods Mfg.	68 1/2	70 1/2	68 1/2	70 1/2	+3 1/2	70 1/2	57 1/2
— BONDS —								
\$14,200	Can. Loan (1925)	95 1/2	95 1/2	95 1/2	95 1/2	+ 1/2	95 1/2	93 1/2
20,000	Do. (1937)	93	93	92 1/2	92 1/2	- 1/2	93 1/2	91 1/2
— UNLISTED SHARES. —								
140	Tram. Power	23	23	23	23	-1	33	23

*Ex-dividend.